

**Churchill
Area**

**tour
guide**

**CHURCHILL AREA ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL 1979**



Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Research and Development Center
1310 Beulah Road

We are proud to be a part of this community
and are pleased to have printed this guide
as a public service

CHURCHILL AREA TOUR GUIDE

Prepared as a community service by

THE CHURCHILL AREA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

2300 William Penn Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Revised Edition - 1979

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INTRODUCTION

The CHURCHILL AREA TOUR GUIDE is designed to acquaint area residents with the geographic region and with places of historic and environmental interest within the 4-municipality school district - CHALFANT, CHURCHILL, FOREST HILLS and WILKINS.

The 30 sites listed in the GUIDE exemplify the area's role in the history of America and survey its environmental heritage. The sites offer evidence of man's best use and also his abuse of the land, contrasting natural wooded or green areas and carefully preserved old buildings with the problems of polluted streams and littered public places. Each site is located on one of three maps at the end of the GUIDE.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Churchill Area Environmental Council acknowledges with thanks the assistance and expertise of many people whose perspectives and information have added immeasurably to the completeness of this GUIDE.

The site illustrations were drawn by STEPHEN CONROY, and the Environmental Council is most grateful for his talents and efforts.

ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

For many years the governments of Chalfant, Churchill, Forest Hills and Wilkins have maintained an advisory, area-wide environmental group of appointed, interested citizens who serve 3-year, renewable terms, and who meet at regular intervals.

Aside from its advisory role to local government, the Churchill Area Environmental Council (formerly the Churchill Area Ecology Committee) has published and distributed consumer guides on safe pesticides, small vegetable gardens and noise pollution. It produced the first edition of the CHURCHILL AREA TOUR GUIDE for the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976. And it has sponsored several recycling experiments including the Churchill Area Recycling Center at the senior high school and a curb-side paper pickup in Forest Hills.

The monies earned through these activities have been used in community environmental projects, e.g. publications, stream and litter cleanups and special purchases for school programs.

CHALFANT

Named for a pioneer family of the area, Chalfant Borough celebrated its 50th birthday in 1965. Its independence from Wilkins Township was achieved on December 12, 1914 when there were only 100 dwellings and 500 people in the 0.25 square mile area. There was also a 4-room school house that was replaced in 1935 with an elementary school building on Highland Avenue. Since 1960 Chalfant School District has been in a jointure with Churchill, Forest Hills and Wilkins as the Churchill Area School District. Today about 1,320 residents in 415 dwellings call Chalfant home.

Chalfant Borough is primarily a residential community with a handful of small, scattered businesses. Perhaps uniquely in government today, Chalfant was completely free of debt as of June, 1976 when a final payment was made on an old bond issue. Management of the Borough is conducted by a mayor, a secretary, and a 7-member council. The Borough Building is at 218 North Avenue, E. Pittsburgh, PA 15112, telephone 823-9701.

CHURCHILL

Named for the Beulah Church on the hill on which General John Forbes camped in 1758, Churchill Borough was formed on January 1, 1934 from approximately the Second Ward of Wilkins Township. There are about 1,400 families (5,000 residents) in the 2.5 square mile boundaries of this mainly residential community. The Westinghouse Research and Development Center is located within the borough as are the Allegheny County Eastern Area School for Exceptional Children and 3 buildings of the Churchill Area School District - Churchill Elementary School, Churchill Area High School and Shaffer Elementary School.

Local government consists of a mayor, a borough manager and a council (7 members, 4-year terms.) The Borough Building is at 2300 Wm. Penn H'wy., 15235, telephone 241-7113.

FOREST HILLS

Since July 29, 1919, when it seceded from Wilkins and Braddock Townships, Forest Hills has had a mayor, a borough manager, and a 7-member council (4-year terms) representing the major residential areas. The Borough Building is at 2071 Ardmore Blvd., 15221, telephone 351-4141. There are 3,000 families (about 10,000 residents) in the borough's 1.5 square miles, including several small commercial areas, mainly along Ardmore Blvd.

A sign on the Boulevard, near the parkway exit, proclaims that Forest Hills was named for its topographical resemblance to the Forest Hills section of Queens Borough in New York City. Its hills were extensively mined in the 1860's and were mined out by 1905 when the street railway was cut through the valley, inducing families to move into the Ardmore and Bryn Mawr sections being developed around 1910. The old rail lines were replaced in 1975 and 1976 with a landscaped mall separating opposing traffic on Ardmore Boulevard.

WILKINS

Originally created on Nov. 10, 1821 as a 34.5 square mile political subdivision of the Commonwealth, Wilkins Twp. now contains only 2.75 square miles as the result of numerous secessions. The first of these was Penn Hills (originally called McNair Twp.) in 1850, and the last was Churchill in 1934. Braddock, Wilkinsburg, Turtle Creek, Forest Hills, and Chalfant were created in between, and Braddock was further subdivided to spawn Swissvale, N. Braddock, Rankin, Bessemer, and several other municipalities.

Today Wilkins houses about 9,000 people (if it had retained its original boundaries that population would be 175,000.) Picture Wilkins 155 years ago - a vast area of farmlands, bounded by the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers to the north and south, a small city (Pittsburgh) to the west, and the streams of Plum Creek, Thompson's Run, and Turtle Creek to the east, with small, scattered villages here and there. Municipal secessions and progressive industrialization (e.g. the Edgar Thompson works of U.S. Steel in the Braddock section) and coal mining in the mid- to late-1800's have reshaped Wilkins from its original rural state to an industrial magnet, and finally to the residential-suburban area it is today.

Wilkins is run by a 5-member Board of Commissioners and a borough manager from the township office at 110 Peffer Road, 15145, telephone 824-6650. Wilkins Twp. is one of the oldest in Allegheny County and is the ancestor of most of the other municipalities in our area. The township derives its name from the presiding judge of the Fifth Judicial District Court of W. Pa. in 1821 - the Honorable William Wilkins, Esq.

TOUR GUIDE - A

All sites in this section can be located on Map "A" at the end of the GUIDE. Maps "B" and "C" are for remaining sections.

1 BRIGHT PARK

Corner of Morrow and Sherwood Roads, FOREST HILLS

(Starting at the parkway exit onto Ardmore Blvd. make 1st Left at light onto Morrow Rd. → 0.1 mile, Sherwood Rd. - playground on left corner.)

In 1964 Ms. Alice Bright Stott gave the borough approximately half an acre for a playground in the Bryn Mawr section. It was named Bright Park in honor of her father and has an excellent assortment of sturdy play equipment on a grassy base. There is a pleasant stream flowing behind the area but acid mine drainage has brought about its biological death (few organisms can survive in the acid water.) This stream is not visible elsewhere in the area because it is culverted and thus runs "underground."

2 CEMETERY

Sherwood Road, FOREST HILLS

(Right turn onto Sherwood Rd. from Morrow Rd. → 0.2 mile, cemetery on left.)

One of the old landmarks in Forest Hills is the little known Jewish Cemetery on Sherwood Rd. There are three entrances, reflecting the burial areas for three different congregations. The oldest section was founded in 1902 by the Sixth St. Congregation of Braddock. Another section is maintained by the Eleventh St. Congregation, and there is also a division for Rankin members. These communities were once part of Wilkins as was the land on which the cemetery is located.

In a special section of the cemetery can be

found the graves of many young children who were casualties of the terrible flu epidemic of 1918.

3 "MUCKELRAT"

Sherwood and Glasgow, FOREST HILLS
(Continue on Sherwood Rd., bearing left
→0.2 mile to Glasgow Rd.; turn Right
onto Glasgow→0.1 mile to Braddock Rd.)

The intersection of Sherwood and Glasgow Roads and thence to Braddock Rd. was once the center of a mining community (1850-1870) known variously as Gordonville, Woodland Hills, or Muckelrat. The flat area on the left of Sherwood as you approach the Glasgow intersection was once crisscrossed with rail lines coming in from the mine entrances in the vicinity. Across Glasgow the level ground was the site of the old Duquesne School, the first in this area - a one room school which later had a second floor where the children of the mining community and later the farming community were taught. The building was removed in 1917. Some of the homes near the Braddock-Glasgow intersection are old company houses from this era.

