



## PhilaPlace Overview

PhilaPlace is an interactive Web site that connects stories to places across time in Philadelphia's neighborhoods, creating an enduring record of our heritage. Developed by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the site weaves stories shared by ordinary people of all backgrounds with historical records to present an interpretive picture that captures the rich history, culture, and architecture of our neighborhoods – past and present.

The Web site, at [www.PhilaPlace.org](http://www.PhilaPlace.org), uses a multimedia format – including interactive maps (both contemporary and historic), text, photographs, and audio and video clips. It represents a new model for connecting with audiences – employing the latest digital technologies to share archival collections in an engaging and meaningful way. Visitors to the site can view both personal stories and historical records mapped to specific locations, and can map their own stories in place and time. PhilaPlace encourages new historical and cultural interpretations and interconnections between community stories and the historical record, and creates a virtual, collective memory of each neighborhood.

When the site launches in October 2009, content will focus on two of Philadelphia's oldest immigrant and working-class neighborhoods – Old Southwark and the Northern Liberties – with additional neighborhoods to be added in the future.

More than a Web site, PhilaPlace will engage diverse communities through local programs, teacher workshops, trolley tours, exhibits, and printed neighborhood guides.

PhilaPlace is a collaborative endeavor undertaken by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in partnership with the City of Philadelphia Department of Records, the University of Pennsylvania School of Design, other institutions and community organizations, and members of the community who share their personal stories.

### **About the Historical Society of Pennsylvania**

Founded in 1824 in Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania is one of the oldest historical societies and one of the largest family history libraries in the nation. HSP is second only to the Library of Congress for material on the nation's founding and is the country's third most popular destination for genealogical study. Following a merger with the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, the society is also a leading repository of immigrant and ethnic history. With more than 21 million records including manuscripts, graphics, and books that span over 350 years of history, HSP is an invaluable resource for historical research.