

Chatham



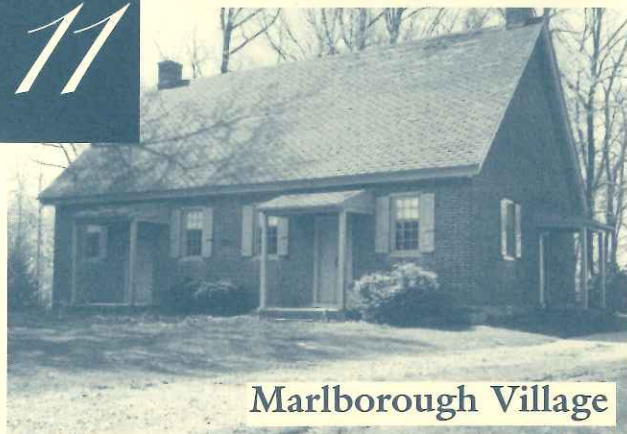
9 August 9

Chatham Hotel, c. 1765

Chatham, the oldest settlement in London Grove Township, has a history deeply rooted in commerce and transportation. The village began as a reststop on the Gap-Newport Turnpike for men and horse teams transporting Lancaster County wheat to Wilmington flour mills. In 1741, the second oldest inn in Pennsylvania, the "Half-Way House," was established and still stands today. The community flourished between the 1830's and 1860's, supporting one of the county's first post offices and various businesses. *Information: 869-3837*

Fortunate in its off-the-beaten-path location, Marlborough has kept much of its mid-nineteenth-century look. 150 years ago this quiet village was busy with shops, schools, a post office, blacksmith, carriage-maker, and various tradesmen serving the surrounding farms. Most reflective of the past is the 1801 Friends Meeting with its burial ground—long ago the scene of conflict over the problem of slavery; now an acre of tranquility. *Information: 347-2237*

August 23



Marlborough Friends Meeting, 1801

Marlborough Village

August 16

10



Downingtown

Downingtown Log House, c. 1701

Limestone residences were Milltown's bustling eighteenth and early nineteenth century commercial area: a saddler, a mason, furniture dealer, variety store and newspaper office. Home of Chester County's first post office, the village was the halfway point on the Philadelphia-Lancaster stagecoach line. Development of the current historic business district by Eber Garrett, a Civil War veteran, and others was stimulated by several railroads stopping in town. *Information: 269-2685*



Sloan-Dickey House, c. 1840

Oxford

Oxford Presbyterian Church, the business district with Italianate architecture, the railroad station converted into a town hall, and the brick hay and grain building. All of these resources were the result of Oxford's location on the Philadelphia and Baltimore stagecoach line and the export of bricks, timber and tobacco. *Information: 932-2500*

12

August 30

Formerly known as Hood's Tavern in the eighteenth century, the rehabilitated Oxford Hotel has been the center of the borough's historic preservation activity today. Nearby stands the majestic

Chester County, one of Pennsylvania's three original counties, was named by William Penn in 1682. Although the northern and western boundaries were not specific, it is known it encompassed present Chester, Delaware and Lancaster Counties. English, Welsh and Irish Quakers came through the Port of Philadelphia to settle eastern, southeastern and middle Chester County, followed shortly thereafter by the Swiss and Swiss-German people. Most of the Scots and Scots-Irish opted to disembark at New Castle, Delaware during the 1730s and 1740s and settled the County's present western and northern regions.

Although 90% of the people farmed the land, rapid immigration and population density gave reason for the County government to subdivide municipalities and create new ones. Neighbor banded with neighbor to lay out new roads "to mill, to meeting, to market". Hamlets evolved around water, corn or grist mills, sawmills and fulling mills. Quaker, Presbyterian and Baptist meeting houses, plus one-room subscription schools dotted the countryside.

Two centuries later, Chester County citizens can still enjoy a wonderful historical landscape created by our forefathers. To this extent dozens of volunteers have been researching their respective municipality's heritage for the past two decades. They have uncovered numerous interesting stories and local folklore which has been conveyed to the public through publications, festivals, heritage days and walking tours.

