

## THE STORY OF LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP'S HISTORIC ROAD-SIDE MARKERS

### TURNPIKE MARKERS [1]

TURNPIKE MILESTONES •

### HIGHWAY MARKERS [2]

KEYSTONE MARKERS •

### MCA ROAD MARKERS [3]

BOUNDARY SIGNS •

DANGER SIGNS •

ROAD LIGHTS •

ROAD SIGN, TYPE 1 •

### LMT STREET SIGNS [4]

STREET SIGN, TYPE 2 •

STREET SIGN, TYPE 3 •

### PRESERVATION [5]

MCA'S HISTORICAL LEGACY •

PRESERVATION BRIEF #25 •

MARKER FIELD SURVEYS •

MARKER PRESERVATION •

MARKER RECREATION •



## EARLY COLONIAL TURNPIKE MILESTONES: A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS...

### TURNPIKE MARKERS [1]

COLONIAL MILESTONES, [18<sup>TH</sup>C]  
MERION TOWNSHIP, PA

**Ancient Roman Roads** •  
the "Mile" (*milia passuum*)

**3 Roads, 14 Milestones** •  
Old Lancaster, c1740 **1**  
Old Gulph, c1793 **2**  
Lancaster, c1795 **3**

**Establishing Mile Markers** •  
Mail Delivery (Franklin) **1**  
Easier Property Location **2**  
("Addresses" miles-furlongs)  
"Turnpike" Toll Locations **3**  
(Fair Charges by Distance)





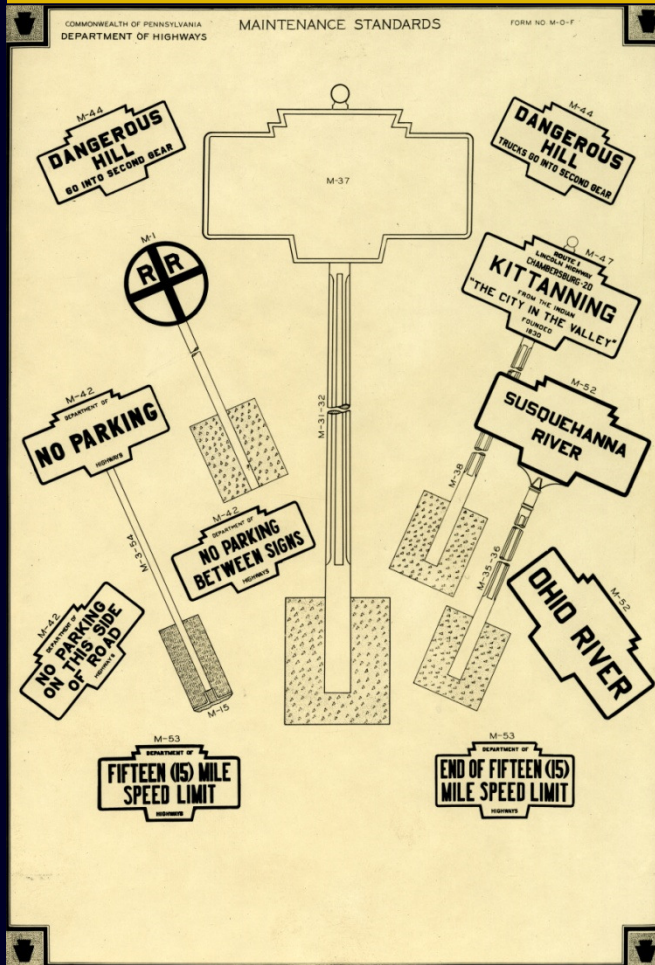
## PADoH 'KEYSTONE' MARKERS: CELEBRATING PA HERITAGE...

