

HISTORIC SITES & FEATURES
WALKING TOUR PART 2
APPROX. 1.6 MILES, 1 HOUR



1. CHAMBERSBURG HERITAGE CENTER, 100 LINCOLN WAY EAST

Located in Chambersburg's Memorial Square in the National Historic District. It was formerly the Valley National Bank and is an interpretive center, exploring five areas of historical merit in Chambersburg and Franklin County.



2. John Jack Tavern - 27 North Main St.

John Jack Tavern served as the first courthouse and jail of Franklin County from 1784-1794. The County's issues of the day were discussed and decisions

were made that shaped the future of Chambersburg.



3. Main Street Architecture

Throughout this tour, pay special attention to the architecture of downtown Main Street that reflects the late Victorian period. After the Great Fire of 1864, Chambersburg worked hard to

rebuild. During this time it was not unusual for contractors/carpenters to employ their own creative ideas. Notice the unique styles of trim that embellish the windows. These unique designs became known as Carpenter Art. The carpenters who designed the window trim managed to display their individual creativity. Many of these reconstructed buildings still stand today.

4. The Old Jail - 175 East King St.



The jail was built in 1818 and survived the Great Fire of 1864 (refer to Par 1 for details). It is the oldest jail in Pennsylvania still standing and it had the longest continuous use of any jail

in the state, operating until 1970. It is the finest example of Georgian Architecture north of Williamsburg, VA, and was originally used as the residence for the sheriff of the County. Legend states the basement dungeons were used as a stop for the Underground Railroad during the Civil War. Today the Old Jail is a museum and home of the Franklin County Historical Society-Kittochtinny. The second floor rooms are now occupied by the genealogical library. In the east courtyard are the gallows where William Reed was hanged on April 30, 1912, the last man ever hanged in the County.



5. John Brown House - 225 East King St.

This was the former boarding house of widow, Mary Ritner, a strong supporter of the northern abolitionists. In 1859, John Brown and a group of his

followers stayed in this building while planning their unsuccessful raid on Harpers Ferry. They directed the stockpiling of guns, ammunition and pikes from railroad cars to warehouses and later transported these by to Harpers Ferry. John Brown registered under the name

Isaac Smith, an iron ore specialist, while here. This house was also a stop on the Underground Railroad.



6. Cumberland Valley Railroad Station #2 - 77 North 3rd St.

This was the second railroad station built in Chambersburg in 1876. It served as a passenger train station until March 1914. In 1890, the station erected a roof spanning 3rd Street to protect its passengers from inclement weather. The Liberty Bell arrived here on its journey from Philadelphia to the Charleston Exposition of 1902. After the station ceased to be a passenger station in 1914, the building served as a hospital during the Influenza Epidemic in 1918.



7. Rev. David Denny Residence - 273 Lincoln Way East

Near the curb in front of this house is a small cement Lincoln Highway marker. At one time, these markers were placed every mile along Route 30 from New

York City to San Francisco. Today, only four remain in Franklin County. Fifty feet west of the marker and up on the hill is the beautiful old home of the Denny family. On Nov. 4, 1807, Reverend Denny married the couple William B. Foster and Eliza Tomilson. They became the parents of Stephen Foster, the famous composer.



8. Chambersburg Club/Kennedy Mansion - 225 Lincoln Way East

The mansion was once owned by Colonel T.B. Kennedy, former president of the Cumberland Valley Railroad. In 1905, Mr. Kennedy died and his son, Moorehead C. Kennedy, received ownership of the home. He also built the other Kennedy mansion, now a B&B, on Ragged Edge Rd., just 10 minutes east of Chambersburg. During WWI, Moorehead Kennedy and Royal Christian went to Europe to build a railroad system for the troops. They built the railroad from the coast of France to the inland battlefield in order for the U.S. to transport their men and supplies.

9. The Washington Hotel - 228 Lincoln Way East



Former site of The Washington Hotel. In 1889, William H. Shank bought this two-story hotel for \$20,000. The third and fourth floors of the hotel were added under his ownership. Considered the best hotel in the Cumberland Valley, and among the finest from

Chambersburg to Pittsburgh, the Washington Hotel was famous for its excellent meals. Sunday evening social events kept the hotel very busy. Many famous people dined and stayed in this hotel including Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks and the singer, Nelson Eddy. Jimmy Stewart was a regular who reputedly came often for the good cooking. Caruso, the famous opera star, ate exclusively here during his visit to Chambersburg. The building was destroyed by fire and demolished in 1996.