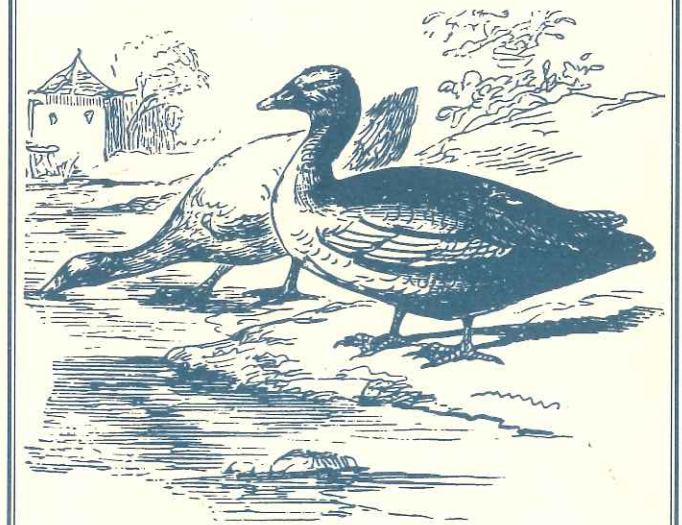
This year a partnership to organize a summer "Town Tours and Village Walks" program was created between the County Parks and Recreation Department and the Chester County Tourist Bureau. Participants include some of the municipal Historic Commissions in the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area, and West Chester's Historic Architectural Review Board.

Celebrate a Chester County summer with us each Wednesday evening between June 7th and August 30th (except July 5th) for twilight tours with your friends and neighbors. Select your tours; call the respective telephone number for reservations; and don't forget to wear comfortable walking shoes.

Designed by Suzanne D. Gaadt

Celebrate a Chester County Summer!

Join us for the first annual
Town Tours & Village Walks . . .

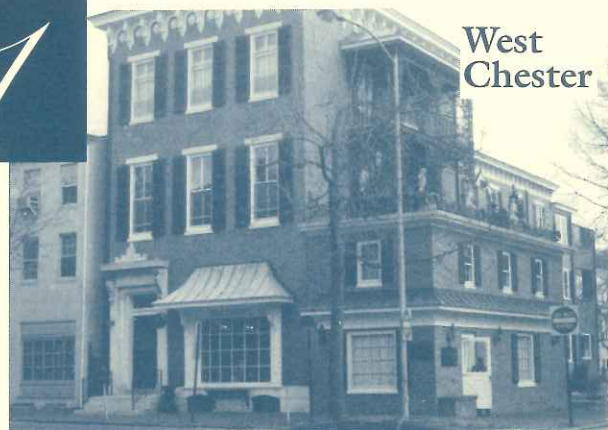


Twelve delightful
evening walking tours of
twelve charming
Chester County
Towns and Villages.

June 7 through August 30, 1995

June 7

1



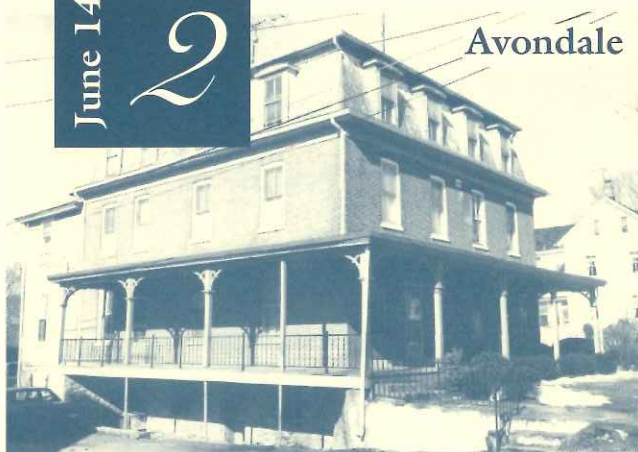
West Chester

J. Smith Futhy Mansion, 1854

The walking tour of West Chester will highlight several styles of 19th Century residential architecture. Among those represented will be Federal, Greek Revival, Victorian Gothic, Italianate, Second Empire and Queen Ann. Included will be several buildings attributed to Thomas U. Walter, architect of the dome and wings of the U.S. Capitol. The tour will depart from the Lincoln Building, 28 West Market Street. Information: 431-7010

