

HISTORIC SITES & FEATURES
WALKING TOUR PART 1
APPROX. 1.75 MILES, 1 HOUR

1. CHAMBERSBURG HERITAGE CENTER, 100 LINCOLN WAY EAST



Chambersburg and Franklin County.



2. MEMORIAL SQUARE, INTERSECTION OF ROUTES 11 AND 30

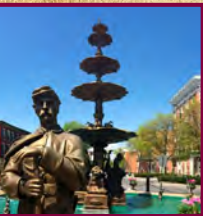
Chambersburg Square is called by many “The Crossroads of the Country” because it intersects Route 11, which stretches from

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In 1756 at the confluence of the Falling Spring Branch and Conococheague Creek, Col.

northern New York to Louisiana, and Route 30, which extends across the United States from the east to the west coast. Benjamin Chambers, founder of the town, laid out the square in a diamond design, therefore allowing more space in the center of town for events and the aesthetic appreciation of the town. Late Victorian period architecture abounds as a result of the burning of the city in 1864. Over the years, Memorial Square has been the site of many historic events.



3. MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN & UNION SOLDIER STATUE, INTERSECTION OF ROUTES 11 AND 30

Located at the only intersection of Routes 11 and 30, the Memorial Fountain sits in the middle of the downtown square known as “the Diamond” in historic references. Dedicated July 17, 1878, the fountain and the Union Soldier Statue were erected in honor of the over 5,000 Franklin County soldiers who served in the Civil War between 1861 and 1865. The 26 foot high cast iron fountain was designed by the J.W. Fiske firm in New

9. FOUNDING FAMILY MEMORIAL STATUE, CHAMBERS FORT PARK, SPRING ST.

The Founding Family Memorial Statue is a life-sized bronze statue honoring the founding family. Called “The Homecoming,” it depicts Benjamin welcoming his son, James, and

grandson, Benjamin, 18 years of age, home from six years of distinguished service in the Revolutionary War. Just imagine the scene as the proud grandfather pulls his grandson to his side, looking toward heaven in gratitude for the safe return of his family. James covers his father’s hand, bringing the three generations together.



trade in Lancaster County, the birthplace of the Pennsylvania long rifle, and made guns from 1795 to the day he died on December 27, 1831.

York Yankees bought the Chambersburg Maroons as a farm team. They brought Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig to play an exhibition game that year between the Yankees and the Chambersburg Club. Babe hit a homerun and Lou was seen signing autographs for the kids.

***Additional points of interest lie north of town, including historic architecture from the 1800s, 1900s and Wilson College.*

18. CHAMBERSBURG FIRE MUSEUM, 441 BROAD ST.



On display in the museum are many pumper trucks, old fire uniforms, artifacts and photos. The most unique truck is a blue painted 1947 Mack open cab pumper. Also in this museum is a picture of Joseph Richard Winters, the inventor of the fire escape ladder. Mr. Winters received a patent for this invention in May 1882. He received patents from England, France, Belgium, Canada and Germany. Winters Fire Apparatus Company was started in New York in 1881. Although Winters’ business was not successful, he

York and was purchased for \$1,700 to replace a smaller fountain installed to celebrate the nation’s bicentennial. It has an octagonal base measuring 30 feet in diameter and features five basins. The bronze soldier faces south as a silent sentry against invaders. It is surrounded by tablets honoring residents who served in U.S. wars and includes a plaque commemorating the meeting of Generals Lee and Hill prior to the Battle of Gettysburg.



During the reconstruction period a brick from Fort Sumter, South Carolina, was placed in the north wall of the building. The brick was probably placed there to symbolize the 1864 burning. The brick is reported to be located on the second level between two windows., no marker is visible.

5. MEMORIAL MARKER, 15 SOUTH MAIN ST.

This granite marker describes

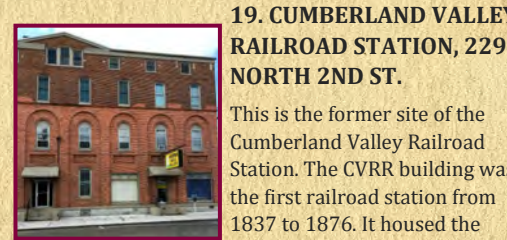
The Coyle Free Library was started in 1891 by the ladies’ group, Chambersburg Afternoon Club, which still exists today. Their intention was to “improve the mental culture” of its members. In 1898, the library became public, was housed in a second floor room over the National Bank and staffed by Club members. In 1924, the library moved to the Northwest corner of Queen and 2nd Streets. The library moved to its present location, previously used as the local post office, in 1964.

12. FALLING SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 221 NORTH MAIN ST.

Established in 1734, Falling Spring Church has the oldest congregation in Chambersburg.

Benjamin Chambers gave land to the congregation in 1768 on which to build the church. As founder of Chambersburg, Colonel Chambers realized the importance of religion in his new community. He gave plots to three congregations in Chambersburg: Falling Spring Presbyterian Church, First Lutheran Church and Zion Reformed

gave to Chambersburg one of its “firsts” by inventing the first aerial ladder used for fire fighting and escape.



