

SUNNYSIDE ACADEMY (Delconte Jewelers)  
6 E. Butler Avenue  
Ambler  
Montgomery County  
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-6169

HABS  
PA  
46-AMB,  
12-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

---

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SUNNYSIDE ACADEMY  
(SUNNYSIDE SCHOOL, DELCONTE JEWELERS)

HABS No. PA-6169

HABS  
PA  
46-AMB,  
12-

Location: 6 E. Butler Avenue (northeast corner of S. Main Street), Ambler, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Significance: Sunnyside Academy is among the few extant and more imposing structures from the early agricultural era of Ambler's history, before Keasbey & Mattison Company was established.

Description: This three-story Federal style building is six bays wide by two bays deep with masonry-covered stucco walls. There is a side-gabled roof with metal sheeting. The windows are one-over-one double-hung sash with wood sills. There is a decorative chimney pipe nearest to the west gable end of the north side of the roof.

Additions have been made to the south and north elevations. The porch-like rooms were added to the north elevation, ca. 1955. During the Sunnyside School era, the main entrance was on the rear porch of the building.

History: The Sunnyside Academy was constructed in 1826 by Joseph Wilson and originally housed a general store. From 1869-1904 the building was known as the Sunnyside School. This private school, started by Elizabeth Knight (Ambler postmistress from 1865-70), was originally located on the third floor but would eventually fill the entire building. Sarah, Cordelia, and Lavinia Knight taught with their sister Elizabeth at the school and at one point the school had 80 pupils.

In the early twentieth century, Joseph Angeny purchased the building and operated a drug store on the property. Ralph DelConte acquired the building about 1954 and is currently using it as a jewelry store and cheese shop on the first floor with apartments and storage above.

Sources: Preliminary Historical Site Survey of Ambler, PA..  
Wissahickon Valley Historical Society 1990.

Bernadette Dougherty in Michael Schwager and Jean Barth Toll, eds. Montgomery County, The Second Hundred Years. Montgomery County Federation of Historical Societies, 1983.

Ralph DelConte, interview by author, Summer 1994.

Historian: Tom Heard, HABS, Summer 1994.