4 BICENTENNIAL TREE & FOREST HILLS PARK

Braddock Rd., FOREST HILLS
(Turn Right onto Braddock Rd.→0.1 mile,
Left into Recreation Lodge area - tree
on right.)



Gordonia alata, the Franklinia Tree, is a member of the Tea Family (Theaceae) and had been extinct from its native Georgia mountains since 1790. It was discovered there in the early 18th century by a

botanist, John Bartram, and named for Benjamin Franklin. Thus, it was a fitting tree to plant in honor of the U.S. bicentennial. The specimen here was a gift from the Garden Club of Forest Hills. The Franklinia reaches a height of about 20 feet (6-7 meters,) has a low, branching habit of growth, and is most notable for its scarlet leaves in the fall accompanied by spectacular 3 inch (8 cm.) wide, waxy, white flowers (watch for these in mid-September.)

The Garden Club of Forest Hills has, in past years, planted other trees and shrubbery in Forest Hills Park (the large park adjoining the spot where the Franklinia is planted,) and was instrumental in urging the borough to purchase the park for \$25,000 in 1936. Forest Hills Park contains 15 of the 60 acres of total parkland in the borough and it features typical second-growth woods with trails. At one time the hardwood (oak, maple, hickory, chestnut) forests which dominated Western Pa. were cleared for lumber, mining and farming. Enough time has now passed for shorter-lived, second-growth species (cherry, locust, dogwood, etc.) to reforest the clearings. If left undisturbed, these will give way slowly to a climax hardwood forest in the distant future.

Forest Hills Park also has a softball field, a basketball court (converted to a natural ice-skating rink in winter,) a sizable playground and picnic facilities, including a shelter which may be reserved through the borough office. A year-round lodge and regulation-size swimming pool (available by subscription to Forest Hills residents) were added in 1968. The lodge is the site of the annual Churchill Area Arts Festival each May and of flower shows staged by the Garden Club. Tennis courts have been open to borough residents and their guests since 1975. Interestingly, the stone wall forming the Ardmore Blvd. perimeter of the park was built in the 1930's by the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.).

5 CASCADE GLEN PARK

Cascade Road, FOREST HILLS
(Cross Ardmore Blvd. to the south side of
Braddock Rd.→0.1 mile, Right turn onto
Cascade Rd.→0.1 mile - playground on
right.)

The latest park to be added to Forest Hills is 2.5 acre Cascade Glen, adjacent to the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. It contains a gazebo, grassy area, small stream, and a sand-covered playground.

6 KITE HILL

Overdale Road, FOREST HILLS

(Continue on Cascade Rd. across Bevington Rd. and past Hawthorne School → 0.5 mile; Right turn on Edgewood Rd. → 0.1 mile; park at intersection with Overdale Rd. and walk up the gravel extension of Overdale to the trail leading to Kite Hill.)

Formerly the site of a public golf course (called Pups Foot in the 1930's) this place had earlier been the terminus of the trestle across the Ardmore valley that brought coal from the active mining community near Braddock Road to the wagons that transported the coal down to the railroad in what is now Edgewood Borough.

Standing on top of this hill there is an excellent, clear view of the city of Pittsburgh (especially the East Liberty section) and one can get a feeling for the reason the Forest Hills area remained remote from this growing metropolis for so long - it was because of the height of a hill which separated Wilkinsburg from the area that is now Forest Hills. The first cut was made through this hill in about 1912 to clear land for a street car track when Westinghouse began building the Turtle Creek plant and needed easy access for workers to the plant. Until then, the bottom of the Ardmore Valley was dominated by a stream, Tom's Run, and had only Braddock Road crossing the valley. Today, what is left of the stream is, for the most part, underground, and "the Ardmore" (Route 30), a federal highway that extends coast to coast, has expanded to 4 lanes with a central green strip planted in 1975-6 to fill in where the street car tracks used to run.

7 RIEDL BUILDING

Ardmore Blvd. between Lenox Ave. and Ave. L, FOREST HILLS

(Return and make a Right turn onto Ardmore Blvd. → 0.7 mile on left.)



Riedl Decorators are the present owners of the oldest building in Forest Hills. In the early 1900's this building was the only and first business house on the Boulevard. It was originally called the Bissel Store and operated as a grocery and general store for many years. For a time the building also housed the Forest Hills Public Library.

8 COMPOSTING & RECYCLING

(U-turn on Ardmore → 0.1 mile to Forest Hills Borough Bldg. at corner of Marion Ave. Enter and go to extreme left-rear of lot.)

In the fall of each year the Borough of Forest Hills collects leaves accumulated at the curb by area residents. These leaves are piled behind the Borough Building in a huge compost heap. Residents (on a first-come, first-served basis) may then remove this humusy material to aid in landscaping projects. Aside from the availability of compost to homeowners and civic groups, the pile offers a good lesson in biological decomposition for ecology students. The role of soil organisms, microbes, temperature, pH, and the like may be studied.

The Forest Hills Borough Building was built in 1922 for about \$25,000.

(U-turn on Ardmore → 0.1 mile; Right turn onto Yost Blvd.; enter parking area for Foodland or Thorofare Market.)

Have you ever wondered why corrugated cardboard boxes are hard to find at food markets? For an initial cost of around \$6,000 a market can buy a paper bailer which packs and binds (with metal straps) about 4000-5000 pounds of paper (mostly boxes) each week into 500 pound bales. Local paper reproducers pick up and pay for the bales at a rate which fluctuates with the state of the waste market.

The Foodland and Thorofare Markets here have active bailers at the rear of the stores. Because of the capital and maintenance investment in the equipment, increasing labor costs, high price of metal strapping tape, and variable scrap paper prices, the recycling of boxes has not yielded profits, but does offset removal costs while handling waste paper efficiently, neatly, and in an environmentally sound way. At the salvager's plant the bales are cut, sorted, rebaled, and sent to paper mills for reprocessing into new boxes. One ton of paper recycled saves 17 average sized trees.

For about 10 years Churchill Area had its own, volunteer-run recycling station at the senior high school. Newspaper, corrugated cardboard, computer cards, glass, and steel cans (tin-coated) were collected from area residents once a month and taken to local reproducers (e.g. Atlas Wastepaper, Vulcan Metals, Glenshaw Glass.) Unfortunately the prices received did not always cover the costs of trucking, and the volunteer labor on which the project depended was not always sufficient; thus the station has been forced to close during several periods of severely depressed prices.

9 BRADDOCK'S DEFEAT

Corner Ardmore and Yost Boulevards,
FOREST HILLS

(Return to Ardmore Blvd. and note historical marker at corner of Yost Blvd.)

At this site stands the historical marker of Braddock's Defeat. In 1755, in order to drive the French from Fort Duquesne in what is now Pittsburgh, General Edward Braddock, with 2,200 men, set out from Cumberland, Md.

After crossing the Monongahela River at the present site of Braddock, the general and his men were ambushed by an army of Indians allied with the French. During the attack General Braddock was fatally wounded and his men were routed.

10 FOREST WOODLANDS PARK

Avenue L, FOREST HILLS

(Cross and make a Left turn onto Ardmore Blvd. → 0.1 mile, Right onto Ave. L (this is a very sharp right turn) → 0.2 mile, playground and park on left.)

This 20 acre park running north from Avenue L was purchased from the Westinghouse Electric Corp. in 1966. According to borough ordinance it must remain in its natural state except for some cleared trails and a small playground. An acid stream containing Planaria worms (used in teaching biology) drains the park. There are hawthorn, maple, oak, cherry, and crabapple trees in the woods (a more mature forest than one generally sees in our immediate area) as well as typical W. Pa. wildflowers and some poison ivy! The leafy ground litter is dotted with fungi and moss.

Note the Forest Hills Women's Club building across Avenue L from the park.

