

5 Lawrence Street
Metuchen, NJ 08840-2711
August 13, 2009

Thomas Young
2369 St. James Wood
Toledo, OH 43617

Re: Glenloch, PA, Railroad Station

Dear Mr. Young:

I stumbled across your internet posting on the Glenloch, PA, railroad station while conducting my own research on the Metuchen, NJ, railroad station in preparation for filing a New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places nomination. My research revealed that during the 1880s, the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) adopted a policy of designing its smaller stations as "standard designs" in keeping with its policy of being the "Standard Railroad of the World." The Metuchen station was shown to be a standard design when I found floor plans for it in a booklet of blueprints issued by the PRR entitled "Standard Passenger Stations: Plans on File in Office of Engineer M[aintenance of] W[ay]" in the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The booklet also included the floor plans for Glenloch station and its "clone," Folcroft, PA, station (see enclosures).

From my research on the Metuchen station, it seems that the general policy of the PRR was to use only one example of a given standard design along each major stretch of track. For example, in the case of Glenloch, I suspect that no other "clone" of it was built between Harrisburg and Philadelphia, but there may have been another "clone" built between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. The purpose of such a policy would be to avoid visual monotony and locality confusion among stations which would be the case if all were identical. I have not been able yet to establish who the architect of these stations was with certitude, although many of the stations included along the Chestnut Hill Line were designed by Washington Bleddyn Powell (1854-1910). I suspect all of them were his work.