

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	29

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

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Mt. Airy Station, Reading Railroad

AND/OR COMMON

USE THIS COPY  
FOR DUPLICATING

**2** LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East Gowen Avenue, on Reading Railroad line

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

2

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Philadelphia

101

**3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

SEPTA

STREET & NUMBER

Executive Offices, PSFS Building, 12th and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

Pennsylvania

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Archives

STREET & NUMBER

12th and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Philadelphia

Pennsylvania

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 76 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mt. Airy Commuter Station is a small residence and passenger station on the Chestnut Hill, Reading Line. The structure is a 1½ story brick and wood structure. The station is an approximate rectangle with a protruding 2-story rectangular tower on the track side. The lower story is brick with frame details and frame sections on each short end. The upper story is all frame as is the car port and the porched area to the trackside. The total effect is the Victorian age "Stick Style." The building's character is most expressive in its rich and varied steep roof line. Combining hipped, gabled and jerkinhead designs with a double splayed profile to the track-side porch and upper residence windows, the roof offers an aggressive silhouette. The wooden surfaces are richly detailed with a half timbered effect to the upper areas; also with brackets of various sizes and with decorative arch shaped woodwork in open wall areas. Both the heavy brackets of the track porch and the uniquely styled decorative arches are closely related to the individualized Gravers Lane Station, designed by Frank Furness.

The SE section contains a large passenger waiting room with ticket counters under the tower. The interior of this section has been badly graffitied and is in shabby condition. The northwest section was the stationmaster's residence and is still occupied.

A small wooden porch area faces the station on the out bound track side and repeats the bracketed design of the larger portico.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 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 checked="" 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 1870-79

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mt. Airy Station, like its near contemporary Graver's Lane Station, identifies a high point in suburban commuter railroad stations and residence. In this small, essentially functional structure, a (still) unknown architect designed with untempered exuberance. Stylistically described as a High Victorian Stick Style type, the station also borrows from the special design types of Frank Furness. The final result is one of the finest unattributed transportation related structures in the Philadelphia area.

Like the Gravers Station, the Mt. Airy station combines a residence and passenger section in an essentially late 19th Century domestic mode, expressing the service aspects of the station with richly detailed porch areas. The solution fits the station properly into a middle class residential neighborhood, echoing the styles and tastes of the early developers of the railroad community.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wrenn, Tony P. and Elizabeth D. Mulloy, America's Forgotten Architecture.  
National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	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

Madeline L. Cohen

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

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 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

WILLIAM J. WEMER, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

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