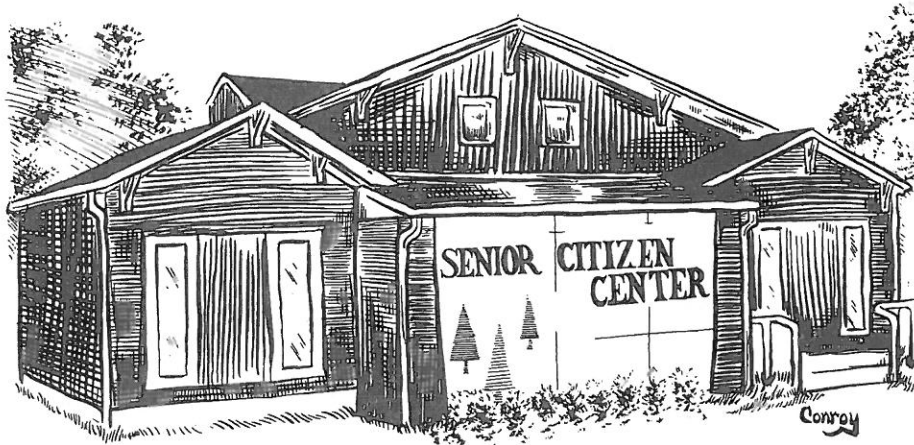
11 SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

Avenue F, FOREST HILLS

(Continue 0.1 mile, Right turn onto Ave. F → 0.3 mile.)

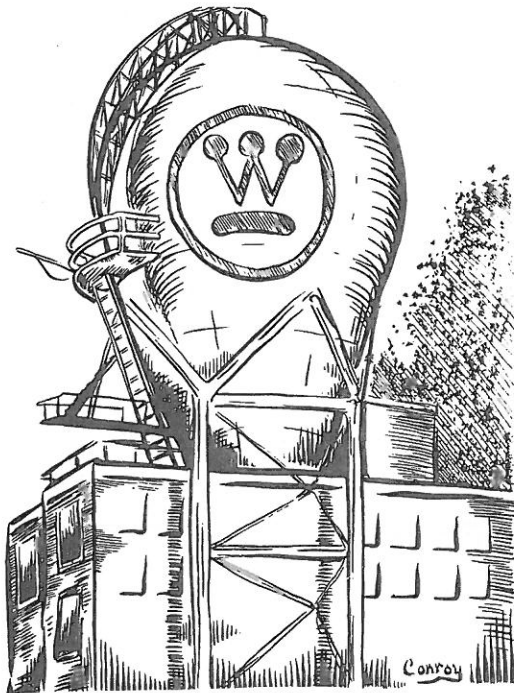
The site and building associated with the Forest Hills Senior Citizen Center were donated by the Westinghouse Electric Corp. in 1975, and the Federal Government Community Development Act provided the funds to remodel the building for its present use. The Center was opened in September, 1977 with facilities that include a library, kitchen (where dinner at noon is served Mondays through Fridays,) meeting rooms, and recreational areas. Various opportunities for instruction in arts and crafts, recreational physical activities, and academic courses are or will be available.

The Forest Hills Garden Club has provided funds for the landscape design and plantings around the building. All senior citizens' services in this area are coordinated through Turtle Creek Valley Center, 824-6880.



12 WESTINGHOUSE F.H. SITE

Avenue F, FOREST HILLS
 (Continue down Ave. F a few yards to the
 Westinghouse property.)



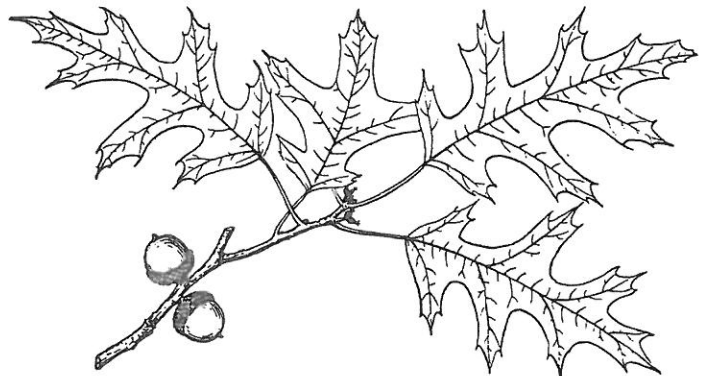
In 1915 Westinghouse built a research laboratory in Forest Hills and a continuing parade of inventions and scientific "greats" came out of its efforts. In 1938 the world's first industrial atom smasher, which would solve much of the mystery surrounding the inner structure of matter, was constructed and placed in operation at the Forest Hills site. The pear-shaped shell of this old Vandergraf accelerator, although no longer in use, stands today as a landmark of man's victory over the atom. This instrument provided knowledge in nuclear physics at a time

when such information was sketchy and yet necessary to the attainment of nuclear fission on a practical scale.

The research interests of the Corporation outgrew the space constraints in Forest Hills, and the laboratories were moved to their present home in Churchill (Site 23) in 1955. The Forest Hills facilities house offices primarily associated with the nuclear power business.

13 BICENTENNIAL TREE

North Avenue, CHALFANT BOROUGH
 (U-turn from Westinghouse F.H. site,
 Right turn onto North Ave. → 0.1 mile.
 Walk from the "DO NOT ENTER" sign (bear
 left at the sign) up to the green fence
 within which the tree is planted.)



The fine Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) planted alongside the Chalfant Borough Building on April 27, 1976 was a gift from the Churchill Area Environmental Council in honor of the nation's 200th birthday.

This species is native to the Ohio valley

and reaches majestic heights of about 80' (27 meters) when grown in full sun. Its wood is hard, strong, and light brown, and is used in making shingles and clapboard. The small, abundant fruits (acorns or nuts) are a favorite food of squirrels and other small, native animals. Like those of all members of the beech family (Fagaceae,) the flowers of an oak are inconspicuous (they lack bright petals,) monoecious (pollen flowers are separate from seed flowers,) and borne on side branches in early spring for the best wind pollination before the leaves emerge.

14 MINING ACTIVITY

Chalfant Street, CHALFANT BOROUGH
 (North Ave. → 0.1 mile, Left at Rossmore Ave., → 0.4 mile, Left at Elizabeth St. → 0.1 mile, Left at Chalfant St., ball field on right.)

On Chalfant Street (only a short distance from Greensburg Pike) a ball field now reclaims the site of an old mine entrance. There is visual evidence of past mining activity in the shale rock and coal dust at one end of the playing field. Mining ceased in this area in the 1930's.

15 TOUR GUIDE - B GREENSBURG PIKE

CHALFANT, WILKINS, FOREST HILLS, CHURCHILL BOROUGHS
 (U-turn on Chalfant St. → 0.1 mile, Left onto Greensburg Pike.)

In the 19th Century Greensburg Pike, then the Great Stage Road, was a toll road and part of the main highway from Philadelphia. The Pittsburgh Gazette on January 27, 1816 gives an account of 5,800 covered wagons plus stages and mail coaches traveling the road in one year. The "Pike" follows the flattened top of a natural ridge in the Allegheny foothills. Today it connects Wilkinsburg and Turtle Creek, meandering through all the municipalities covered by this tour guide for a distance of about 4 miles.

16 WESTINGHOUSE LODGE & RECREATION CENTER

Barclay Ave., FOREST HILLS
 (0.3 mile on Greensburg Pike, Left at Perry St., Right at Barclay.)

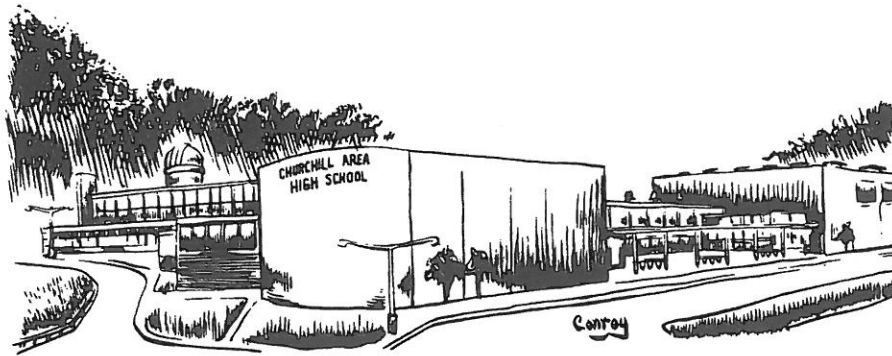
In 1923, because of broadcast interference from the steel buildings in East Pittsburgh, the world's first commercial radio station (8XK (KDKA)) moved to the site of the present Westinghouse Lodge. It became the first home of the 50 kilowatt radio station and operated at that site until 1931. This KDKA transmitting station building is now the nucleus of the Westinghouse Recreation Lodge building.