### HIGHWAY MARKERS [2]

### KEYSTONE MARKERS, [1924-42] ROADWAYS OF PA

#### PA Dept. of Highways •

- Durable Materials 1  
(Cast-Iron)
- Celebration of PA 2  
Pride and Heritage
- Mark the Limits of Towns 3
- Waterways and Trails 4  
Name, History, Travel
- Distance, Founding Date





## MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION: OF CIVIC MINDED MEN...

### MCA ROAD MARKERS [3]

MERION CIVIC ASSOC., [1913]

MERION, PA

#### MCA Founded in 1913 •

Chairman, Edward W. Bok

#### The Association's Motto •

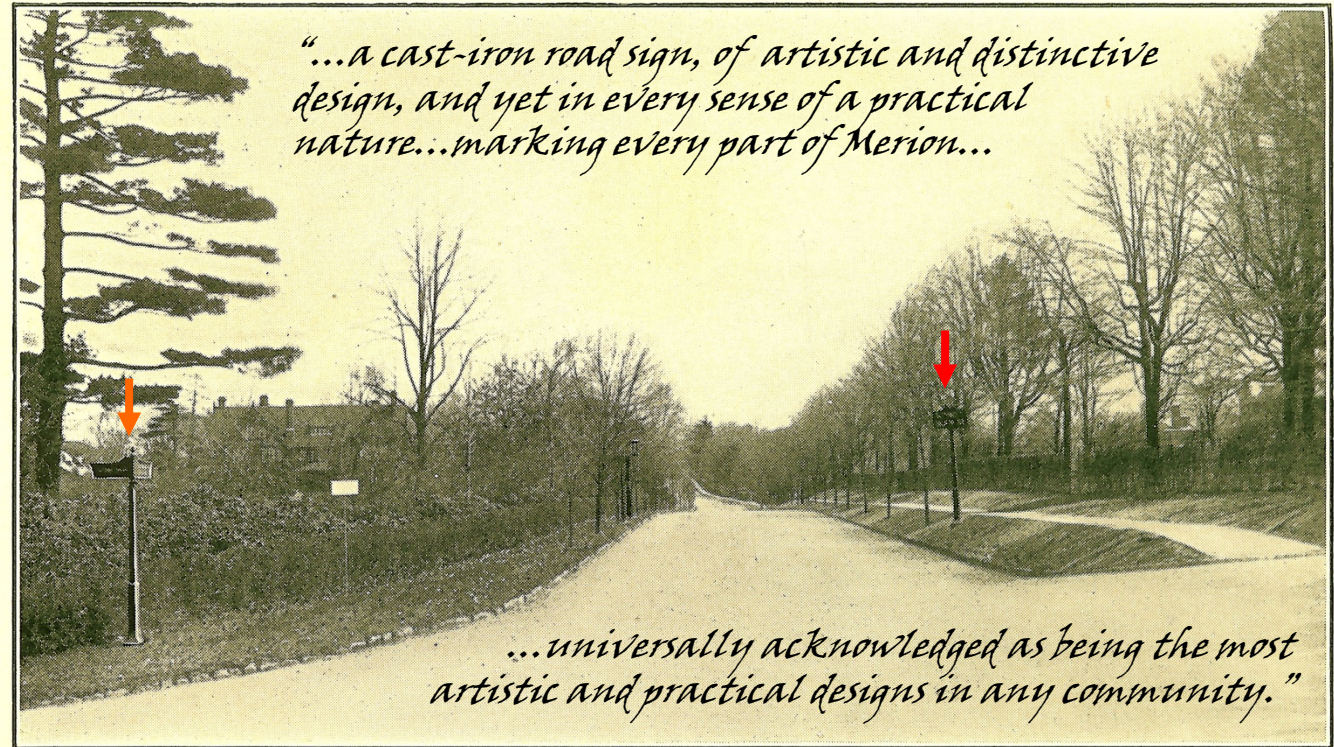
*"To Be Nation Right  
And State Right  
We Must First Be  
Community Right"*

#### National Praise in 1917 •

Theodore Roosevelt  
*"A Model in Civic Matters"*

#### Community Improvements •

- Consolidate Utility Poles 1
- Install and Repair Roadways 2
- Install Fire Hydrant System 3
- Abolish Turnpike Toll-Gates 3
- Install Boundary Signs 4
- Install Automobile Signs 5
- Install Road-Lights 6
- Install Road Signs 7



The new method of laying roads in Merion from curb to curb: eliminating dirt gutters



## MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION: PRIDE AND A SENSE OF PLACE...

### MCA ROAD MARKERS [3]

BOUNDARY SIGNS, [1914-15]

