

and pre-war eras. Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Victorian and show the charm of small town life in the al heritage. Here homes are lovingly restored contributions to Pennsylvania's diverse culture who came to live, work and make important a part today, just as do those of later arrivals Early Quaker families continue to play named counties.

life in our region, one of William Penn's first centuries of domestic, social and industrial and business, revealing the fabric of three Highlighted are properties, both residential and worked along the streets you'll travel. dress. Experts in local history and architecture, they bring to life the people who lived Follow your guides, some in period once to share with family and friends.

ences to share with family and friends. rtes of life in simpler times, they're an expert- VILLAGE WALKS. Designed to evoke memo- evening FREE one-hour TOWN TOURS & toric villages on any, or all twelve, Thursday evenings discovering the nostalgic delights of our his- Spend lovely summer

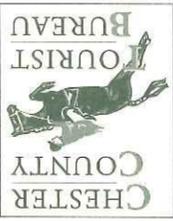
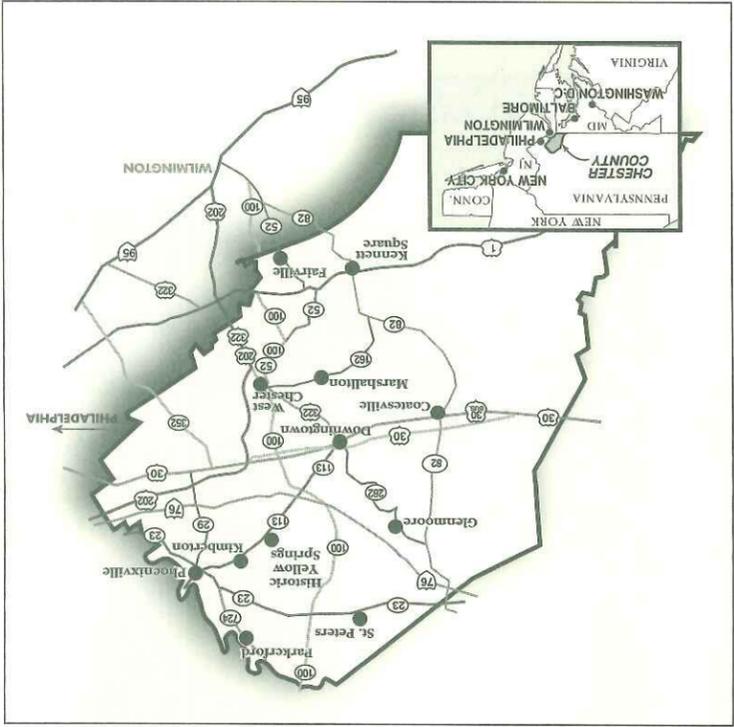


TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS

Most tours begin at 6:30 p.m. For exact starting times and locations, please call the number listed with each weekly tour. Light refreshments follow each walk. Don't forget to wear comfortable shoes!

In Pennsylvania, Chester County is second only to Philadelphia in the number of sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many of these, along with designated Historic Districts, are part of the new itineraries developed for this summer's tours. Observe the preservation and adaptive reuse of our period architecture, it will give you ideas for your own lifestyle. You'll discover how our waterways and mills - French Creek, the Schuylkill and branches of the Brandywine - influenced life in our valleys and along our early toll roads. Tales told of the characters, great and small, who lived here will intrigue and amuse the entire family!

For years local citizens have researched old records to learn about the historic buildings in their neighborhoods. Not only are they learning 18th and 19th C. construction methods, but how the Industrial Revolution changed their streetscapes. Descendants of founding families are hearing amusing anecdotes about their ancestors' coping with "modern" 19th C. technology. A partnership has been established to take facts out of filing cabinets and share these stories and folklore with neighbors and the visitors we welcome to our summer-long program.



CHESTER COUNTY
TOURIST BUREAU
601 Westtown Road
Suite 170
West Chester, PA 19382-4536

We are grateful to the Chester County Historical Society in West Chester for assistance in providing many of the historic photographs. Be sure to visit the museum when in the area. Special thanks to Jane L. S. Davidson, County Historical Preservation Coordinator. Photograph on cover: Kennett Square, 1905. Photograph to the left (in oval): West Chester, 1896.

The 2nd Annual

TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS



Chester County, Pennsylvania
in the Heart of the Brandywine Valley

Thursday evenings,
June 6 through August 29, 1996

Come join our FREE guided evening strolls!

TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS

Sponsored by
Chester County Board of Commissioners
Department of Parks and Recreation and
Chester County Tourist Bureau
601 Westtown Road, Suite 170
West Chester, PA 19382

MAKE AN EVENING OF IT!