The grounds and landscaping around the Lodge are outstanding examples of sensitivity to the natural environment. A variety of shrubs and trees are grouped to provide food and shelter for wildlife and an aesthetic, pleasing backdrop for the picnics, games, and other social events held at the Lodge. The site is at the northern end of Forest Woodlands Park (site 10) and grades into the park quite naturally.



17 CHURCHILL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2430 Greensburg Pike
 On April 28, 1981, by order of a Federal District Judge, the Churchill Area School District was merged with four neighboring school districts - Edgewood, General Braddock, Swissvale and Turtle Creek. Thus, the Woodland Hills School District was formed with a complete K - 12 program and a combined student enrollment of about 7,000. Residents who want up-to-date information about our schools may call 731-1300.



the Pa. State Board of Education would not let them set up separate school systems. Forest Hills had operated a district with grades 1-9 since early in 1930, and Chalfant had a system with grades 1-8.

In 1959 Wilkins Twp. School District joined the Chalfant School District as a jointure and this was made a united district as a result of a public referendum in 1960. That same year Forest Hills School District joined Wilkins as a jointure. This new district, under one administration, but with two Boards of Education, was known as Churchill School District. The present school district, Churchill Area, was formed by public referendum on July 1, 1963, with an enrollment of 4,167 students. It has a 9-member Board of School Directors elected at large for 4-year terms.

Enrollment reached a peak of 5,968 in 1967-'68, but has fallen since then to below 4,000 where it stands now. Partly as a result of this declining student population the Churchill Area Schools are undergoing a planned reorganization that will serve the entire district with the following facilities:

5 elementary schools (out of 10 original buildings.) Atlantic, Churchill, Eastmont, Hawthorne, and Shaffer Schools will remain open in 1979-'80 for grades K-5 (no K at Atlantic.)

Forest Hills Middle School for grades 6,7
 Wilkins Junior High School for grades 8,9
 Churchill Area High School for grades 10 through 12.

The school district publishes the award winning community news bulletin, "SPOTLIGHT." Interested residents can stay informed on all school matters by reading this publication and by attending the public School Board meetings held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 8:00 P.M. in the cafeteria of the senior high school. Residents may also call 271-7070, a special number maintained for up-to-date messages on the schools.

18 LYONS PARK

Miller Street, WILKINS TOWNSHIP

(U-turn on Perry, return to Greensburg Pike, Left onto Pike → 0.4 mile, Right on Alpine Blvd. → 0.1 mile, Right on Miller St. into park.)

Eighteen acres are set aside here in the valley of a tributary of Saw Mill Run. The park contains a playground, tennis courts, ballfield, basketball court, and picnic tables. The stream runs through a rocky, picturesque ravine, and when clean, is quite attractive, albeit the victim (as are all our local streams) of acid mine drainage. The pH of the water is around 5 - too low to support most living creatures. Check with the Township Office on Peffer Road for group use of the recreation or conservation activities available in Lyons Park. Non-residents pay a special fee for use of the tennis courts.

19 KOCH PARK

Atlantic Avenue, FOREST HILLS

(Return and make a Left onto Greensburg Pike → 0.1 mile, Right on Marion Ave. → 0.3 mile, Right on Atlantic Ave. → 0.3 mile to park.)

Koch Park, honoring former mayor Albert L. Koch of Forest Hills (who served from 1942-1966,) was given to the Borough by the land developer, R.S. Catarinella, in 1964. It was dedicated in 1973. Its 5 acres contain two baseball fields, basketball and tennis courts, a picnic shelter (first-come, first-served,) and a large playground equipped with interesting and unusual "Timberform" equipment.

20 BICENTENNIAL TREE

Churchill Area High School, Greensburg Pike, CHURCHILL BOROUGH

(U-turn on Atlantic, return 0.1 mile to Forest Glen Dr., Right turn, → 0.1 mile, Right on Filmore Rd. → 0.8 mile, Left onto

Greensburg Pike → 0.4 mile, Left into Churchill Area High School.)



A magnificent Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum) specimen graces the auditorium wall of the high school, directly in front of the school name. It was a gift of the Churchill Garden Club, planted on April 24, 1976.

The Sugar Maple is native to the entire eastern North American continent from Nova Scotia to Georgia and is one of our handsomest shade trees. It reaches heights of 100-120 feet (40 meters) at maturity, is a source of maple sugar (made from its abundant sap,) and becomes a real eye-catcher in the fall when its leaves take on brilliant shades of scarlet, orange, and clear yellow. Inconspicuous green flowers appear with the leaves in early spring, but the dry, double-winged, 2-seeded samaras (fruits) cannot be overlooked in autumn. Maples are in the botanical family Aceraceae.

In addition to the Churchill Borough bicentennial Sugar Maple, the Churchill Garden Club also presented "Liberty Trees" to Churchill Elementary School (a Red Maple, Acer rubrum,) Shaffer School (a Red Oak, Quercus borealis,) and Wilkins Jr. High

School (a Pin Oak, Quercus palustris.) The active women in the Club do "plant therapy" work with the children at the Eastern Area School, and they work in and contribute to school district greenhouses, libraries, and grounds. Wildflower gardens are current projects at Wilkins Jr. High School and Churchill Area High School.

21 BEULAH CHAPEL

Old Wm. Penn H'wy. and Beulah Rd.,
CHURCHILL BOROUGH

(Return and make a Left onto Greensburg Pike → 0.5 mile, bear Right onto Graham Blvd. → 0.1 mile, Right on Penn Ave. 0.4 mile, Left on Beulah Rd. → 100 feet, Right on McCrady Rd. (Old Wm. Penn H'wy.,) enter church driveway on the left.)

An Historic Landmark since 1975, the old Presbyterian chapel standing at the southeast corner of Beulah Rd. and Old Wm. Penn Highway was built in 1837* with bricks fired on the site from clay soil so typical of this area. Land for the adjacent cemetery was given in 1773 for military tombstones. There are 34 marked graves of Revolutionary War patriots as well as the burial plots of many area pioneer families and soldiers of all major U.S. wars from the Civil War** to the Korean conflict.

The oldest marked grave is that of a 10 year old boy, James Bonner, who died in 1792; but older, unmarked graves are known to exist, some of which contain the remains of General John Forbes' troops who died of smallpox and other causes while billeted in the environs starting in 1758. The grave of Col. Dunning R. MacNair (1789,) founder of Wilkinsburg, is a prominent one in the cemetery. A small,



white stone marks the resting place of a slave woman, Roseanna Rattler, with the loving inscription (now unreadable,)"Thou wert a faithful Rose - God is no respecter of color." A leisurely walk through these remarkable burial grounds is truly a step into history.***

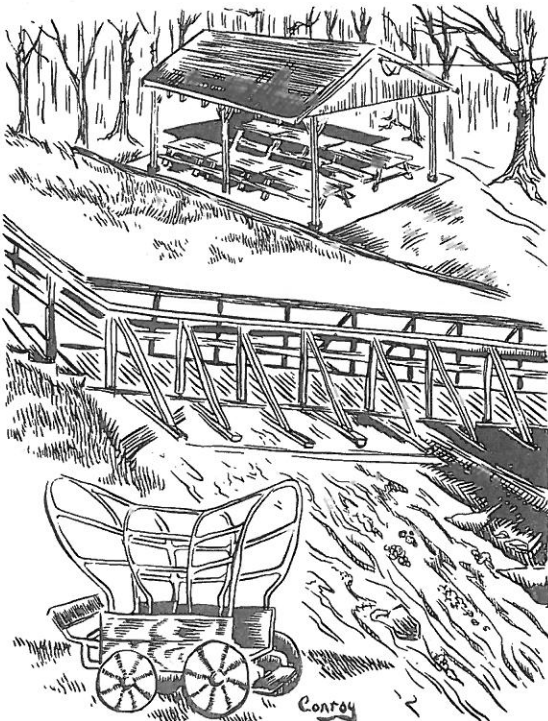
*A bronze plaque on the chapel incorrectly states that it was the first church west of the Alleghenies, but that distinction belongs to the Presbyterian Church in downtown Pittsburgh.

