

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

36

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

HISTORIC

JENKINS' TOWN LYCEUM BUILDING

AND/OR COMMON

Jenkintown Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Old York Road and Vista Road

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jenkintown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

13

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Montgomery

CODE

091

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Library

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Abington Library Society

STREET & NUMBER

Old York Road and Vista Road

CITY, TOWN

Jenkintown

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Swede and Airy Streets

CITY, TOWN

Norrstown

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

9/21/78

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Lyceum Building, built in 1839, was a one-story building, approximately 29' x 29', with plastered stone walls, a gable roof and 12 over 12 pane double-hung windows with fan lights.

The building is set well back from the street (Old York Road), surrounded by old shade trees and lawn areas. One of the trees, a large ash, is estimated to be 200 years old. A low stone retaining wall which dates from the original building abuts the public sidewalk. On the front lawn stands a mile stone from Colonial days engraved "7 to R.S., 9 to P"

"R.S." refers to the Rising Sun Tavern, built in 1778, at the intersection of Rising Sun Avenue and Germantown Pike, doubtless a welcome stop for refreshment for the weary traveler. "9 to P" marks the distance to Philadelphia. The rear portion of the property is leased to the Borough of Jenkintown for metered parking, providing both income for the Library and parking space for its patrons.

In 1909 and 1910 extensive additions were made by the architectural firm of Zantzinger and Borie. These additions repeat the original building materials and style.

In 1909, the building was increased to two stories in height, raised above the 1839 Lyceum, a wing approximately 30' x 61' added at the rear and a handsome portico with two-story columns carried across the front. Another addition 29' x 36' was built in 1910 extending to the rear. The second floor occurs only above the original building, but the roof line continues at the same height to the rear, providing an impressive ceiling height of over 20 ft. in the library Reading Room and the Lambert Memorial Room.

The structure of the building consists of exterior walls of local stone plastered with interior framing of wood. The gable roof is painted tin with a centrally located stone chimney capped with cut stone. The trim, columns, double hung windows and the doors are painted. Sills of all openings are cut stone as are the bases of the columns. Paving of the front portico is flagstone. There is a full basement except for portions of the original building where a crawl space exists.

Interior features include the original woodwork, wainscoting and four-panel doors in the 1839 portion of the building. The Reading Room and the Lambert Memorial Room have fine Colonial architectural detail seen in the columns, pilasters and cornices. The fireplace mantel in the Lambert Memorial Room is typical of the period. The formal marble fireplace in the Reading Room was added later by John Newbold in memory of his daughter. Both fireplaces have facings, hearths, and fire walls of Moravian tile, made in the renowned Moravian Pottery and Tile Works.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

PREHISTORIC
 1400-1499
 1500-1599
 1600-1699
 1700-1799
 1800-1899
 1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
 AGRICULTURE
 ARCHITECTURE
 ART
 COMMERCE
 COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNITY PLANNING
 CONSERVATION
 ECONOMICS
 EDUCATION
 ENGINEERING
 EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
 INDUSTRY
 INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
 LAW
 LITERATURE
 MILITARY
 MUSIC
 PHILOSOPHY
 POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION
 SCIENCE
 SCULPTURE
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
 THEATER
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER (SPECIFY)
Library

SPECIFIC DATES

1839, 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Sines (1839)
Charles L. Borie (1910)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jenkin's Town Lyceum Building has grown in size as well as importance in the community, its significance has been historical, architectural, educational, religious and humanitarian in impact. This building has been the focal point for two of Jenkintown's most historic societies: The Jenkins' Town Lyceum Society, founded in 1838, and the Abington Library Society, founded in 1803.

The Lyceum was organized during the winter of 1837-38. A building committee was chosen on August 15, 1839, to erect a small one-story building where meetings could be held and a library kept.

By December 26, 1839, the Jenkins' Town Lyceum building had been completed and was ready for the first meeting. It is situated on Old York Road -- the title "Old" York Road goes back beyond 1777. York Road was laid out through Jenkins' Town "on the west side of Stephen Jenkins' house" in 1711 by the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania. It was an important stage coach route between Philadelphia and New York from 1756 on and provided a highway for the armies of both sides during the Revolutionary War.