10. Ross Koons' Cigar Factory

The Ross Koon's Hand Rolled Cigar Factory building stood on the alleyway and was reminiscent of the tobacco barns of Lancaster, Pa. The small windows were opened to provide ventilation for the workers. Older residents can remember watching the ladies rolling the

cigars and sealing the outer wrap.

11. Dr. Senseney's Smallpox Vaccine Building

Former site of the Smallpox Vaccine Building. Dr. Benjamin Senseney developed the first commercial production of the smallpox vaccine in the world. He originally located his facility on Warm Spring Road a few miles west of Chambersburg, but decided to move to this site. He helped over 40,000 people in San Francisco who were infected with smallpox. His vaccine was shipped all over the world, from the Sandwich Islands to China to New Zealand. The record shows he shipped his vaccine to every major city in the U.S. As the pressures of his work increased, Dr. Senseney's health began to fail. He died at age 37 in 1880.

12. The Masonic Temple - 74 South 2nd St.



Built from 1823-1824, it is the oldest Masonic Temple in PA. Silas Harry, a local contractor, was paid \$2,500 and an extra \$5 for drawing up the plans. Until 1830, this temple had only 30 members, but in 1831 it grew to 143 members. This building was one of the

few that survived the Great Fire in 1864.

13. Borough Hall - 100 South 2nd St.



This lot of land was deeded in May 1830 for the building of a market house. The first products were sold in March 1831. Two weeks after the first product sale in 1831, the burgess and town council agreed to put a four-faced town clock in the new market house

cupola. In 1832, George and Frederick Heisly built the clock in Harrisburg, Pa for \$750. The market house had an income of \$1,200 per year from the stall residents and licenses. The borough started to put offices in this building in 1930 and later obtained full occupancy in 1945.

14. Central Junior High School - 285 East Queen St.
This location originally housed the private Chambersburg Academy in 1797 on land reserved by Benjamin Chambers.

The rapidly growing educational needs of the community at the time prompted the construction of a public high school in 1908. In 1957, the school district's growth necessitated reclassification of the school to become Central Junior High and the high school moved to its current-day location on McKinley Street. Central remained in use until 1986 and is now destined for redesign as part of a major revitalization project.



15. Kerrstown Square - 166 South Main St.

Originally laid out on a portion of 300 acres acquired by John Kerr in late 1766, this area was one of several expansions to the boundaries of the original village of Chambersburg. Kerr called the area St. John's Town but it came to be known as Kerrstown. John Kerr died in 1807 and is buried at the Falling Spring Presbyterian Church beside his wife, Mary. In later years, Kerrstown housed the historic Indian Queen Hotel, known as a major stop in the 1800s. The location now provides retail space for several local businesses.



16. Merklein Hospital - 280 South Main St.

Dr. Charles H. Merklein was born in Chambersburg and attended the University of Pennsylvania. He returned to Chambersburg with a medical degree in 1869. This building was used as one of three hospitals during The Civil War.



17. Zion Reformed Church - 259 South Main St.

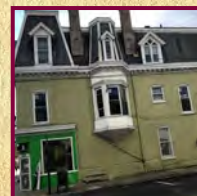
The land for this church was given by Benjamin Chambers, making it a Rose Rent Church (refer to Part 1 for details). In May 1780, Chambers conveyed the lot on the corner of Main and Liberty Streets for the site of the church. Nicholas Snider was considered the founding spirit of the church. He promoted religion in the town and gave a great deal of time to the church. Father Jacob Weimer, of Hagerstown, Md, organized the church in 1778. The church survived the Great Fire, and its spire, modeled after a design by Sir Christopher Wren, was often an observation point

overlooking town. It is also home to the Waterford Crystal Chandelier made by the Waterford Glass Factory in Ireland in 1813. It is adorned with 153 feet of crystal chain and holds 16 candles.



18. First Chambersburg Hospital - 217 South Main St.

This building was the first public hospital in Chambersburg, admitting its first patient on Sept. 24, 1895. It was the former residence of Dr. A.H. Senseney, Benjamin Senseney's father. It was organized under the sponsorship of the Children's Aid Society and used by several doctors during the 1900's.