MERION, PA

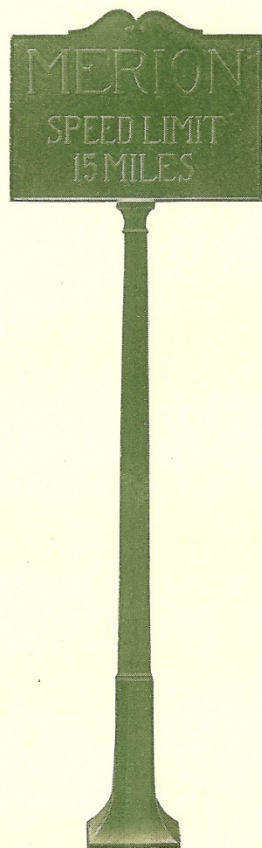
Five [5] Installed by MCA •

Durable Materials 1  
(Cast-Iron)

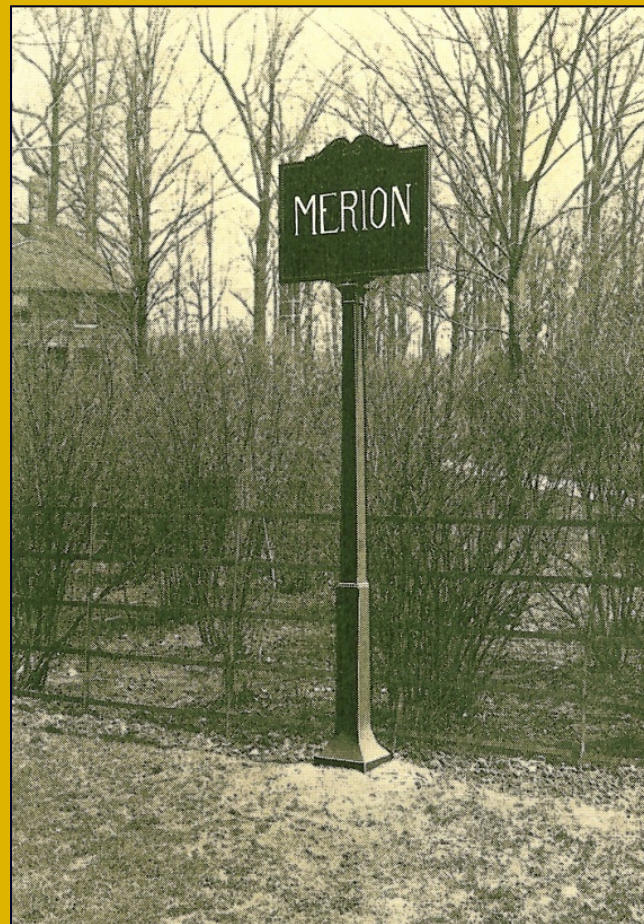
Harmonious Design 2

(with all new Merion Signs)

Mark the Boundary Points 3  
of Merion (for Motorists)



THE NEW BOUNDARY SIGN





## MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION: OF VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS...

### MCA ROAD MARKERS [3]

DANGER SIGNS, [1914-15]

MERION, PA

[54] Installed by MCA •

Durable Materials 1  
(Cast-Iron)

Harmonious Design 2

(with all new Merion Signs)

Make Merion Roadways 3

Safer for Vehicle and  
Pedestrian Travel

Remove Township Signs 4



The "Danger" and "Blow Your Horn" Sign of which there are 54 single and double signs in Merion



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TED GOLDSBOROUGH, LMHS



## MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION: LIGHTING THE ROADS OF MERION...

### MCA ROAD MARKERS [3]

ROAD LIGHTS, [1914-15]

MERION, PA

[124] Installed by MCA •

Durable Materials 1

(Cast-Iron and Copper)

“Superior Radiation” 2

(Electric Illumination)

“Unusually Distinctive and 3

Artistic Design” (Hexagonal)

MCA Partnership with the 4

Pennsylvania RR Company

(Merion Station Lighting)

Smyser – Royer Company •

Iron Foundry, York, PA



One of the Road Lights in detail showing the Merion Railroad Station in the background





## MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION: ALL ROADS ADEQUATELY MARKED

### MCA ROAD MARKERS [3]

ROAD SIGNS, [1914-15]  
MERION, PA

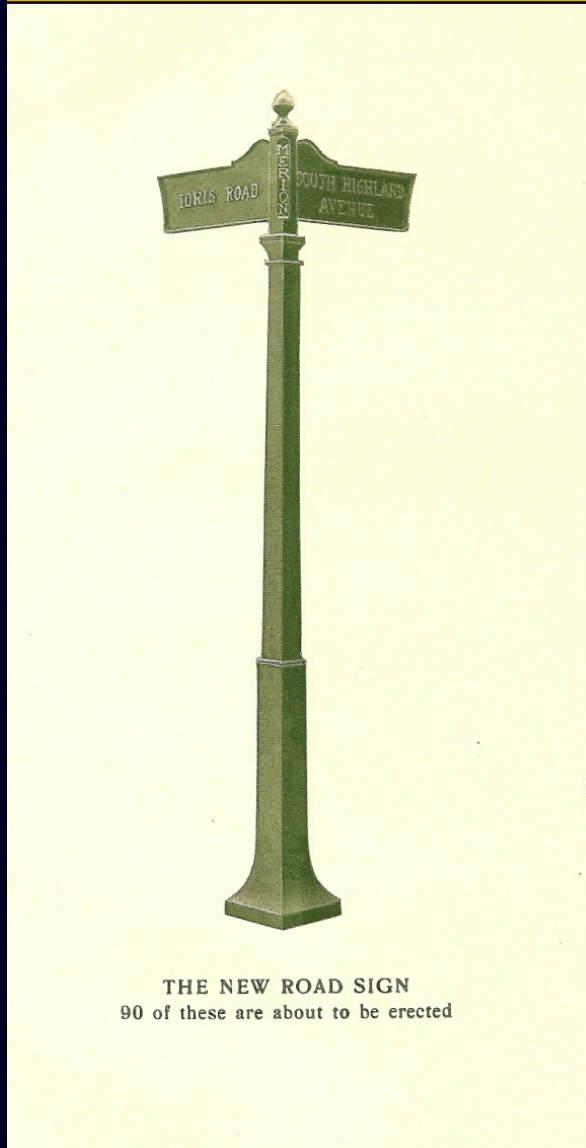
[93] Installed by MCA •

Durable Materials and 1  
(Cast-Iron)

“Artistic and Distinctive 2  
Design” (of Quality)

“Mark Each Intersecting 3  
Road in [Merion]”

**TYPE 1**



THE NEW ROAD SIGN  
90 of these are about to be erected



PHOTOGRAPHS  
BY MAX BUTEN



## LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP: A 'STANDARD' TOWNSHIP STREET SIGN...

### LMT STREET SIGNS [4]

STANDARD STREET SIGNS,  
[1932, 1938 & 1949]  
LOWER MERION, PA


1932 Standard Street Sign •  
Cast Iron "Post and Plate"  
TYPE 2

1938 & 1949 Revisions •  
Cast Aluminum Alternate

Post 1950's Changes •  
'New' Cast Aluminum Alternate  
Lake Shore Industries, Erie, PA  
TYPE 3

**LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP  
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
STANDARD STREET SIGN**

