

For Immediate Release:
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New State Historical Marker Unveiled to Celebrate Philadelphia's McAllister Family

PHILADELPHIA – On Sunday, August 21st, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, in partnership with the McAllister Committee, will unveil a new state historical marker at 200 Chestnut Street to celebrate the legacy of Philadelphia's McAllister family. The new historical marker will highlight the contributions of the McAllister family to optometry and the ophthalmology profession across Pennsylvania and beyond.

John McAllister Sr. was an optician in Philadelphia in the early 19th century who was famous for selling custom eyeglasses to individuals, including Thomas Jefferson, at his optical shop, formerly located at 200 Chestnut Street. For four generations, the McAllister family worked to advance optometry and ophthalmology (surgical eye care) in Philadelphia, with connections to Wills Eye Hospital, the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (now known as Salus University), and the American Optometric Association.

Ahead of the unveiling, the McAllister Committee will host a lecture highlighting the history of the McAllister family at Wills Eye Hospital.

When: Sunday, August 21, 2022 at 1 p.m.

What: The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in partnership with The McAllister Committee presents the dedication of a state historical marker commemorating the McAllister Family of Philadelphia.

Where: 200 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia (in front of US Customs House)

About the Philadelphia Historical & Museum Commission:

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) is the official history agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Created in 1945, we are responsible for the collection, conservation, and interpretation of Pennsylvania's historic heritage, which we accomplish through the Pennsylvania State Archives, the State Museum of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Trails of History (historic sites and museums), the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, and the Bureau of Management Services. For more information, please visit phmc.pa.gov.