



August 2016

Our Historic Street Name Signs Are Getting a Makeover



Ray LaHood, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation in Washington, DC. wrote to the Township “we recognize and appreciate the value of preserving historical elements of transportation, such as Lower Merion’s street signs. Therefore, the existing signs may remain as [historical elements](#).”

The Township has taken the first step of refurbishment of our street name signs by sending crews into the community to paint the pole, blade, and lettering of the exiting signs. Because of the scope of this project - there are more than 1,600 street intersections located throughout our Township - this will be a multi-year project. The second phase of the project will be the replacement of the missing signs with replica signs. We will keep you posted as work moves forward.



The 2016 Preservation WatchList (18th Annual)

The Historical Society wants to recognize the efforts of the [Lower Merion Conservancy](#) to preserve and protect our built environment.

The Preservation WatchList is an important advocacy tool used by the Lower Merion Conservancy to assist the community in preserving the built environment of Lower Merion and Narberth. While the list helps prioritize Conservancy efforts, it also calls attention to larger issues such as neighborhood quality of life, improvements needed in existing public policy, and the problem of demolition by neglect. The ultimate goal is to generate awareness that promotes positive action.



The *WatchList* was coordinated by Kathleen Abplanalp, Preservation Director at the Conservancy. The Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, a group of architects, realtors, preservationists, and historians, helped craft this list and included: Kathleen Abplanalp (Chair), Suzanna Barucco, Christian Busch, Jeff Cohen, Gerry Fisher, Jerry Francis, Philip Franks, Jeff Groff, Lonnie Hovey, Scott Kalner, Jeff Levine, Maurine McGeehan, Dennis Montagna, Karen Nagel, Bob Weisbord, and Jean Wolf.

The 2016 Preservation *WatchList*, ranked by year not by importance, is as follows:

- [Barker Mill](#), 1400 Mill Creek Road, Gladwyne ca. 1830
- [Mill Creek Tenement Houses](#), Mill Creek Road, Gladwyne ca. 1830
- [St. Charles Borromeo](#), 100 Wynnewood Road, Wynnewood 1871, 1928
- [PA Railroad Depot](#), Ardmore (on Trader Joe's site) 1881
- [Baptist Church of the Evangeline](#), 198 Elmwood Avenue, Narberth, 1892
- [Horace Trumbauer Manor House](#), 306 Bala Avenue, 1895
- [Ardmore Theatre](#) (Philadelphia Spots Club) 34 W. Lancaster Avenue, Ardmore, 1922
- [Bala Theatre](#), 157 Bala Avenue, Bala Cynwyd 1926
- [Elbow Lane, Gray's Lane, and Cheswold Lane Walter Durham Houses](#), Haverford 1930-1950

Visit the [Conservancy's WatchList](#) webpage to read how the list was created.



America's Birthday Party and a Centennial Celebration

Founded in 1906, [The Neighborhood Club](#) - the civic association for Bala and Cynwyd - strives to preserve the residential character of our neighborhood and to promote community engagement in civic life.

In 1916, the Great War (World War I) had been raging for two years. It was in 1916 that, *The Neighborhood Club* decided to initiate its first annual Independence Day Celebration. At the original ceremony, the community gathered for a parade and the singing of: *America, Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean, Hail Columbia!* and the *Star-Spangled Banner*. This year (2016) was the 100th Anniversary of this patriotic event.

The community gathered on July 4th - the festivities started at the Union Fire House with a parade throughout the neighborhood that ended at the Bala Cynwyd Playground. Then there were speeches, games, food and entertainment for family, friends and neighbors to celebrate our freedom and enjoy a summer afternoon. Lower Merion is blessed to have so many historical traditions that binds our community together.

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MISSION STATEMENT OF

THE LOWER MERION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Lower Merion Historical Society is an organization dedicated to *Preserving Our Past For The Future*. This is accomplished by stewardship of local history, education of the community, preservation of historic resources and outreach to promote awareness of the cultural heritage of the Township of Lower Merion and the Borough of Narberth.

