

PH0661350

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 31 1978

DATE ENTERED AUG 31 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

GLENCAIRN

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1001 Papermill Road

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bryn Athyn

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

13th

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

CODE

42

COUNTY

Montgomery

CODE

091 ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Raymond (Mildred G.) Pitcairn

STREET & NUMBER

Glencairn

CITY, TOWN

Bryn Athyn

STATE

Pennsylvania 19009

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Swede and Airy Streets

CITY, TOWN

Norristown

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

7/5/77

-- FEDERAL STATE -- COUNTY -- LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSPennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
William Penn Memorial Museum, P. O. Box #1026

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION
 EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE
 UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE
 ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Glencairn is located in a park-like setting of 6.2 acres next to the Bryn Athyn Cathedral in Bryn Athyn, Montgomery County. Built in three main sections, a central rectangle with two large rectangular wings, Glencairn is approximately 175 feet from east to west and 135 feet from north to south with a seven story tower on the south side.

Late Romanesque in style, Glencairn has rounded arches and battered outer walls. The stonework is a blend of granite and a ruddy colored stone, hand cut and ashlar coursed. The interior support structure is poured concrete. Poured into rough molds and hand tooled, the concrete has the texture and variegation of stone.

Exterior features include carved doorways, pillars and wall insets. The main entrance has an elaborately carved archway. Over the doorway is a carved inset showing a tree and two sheep. The door is made of monel, a natural alloy of nichel and copper and is cast in a honeycomb pattern in the art nouveau style. The door handles have been molded in the shape of stylized lions. Throughout the exterior carved stonework follows a biblical theme. Some of these include lambs, lions, doves and other birds.

The interior is elaborately decorated. The main entrance hallway is lined with mosaics depicting the Creation Story. Early Medieval stained glass windows and statues collected by Raymond Pitcairn decorate the great hall.

Glencairn has seven floors and a full basement. There are approximately seventeen bedrooms, a chapel, gymnasium, club room, great hall, sewing room, workshop, office, sleeping porches and tower rooms.

The ornamentation metalwork is of monel, a natural alloy of nichel and copper mined in Canada. Harder than iron and difficult to work, its silver finish gives strength and grace to grilles, door handles and other hardware. Doors and stairways, and some ceilings are of teak-wood shipped from India and Java and fashioned by hand on the site.

Perhaps the supreme achievement in the working of materials is the stained glass. Since 1922 a shop for glass blowing had been in operation along Papermill Road across Huntingdon Pike from the cathedral; and from it had come the first true pot metal glass since the 17th century, having a brilliance and iridescence equal to the glories of the Gothic world. Proof of this may be found in the window in the apse of Glencairn's living room, of which the central panel is from Soissons, ca. 1200, depicting the head of Christ from a Tree of Jesse window. The surrounding glass in the arched window as blown at Bryn Athyn; the intervention of seven centuries is undetectable. Ariel Gunther, who became an apprentice in the glass-blowing shop when he graduated from the Academy in Bryn Athyn, served the Church and Glencairn in this and other capacities for half a century. Most of the windows were designed by Winfred Hyatt, an artist who --- as a member of the Bryn Athyn congregation --- brought to his art a religious faith and depth to the glowing figures.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Raymond Pitcairn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Glencairn, in Bryn Athyn, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, was built between 1929 and 1942. Its architect and builder, Raymond Pitcairn, planned it both as a family home and as an art center for his collection of medieval sculpture and glass.

Raymond Pitcairn, who died in 1966, was the eldest son of John Pitcairn, founder of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. In addition to being an industrial and financial leader, he was active throughout his life in civic and political affairs. Through his supervision and design of the Bryn Athyn Cathedral he was elected to the American Institute of Architects.

The style of Glencairn is late Romanesque with rounded arches and battered outer walls whose strength is relieved by the proportions and refinements. The symbolic and ornamental carving found throughout the building was done largely by three men who had learned their craft in their homelands --- Attilio Marchiori and Pietro Menghi from Italy, and Benjamin Tweedale from England.