**Civil War veterans' graves are marked G.A.R.(Grand Army of the Republic.)

***The Presbyterian Church adjoining the old chapel has regular tours through the cemetery and an informative booklet on the history of Beulah.

22 BULLOCK-PENS PARK

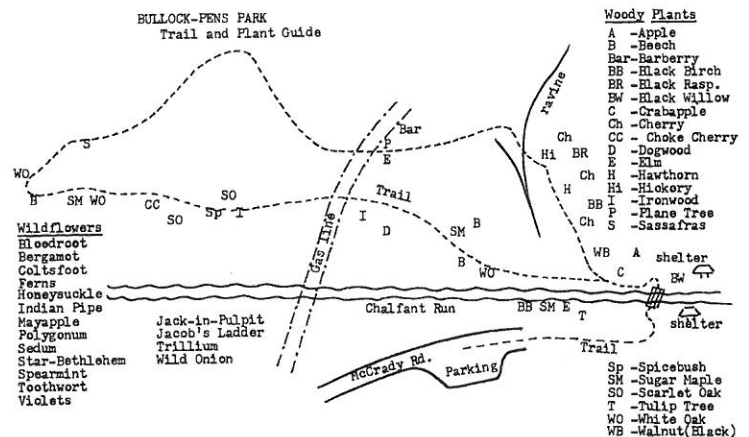
Old Wm. Penn H'wy., CHURCHILL BOROUGH
(Continue down McCrady Rd. → 0.7 mile;
the park lies at the end of the road,
just to the left of the parkway exit
ramp.)



In 1758, Brig. Gen. John Forbes' army (during the French and Indian Wars Forbes led men against the French at Fort Duquesne) corralled a herd of oxen in the approximate

area now preserved as Bullock-pens Park. There was also a small village in the area where a substantial number of Forbes' men remained to protect settlers against Indian raids after the fall of Fort Duquesne.

Churchill Borough began acquiring parcels of land in the area in 1963 and by Dec., 1974 had about 57 acres which were dedicated as a park. Since then 2 picnic shelters, a summer day camp, and some playground equipment have been added, but the bulk of the park remains wild, with an excellent mile-long nature trail and an abundance of wild-life, wildflowers, and both native and introduced trees and shrubs (see trail guide and plant list below.) The Borough encourages proper use of the Park by organized groups and maintains a reservation system at the Borough Building (Penn Ave., corner Beulah Rd.)



Chalfant Run passes through Bullock-pens Park, and Mr. Elo Tanner of the Churchill Recreation Board, prepared the following report which is a classic example of the difficulties encountered by citizens grappling with the environmental ravages of the past and the governmental bureaucracy of the present.

POLLUTION IN CHALFANT RUN

Chalfant Run flows through Churchill Borough along its northern boundary, but its watershed also includes parts of Wilkinsburg, Penn Hills, and Wilkins. Pollution over the past 2 decades has come from septic tanks, inadequate sewage treatment at the Penn Hills

Sewage Plant on Long Road, and acid from past mining operations (reminding us of the environmental hazards of underground mining, which, although out of sight, are insidious and long-lasting.)

Concern over this pollution increased in 1965 when Churchill began acquiring land along the Run for a park and summer camp. A report by the Pa. Dept. of Health verified that:

1) Chalfant Run was polluted by acid mine drainage and the treated alkaline sewage from the Long Road plant.

2) When the two are brought together, the mixture turns milky and sludge deposits built up in quiescent areas of the stream.

3) In warm weather these deposits turn anaerobic, black, and smelly.

Solutions proposed in the report included:

1) Seal off the mine drainage - considered impractical on such a large scale.

2) Neutralize the acids (a small trial plant was set up, but the process was judged impractical for an entire watershed.)

3) Improve the quality of the sewage effluent to minimize organic content.

The involved municipalities agreed to have an engineering survey made to pinpoint sources of pollution in the watershed, and in 1973 a preliminary report was sent to the DER (Dept. of Environmental Resources.) An exchange of correspondence (Dr. Maurice Goddard, Sec. of DER at that time,) resulted in a summation on Feb. 5, 1975 as follows:

1) The DER received the study on the mine drainage situation. It appears that little can be done to abate mine drainage in the watershed because the area is heavily undermined and contours have been stripped and thus weakened.

2) There are plans to enlarge the Sandy Creek treatment plant in Penn Hills and to eliminate the Long Road plant so that no sewage will flow into Chalfant Run. Completion of this project should eliminate the concerns with respect to Chalfant Run. (However, even with the possible future elimination of sewage from Chalfant Run, the acidity of the water will preclude life from its waters. Without populations of algae, small invertebrates, fish, and the like, Chalfant Run appears doomed to remain a sour, "dead" creek.)

As of May, 1976, the following improvements,

while not eliminating the sludge or the soapy appearance of Chalfant Run, have been achieved:

1) The effluent from the Long Road sewage plant must now meet a 95% treatment standard rather than 85%.

2) A spot check on the Run on Oct. 1, 1975 indicated that 8 of the 9 readings for bacterial contamination were satisfactory. The high reading at one location could have been due to error or to a lapse in chlorination at Long Road during a change of chlorine cylinders. (It should be noted that there are 3 tributaries to the Run which enter it below the Long Road plant. One of these starts in the vicinity of the Blackridge playground where a pump is used to move sewage uphill into the Wilkinsburg sewage system. Occasionally this pump has been overloaded or failed, and sewage enters this tributary.)

3) Septic tanks on the watershed have been reduced by the extension of sewer lines.

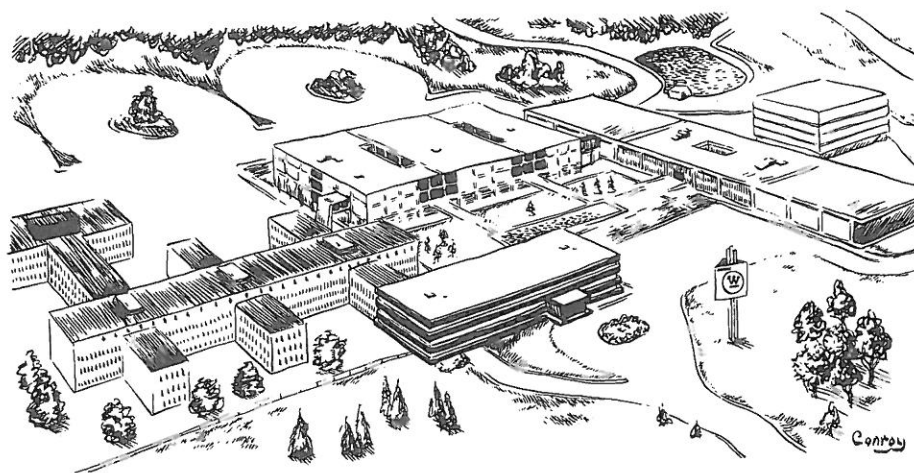
23 WESTINGHOUSE R & D CENTER

Beulah Road, CHURCHILL BOROUGH

(Return on McCrady Rd. → 0.7 mile, Left on Beulah Rd. → 0.1 mile across Penn Ave., Right turn into Helen Dr.)

Since 1955, when they moved from Forest Hills (Site 12,) the Westinghouse Research and Development Center has occupied a 150 acre site bounded by Beulah Rd., the Penn-Lincoln Parkway, and Greensburg Pike in Churchill Borough. It is the only large, non-residential, institutional area in the Borough and maintains a campus-like appearance and atmosphere.

