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*September 2013*

### **Moment of Integration Commemoration: 50 Years Later**



Ardmore Avenue School was the core of the predominantly African American South Ardmore community. It was one of the early elementary schools built by the Lower Merion School District and for 16 years was also the Lower Merion High School. During the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, it was decided that the students' education was "separate and unequal." As part of a desegregation plan, the School District closed it in August 1963 and assigned its 223 students to four other elementary schools. The children's first day of school was September 5, 1963, the "Moment of Integration."

Before the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century, "The Friends of Ardmore Avenue School" held reunions with alumni to celebrate the richness and memories of the experience of attending Ardmore Avenue. In time, members of the Lower Merion High School Class of 1970 complemented this effort to reflect the impact that the closing of the school had throughout the Lower Merion community (i.e., on students of all races, families, teachers, elected officials,

support staff, etc.).

In commemorating the 50th anniversary, there will be ceremonies on:

Thursday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM

75 Ardmore Avenue, Ardmore, PA

a March to Lower Merion High School, 315 E. Montgomery Ave., Ardmore, immediately thereafter, followed by an assembly at LMHS.

A scholarship fund has been created through the Lower Merion Scholarship fund with hopes that the Moment of Integration will last in the archives of Lower Merion civil rights history and education forever.

### **Moment of Integration Program**

Parking lot at 75 Ardmore Ave., Ardmore, Pa.

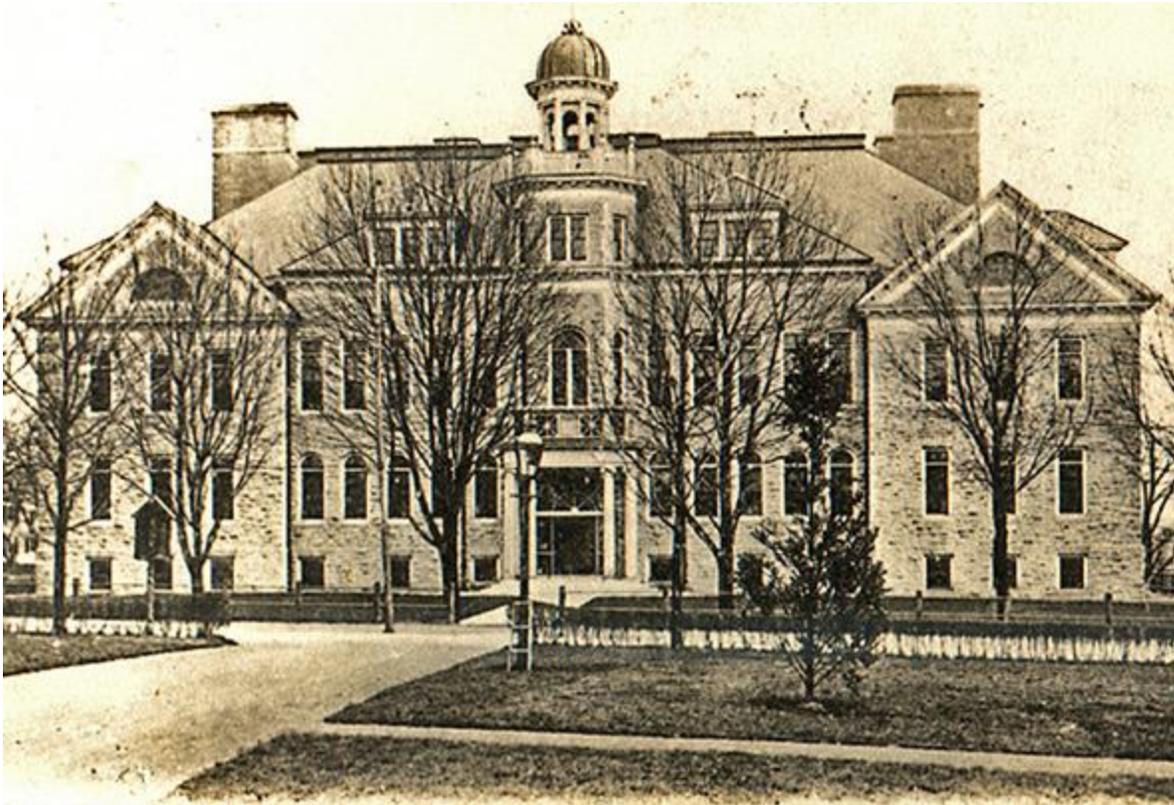
In case of rain: Bethel AME Church, 163 Sheldon Lane, Ardmore

- 9:30 Program opens
- 9:35 Prayer—The Reverend Virginia Pollard
- 9:40 Pennsylvania Senator Daylin Leach
- 9:45 Pennsylvania Representative Tim Briggs
- The Honorable Liz Rogan, President, Lower Merion Township Board of Commissioners
- Dr. Samuel Edgerton, Professor of Art History Emeritus, Williams College
- 9:55 Members of the Lower Merion High School Class of 1970
- 10:05 Historic Marker unveiling – Members of the Lower Merion Class of 1970
- 10:10 Musical selection
- 10:15 Close
- 10:30 March to Lower Merion High School, 315 E. Montgomery Ave., Ardmore, where there will be exhibits, light refreshments, and an audio-visual program

Buses will provide transportation for those not wishing to walk

### **Building Photographs: To Preserve Today for Tomorrow's History**

The April photo from [our Buildings web](#) is part of our changing history.



[See the long history](#) of the buildings here since 1875 – two different school buildings, one with an annex, one with a fire, and the building that followed in 1986.

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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.