Glencairn is filled with symbolic art in stone, wood, metal, glass, and mosaic, reflective of the family as a center of worship and life. Examples include the mosaic medallions in the entrance halls, the mosaic arch at the south end of the great hall, the beautifully carved stone depicting the Creation Story on the arch of the living room fireplace, capitals of sheep and birds, windows symbolizing church and country.

In size and proportions, the unusual method by which it was erected, the artistic care of its hand working of beautiful materials, its housing of an important medieval collection, Glencairn is a unique creation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.153 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	494152.0	444271.0	B	18	49451.0	444256.0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	18	49437.0	44427.0	D	18	49447.0	44427.0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Dean E. Bruce Glenn
Rev. Martin Pryke/Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION Academy of the New Church DATE June, 1977
Academy of the New Church/Pa. Hist. & Museum Comm.

STREET & NUMBER 2815 Huntingdon Pike TELEPHONE 215-WI7-4200
2815 Huntingdon Pike/P. O. Box 1026 717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN Bryn Athyn STATE Pennsylvania
Bryn Athyn/Harrisburg

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE William J. Wewer
 TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director DATE 1-18-78
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <u>William J. Wewer</u>	DATE <u>8/31/78</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>6-5-78</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 31 1978

DATE ENTERED

AUG 31 1978

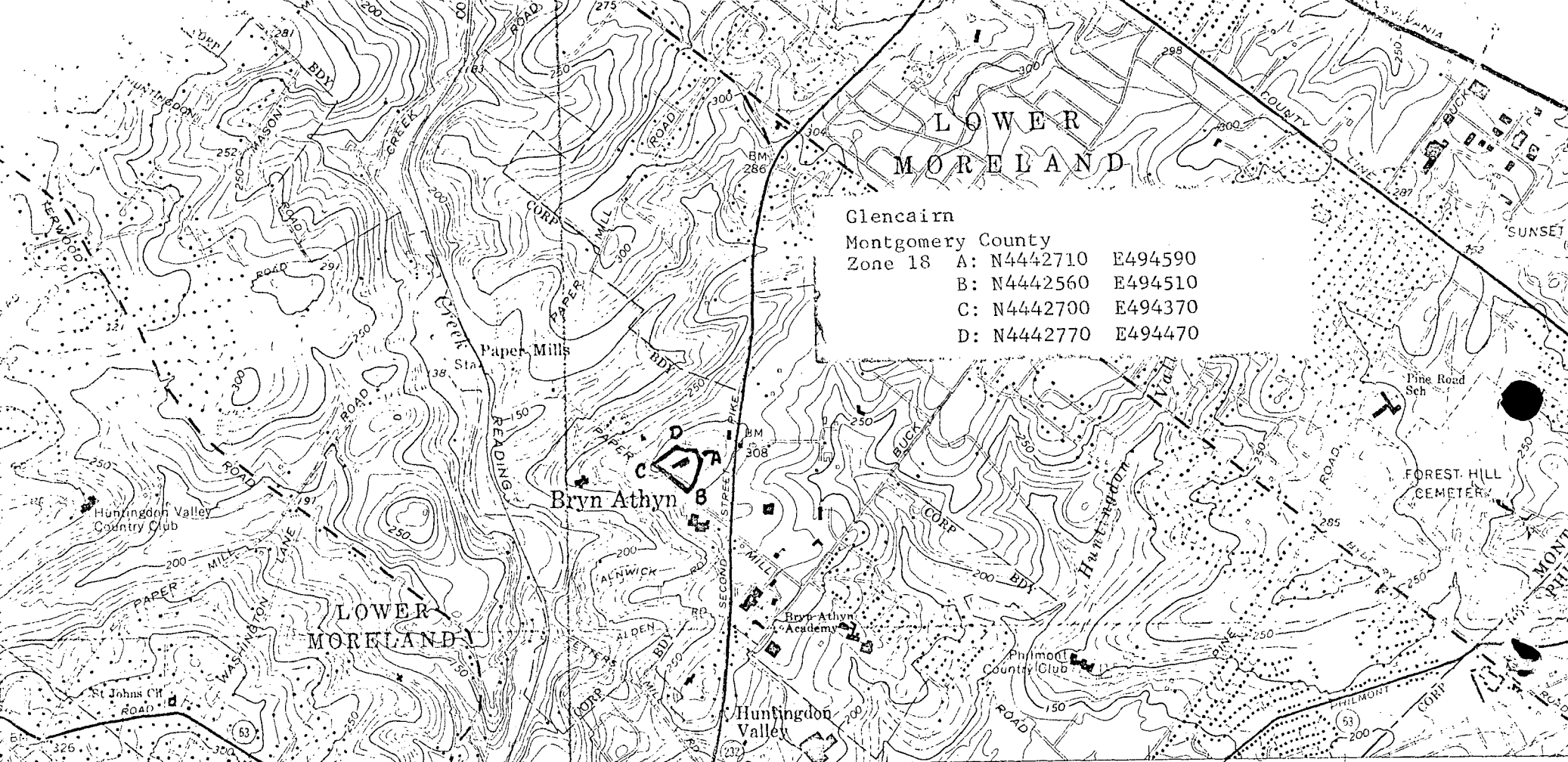
GLENCAIRN - Montgomery County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

