



Chestnut Hill Baptist Church and Cemetery | 2 Bethlehem Pike | 1835. On May 23, 1835, the cornerstone was laid for the Baptist Church of Chestnut Hill at the southeast corner of Germantown Avenue and Bethlehem Pike. The original 40- by 45-foot structure, the first single-denomination church built in Chestnut Hill, was enlarged in 1857, and a clock tower and bell were added in 1874. At the time, the Presbyterians were considering adding a clock to their nearby steeple. When the Baptists built theirs first, the Presbyterians concluded that a second one would be superfluous and resigned themselves to going to church on "Baptist time." The building was among the first to be declared historic by the Philadelphia Historical Commission in 1974. According to the Church, the congregation was part of the Underground Railroad in the early 1860s (there may have been a tunnel that ran under Bethlehem Pike and ascended beneath the floor of the church — where there is still a hatch). The cemetery (the oldest in Chestnut Hill) contains the graves of several Civil War soldiers.