



University of Pennsylvania
ScholarlyCommons

Maps (Social Science Studio)

Social Science Studio

8-2015

Visit the Italian Market

Kushanava Choudhury
University of Pennsylvania, kushanava@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.upenn.edu/socialsciencestudio_maps

This paper is posted at ScholarlyCommons. https://repository.upenn.edu/socialsciencestudio_maps/2
For more information, please contact repository@pobox.upenn.edu.

Visit the Italian Market

Kushanava Choudhury

Penntracks, Walking Tours of Philadelphia,
New Students Orientation Program
University of Pennsylvania

<https://secure.www.upenn.edu/nso/images/stories/Penntracks/maps/italian-market-tour-map.pdf>
<https://secure.www.upenn.edu/nso/penntracks.html>

The Italian Market, which runs several blocks on South Ninth Street in South Philadelphia, is the oldest outdoor market in America. In the late 19th and 20th century, its surrounding neighborhood, which stretches along Ninth Street from around Fitzwater Street to Wharton Street, and a few blocks in either direction was home to immigrants from Ireland, Italy, Russia, the Middle East, various parts of the Jewish diaspora, and elsewhere. Most new arrivals would disembark at the Washington Ave Immigration Station, less than a mile away and find work and housing in the Market and the surrounding areas.

By the mid 20th century, immigration to Philadelphia had declined, and the city became both more native-born and more starkly divided along racial lines. As other white immigrant groups moved out of the city and more African Americans moved in, the area around the market developed a marked white Italian identity, often in opposition to neighboring black areas. By the 1990s, like much of Philadelphia, the Market area was marked by residential and commercial decline, and the southern part of the Market would be designated "blighted" by the city of Philadelphia.

In the last decade the area has witnessed a transformation, with new businesses, rising property values, improving schools, and one of the most cosmopolitan populations anywhere in the city. The arrival of immigrant communities and immigrant-owned businesses has revived the neighborhood. Now a mix of Mexican, Central American, Vietnamese, Chinese, Cambodian and West African populations live and do business here alongside the traditional Italian community. The Italian Market area is increasingly becoming a tourist attraction and -- especially as a fresh fruit and vegetable market -- a food destination. There is no better way to experience the unique flavors of the neighborhood and its cosmopolitan identity than through its food. Attached is a food map of the Italian Market. Enjoy the range of unique delicacies available in just a few short city blocks. There is no other neighborhood in Philadelphia quite like it.

For more on the history of the Italian Market, see here:

<http://www.philaplace.org/essay/380/>
<http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/italian-market/>
<http://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=1-A-3E1>

For more on Philadelphia's immigrant history:

<http://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=1-A-3D7>
http://www2.hsp.org/exhibits/Balch%20resources/phila_ellis_island.html