June 14

2



Avondale

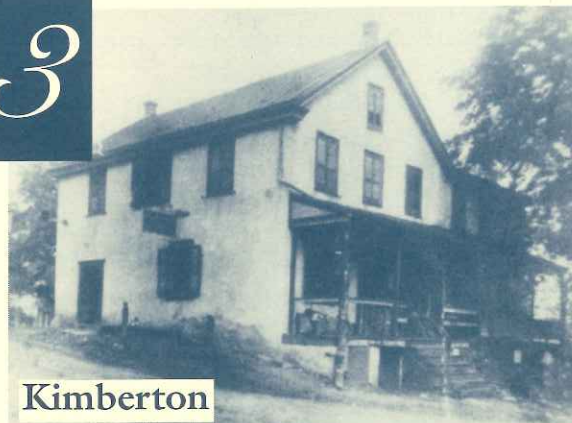
Allen Block, 1884

Join us in a celebration of American culture—Avondale style. Featured on the walking tour of our turn-of-the-century rural village will be a variety of Victorian styles, early civic and commercial buildings, and an antique steam locomotive. On this Flag Day we'll also be celebrating our patriotic heritage with a visit from "Uncle Sam." Information: 268-0394

Join the Pikeland's Historical Society for a twilight walk through the streets of Kimberton and be transported back in time to 1787 as you travel from Centennial Lutheran Church past the French Creek Seminary for Females, Christman's Grist Mill, and The Sign of the Bear—then past the Grange to the one room Schoolhouse of the late 1800's, back past the shops which will be open for browsing, to the elegant 1796 Kimberson Inn where you can rest, relax and enjoy a special (\$25) Prix Fixe dinner. Make reservations: 933-8148. Information: 933-0919 1790

June 21

3



Kimberton

Black Bear Tavern (The Sign of the Bear), c. 1768

Phoenixville



Thomas F. Byrne Mansion, c. 1898

June 28

4

Standing in front of the three-story heritage mural, learn about the iron and steel milltown that developed around the eighteenth century farmhouse next door. Walk and hear about the lovely homes on Main Street, the Carnegie Library, and the textile proprietor's mansion, plus the Lippincott Gallery on Second Avenue. After Church Street, explore the county's only local museum at the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area and stay for refreshments. Information: 935-7646

Lionville



July 12

5

William Isinger House, c. 1833

Settled by Welsh Friends shortly after 1700, Lionville was the center of active rural community for more than 250 years. During the 18th century, it was an important cross-road for travelers, drovers and soldiers. Many members of the Uwchlan Society of Friends were active in the Underground Railroad. The village has undergone few changes and continues to offer reflections of the township's rural past. Information: 363-9450

Return in time this summer to the slower-paced, quiet days of the nineteenth century by taking a stroll through the streets of Malvern, a nineteenth century town replete with storefronts and homes that display the most charming aspects of the Victorian era. Gingerbread trim and wrap-around porches, as well as a collection of Sears houses and a one-of-a-kind quadruplex, are just some of the architectural sights you'll see. Tour guides will try to recreate the history of the period in which most of the homes were constructed with interesting little anecdotes about the residents of early Malvern. Information: 647-3625

July 19

6



Old Friends School

Malvern

Glenmoore



July 26

7

The John S. Parker House, c.1890

1859 schoolhouse with its second story community room is the setting for the historic Indiantown crossroads and the early Springton Manor story. Observe the Bridal Row homes down the hill to Creek Road beside the Brandywine. The East and Waynesborough Railroad influenced the conversion of this creekside hamlet into a picturesque Gothic Revival village. Local folklore abounds in the midst of its early telephone exchange, the local stores and the first post office building. Information: 942-2880

Pottstown Landing



August 2

8

Joseph Shaner Bakery, 1886

North Coventry had its beginning about 1710 when the Penn family began selling off tracts of land. Most of the early settlers were farmers, and much of the early transportation to Philadelphia was via the river. In 1824 the Schuylkill Canal was completed from Schuylkill County to Philadelphia. The dock area in Pottstown Landing became a hub of activity. Many houses were constructed and most are still standing. You will see a large stone house once owned by a barge owner and a lovely Victorian house which was once a bakery. Information: 323-1694