Germantown Area Residents Seek To Prevent Evictions
Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001); Feb 17, 1951;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)
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Germantown Area Residents Seek To Prevent Evictions

Residents of a Germantown section are in a furor over the possible loss of their homes. Tenants and home owners in the area also puzzled by orders reportedly sent by the city notifying tenants to discontinue paying rents, which have caused repercussions from real estate brokers and landlords.

The area known as Cite No. 15 in the sector called "Pulaski Town" bounded by Queen Lane and Penn st., Pulaski ave., and Priscilla st. The area has also been cited as a slum sector, which is denied by the residents.

Mrs. Mae Elizabeth Worthy, a home owner living on Pulaski ave., within the condemned area, has been selected as the head of a committee to fight the mass evacuation.

PETITIONS CIRCULATED

More than 700 persons in the Germantown area have signed petitions against the mass eviction of more than 55 families. In 1948 the City Council was asked by a Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee on Recreation to condemn the site for a recreation setup. The residents were warned of the impending action and after vigorous protests by the owners and tenants, the project was abandoned.

At the time it was cited that there was no other feasible location for a playground in the vicinity. The present Wissahickon playground occupies one acre in the block. It was pointed out at the

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— A Negro Congressman —

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Germantown People Fight Eviction

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time that it "would be increasingly difficult to purchase it by the city in the future."

SCHOOLS CLOSED

The project was later abandoned on the ground that the area was too small. Two schools with wide recreation space available for children had been closed for the lack of children to attend them, and the pupils re-assigned to nearby schools.

Shortly, thereafter, it was announced by the Philadelphia Housing Authority that it was going to build a project on the "Poor House" site at Morris and Rittenhouse sts. The area was predominantly white and a controversy arose over the possiblity of admittance of Negroes. City Council agreed that the project would be non-segregated and the project was abandoned.

It was then reported that the Housing Authority had approved the Pulaski Town plot, which was identified as Site No. 15.

OLD RESIDENTS IRATE

On the corner of Priscilla st., and Queen Lane is the "English Tavern," owned and operated by the Crane family, old Germantown residents, who have occupied the corner for more than 20 years. When questioned by reporters, Robert Crane, one of the brothers, charged that coercion was being used to remove the residents.

Crane said he had learned that the Housing Authority have vetoed the possibility of the plot for use as a project area because of its small size. Efforts to get the cooperation of the Councilman from the area have proved futile, Mrs. Worthy and Crane declared.

Other residents are aroused because of constant notices from men representing themselves as "city agents,' who have warned the people not to pay any more rent. One woman who lives on Queen lane told the Tribune this week that she had been notified by her real estate agent to pay her rent or be evicted. A committee has been formed to sponsor a mass meeting to protest the action of the city, Mrs. Worthy reported.

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