

In this brochure, we will cover three central locations of South Asian cultural development in Philadelphia. This booklet includes the address and a picture of each location as **encouragement to visit each historical site for yourself!**

The Hart-Cellar Act of 1965 permitted an influx of skilled laborers and prioritized family reunification, among other factors. South Asians fit the cookie cutter of what America was looking for: skilled laborers (nurses, engineers, etc.) who wanted to immigrate as a family unit.

Places of employment and faith were especially central in the stories of South Asians. **This is the tip of the iceberg** of the depth of importance each site holds. This is also not a comprehensive list of the most impactful sites for South Asians in Philadelphia but these certainly maintain reverberating impacts we feel today.



Did this tour spark more questions and curiosities for you? Feel free to reach out to the CAAC to learn more about the history of South Asian Christians in Philadelphia, and more.

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# Our Story, Our Faith

SOUTH ASIAN CHRISTIAN HISTORIES & FUTURES

## Key Historical Sites







5501 Whitaker Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19124

## From Margins to Management at

**CARDONE**

When skilled South Asians immigrated to the U.S., many couldn't find specialized jobs due to language barriers and unrecognized foreign certifications.

Deemed unemployable, they faced long periods of joblessness. Some secured entry-level roles at Cardone and rose to managerial positions, eventually helping others from their community get hired. As one of the few companies offering them a chance, Cardone became a major employer for new immigrants. However, the cultural and linguistic homogeneity at Cardone limited English acquisition and assimilation compared to more diverse workplaces.

Despite huge layoffs in the past 10 years, Cardone remains a key agent in forming Our Stories.

## Temple University Hospital

Most South Asians immigrated to the United States as skilled workers, particularly during the nursing shortage of the 1960s. Many found employment at Temple University Hospital, where nurses were readily hired but often assigned challenging shifts, including overnight and 24-hour duties.

On top of very secure employment, Temple Hospital an invaluable benefit: children of hospital staff received significant tuition discounts to attend Temple University. This opportunity proved life-changing for many second-generation South Asians, opening the door to higher education and upward mobility.

401 N Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19140



608 Welsh Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19115

## The First South Asian Churches in Philadelphia

St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Church was informally founded by around 100 families in 1977. Monumentally, in 1983, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia started a special church group for Indian Catholics called the Indian Catholic Mission – Syro Malabar Rite.

The Philadelphia India Christian Assembly (PICA) was established in 1977. Established the same year as St. Thomas, it became clear that South Asians cared about more than just ethnic community, but also about their particular faith practices and denominations from their Motherland.



455 Tomlinson Road, Philadelphia, PA, 19116