19. Dr. Suesserott's House - 201 South Main St.

Built in 1807, this house survived the Great Fire. On June 29, 1864, Dr. Jacob Lewis Suesserott met with Robert E. Lee at his headquarters in Messersmith's

Woods to negotiate the return of his neighbor's stolen horse by Confederate troops. As a result of that meeting, he later wrote and published an eye witness account of General Lee's sickly condition. He was a doctor, dentist and surgeon during the Civil War. His surgical kit, stolen by Confederate troops and later recovered by him, has been preserved and donated to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD. This house is the finest example of the Flemish Bond brick style in the borough. This style consisted of one brick laid lengthwise, then one brick laid perpendicular to the first.



20. First Lutheran Church - 46 West Washington St.

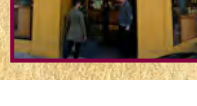
One of the Rose Rent Churches, it was established in June 1780. The first church built was a two-story log cabin. In 1808, the second church was constructed of brick. The present day building was built in 1854. In the graveyard behind the church is the grave of Philip Berlin, inventor of the first sleeper car in railroad history and an employee of the Cumberland Valley Railroad. Gunsmith Abraham Schweitzer is also

buried here. About a half block west of the church on Washington St., where Southgate Shopping Ctr currently stands, was a stone quarry. It was here in August 1859 that Frederick Douglass met with Brown to discuss his violent plans to capture the arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Va (now W Va.). Douglass chose not to support it.

21. Capitol Theatre - 159 South Main St.



Opened Feb. 3, 1927, the Capitol Theatre was originally owned by the Pottstown Theatre Company. The movie house was one of the most technologically advanced of its kind at the time. The 852-seat theatre was purchased in 1996 by Downtown Chambersburg Inc. and underwent extensive renovations to restore it. The newly restored and expanded theatre opened in 2003. It is the cultural arts hub of the community for events and is governed by the Capitol Theatre Center Foundation.



22. Gartenberg Jewelry - 133 South Main St.

This was opened in 1946 by Belle and Egon Gartenberg, and the store is now run by third generation jeweler, Andy Gartenberg. The building was one of a few to survive the Great Fire of 1864.

23. Ludwigs Jewelers - 121 South Main St.



Ludwig Jewelers was one of the first new businesses to emerge during the rebuilding of Chambersburg following the fire of 1864. Established in 1877 by George W. Ludwig, the business was run by George's brother, William, until his death in 1926. William's descendants saw the business through the Great Depression and operate the store to this day.



24. Olympia Candy Kitchen - 43 South Main St.

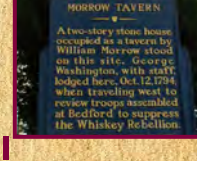
Olympia was established in 1903 by J.K. Proferes as a soda fountain and candy store and was renowned for its ice cream and hand-dipped chocolates. The popular community dining spot

was purchased in 1919 by brothers, George and James Pananes. Olympia Candy Kitchen has been owned and operated by members of the Pananes family ever since.

25. P. Nicklas and Sons - 37 South Main St.



Peter Nicklas was a dealer in furniture and carpets born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, April 19, 1839. His father died in Germany in 1848, and the same year he and his mother immigrated to America, coming direct to Chambersburg. After learning the trade of carpet and coverlet weaving from his uncle, he and his brother, Adam, formed the firm of P. Nicklas and Bro. Around 1865, the firm expanded their business to a general and extensive stock of furniture and paper hangings.



26. Morrow Tavern - 35 South Main St.

This building was a tavern owned by William Morrow. On

Oct. 12, 1794, President George Washington arrived at this tavern and spent the night here. President Washington's mission was to review troops in this valley in preparation for a march to western Pennsylvania to quell the Whiskey Rebellion. He left the following morning and the townsfolk lined the streets to catch a glimpse of their hero and President.