Although 8 buildings are now clustered at the site,* the surrounding green space is quite extensive and is an outstanding example of man's best use of his work environment. A fire control water reservoir doubles as a wildlife lake, and a section is kept unfrozen for water fowl all winter. An alpine garden, tree-lined pavillion, walking paths, and beds of lush, native and cultivated evergreens are part of an eye-catching landscape design. Also featured is a Japanese garden designed by 3 scientists at the Center, with focus on a stone lantern given by the Mitsubishi Elec. Corp. to commemorate 50 years of association with Westinghouse. There was a dedication ceremony attended by the Japanese Ambassador to the United States on May 31, 1974.



The staff at the R and D Center is engaged in a wide range of investigations including such things as energy, transportation, space, metals, and pollution. There is a noteworthy experimental home at the site where special devices and materials for water and sewage recycling, insulation, energy conservation, and other environmental features are tested and evaluated. A plan has been tried for heating and cooling the home with a heat pump which uses an 8,000 gallon backyard pool and consumes only half the electrical energy of conventional heat pump systems.

About 1,900 people work at the R and D Center, approximately 40% of whom are professional scientists and engineers. There is an on-site Univac 1100 computer, a library with more than 70,000 volumes and 1,000 different technical journals, and a 250-seat auditorium. In past years Westinghouse has participated in scientist-teacher exchange days, sponsored Saturday science lectures for talented high school students, given numerous scholarships to college-bound area young people, and held community days at the Center (tours, refreshments, activities.) Look for such opportunities in the future.

*The Churchill site is also the permanent location of the Patent Department, Corporate Standards, Industrial Hygiene Laboratory, and Corporate Product Integrity.

TOUR GUIDE - C

24 CHURCHILL CEMETERY

Harrison and Churchill Roads, WILKINS
(U-turn on Helen Dr., cross Beulah Rd. onto Churchill Rd. → 1.9 miles, Left on Harrison Rd. at cemetery entrance.)

This large cemetery tract has an older portion bordering Churchill Rd. which contains several Civil War (G.A.R.) graves, but stones honoring the dead veterans of nearly every American war can be found here, including the Spanish War (1898-1902,) World Wars I and II, and the Korean conflict. The cemetery is noteworthy also for evidence of wildlife habitat. Groundhog tunneling is abundant and trees shelter local birds. Some common wildflowers flourish in spring and summer, particularly in the unmowed borders of the older graves. Cemeteries are often the only "green spaces" that remain in urbanized areas, and as such they provide havens for some of the other creatures which inhabited the area before man's intrusion.

25 LINHART PARK

James Drive, WILKINS TOWNSHIP

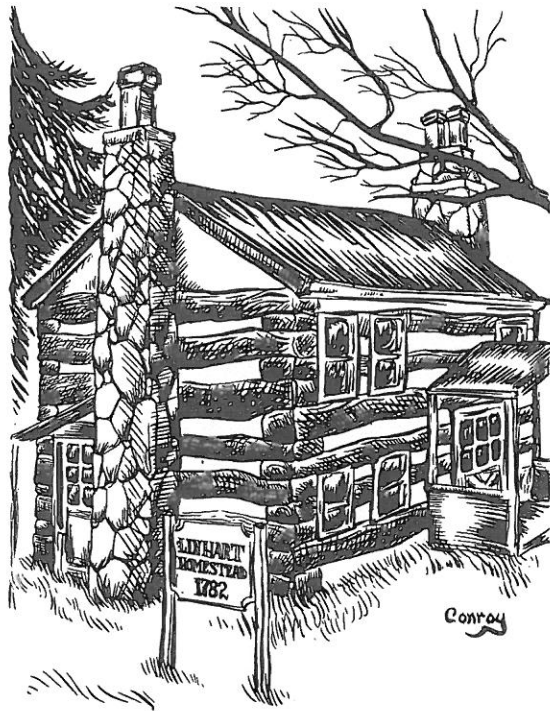
(Continue down Harrison Rd. → 0.1 mile, Left on George St. → 0.1 mile, Right on James Dr. → 0.1 mile to park entrance.)

Here are 10 acres of unmarked woods, and newly renovated recreational facilities which include tennis courts, a playground, ballfield, basketball court, and some picnic tables. All park facilities in Wilkins Twp. are available for scouting and other organized groups seeking good recreation or conservation activities. Reservation forms are available at the Township office on Peffer Rd. There is a special fee for non-resident use of the tennis courts.

26 LOG CABIN (197 years old)

224 Farnsworth Ave., WILKINS TOWNSHIP

(Return and make a Left turn back onto Harrison Rd. → 0.1 mile, Right on Farnsworth Ave. → 0.1 mile to log cabin home on left.)



Originally built as a 2-room home in 1782 by Christian Linhart, this log cabin has been owned and occupied by Drs. Evelyn and Robert Fisher since 1956. The building attests to the pioneer skills prevalent among early settlers; the original white oak logs and chiseled stone fireplaces are carefully preserved. The structure is that of a double house, the second half having been built 12 years after the first (for Linhart's married daughter) and connected by tie logs.

The site is on the east side of the hill, protected from the prevailing winds. Below the house is a spring (still in use) whose water has a year-round temperature of 52°F. Because of its historical importance as the home of an early, pioneer family, the log cabin is on file with the Western Pa. Historical Society. But, because it has been expanded and remodeled by contemporary owners, it is ineligible for landmark status.

Across from the Log Cabin and continuing down Farnsworth Ave. for about half a mile (this area is part of what was called #3 Hill in the mining era) there is ample evidence of the landscape scarring produced

by abandoned mine operations and the lengthy time needed for a succession to covering vegetation. But the non-visible damage to local streams and waterways from acid mine drainage and the subsidence threat to ground structures are far more enduring legacies with no feasible solutions.

Historical records point to coal mining activity in Wilkins in the 1880's when the land on both sides of the Thompson Run Valley from Turtle Creek to N. Bessemer was owned by the N.Y. and Cleveland Gas Coal Co. (forerunner of Consolidation Coal.) Their operations ceased during World War I and the land was worked for a time by independent operators and finally strip-mined by the Mioli Co. in the 1940's and early '50's.

In the early '60's Consolidated Coal merged with Continental Oil and unloaded its mined out lands for tax writeoffs. Thus Wilkins Twp. now owns all the remaining rights to its coal seams. A map showing all mined areas in the township is available at the municipal office on Peffer Rd. A more inclusive map for all of Allegheny County (and including regions of possible flood damage and landslide activity) is on file at the Churchill Borough Office.

Although not part of this tour, the interested person can find remains of major mine entrances (completely safety-sealed) or activities at the following locations in Wilkins Twp.:

- 1) Off Farnsworth Ave. just past Curry Rd. and the intersection of the Ridgemont Country Club there is the foundation of an old stone house on the left as the road bends down the hill. A large depression at this site is an old mine entrance.
- 2) The rear yard of 245 Harrison Rd. borders a sealed shaft.
- 3) Above the old Gilmore School (Thompson St.) the road bed for Rebecca Ave. is wide because it was originally a double-track railroad right of way for carrying coal down to the valley.
- 4) On Brown Ave. near the Patchel home (about 0.3 mile past Beulah Shopping Center heading toward Turtle Creek) a narrow gauge mining track carried coal from the Duquesne Coal Co. holdings across Brown Ave. and the Greensburg Pike ridge down through Forest Hills to a spur track of the Pa. Railroad. Such tracks were torn out when mining ceased and the properties were sold to real estate developers. But, in rural areas from Irwin

to the Youghiogheny River, the old rights of way were maintained and were recently acquired by the W. Pa. Conservancy as a continuous hiking and biking trail.

27 LINHART CEMETERY

Harrison Rd., WILKINS TOWNSHIP
(Return and make a right turn onto Har-

ison Rd. → 0.2 mile; walk up a paved path on the left to a small, cyclone-fenced cemetery; enter respectfully.)

The 1775 stone over the grave of I. Mowry, a pioneer homesteader of the area, is the oldest marker here. But this small, private burial plot also contains the remains of Christian Linhart, a Revolutionary War patriot who built the Log Cabin (Site 26) in the area.



