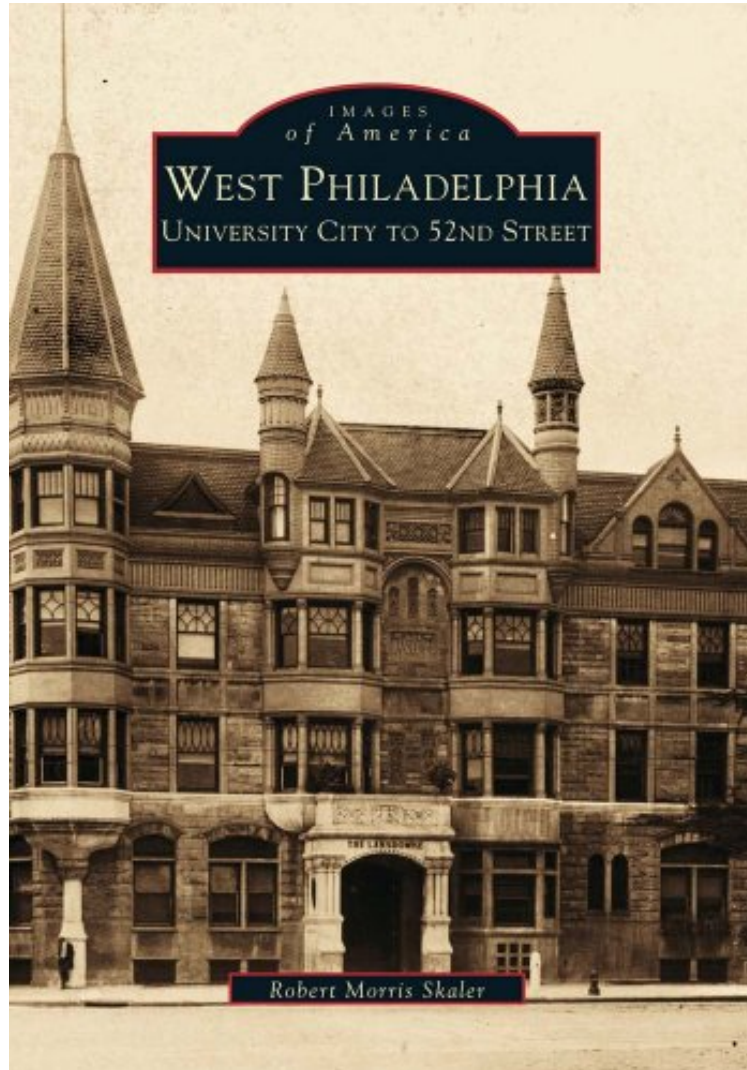


(Mobile pdf) West Philadelphia: University City to 52nd Street (PA) (Images of America)

West Philadelphia: University City to 52nd Street (PA) (Images of America)

Robert Morris Skaler

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Robert Morris Skaler : West Philadelphia: University City to 52nd Street (PA) (Images of America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised West Philadelphia: University City to 52nd Street (PA) (Images of America):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. West Philly was the ideal place for ALL families to raise and educate great kids.By jerseyguyNeighborhood of my father's extended family back to 1892; S 60th Kingsessing. Robert Skaler has produced a wonderful photographic essay and historical notes. If one knows and can "feel" the pulse

of old West Philly, one is quite taken aback at the sight of all those scenes with the neighborhood kids (my relatives) hamming for the cameraman. Love those huge bows on the girls. Boys in nickers, ubiquitous hot pretzel vendors. Yikes! I can feel by dad's stories coming alive for me. Your cover of the houses of Parkside Ave is great. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Robert Giampietro Thank you very much! 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. All you need to know about West Philly By Donna Di Giacomo Forensic architect Bob Skaler really did his homework putting together a pictorial history of West Philadelphia. Though none of my family ever settled in the area, I was fascinated to read about the ethnic makeup of the different neighborhoods in addition to being treated to very rare photos from Skaler's postcard collection (which he has been assembling for the better part of 50 years). He treats the reader to a thorough history of each neighborhood (or village, as it was formerly known) and goes into detailed explanation of the architecture of the houses that once stood in those areas (he rips architect H.E. Flower a new one for his design of rowhomes in the Parkside section of West Philly - homes that had their walls knocked down because the original homeowners weren't crazy about having to share a common stairwell). A University of Pennsylvania graduate, Skaler did an excellent job in handling West Philly's history - from University City to 52nd Street.

The many neighborhoods west of the Schuylkill River across from William Penn's "Quaker City" were distinctly rural until 1860, when horsecar lines first crossed the river. The area soon became home to wealthy businessmen who built elegant mansions and villas in University City and Powelton Village. West Philadelphia's growth accelerated northward into Belmont and Parkside-Girard after the 1876 Centennial Exposition and westward into Cedar Park, Spruce Hill, and Walnut Hill in the 1890s with the introduction of electric trolley lines. West Philadelphia: University City to 52nd Street is the first photographic history of the area in the last one hundred years. Images of the typical, modest West Philadelphia row houses, which slowly took over the open farmland after the Market Street Elevated opened in 1907, tell the story of how Philadelphia became known as the "City of Homes." Countless, rarely seen photographs of the streets where people lived and worked fill this extraordinary history.

About the Author Robert Morris Skaler, a forensic architect and historian, has been collecting historical images of West Philadelphia for more than thirty-five years. A past president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Victorian Society in America and graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Architecture, Skaler has lectured and written extensively on Victorian Philadelphia architecture. In West Philadelphia, he has drawn upon his large collection of vintage photo postcards and other private collections to compile this rare assemblage of images. Its carefully researched narrative makes it an important and timeless book.