DOWNTOWN CHAMBERSBURG
HISTORIC WALKING TOUR
PART 1
available at the
CHAMBERSBURG HERITAGE
CENTER & GIFT SHOP

Questions?
717-264-7101

WALKING TOUR
PART 2 COVER
GLUED HERE

BACK COVER
GLUED HERE

TOUR SITES & DIRECTIONS

APPROX. 1.6 MILES, 1 HOUR

1. Chambersburg Heritage Center & Gift Shop- 100 Lincoln Way East

- Begin your tour from the entrance of the Chambersburg Heritage Center. Cross Lincoln Way East toward the Courthouse. Continue around the square to the crosswalk. The John Jack tavern marker is visible directly across the street.

2. John Jack Tavern - 27 North Main St.

- Proceed approx. two blocks north on North Main St. Along the way, note Townhouse Row, a set of seven historic townhouses from 57-85 North Main St. listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

3. Main Street Architecture

- Turn right onto King St. The Old Jail is on the northwest corner of King & 2nd St.

4. The Old Jail - 175 East King St.

- Stay on King St., crossing 2nd St. for approx. .5 blocks.

5. John Brown House - 225 East King St.

- Continue east on King St. Turn right at North 3rd St.

6. Cumberland Valley Railroad Station #2 - 77 North 3rd St.

- Follow North 3rd St. south to Lincoln Way East and turn right. Residence is bordered by a small stone wall.

7. Reverend David Denny Residence - 273 Lincoln Way East

- Continue west on Lincoln Way about half a block. The Chambersburg Club will be on the right just before reaching 2nd St.

8. Chambersburg Club/Kennedy Mansion - 225 Lincoln Way East

- Walk to intersection of 2nd St. and Lincoln Way East. Turn left to cross Lincoln Way East. The empty corner lot is the former site of the Washington Hotel.

9. The Washington Hotel - 228 Lincoln Way East

- Cross 2nd St. and walk south. The Ross Koons' Cigar Factory is the single-story brick building set back from the sidewalk past the parking lot on the right.

10. Ross Koons' Cigar Factory

- The lot to the left of the Ross Koons' Cigar Factory building is the former site of Dr. Senseny's Smallpox Vaccine building.

11. Dr. Senseny's Smallpox Vaccine Building

- Continue south on 2nd St. Just before the intersection of 2nd St. and Queen St., look across the street to your left to see the Masonic Temple.

12. Masonic Temple - 74 South 2nd St.

- On the southeast corner of 2nd St. and Queen St., view the Borough Hall.

13. Borough Hall - 100 South 2nd St.

- Turn left onto East Queen St. and walk .5 blocks. Central Junior High School will be on your left.

14. Central Junior High School - 285 East Queen St.

- Head back toward 2nd St. and walk 2 blocks on Queen St. Turn left onto South Main St. Continue .5 blocks to Kerrstown Square.



15. Kerrstown Square - 166 South Main St.

- Continue south on South Main St. and cross Washington St. Travel 2 blocks to the intersection of Main St. and Liberty St. Along the way, note the home at 232 South Main St.; this Germanic format property is part of the National Historic Registry.

16. Merklein Hospital - 280 South Main St.

- Cross South Main St.

17. Zion Reformed Church - 259 South Main St.

- Proceed north on S. Main St. approx. 1.5 blocks.

18. First Chambersburg Hospital - 217 South Main St.

- Proceed north to the intersection of South Main St. and Washington St. Turn left onto Washington St. and the house is on your left.

19. Dr. Suesserott's House - 201 South Main St.

- Proceed west on Washington St. for .5 blocks.

20. First Lutheran Church - 46 West Washington St.

- Return to the intersection of Washington St. and Main St.; turn left to continue.

21. Capitol Theatre - 159 South Main St.

- Continue north on Main St.

22. Gartenberg Jewelry - 133 South Main St.

- Continue north on Main St.

23. Ludwigs Jewelers - 121 South Main St.

- Continue north on Main St., crossing Queen St.

24. Olympia Candy Kitchen - 43 South Main St.

- Continue north to the next building

25. P. Nicklas & Sons - 37 South Main St.

- Continue north on Main St.

26. Morrow Tavern - 35 South Main St.

- Follow Main St. back to Memorial Square to return to the Chambersburg Heritage Center & Gift Shop..



Historic Church



Rail History



Marker/Statue



Water Wheel



Historic Residence



Park Area



Historic Building



Art History

FIND MORE TO EXPLORE



DOWNTOWN
CHAMBERSBURG INC.

www.DowntownCBURG.com