



**NOW
&
AND THEN**



John Zavinski of Hermitage is a deltiologist – a collector of postcards – and illustrates historic local images here with modern views of the same scene. He is director of graphics and technology for *The Herald* newspaper and design director for *Life & Times* magazine. Contact him at jzavinski@sharonherald.com or 724-981-6100 ext. 235.

A primer on Greenville's Penn High School

By John Zavinski

GENERATIONS of students roamed the halls of Greenville's Penn High School during the six decades that the imposing Jacobian-revival building stood at Main Street and Penn Avenue.

The three-story, purplish-red-brick school was built between 1917 and

1919 and served as the community's high school until 1958, when the current high school was built. The class of '59 was the first to graduate from the new building.

Penn High School then took on its final role as Penn Middle School for grades six through eight.

It finally closed less than two

decades later. The school district sold it in 1977, and it was replaced by the eight-story Greenville House apartment tower that stands there today.

The building is gone but not forgotten. In an unusual spree of architectural salvage, decorative lamp posts and several pieces of ornamental stone trim were saved. They now sit on the site and at two of the corners across the street.

Prior to its demolition, the federal government's Historic American Buildings Survey compiled 12 black-and-white photographs, a brief history of the school and 22 pages of the original 1917 blueprints by the New Castle firm of Thayer and Thayer.

You can see the HABS survey images for free online in the Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs collection at:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html> and search for "penn high school"

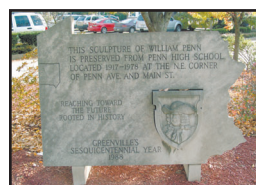


At left, a 1943 postcard of Penn High School at the northeast corner of East Main Street and North Penn Avenue in Greenville.

Below, the eight-story Greenville House senior apartment tower fills where the school stood from 1917-79. Many of the residents are Penn alumni.

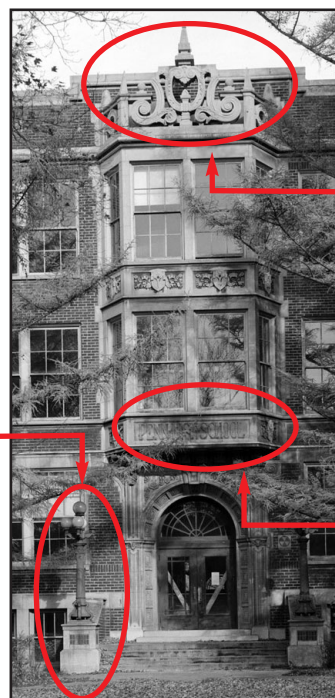


John Zavinski/Life & Times



A salvaged stone portrait of William Penn is preserved in a monument on the corner diagonal from the school site.

Old entrance lamp posts now light the sidewalks at Greenville House.



Library of Congress/1979



John Zavinski/Life & Times (4)

A large ornament from the south entrance sits across the street in Central Park.



Encased in purplish-red bricks from the school, "Penn High School" sits a few feet from the south entrance it once graced.