Not only are all TT&VWs free of charge, but we've some other great reasons to visit just ask for our *Summer Specials* guide.

Inns and restaurants convenient for each village feature discounted Early Bird pre-tour dinners and Thursday Menu offers for later casual or fine dining.

These Thursday TT&VWs are a perfect excuse for a summer get-a-way. Some of Brandywine Valley's most charming B&B's, hotels and campgrounds offer special rates. Many are historic properties so you can extend your experience of times' past as you continue to enjoy our countryside for a day or a long weekend.

Request your copy of TT&VW *Summer Specials* from the Tourist Information Center at 1-800-228-9933.

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- West Chester — June 6
- Parker Ford — June 13
- Phoenixville — June 20
- Marshallton — June 27
- Historic Yellow Springs — July 11
- Downingtown — July 18
- Glenmoore — July 25
- Kimberton — August 1
- Fairville — August 8
- St. Peter's Village — August 15
- Kennett Square — August 22
- Coatesville — August 29

On **July 4th** - Independence Day - there are no scheduled walks, but many communities celebrate with parades & festive events. Call 1-800-228-9933 for details.

JUNE 6 WEST CHESTER

Right: West Chester Boarding School for Boys, built 1836



This year the county seat's Walking Tour centers on the Marshall Square Park in the tree-shaded north-eastern section of the borough. Laid out in 1848 by Dr. William Darlington and others as an Arboretum, it contains examples of trees from all over the world which they felt could be grown in our climate. Tours will begin at the Summer House in the center of the park. Guides then stroll with groups into the nearby residential neighborhoods to homes of historical and architectural interest. Brick and wrought iron predominate and buildings date from the early 1800's onward.

Information: 610-436-9010
Tour Hosts: Board of Architectural Review

JUNE 13 PARKER FORD

Below: Parkers Tavern, built 1776

Turn back the hands of time and visit Old Parkers Tavern, the site where General George Washington and his 12,000 troops crossed the Schuylkill River on their way to Philadelphia on September 19, 1777. From this tiny hamlet, stroll alongside the Schuylkill Canal, opened in 1824, as it passes through East Vincent Twp. You will see the remains of Lock No. 57 and the aqueduct over the stream. It is part of the Schuylkill River Heritage Corridor.



Information:
610-933-4424

Tour Hosts:
East Vincent Twp.
Historic Commission

JUNE 2 PHOENIXVILLE

Below: Phoenix Iron Company, photo c. 1918

Iron and textiles created Phoenixville's bustling economy. Tour neighborhoods of company-owned nineteenth century worker housing; the largest collection in Chester County.



Contrast these with the larger proprietor homes. Brick and stone for the Phoenix Iron Company Office, Mansion House, the Reading Railroad station and the textile mills create pleasing architectural streetscapes.

Information: 610-935-7646
Tour Hosts: Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area

JUNE 27 MARSHALLTON



Left: Bradford Monthly Meeting, built 1765

This nearly untouched village, named for botanist Humphrey Marshall (born 1722) was an important stop on a freight and drover's

road. There are two hotels in town and one outside, dating back to 1765. Among the outstanding features of this village were a Quaker Meeting dated 1730 (present building 1765), a cradle factory which made grain cradles and scythes, a blacksmith shop, a pump maker, a cigar factory, a tinsmith shop, a clothing store, a bakery, a plumbing business, a restaurant, in 1805 a post office and in 1829 a Methodist Church.

Information: 610-269-4174
Tour Hosts: West Bradford Twp. Historic Comm.

JULY 11 HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS

Below: Main House, built c.1840 (left); Lincoln Building, built c.1899 (right)

The village of Yellow Springs (now Chester Springs), is owned and maintained by Historic Yellow Springs, Inc., a non-profit association. It combines the vitality of a living community and center for the arts with the charm of a picturesque rural landscape. Historic buildings and grounds—the Inn, the Lincoln Building, the Jenny Lind Spring House, the Water Gardens, and the restored ruins of the Revolutionary War Hospital, with an 18th century Herb Garden—welcome visitors today as they have for over two and a half centuries. Once a spa, it was here in the 1950's the cult classic sci-fi film, *The Blob*, was made.



Information:
610-827-7414
Tour Hosts: Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.

JULY 18 DOWNINGTOWN

Right: Downingtown Friends Meeting, built 1806



Downingtown, Chester County's oldest town, offers an assortment of local folklore with its historic buildings. Just why was the George Washington Inn, c.1761, built and is there really a jug in the walls of the Jug House, c.1804? After touring the John Taylor Farm, c.1738, from which the Borough of Downingtown was carved, enjoy a Quaker wedding at the Downingtown Friends Meeting, c.1806. Create your own souvenir with cemetery stone rubbings.

