

We hope you enjoy this self-guided tour of a small selection of extant Frank Furness designed buildings. These, and more, are featured on our popular tour "Frank Furness:

A Talk and a Walk." We'll schedule the full walking tour led by one of our knowledgable guides as soon as we're able.



Photo: First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia



Image: Athenaeum of Philadelphia

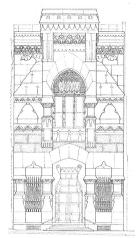
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

2125 Chestnut Stret 1883, tower removed 1920s

Furness' father, Rev. William Henry Furness, commissioned the design of the congregation's third home from his architect son.

Reverend Furness believed that for a church, bold design and bright colors are appropriate – even if the sermon was boring, the architecture would keep the congregants awake.

The rose window at the northern end is believed to be the first Tiffany window installed in Philadelphia. The window at the southern end is by Furness's student friend from the Hunt days, John LaFarge. The floral windows on the east side are also by Tiffany.



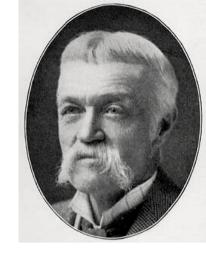


Photo: FrankFurness.org

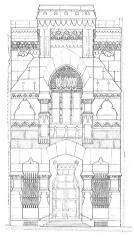


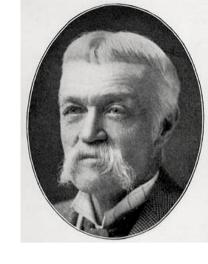
Photo: Philadelphia Department of Records, via PhillyHistory.org

ROBERT LEWIS HOUSE

123 South 22nd Street 1886

George Thomas wrote and entry on this structure for the SAH Archipedia: "This house is a compendium of Furness's favorite devices of the 1880s. Hallmarks are the massively rusticated stone base, strikingly original wrought-iron rails and grilles, and the crowning overhanging copper dormer hood above a patterned brick facade that sets the stage for the wildly asymmetrical side bay whose dramatically undercut brackets, "missing" on the left side, are evidence of Furness's maniera. The array of windows, each seemingly broader than the last, attests to Furness's recognition of internal function as the driver of exterior form. The interior is a brilliant rethinking of the townhouse, with a skylighted stairwell illuminating the core of the house while the rooms are bright despite their north orientation. Fireplaces are notable for their use of forms drawn from the drive shafts and steel strapping of contemporary industry."





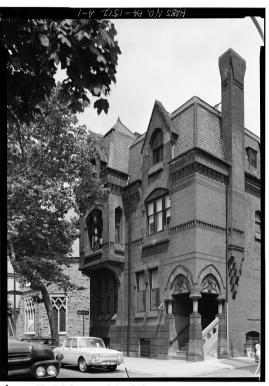


Photo: HABS Survey PA-1512



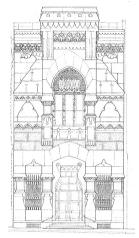
THOMAS HOCKLEY HOUSE

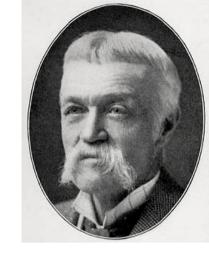
235 South 21st Street 1875

Thomas Hockley House, built 1875, was designed by Frank Furness for his childhood friend. Situated on a lot with three street frontages, Furness had the opportunity to have windows on all sides of the home. In typical Furness style, the facades exhibit his characteristic use of color, texture, incorporation of organic themes, and asymmetry.

The Philadelphia Press wrote this of the house in July 1875, "The unique entrance to the house of Thomas Hockley, ... never fails to attract attention. The building is of pressed brick, superimposed upon a seven-foot basement of red Hummelstown sandstone. The lines are defined with black encaustic brick. The roof is compound mansard with Gothic windows and a large overhanging bay-window is sprung from the front at the second story. Furness and Evans were the architects."