This is the former site of the Cumberland Valley Railroad Station. The CVRR building was the first railroad station from 1837 to 1876. It housed the general offices and was the first

of three passenger stations in Chambersburg. The complex near this building included a roundhouse, repair shop, water tower and warehouse. One of the early light locomotives, the “Pioneer”, carried passengers and freight to and from this station. It has since been restored and displayed in the Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. The roundhouse and repair shop were burned by J.E.B. Stuart in October 1862. The CVRR helped every community in the Cumberland Valley by providing the necessary technology to develop the first telegraph, telephone and electrical systems. Among its “firsts” were the first

the burning of Chambersburg during the Civil War and lists the damage done to the property of the town’s citizens. It was dedicated on July 28, 1893 at a cost of \$350. A time capsule was placed at its base.



College (also founded in 1869 as a Presbyterian-related college), gave freely to the building fund and in particular the spire, which overlooks all of Chambersburg. The church was reconstructed in 1939 after a fire.



Church. The only payment Chambers requested from these congregations was a rose to be presented for rent each year to the Chambers’ family descendants. For this reason, these churches are known as the “Rose Rent Churches.”



some of which date from the 18th century. Among them is Benjamin Chambers’



grave, marked with a white marble stone and surrounded by a brick wall. Also buried in the cemetery are Native Americans believed to have been part of the Delaware Indians.

20. PARK OF THE VALIANT, IN FRONT OF 160 NORTH 2ND ST.



The Park of the Valiant was built in 1938 by the power plant. Surrounded by a brick walkway, the center attraction for all ages was the park’s beautiful fountain illuminated at night with colored lights. The fountain in the park was rejuvenated in 1993 for the power plant’s 100th anniversary. The fountain is one of Chambersburg’s three working fountains (the other two are located at Memorial Square and Glenn St.)



Chambersburg was the last municipality in PA to produce and own its own utilities. In 1889 the Town Council allocat-

6. CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 40 LINCOLN WAY WEST

Central Presbyterian Church was organized in 1868. The building, with its 186- foot steeple, was erected in 1869. Sarah Wilson, principal patron of Wilson

College (also founded in 1869 as a Presbyterian-related college), gave freely to the building fund and in particular the spire, which overlooks all of Chambersburg. The church was reconstructed in 1939 after a fire.

7. CUMBERLAND VALLEY RAIL TRAIL AND RAILROAD CAR, 105 LINCOLN WAY WEST

Church. The only payment Chambers requested from these congregations was a rose to be presented for rent each year to the Chambers’ family descendants. For this reason, these churches are known as the “Rose Rent Churches.”

13. FALLING SPRING CHURCH CEMETERY, REAR OF FALLING SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Behind the church is a cemetery with many old markers bearing the names of notable citizens, some of which date from the 18th century. Among them is Benjamin Chambers’

14. SELLERS FUNERAL HOME, 297 PHILADELPHIA AVE.

In 1782 Dr. John C. Col-

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21. CHAMBERSBURG POWER PLANT, 160 NORTH 2ND ST.

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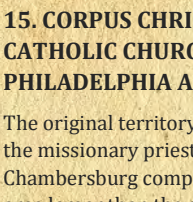
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This Baltimore and Ohio Railroad car was designed to haul 70 tons of black coal from the mines of West Virginia to the eastern coast of the U.S. It is one of a group of 7,000 similar cars built between 1926 and 1929. Many of these cars passed this point during their service life from the 1920s to the 1960s, doing their most important work during World War II. This is the only one of its type still in existence.



Installed in 1984 and restored in 2016, the 12 foot wheel is a replica of the original water wheel used to power the saw and grist mills owned by Benjamin Chambers. The 26 foot waterfall at the confluence of the Falling Spring Branch and the Conococheague Creek created an ideal power source to generate logs and lumber for buildings and much needed flour for the settlers of “Falling Spring.”

houn, the first physician to settle in Chambersburg, built this house. It is the oldest private residence in town. The walls of this home are 23 inches thick and made of limestone. It was here in this home on February 12, 1788 that Benjamin Chambers died. It was purchased by Robert Sellers in 1933 and opened as a funeral home in 1951.



Rhode Island. The earliest church was a log building constructed in 1792, and it was called Christ’s Church. In 1812 a stone building was erected on the site of the present school and that served the parish for about ninety years. The cornerstone of the present church was set in place in 1900 and the granite and limestone gothic structure was dedicated on the feast of Corpus Christi, May 30, 1907.

The original territory served by the missionary priest from Chambersburg comprised an area larger than the state of

ed \$10,000 to build a generating station. Earlier that year, Chambersburg had started to produce DC power for the arc streetlights downtown. In 1890, the borough acquired the land from the CVRR to build the power plant next to the tracks between N. 2nd St. and N. 3rd St. In 1893 the borough started to produce 110-volt electricity and sell it commercially to residents of the borough. In 1975 the plant stopped producing coal electricity and started buying all but a fraction of its electricity from West Penn Power Company. Electricity is still produced during peak periods of the year using diesel generators.