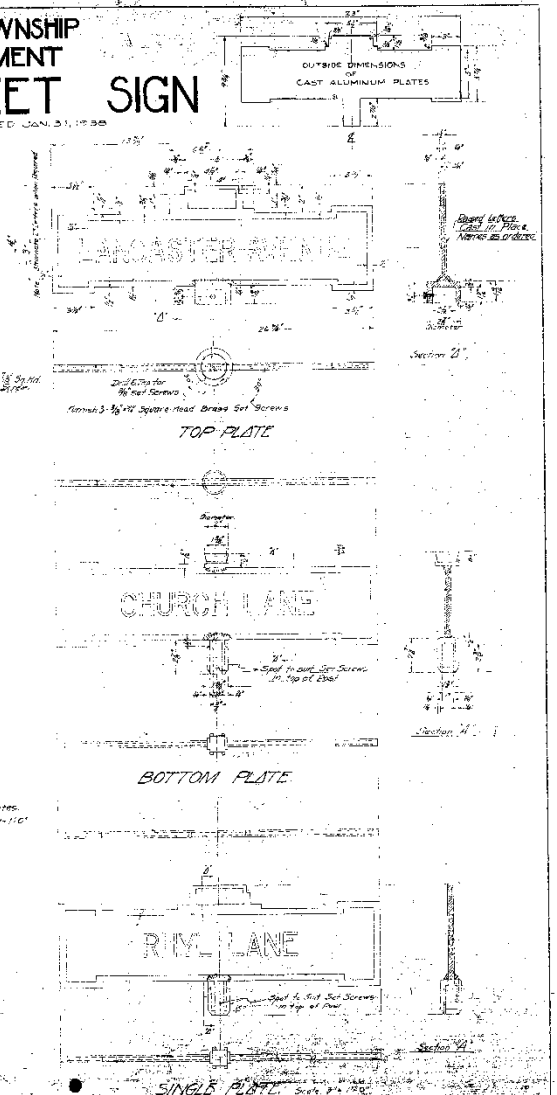
APRIL 1, 1932 REVISED JAN. 20, 1938



**TYPE 3**

**TYPE 2**

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MAX BÜTEN, LMHS



OUTSIDE DIMENSIONS  
CAST ALUMINUM PLATES

LANCASTER AVENUE

CHURCH LANE

BOTTOM PLATE

RIVY LANE

SINGLE PLATE

**SPECIFICATIONS**

Castings shall be composed of best quality, tough, clean, durable gray iron, free from blow holes, sand holes and other imperfections. Any imperfections shall not be welded or filled with iron cement unless under agreement with the Township Inspector.

Castings shall be finished either with a sand cast or brush finish and shall be free of sand, scale, fins and rust.

All castings are to be given a Praying Coat of Paint.

All castings are to be at least equal in all respects, to sample Sign which may be seen on application to the Township Office.

April 1<sup>st</sup> 1932

**ALTERNATE**

Sign Plates to be composed of cast aluminum-anodized to serve as a base for paint.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1949

Weight of Post (Without Plates)=70 Lbs  
with Tolerance of 5%

Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



## MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION: THE LEGACY OF THE CIVIC...

### PRESERVATION [5]

CATALOGING ROAD SIGNS,  
[1909 & 1915 FIELD SURVEYS]

#### LOWER MERION, PA

##### 1919 Olmsted Report •

Improvements proposed for  
the "Main Line District"

##### 1920 House Beautiful •

"The Safest, the Healthiest,  
and Most Beautiful Community  
in the United States"

