

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Old Norriton Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

USE THIS COPY  
FOR DUPLICATING

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Germantown Pike and Trooper Road

CITY, TOWN

Fairview Village

VICINITY OF

13th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Pennsylvania

42

Montgomery

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"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Norriton-Lower Providence Presbyterian Church

STREET & NUMBER

3050 West Ridge Pike

CITY, TOWN

Norristown

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Airy and Swede Streets

CITY, TOWN

Norristown,

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

6/7/78

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

# 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 Old Norriton Presbyterian Church is a one story, 37'6" by 27', regular course brownstone structure with a wooden shake gable roof. The three bay by two bay church has round-arch windows of twelve over twelve with panelled shutters on the front facade. The only door is the center bay. It is a double panelled door also with a rounded arch.

The gable end windows are rectangular, twelve over twelve with panelled shutters.

The rear elevation is four bays. The first and fourth bays are twelve over twelve rectangular windows with panelled shutters. The two center bays are six over six lights and are set higher than the flanking windows.

The interior is only one room with a barrel-vaulted ceiling. Two rows of boxed panelled pews face southeast. A set of three box pews is located to the left of the central pulpit. To the left of these pews in the southeast corner is located a small upright cabinet pipe organ.

The central pulpit is an hour-glass pulpit approached by a five step staircase from the northwest. A small altar is located to the front of the pulpit. A hexagonal sounding board is located on the wall above the pulpit. To the right of the pulpit is a small reader's desk and pew.

X

2000 10 11 11 30 00

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1737, Matthias and Elizabeth Rittenhouse deeded a part of their 7,482 acres for the use by church.

"The contract is made between Matthias Rittenhouse and Elizabeth, his wife, of the township of Norrington, County of Philadelphia, and 'ye said Presbyterian Profession of ye township aforesaid, conveying seventy-two poles of land' (giving the boundaries) 'for a meetinghouse and grave-yard for ye use of ye said Presbyterian Profession of ye township aforesaid', adding 'Now this indenture witnesseth by ye said Matthias Rittenhausen and Elizabeth, his wife, for the consideration of one silver half-crown, current money of England, to them in hand paid by be said Presbyterian Profession, that they do hereby convey and confirm".

This deeded land is the site of Old Norritown Presbyterian Church. The oldest gravestone in the cemetery dates to 1740 although tradition has that the church and graveyard were already there when Rittenhouse donated the land and that the church dates to 1698.

Church records show that the church originally had a gambrel roof which was changed to the present gable roof in 1755.

During the Revolutionary War, this old church was used as a hospital. Some soldiers died here and were buried in unmarked graves in the cemetery. General Washington visited the church at that time. For damages that the church suffered during the war, the Assembly passed an act on September 17, 1785 allowing a lottery to raise money to pay for necessary repairs to the church. Here, Benjamin Franklin attended church with David Rittenhouse, the astronomer and clock maker, whose home was near the old church.

In 1844 the interior of Old Norriton was changed, its high pulpit and box pews being replaced. In 1903 a fire gutted the church destroying the 1844 furnishings. Until 1940 the church remained unadorned inside, the furnishings consisting of a low platform.

In 1940 a high pulpit and box pews were installed in the exact places of the original furniture which was removed in 1844.

Today Old Norriton Presbyterian Church appears much as it did in its 1740 to 1844 period.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Park, Russell A., Old Norriton. 1976

Historical Society of Montgomery County, Pa. Book 1895, Vol. I, P. 225-308.

Collins, Reverend Charles. Collateral Gleanings of Early Settlers.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .8

QUADRANGLE NAME Lansdale, Pa.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 469140 4445180

B         

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

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

Clarence L. Kulp  
ORGANIZATION

DATE

Friends of Old Norriton  
STREET & NUMBER

215-539-8964  
TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 27  
CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Eagleville

Pennsylvania 19408

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic 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

TITLE Ed Weintraub, Director  
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