The carpenter who built the Jenkins' Town Lyceum was a local man and member of the Lyceum society, John Sines. The building was a one-story, one-room structure of Pennsylvania fieldstone. Inside were wooden benches and a platform for the speaker. Around the walls were cabinets and shelves to house the members' "philosophical" collections of interesting geological specimens, stuffed birds and books. Today the outlines of that original building form the entrance to the Jenkintown Library. This careful preservation of the original building was done by the architect Charles L. Borie when he enlarged the building in 1910.

The building was in constant use for many years thereafter as the meeting place not only of Lyceum members, but also as the starting place for every church in Jenkintown. Finally, the Lyceum group fell a casualty to the hysteria that ushered in the Civil War when the doors to the building were closed following a particularly stormy debate on the subject of Abolition. As the Lyceum members split over the issue, the building was used for other meetings and programs.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Eventually the Jenkins' Town Lyceum hall was deserted, even borken into by a party of New Year's revelers in 1885. The property, with the little building now-boarded up, was leased for 20 years.

When the members of the Lyceum society tried to re-possess their property in 1901, they were blocked in their efforts. But following a court decision the property was bought for \$10,000 by the Abington Library Society.

Work began on improvements to the property at once and was completed July 5, 1910. Mr. Clement Newbold, who had offered to pay for the "new" library building, had hired a well-known architect and insisted he incorporate the old building into the new one. A new wing was added on in 1912, completed 1913.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.1

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 48,934,0 4,438,154,0

B 1,8 48,934,0 4,438,148,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,8 48,925,0 4,438,146,0

D 1,8 48,925,0 4,438,152,0

E _____

F _____

G _____

H _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

Mrs. Joyce Baur, Librarian

ORGANIZATION

Jenkintown Library

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

York and Vista Road

TELEPHONE

215-884-0593

CITY OR TOWN

Jenkintown

STATE

Pennsylvania

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 Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 83-665), 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

TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

2-1-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Bean, Theodore W., HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Everts & Peck, Phila.
1884 pp. 733-38

Hotchkin, Rev. S. F., THE YORK ROAD OLD & NEW, Binder & Kelly, Phila.
Phila. 1892

Stewart, H.F., QUARTER CENTENNIAL SKETCH OF THE M.E. CHURCH, Jenkin-
town Outlook, p.3 1886

THE JENKINS' TOWN LYCEUM, Self-published, 1938.

RECORDS OF THE ABINGTON LIBRARY SOCIETY, kept from 1803 to present

RECORDS OF THE JENKINS' TOWN LYCEUM, kept from 1838 to present

CHURCH HISTORICAL RECORDS, kept in various churches in Jenkintown

OLD YORK ROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETINS, from 1937 to 1978