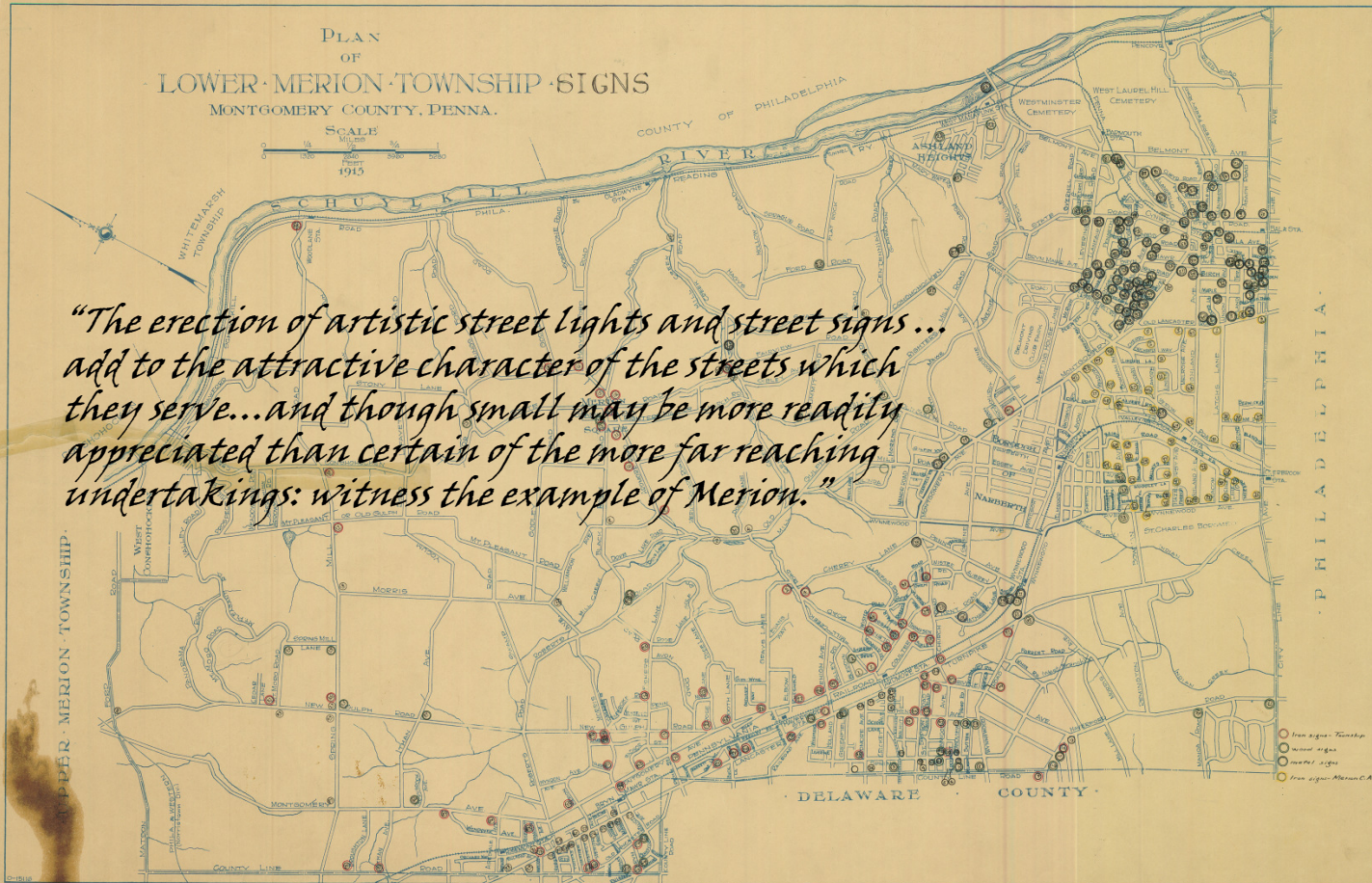
##### 1920's Developments •

Merion Park, LMT, PA **1**

Forest Hills, Queens, NY **2**

Roland Park, Baltimore, MD **3**

Colony Hills, Springfield, MA **4**



1915



## THE LOWER MERION COMMUNITY: OUR 'OBJECTS'...OUR HERITAGE...

### PRESERVATION [5]

PRESERVATION BRIEF #25:  
PRESERVATION OF HIST. SIGNS  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### DESIGNATE •

- National Register 1
- Local Historic Inventory 2

#### RETAIN (WHEN) •

- Associated with Historic 1
- Figures, Events or Places
- Characteristic of a Specific 2
- Historic Period
- Outstanding Example of 3
- the Signmaker's Art
- Local Landmarks 4
- Elements Important in 5
- Defining District Character

#### MAINTAIN/REPAIR •

- Regular Inspection 1
- Cleaning 2
- Repairs 3

#### REUSE/NEW •

- Keep, Unaltered (Exterior) 1
- Relocate (Interior) 2
- Modify for New Use 3



3-27-31

12256



## LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP: CATALOGUING HISTORY...

### PRESERVATION [5]

CATALOGING ROAD SIGNS,  
[2016 FIELD SURVEY]  
LOWER MERION, PA

**MCA Road Signs** •  
42 of 115 Remain Today

**MCA Road Lights** •  
7 of 205 Remain Today

**MCA 'Warning' Signs** •  
1 of 45 Remains Today



### Merion Type 1 Road Sign Survey Location Map: Sign Type Guide



GP

Revised 11/2016

MAP COURTESY OF LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP



### Merion Type 1 Road Sign Survey Sign Types

Not drawn to scale. Lettering and other details depicted here are not exact.



GP

Revised 11/2016



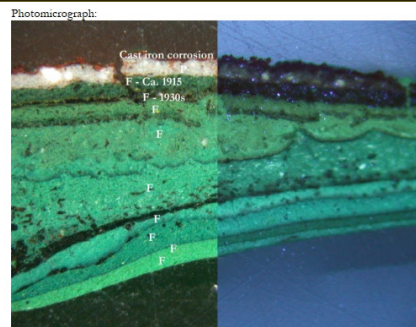
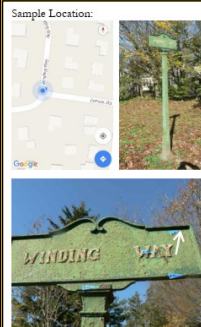
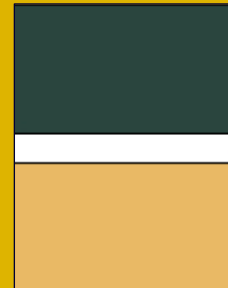
## LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP: TO PRESERVE A COMMUNITY'S LEGACY...