Photo: FrankFurness.org Page 3





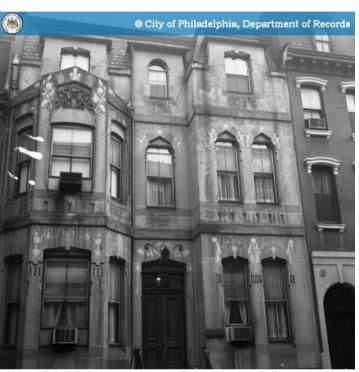


Photo: Philadelphia Department of Records, via PhillyHistory.org



Photo: Furnesque.tumblr.com

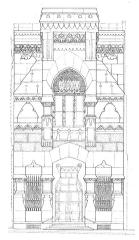
RUDOLF ELLIS HOUSE

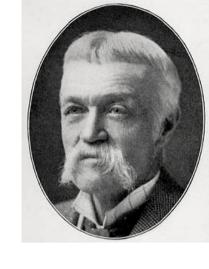
2113 Spruce Street 1873

In 1873, Frank Furness renovated Rudolf Ellis' home at 2113 Spruce Street, altering the facade as we see today.

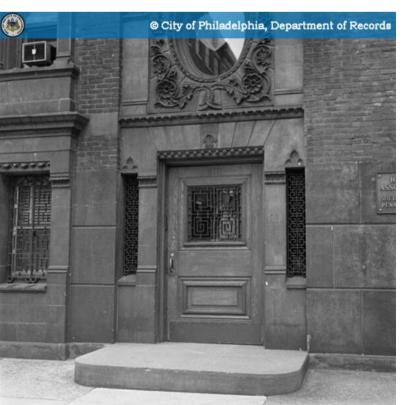
Ellis was Furness' friend from his service in the Civil War, and served as a director in organizations that commissioned other works by the architect including the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Rudolf Ellis acquired the Spruce Street dwelling from his father-in-law William Struthers. Struthers was the stone supplier for the infamous Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.









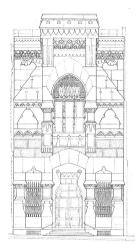
JAYNE HOUSE

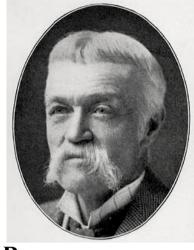
Corner of South 19th and Delancey 1895

The Horace Jayne House, on the southwest corner of 19th and Delancey Streets, was constructed in 1895 as a residence and office for Doctor Horace Jayne, a zoologist, and his wife Caroline Furness Jayne. Caroline was Frank's niece!

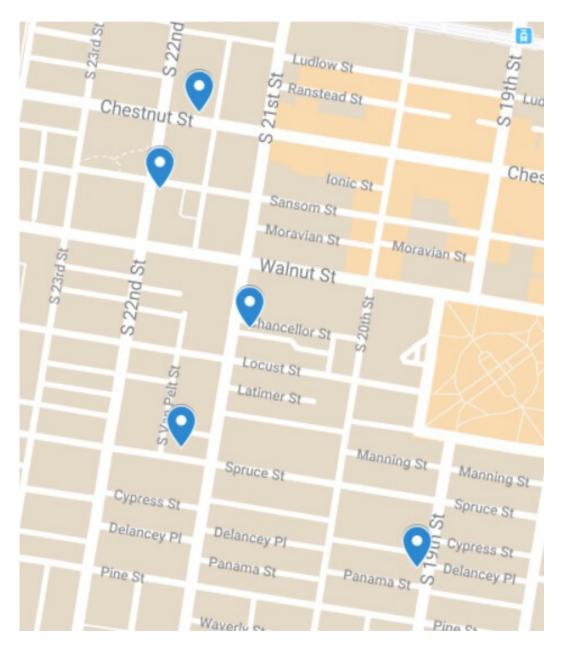
The building was built in two sections, joined by an elaborate doorway. Dr Jayne's office was on the right (north), and the residence was on the left. A skylight illuminates a central stair cell, which was bordered on three sides by a gallery hung from the ceiling by metal straps.

The property has served as a synagogue, offices, and was restored to a private residence following a two-year renovation project.





MAP OF SITES ON THIS MINI TOUR



We hope you enjoy this glimpse of Frank Furness architecture. Follow us on Instagram to see more photos of these buildings @presalliancephl and tag us in your photos when you visit them!