DOCUMENTS kept at the Jenkintown Library

COURT RECORDS, Kept at Norristown, Montgomery County Courthouse

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CONTINUATION SHEET

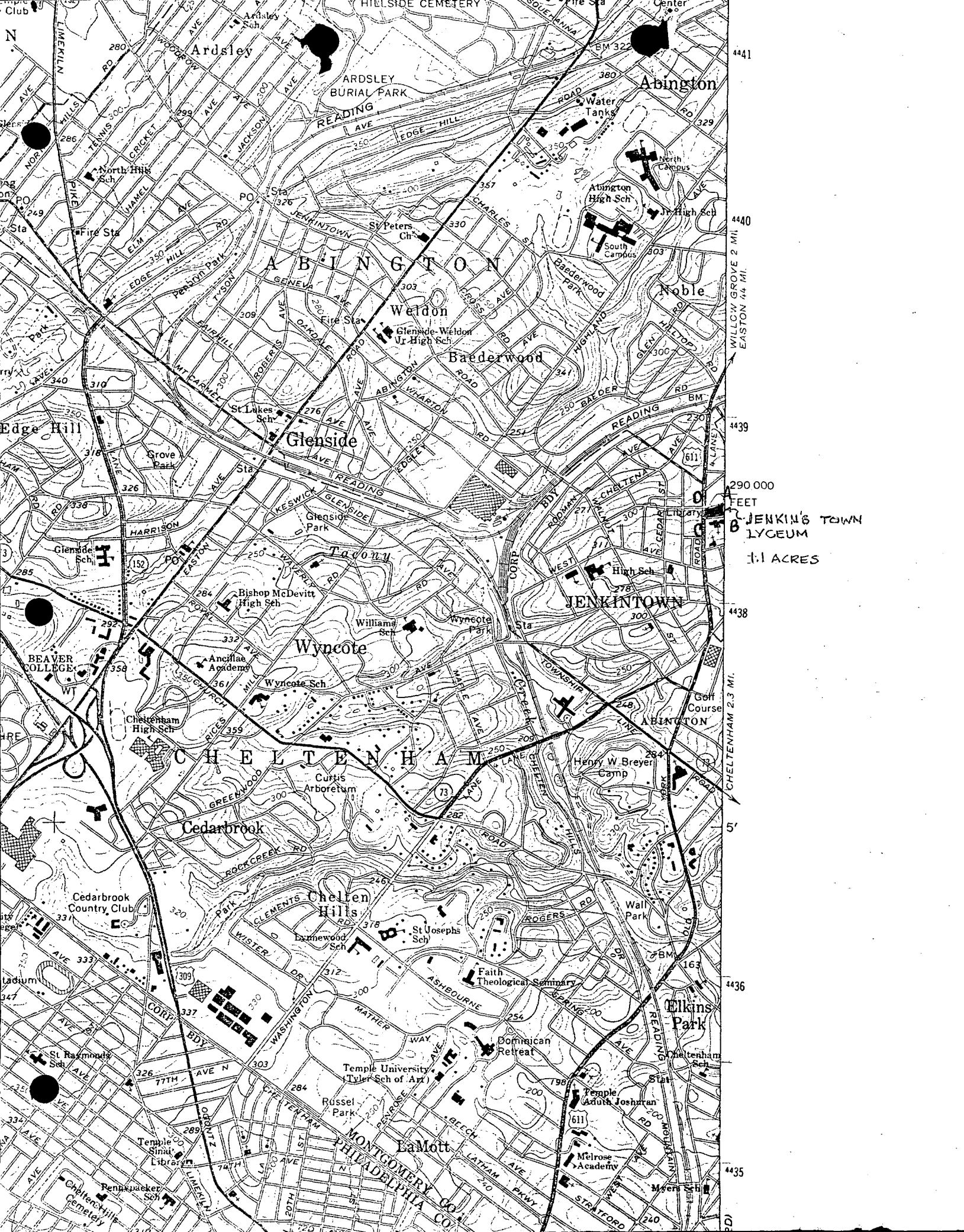
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property starts at the intersection of York and Vista Roads going N $5^{\circ} 13'$ E for 98.19'; then along N $70^{\circ} 08'$ E for 331.87' to a stone marker; then S $55^{\circ} 30'$ W for 208.47' to a stone marker; then down Vista Road S $89^{\circ} 37'$ W for 317.69' to the starting point.

The property consists of Lot 2 located in Block 8 Ward 1 on the Jenkintown Borough tax map.

The boundary of the property is justified in a survey done by William T. Muldrew, Civil Engineer, Jenkintown, Pa. on a scale of 1"-50' and dated December 11, 1923.



4441
4440
4439
290 000
FEET
4438
4436
4435

WILLCOW GROVE 2 MI.
EASTON 4.4 MI.

CHELTENHAM 2.3 MI.

ED

**JENKIN'S TOWN
LYCEUM**
1.1 ACRES

Ardsley

Abington

ABINGTON

Glenside

Wynecote

CHELTEHAM

Cedarbrook

Cheltenham Hills

Wilkins Park

LaMott

Temple University
(Tyler Sch of Art)

Temple
Aduth Josphan

Meirose
Academy

North Hills
Sch

St. Peter's
Ch

Abington
High Sch

Jr High Sch

Glenside-Weldon
Jr High Sch

St. Luke's
Sch

High Sch

Bishop McDevitt
High Sch

Williams
Sch

Wynecote
Park

Cheltenham
High Sch

Curtis
Arboretum

Henry W. Breyer
Camp

Cedarbrook
Country Club

Lanewood
Sch

St. Josephs
Sch

Faith
Theological Seminary

Dominican
Retreat

St. Raymond's
Sch

Temple
Simul
Library

Cheltenham
Cemetery

Cheltenham
Cemetery

Club

Fire Sta

Fire Sta

Fire Sta

Fire Sta

BEAVER
COLLEGE

St. Raymond's
Sch

St. Raymond's
Sch

St. Raymond's
Sch

St. Raymond's
Sch

St. Raymond's
Sch

St. Raymond's
Sch

SW/4 GERMANTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE

N4000 - W7507.5 / 7.5

1967