

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

12

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

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

UNION LIBRARY COMPANY OF HATBORO

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

243 South York Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hatboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Union Library Company

STREET & NUMBER

243 South York Street

CITY, TOWN

Hatboro

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Airy and Swede Street

CITY, TOWN

Norristown

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

5-8-78

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

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

The Union Library Company of Hatboro building is a two and $\frac{1}{2}$ story rectangular structure measuring 48 feet by 68 feet with a colonnaded porch. Its gable roof has plain boxed cornices and full pediments. The broad frieze is unadorned. The walls of the structure are stone covered with pebble-dashed stucco. The structure itself is 3 bays by 3 bays with a $2\frac{1}{2}$ story rear wing with side porches. The colonnade is made up of four Doric columns. The main door is centrally located in the gable end and is flanked by 2 window openings with commemorative plaques. Side windows are elongated nine over nine with panelled shutters.

The building as it stands today has had few alterations and/or additions since it was built in 1851. With the advent of indoor plumbing, a bathroom addition was made over the north porch. In 1974 the south porch was totally enclosed to provide additional stack space and a librarian's work room. At this same time, the entire first floor including the main library area was air-conditioned.

The front portion of the building is a fine example of the Greek Revival Period of architecture in America. The only change to its appearance is the addition of wrought iron railings for the entrance steps; such were installed in 1975.

The main roof truss' over the library area are interesting king pin pined truss! The large area appears to have been originally heated by a large stove and later replaced by a warm air heating system.

The rear portion of the building appears to have been built at the same time as the front. This portion is a typical local farm house of the period, 2 over 2, with a center stair with winders to the 3rd floor.

With the exception of the frame enclosed porch, the balance of the walls are stone, smooth dashed on the exterior and plastered direct on the stone walls on the interior.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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 1755 1851

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Architect: Edwin Mitchell, John Sloan

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Builder: Joseph B. Yerkes

The Union Library Company of Hatboro building is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style in architecture and thought. The simple, temple-like form of the Greek Revival style was popular during the early 19th century as a symbol of purity, education and antiquity. What better format for an organization founded for the "promotion of Knowledge and Moral Virtue." The Union Library Company is one of the oldest such institutions of learning in Pennsylvania.

Hatboro in the 1750's was a farming village of fifteen homes on Old York Road on the stage coach route between Philadelphia and New York. The Union Library Company of Hatboro was founded on the equal shareholder plan of Benjamin Franklin. It is the third oldest library in Pennsylvania and the second oldest Pennsylvania Library operating under its original charter.

During the first thirty years the Union Library company books were moved 11 times, being housed at the Secretary of Company's home, and at a tavern on the Old York Road.

In 1844, Nathan Hold, the director of the company, left 3,000 dollars for the purchase of a one acre lot and the erection of a library building.

The committee of directors selected the Mercantile Library Building of Philadelphia as a model for their building.

The temple-like Mercantile Library, on 5th Street was built in 1845 and demolished in 1925.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ross, Ruth R. Union Library Company of Hatborough: An Account of the First Two Hundred Years, 1955.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 Acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 490920 | 4447000
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] | [] | []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] | [] | []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D [] | [] | []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

Edwin Winner, Director

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Union Library Company

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

71 North York Road

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Willow Grove

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 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
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9/25/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

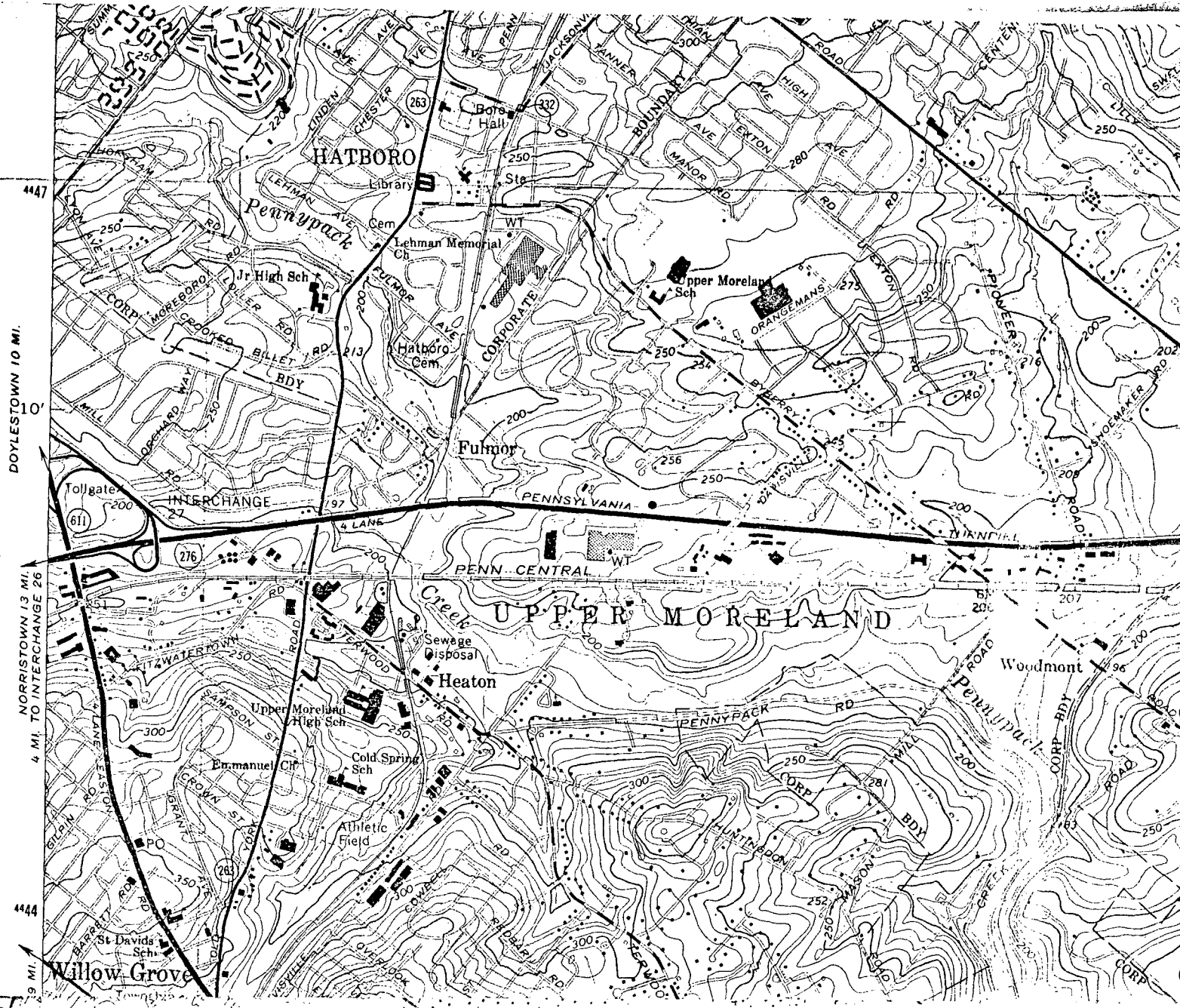
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Union Library Company of Hatboro
Montgomery County
Zone 18 E490920 N4447000



DOYLESTOWN 10 MI.

NORRISTOWN 13 MI.
4 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 26

9 MI. TO