- E. Bruce Glenn. Bryn Athyn Cathedral: The Building of a Church, The Bryn Athyn Church of New Jerusalem, 1971.
(The Bryn Athyn Cathedral was built by the same workshops and the same craftsmen as Glencairn. This book therefore demonstrates the methods of construction and the quality of workmanship to be found in Glencairn.)
- Ariel C. Gunther. Opportunity, Challenge and Privilege, Vantage Press, N.Y., N.Y., 1973. pp. 49-60 (stained glass), pp. 99-114 (mosaics).
- Jennie Gaskill. Biography of Raymond Pitcairn, published privately. no date. pp. 101-102 and 162-170 (Glencairn), pp. 174-175 (art collection)
- E. Bruce Glenn. Part of a MS being the beginning of a book descriptive of Glencairn. Draft chapters entitled: Introductory, The Planning of the House, Entrance Room, The Great Hall, The Cloister, Michael's Room, The Chapel.
- Thomas P. Miller (late of The Cloisters, Metropolitan Museum of Art, N.Y.). MS, Revised Guide to Great Hall, July, 1975.
Murals Illustrating the Doctrine of Charity, (text and illustrations), published privately, no date, leaflet.



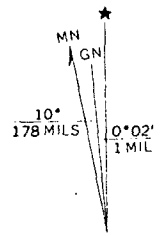
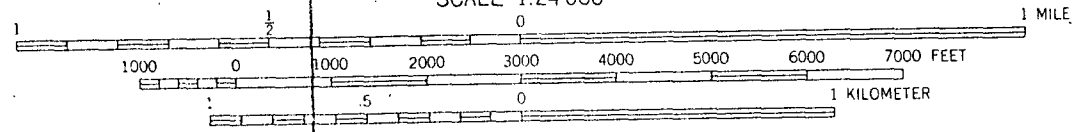
LOWER MORELAND

Glencairn
 Montgomery County
 Zone 18 A: N4442710 E494590
 B: N4442560 E494510
 C: N4442700 E494370
 D: N4442770 E494470

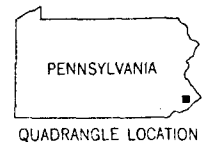
LOWER MORELAND

Bryn Athyn

(FRANKFORD)
 5964 11 SE
 SCALE 1:24 000



UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



GLENCAIRN
 Bryn Athyn, Pa.

F1
 A FOLD

Residence and 6.153
 acres

EST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial phototaken 1973. This information not field checked.

Purple tint indicates extension of urban area.

See also attached plan by
 Geo. E. Nebus Inc.