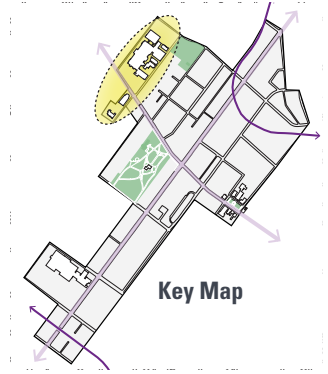


ADAPTIVE REUSE AREA: TOWN HALL AND HIGH SCHOOL

Although the Borough of Germantown merged with the City of Philadelphia in 1854, Germantown's special brand of local civic pride and identity lingered on well past consolidation. Two of the neighborhood's historic buildings in particular represent Germantown's identity as a town-within-a-city: Town Hall (1922–23, by architect John P.B. Sinkler) and Germantown High School (1914, by architect Henry Decourcy Richards). Although these buildings are celebrated for their stately architecture and role as a civic common ground, they sit vacant, awaiting new users. A few private developers have expressed interest in bringing commercial or residential uses to Town Hall, which is still publicly owned. Any redevelopment should permit public access to the building's generous rotunda. The high school's sheer size presents a bigger redevelopment challenge. This plan endorses the concepts presented by the Germantown High School Coalition in 2014: retaining the historic auditorium and gymnasium for public use, with a mix of residential, educational, and live/work space filling the balance of the complex. A priority should be placed on preserving the original 1914 structure.



Images from the Past of the Civic Buildings



Germantown High School under construction, 1914. Source: City of Philadelphia Department of Records

Morton Playground



Germantown High School Class of 1926. Source: Germantown Historical Society/Historic Germantown



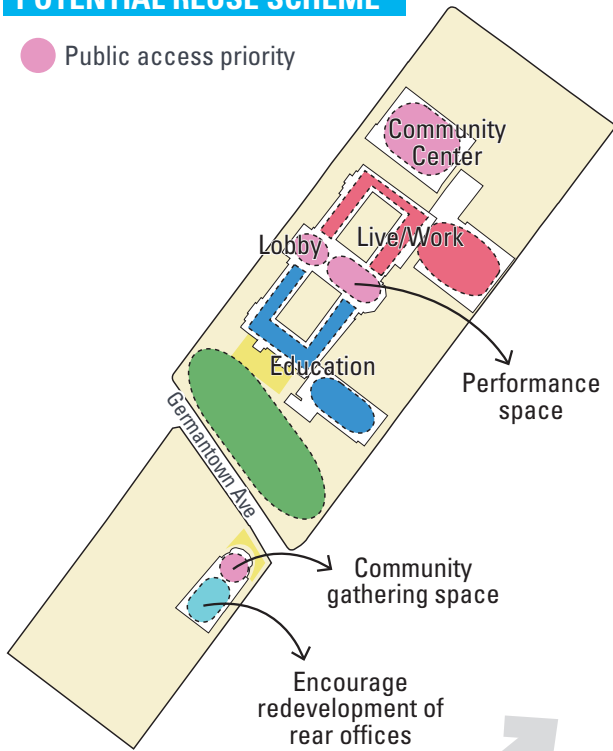
Germantown Town Hall shortly after completion, 1925. Source: City of Philadelphia Department of Records



View of steps and railings at Town Hall, 1961. Source: City of Philadelphia Department of Records

POTENTIAL REUSE SCHEME

● Public access priority



Exterior Space Priorities

Lawn, Terraces, Walkways



Interior Space Priorities

Auditorium, High St Entrance Lobby



Interior Space Priority

Rotunda



Exterior Space Priorities

Plaza, Staircases



Germantown Town Hall
Public access priorities