22. Franklin County Courthouse - 157 Lincoln Way East

On September 28, 1774, Benjamin Chambers conveyed the lot for the building of a courthouse. In 1784, the recently named commissioners were granted \$3,200 for the construction of a courthouse and jail, but the actual cost was \$4,100. While construction was in progress, court was held at the John

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WALKING TOUR
PART 1 COVER
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16. TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 26 WEST COMMERCE ST.



Created in 1890 at the outskirts of town, this church began as a Sunday School mission. In 1891, the 68 members petitioned their parent church, First Lutheran Church in Chambersburg, for a charter to be called Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. The petition was granted. Trinity has five different buildings including a wooden chapel, octagonal chapel and the current sanctuary built in 1929.



17. Henninger Field, W. Vine St. and Riddle Alley

This was the former home field of the Chambersburg Area Senior High School (Trojans) baseball team and the Chambersburg Maroons semi-professional team, formed in 1895. In 1929, the New

DOWNTOWN CHAMBERSBURG
HISTORIC WALKING TOUR PART 2

available at the
CHAMBERSBURG HERITAGE CENTER & GIFT SHOP

Questions? 717-264-7101

BACK COVER
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TOUR SITES & DIRECTIONS

APPROX. 1.75 MILES, 1 HOUR

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

- Begin your tour from the entrance of the Chambersburg Heritage Center and look west to see the Memorial Fountain and Union Soldier Statue.

2. Memorial Square - Intersection of Routes 11 and 30

3. Memorial Fountain & Union Soldier Statue - Intersection of Routes 11 and 30

- Walk around the square to the left, and cross Main St. View the building on your left.

4. Fort Sumter Brick - 19 South Main St.

- Continue around the square to the right.

5. Memorial Marker - 15 South Main St.

- Immediately to your left.

6. Central Presbyterian Church - 40 Lincoln Way West

- Cross Lincoln Way West and turn left. After crossing the Conococheague Creek, turn right onto the Rail Trail pathway.

7. Cumberland Valley Rail Trail & Railroad Car - 105 Lincoln Way West

- From the Railroad Car, turn and cross the footbridge over the Conococheague Creek.

8. Water Wheel along Falling Spring Creek - Chambers Fort Park, Spring St.

- Veer right on the sidewalk toward the parking lot.

9. Founding Family Memorial Statue - Chambers Fort Park, Spring St.

- Continue to the right past the statue and cross the footbridge above the Water Wheel. Follow the brick path to the right to the Chambers Fort marker on your right.

10. Chambers' Fort - 52 West King St.

- From the Chambers' Fort marker, turn right onto King St. to the intersection of King St. and North Main St. Turn left to cross King St. After crossing King St., view the Coyle Free Library directly across the street.

11. Coyle Free Library - 102 North Main St.

- Proceed north on North Main St. A wrought iron fence on the left marks the start of the Falling Spring Church. The first building is the Family Life Center, the second is the Chapel, and the third is the Sanctuary (the oldest of the three buildings).

12. Falling Spring Presbyterian Church - 221 North Main St.

- Turn left at the end of the wrought iron fence. Walk past the chapel to the rear of the buildings.

13. Falling Spring Church Cemetery - rear of church at 221 North Main St.



- Return to North Main St. and follow it north (becomes Philadelphia Ave.). Follow to the corner of Philadelphia Ave. and Chambers St.

14. Sellers Funeral Home - 297 Philadelphia Ave.

- Continue east on Philadelphia Ave. across Chambers St. Corpus Christi Church can be seen directly across the street.

15. Corpus Christi Catholic Church - 320 Philadelphia Ave.

- Proceed northeast on Philadelphia Ave., crossing Hazel St., to the corner of Philadelphia Ave. and Commerce St.

16. Trinity Lutheran Church - 26 West Commerce St.

- Cross Commerce St. and turn left on Commerce St. Follow the sidewalk as it turns right onto Poplar Ave. and Henninger Field will be directly ahead.

17. Henninger Field - W. Vine St. and Riddle Alley

- Return to the intersection of Philadelphia Ave. and Commerce St. Continue on Commerce St. Turn right on Broad St. Museum is second on the right.

18. Chambersburg Fire Museum - 441 Broad St.

- Proceed southwest to the intersection of 2nd St. and Broad St. and turn left. Continue down 2nd St. and use caution as you complete a double-crossing at Grant St. Look across the street for the multi-story brick building with arched windows.

19. Cumberland Valley Railroad Station - 229 North 2nd St.

- Continue a short way south on 2nd St. to the brick steps flanked by light posts on your left.

20. Park of the Valiant - 160 North 2nd St.

- Visible beyond the fountain in the Park of the Valiant is the Chambersburg Power Plant, noted by it's two tall stacks.

21. Chambersburg Power Plant - 160 North 2nd St.

- Return to 2nd St. via Wright Ave. or the park and turn left. Walk approximately three blocks to Lincoln Way West and turn right. The Courthouse is approximately 1.5 blocks on the right, directly across from the Chambersburg Heritage Center.

22. Franklin County Courthouse - 157 Lincoln Way East



Historic Church



Marker/Statue



Historic Residence



Historic Building



Rail History



Water Wheel



Park Area



Art History

FIND MORE TO EXPLORE



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