### RESERVATION [5]

PRESERVATION OF MCA  
ROAD-SIDE OBJECTS  
LOWER MERION, PA

#### Saving MCA Historic Objects •

- Federal MUTCD Exemption 1  
(Completed, 2011-12)
- LMT SSC Recommendations 2  
(Completed, 2013)
- Historic Paint Color Analysis 3  
(Completed, 2015)
- Designating Historic Objects 4  
(Completed, 2007-16)
- National Register Listing 5  
(On Hold, 2017)
- Local (LMT HRI) Listing 6  
(Class 2, 2016-18)
- LMT HRI Class 2 v. Class 1 7  
(Pending, 2023)
- Repair/Restore Exist. Signs 8  
(Pending, 2022-23)





## THE LOWER MERION COMMUNITY: TO PRESERVE A COMMUNITY'S LEGACY...

### PRESERVATION [5]

RECREATION OF MCA  
ROAD-SIDE OBJECTS  
LOWER MERION, PA

#### Saving MCA Historic Objects •

Fund Raising (New Patterns) 9

(Future, 2023?)

Replicate Broken/Lost Signs 10

(Future, 2023?)

### REPLACEMENT COSTS FOR MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION, c1914 TYPE 1 "ROAD SIGNS"

PITTSBURGH FOUNDRY & MACHINE CO., PITTSBURGH, PA

#### 1A. SIGN BLADE (SIDE-MOUNT):

PATTERN COST: \$ 3,995  
PER PIECE COST: \$ 595

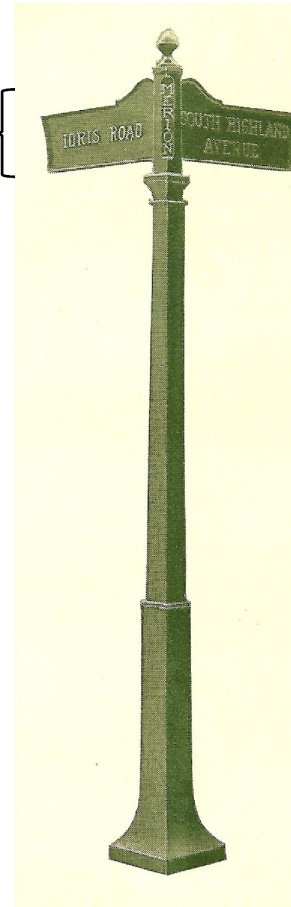
#### 1B. SIGN BLADE (TOP-MOUNT, LONG):

PATTERN COST: \$ 4,595  
PER PIECE COST: \$ 650



#### 1C. SIGN BLADE (TOP-MOUNT, SHORT):

PATTERN COST: \$ 3,995  
PER PIECE COST: \$ 575



#### 2A. HEAD (W/ACORN FINIAL):

PATTERN COST: \$ 5,750  
PER PIECE COST: \$ 695

#### TOTAL COST (TYPE 1, SIDE-MOUNT):

PATTERNS: \$ 25,495 (BLADE/HEAD/POST)  
PER PIECE: \$ 4,135 (BLADES/HEAD/POST)

#### TOTAL COST (TOP-MOUNT BLADE 'L'):

PATTERN: \$ 20,345 (ADDITIONAL BLADE 'L')  
PER PIECE: \$ 2,900 (BLADE 'L'/POST)

#### 2B. POST (DIRECT BURIAL):

PATTERN COST: \$ 15,750  
PER PIECE COST: \$ 2,250

#### TOTAL COST (TOP-MOUNT BLADE 'S'):

PATTERN: \$ 19,745 (ADDITIONAL BLADE 'S')  
PER PIECE: \$ 2,825 (BLADE 'S'/POST)

**GENERAL NOTES:** BASE PIECE PRICES ON DUCTILE IRON CASTINGS (POSTS) & GREY C.I. (HEAD, FINIAL & BLADES) IN QUANTITIES OF FIVE (5) AND INCLUDE FINISH PAINT & DELIVERY TO LOWER MERION, PA. (PRODUCTION LEAD-TIMES: PATTERNS: 16 WEEKS, AND CASTINGS: 4-6 WEEKS).

**NEXT STEPS ?**

**QUESTIONS ?**