Information: 610-269-2685, 1 - 5 p.m. only
Tour Hosts: Borough of Downingtown Historic Commission and Downingtown Historical Society

JULY 25 GLENMOORE

Below: Railroad Station, photo c. 1895

In the 1850's construction of the East Brandywine and Waynesburg Railroad changed the hamlet located on the scenic east branch of the Brandywine Creek. First known as Norwood, this thriving village, renamed Glenmoore, supported a store, a blacksmith shop, a wheelwright, a creamery, a grist mill, worker housing and of course, the railroad station. Most have now been adapted to 20th century life, but retain the charm of the past. Hear the story of how Creek Road, Rte. 282, was laid out to resolve a controversy.

Information:
610-942-2880
Tour Hosts:
Wallace Twp.
Historic Commission



AUGUST 1 KIMBERTON

Right: Christmans Mill, built 1796



Start at Centennial Lutheran Church and explore Kimberton with us. It displays many examples of fine "plum pudding" stonework and grew as a crossroads village with the advent of the Black Bear Tavern, c.1768. Actually 1996 can be considered Kimberton's bicentennial as in 1796 Christman's mill started operation across from the tavern. You'll also see Emmor Kimber's 1818 French Creek Seminary for Females, and the railroad station, marking the second phase of Kimberton's growth. Then it's back to the renowned Kimberton Inn.

Information: 610-935-1377
Tour Hosts: East Pikeland Twp. Historic Commission, Pikeland's Historical Society and Historic Architectural Review Board

AUGUST 8 FAIRVILLE

Below: David Jones House, built c.1800

An architecturally intact crossroads village of late 18th and early 19th century, Fairville began as a service and market center on the Kennett Pike, Rte. 52, about 1744. While the Fairville Inn accommodated travelers passing through the village, the Fairville Forge, a store, post office and cobbler shop fulfilled the needs of the residents while the school educated its children. See the large Sharpless building and tour the Phillip du Pont mansion estate with its own chapel.



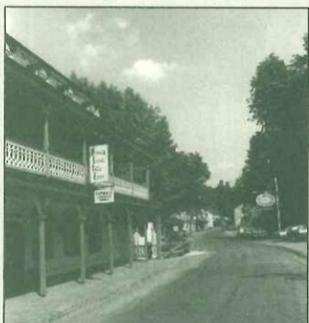
Information:
610-388-7323,
9-1:30,
Mon.-Thurs.
Tour Hosts:
Pennsbury Twp.
Historic Commission

AUGUST 15 ST. PETERS VILLAGE

Below: St. Peter Inn and streetscape, built c.1880s

St. Peters, originally known as Falls of French Creek, is a colorful Victorian village situated at the north end of a deep ravine cut by the French Creek. The ravine is filled with huge granite boulders from a collapsed section of the ridge that runs through the area. The quaint village has always been defined by the creek and ridge. Many buildings, most constructed during the 1880s, are now shops and part of this evening's tour. They originally serviced miners, quarry workers and then tourists. The Inn still offers sustenance.

Information:
610-469-3809
Tour Hosts: Warwick Twp.
Historic Commission and
St. Peters Businesses



AUGUST 22 KENNETT SQUARE

Right: Taft House, photo c. 1920



Site of British and Hessian encampments prior to the Battle of the Brandywine in 1777, and later a "station" along the Underground Railroad; Kennett Square has a long and fascinating heritage. Gently sloping hills create many pleasant vistas as one enjoys a leisurely stroll along cool, shaded, tree-lined streets. Of particular interest are the many ornate and beautiful porches—exuberant examples of the artistic talents of long-ago builders and carpenters. The town's architectural styles range from Federal through Italianate and Queen Anne Revival to early 20th century revivals.

Information: 610-444-0774
Tour Hosts: Borough of Kennett Square Historic Committee

AUGUST 29 COATESVILLE

Below: Graystone Mansion, built 1889

This city so influenced by iron and steel, straddles the original Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike constructed between 1792 and 1794. Begin the tour at impressive Graystone Mansion, the home of the Huston family, owners of the Lukens Iron & Steel Works. See the town's unique 19th century Italianate, Romanesque and Richardsonian architecture in its commercial buildings; found nowhere else in our County. Hear the stories about locally made bricks, the early iron industry, and why many properties were owned by women here



Information:
610-384-0300
Tour Hosts: City of Coatesville