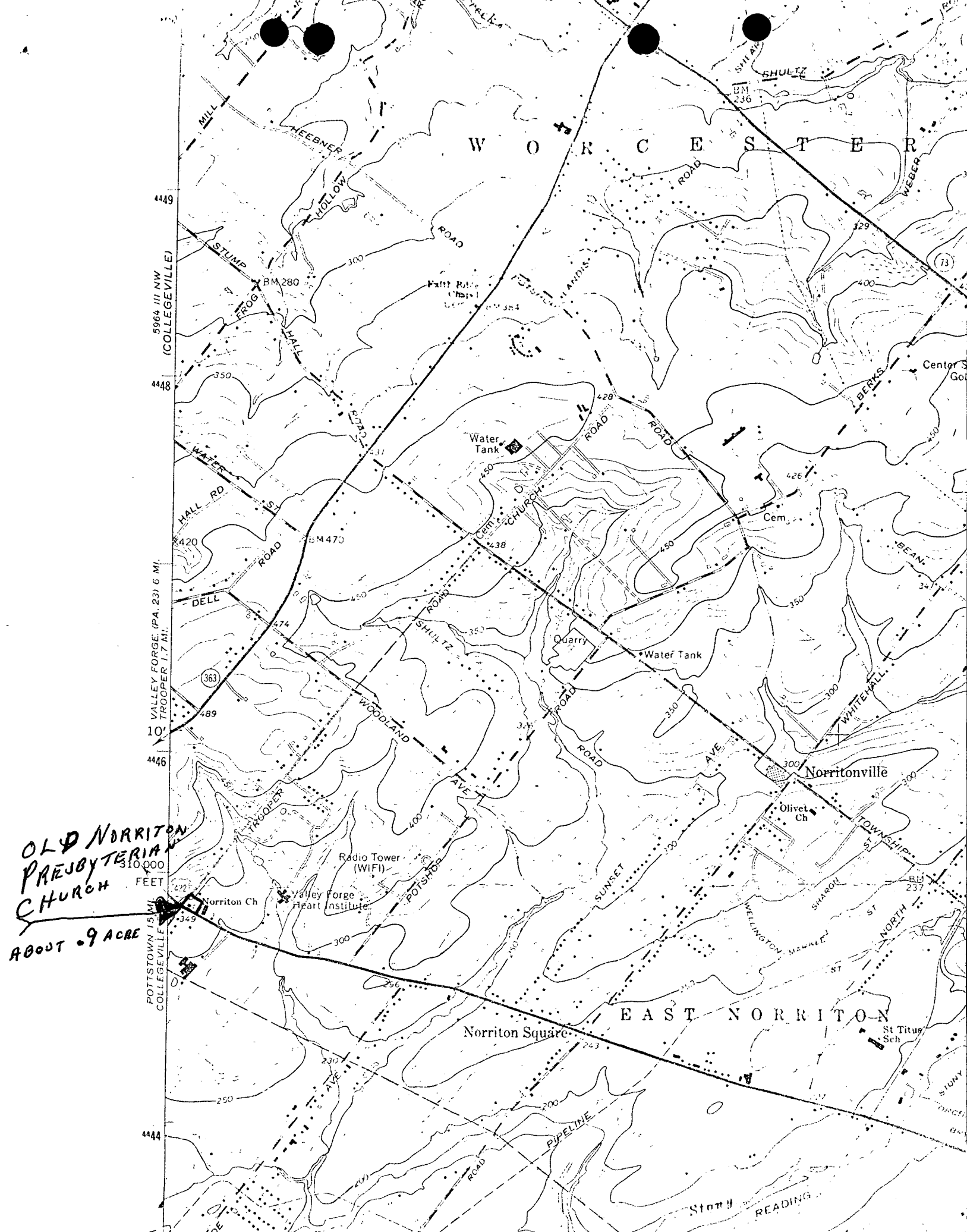
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



**OLD NORRITON  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
ABOUT .9 ACRE

4449  
4448  
4446  
4444

5964 III NW  
(COLLEGEVILLE)

VALLEY FORGE (PA. 23) 6 MI.  
TROOPER 1.7 MI.

