

start

Memorial Square in Chambersburg is often referred to as 'The Crossroads of the Country' because it brings together two strategic transportation corridors in Route 30 and Route 11. The square, known in earlier times as the Diamond, houses a number of Civil War sites and stories.

Begin on the southeast quadrant of the square.



▶ The southeast quadrant of Memorial Square houses the PA Civil War Trail Markers and the Chambersburg Heritage Center, which has interpretive exhibits and local artifacts of the Civil War. From this location, it is easy to view the majestic Memorial Fountain. As the Civil War dawned, less than a week after Fort Sumter, Chambersburg erected 120-ft. Liberty Pole with a large flag. Today it is the location of the majestic Memorial Fountain. In 1868, ladies of Chambersburg organized a campaign to raise the funds to place this monument to the soldiers of the Civil War in the center of town. Veteran's groups added the bronze soldier, which faces south, symbolically guarding against future invasions. The fountain was dedicated in 1878 and is an icon of Memorial Square.

Cross Lincoln Way East to the northeast quadrant of Memorial Square.



▶ The 1864 Franklin County Courthouse replaced the county courthouse destroyed in the July 30, 1864 burning of Chambersburg. It recycled the undestroyed columns from its predecessor. A fiberglass statue of Benjamin Franklin can be seen at the top of the courthouse, overlooking Memorial Square.

Walk North on Main Street and turn right on King Street.

▶ The Old Franklin County Jail is one of the buildings that survived the Great Fire of 1864. Built in 1818, the jail is the oldest still standing in Pennsylvania, with the longest continuous use of any jail in the state, operating from 1818-1971. Today, the Old Jail houses the Franklin County Historical Society and Genealogy Library. Tours of the jail and the Mary Ritner Boarding House, a half block east on King Street, are compliments to the area's Civil War History. John Brown and his followers used the boarding house as their Northern Headquarters to plan a raid on Harpers Ferry, directing the stockpiling of guns, ammunition and pikes from railroad cars to warehouses, later transporting them by wagon to West Virginia. The "John Brown" House was also a stop on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War.

Retrace your steps, crossing over to the opposite side of North Main Street and travel back to the northwest quadrant of Memorial Square.

Walking along North Main, look up at the tops of the buildings. The decorative work and scalloped designs of the building tops are a good example of carpenter's art. In the years after the burning, local residents could often know the builder by his carpenter art. It was like a signature.

Continue to the southwest quadrant of the square.



▶ Generals Robert E. Lee and A.P. Hill, who discussed the movement of Union troops and the positioning of the Confederate troops. Ultimately, it was decided to move east toward Gettysburg. Another point of interest is the large stone tablet near the PHMC Marker, identifying the devastation of the burning of Chambersburg. The marker was installed in 1893 and has a time capsule in its base.

Turn and face the wall beside the bank.

▶ While Chambersburg was rebuilding following the Great Fire, a brick from Fort Sumter was placed in the north wall of the building, to the left of the bank. Many believe the brick was placed on the second floor, between two of the windows, as a way to symbolize the burning of Chambersburg during the Civil War, which began at Fort Sumter in South Carolina. It is important to note that the Confederates burned the core of town, but not the entire town. Some of the buildings not burned:

- At 133 South Main, currently Gartenberg Jewelry, survived the burning.
- The home of Dr. Jacob Suesserott, at the intersection of Washington Street and South Main, survived the burning. During the burning Dr. Suesserott's surgical kit was stolen by Confederates but later returned.
- Zion Reformed Church at 259 South Main survived the burning.
- On Second Street, at the intersection of Queen and Second, is the Masonic Temple, the oldest in Pennsylvania. Confederate Masons ensured that the temple was not burned in the Great Fire of 1864.
- The present-day Seller's Funeral Home at 259 Philadelphia Avenue is another property that survived the burning. It is built in 1782 by John C. Calhoun, who was married to the daughter of Benjamin Chambers. Chambers died in this home in February of 1788.



* One other important site to travel to by vehicle – In August of 1859, Frederick Douglass came to Chambersburg to meet with John Brown. It was at an old stone quarry where Brown told Douglass of his plans to raid Harpers Ferry. Douglass refused to go along with the idea, referring to it as "sheer madness." A historical marker is now located on the spot where this conversation was held, modern-day West Loudoun Street on the west side of town.

Downtown Dining

North Main Street:

- Tito's Tacos - 1 North Main St.
- Fri. & Sat. - 9:30 AM - 10 PM
- Cafe D'Italia - 9 North Main St.
- Fri. 11 AM - 9 PM & Sat. 8 AM - 8 PM
- C&C Coffee Co. - 15 North Main St.
- Fri. & Sat. 7:30 AM - 9 PM
- Bistro 71 - 71 North Main St.
- Fri. & Sat. 4 PM - 10 PM
- (Adult beverage served on premise)

South Main Street:

- Checko's - 46 South Main St.
- Fri. & Sat. - 11 AM - 10 PM
- Molly's Restaurant - 109 South Main St.
- Fri. & Sat. 8 AM - 8 PM
- Offering Creme Burlee "torched" to order in a tribute to "The Burning of Chambersburg"
- Main Street Deli - 177 South Main St.
- Fri. 8 AM - 8 PM & Sat. 8 AM - 3 PM
- Friday special is Crab Melt & Saturday is Beef Brisket on Ciabatta Roll

Lincoln Way East:

- On What Grounds Coffee Shop
- 162 LWE
- Fri. 7 AM - 7 PM & Sat. 8 AM - 9 PM

Lincoln Way West:

- Traci's House of Coffee- 68 LWW
- Fri. 5 AM - 11 PM & Sat. 7 AM - 10 PM
- New Texas Lunch- 108 LWW
- Fri. & Sat. - 6 AM - 9 PM

Specialty Beverage and Food

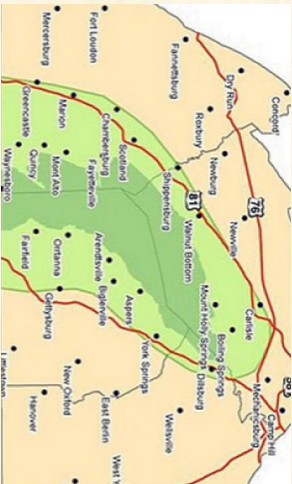
- Tuscarora Winery - 25 LWE
- Featured Vintage:
- The Burning of Chambersburg 1864
- Olympia Candy Kitchen
- Featuring homemade chocolates & fudge

Historic Memorial Square was the site of three invasions.

In 1862, General J.E.B. Stuart, with 1800 men, placed Chambersburg under martial law as Rebel details searched for horses and supplies. Before departing, Stuart's men cut the telegraph wires and burned the Cumberland Valley Railroad depot and shops.

The second invasion came as part of the Gettysburg Campaign in June 1863, when 65,000 to 70,000 Confederate troops, under command of Robert E. Lee, camped in and around Chambersburg. It was on the diamond that Confederate Generals Lee and A.P. Hill held a council of war, deciding to move east toward Gettysburg to intercept the Union troops on Union soil.

The third and final invasion resulted in the Great Fire of 1864, set by Confederate troops on July 30, when Chambersburg refused to pay a demand of \$100,000 in gold or \$500,000 in Yankee dollars.



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tour

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