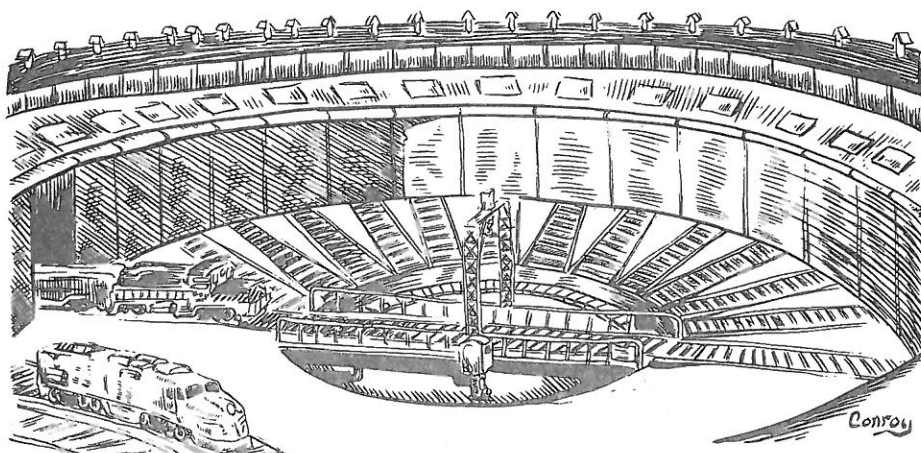
28 HALL LOCOMOTIVE SHOP

Larimer Rd. Extension, WILKINS TOWNSHIP
(Continue down Harrison Rd. → 0.1 mile; bear Left onto Larimer Rd, then bear Right toward the Union R.R. tracks and cross the tracks → 1.3 miles (the road parallels Thompson Run,) sharp Right up a small hill to the Hall Shop overlook.)

From the road that winds up the hill past the Union Railroad tracks there is an outstanding view of the functioning round house and turntable built around 1908.

The round house is used as the railroad locomotive shop, responsible today for the servicing and repair of about 122 diesel locomotives. A more modern part of the building, erected in 1951, is also visible from the overlook.

It is worth noting that transporting a ton of goods by rail uses only a fourth as much diesel oil as does trucking that same ton. Not only is there a real energy and fuel resource saving in railroading, but railroad rights of way represent an insignificant usurpage of land compared with the amount of real estate paved in the unending making of highways.



29 BICENTENNIAL TREE

Eastmont Elementary School,
Jefferson Hgts. Rd., WILKINS TOWNSHIP
(Return 1.3 miles along the Larimer Rd.
Ext.; make the first Right turn after
crossing the tracks onto Rodi Rd. → 0.8
miles, bear Left to enter Wm. Penn H'wy.
heading East (toward Monroeville) - DO
NOT take the right fork which goes under
the highway! → 0.2 mile; Left onto Haw-
thorne Dr. → 0.4 mile, bear Right onto
Laurel Dr. → 200 feet, Left onto Orion
Dr. → 0.1 mile, Right onto Jefferson
Hgts. Rd. → 0.3 mile; Eastmont School
is on the left.)



The Red Oak, Quercus borealis, behind the circle in front of Eastmont School was donated by the Ridgewood Manor Garden Club and planted on April 27, 1976.

Native to North America, from Nova Scotia to the Appalachian Mts. of North Carolina, the Red Oak has toothed, scalloped, broad leaves which turn orange-brown in the fall. Its large fruits (acorns) feed wildlife all winter. Flowers of this tree (like those of all oaks) are inconspicuous and wind pollinated in early spring (before the leaves emerge to block the breezes.) The wood of this 60-70' (20-23 meters) species is extremely hard, close-grained, and used in making fine furniture as well as in quality construction.

The Ridgewood Manor Garden Club also maintains the landscaping at the highway entrances to Ridgewood Manor.

30 EASTMONT PARK

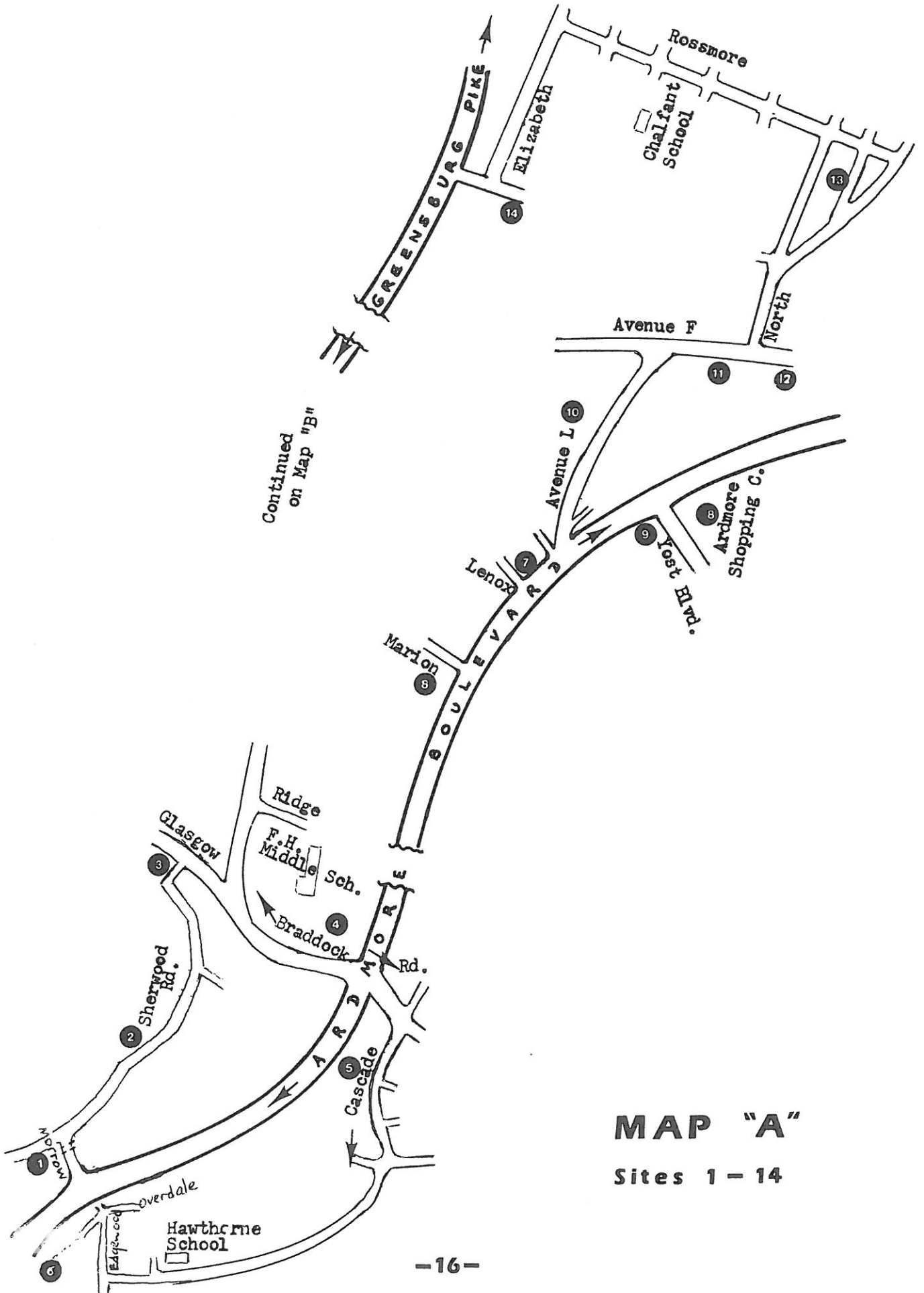
Frazier Drive, WILKINS TOWNSHIP

(From Eastmont School pick up Dunbar Dr. → 0.1 mile, Right onto Kingston Dr. → 0.2 mile, Right onto Frazier Dr. → 0.1 mile; the Park entrance is on the right opposite the Eastmont Fire Station.)