POTTSTOWN 15 MI  
COLLEGEVILLE

W O R C E S T E R

EAST NORRITON

Norriton Square

Norritonville

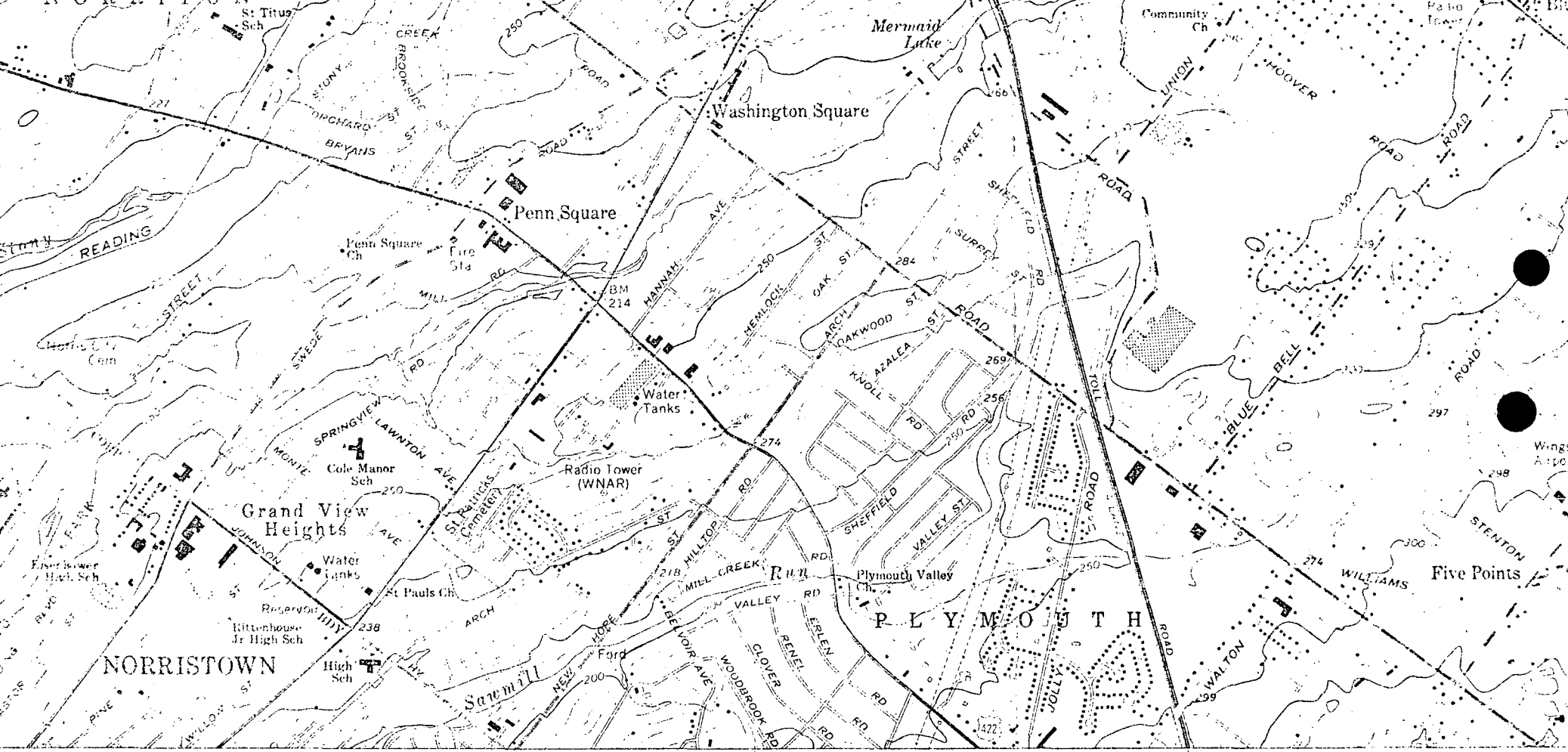
BM 280

BM 470

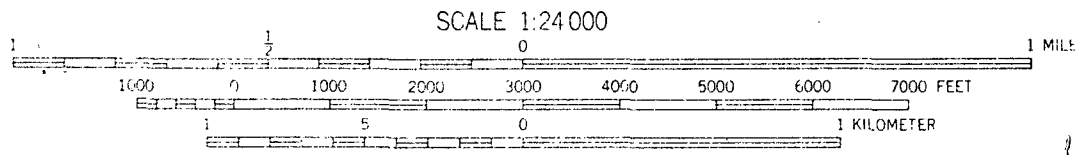
BM 236

(73)

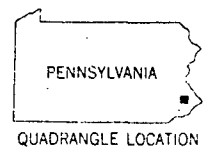
BM 237



(NORRISTOWN) 5964 III SE 474 475 17'30" 476000m E



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

*LANSDALE QUADRANGLE OF 1966  
PENNA - MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
7.5 MIN SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NE/4 NORRISTOWN 15*

Heavy-duty  
Medium-duty  
U.S.