A Wilkins Township recreational facility of about 15 acres, Eastmont Park includes tennis courts, a playground, and three ball fields. The park has wooded areas as well, and conservation-recreation activities are available to scouts and others through a reservation system at the Township office on Peffer Road. There is a special fee for non-residents who wish to use the tennis courts.

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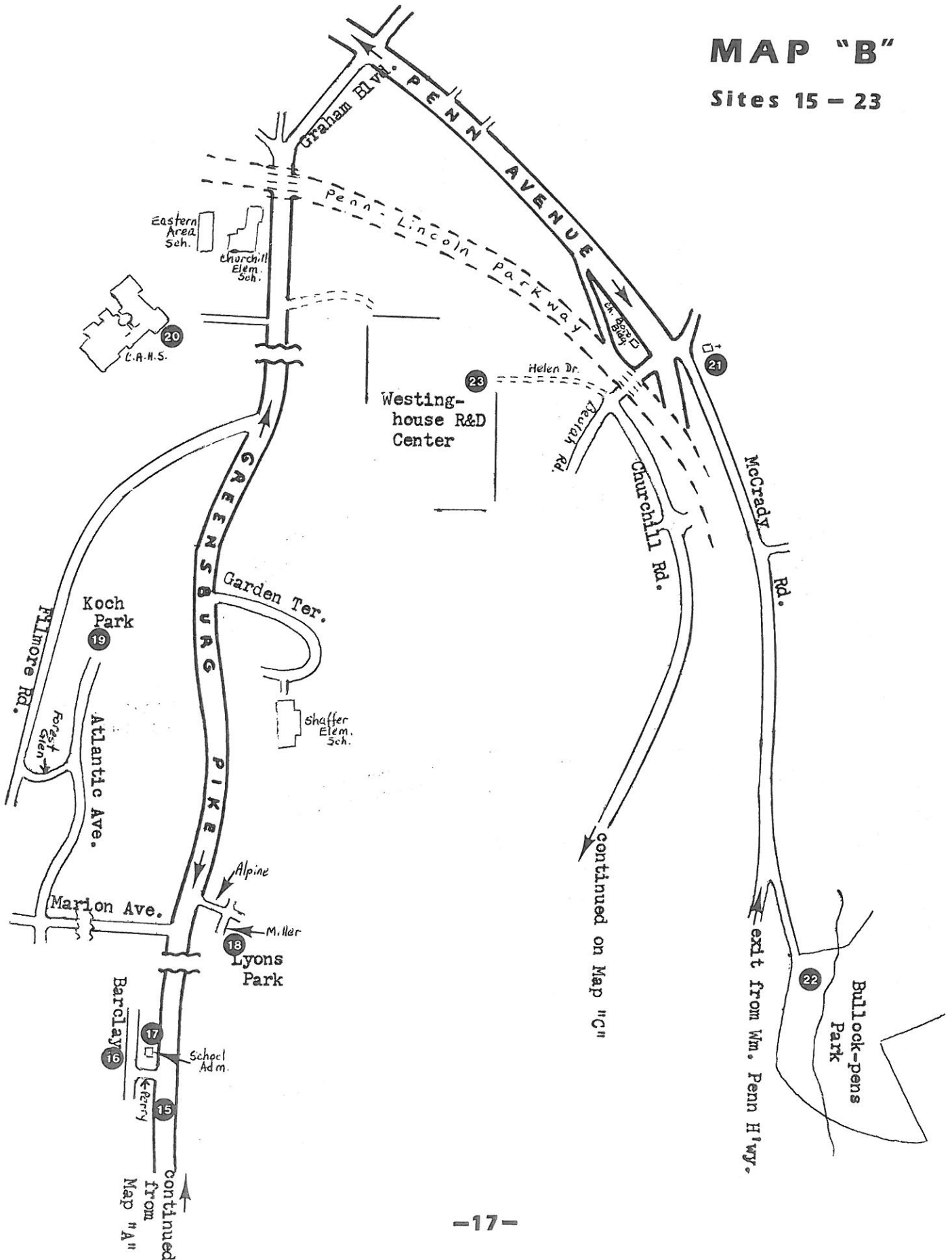


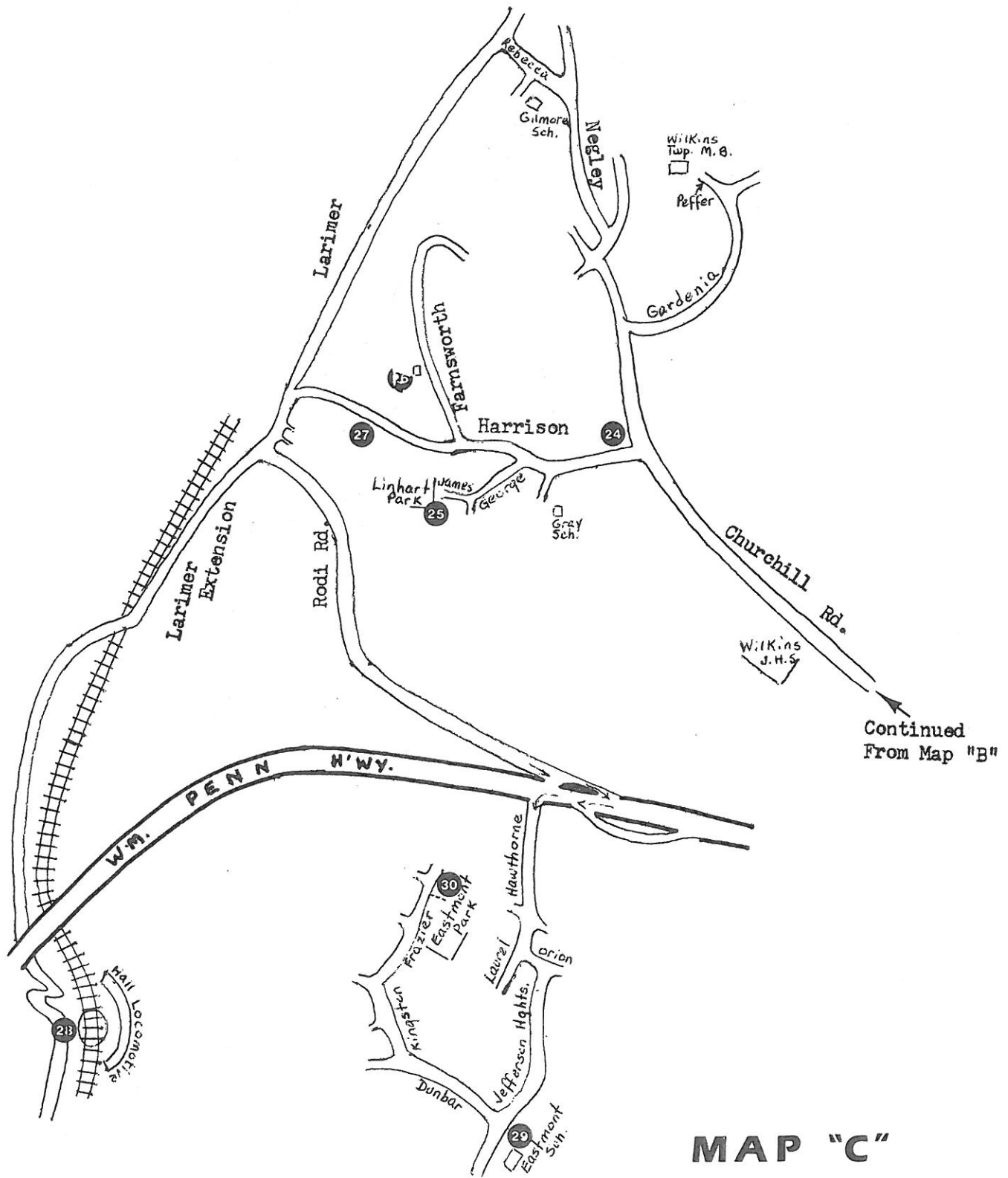
MAP "A"

Sites 1 - 14

MAP "B"

Sites 15 - 23





Continued From Map "B"

MAP "C"

Sites 24-30