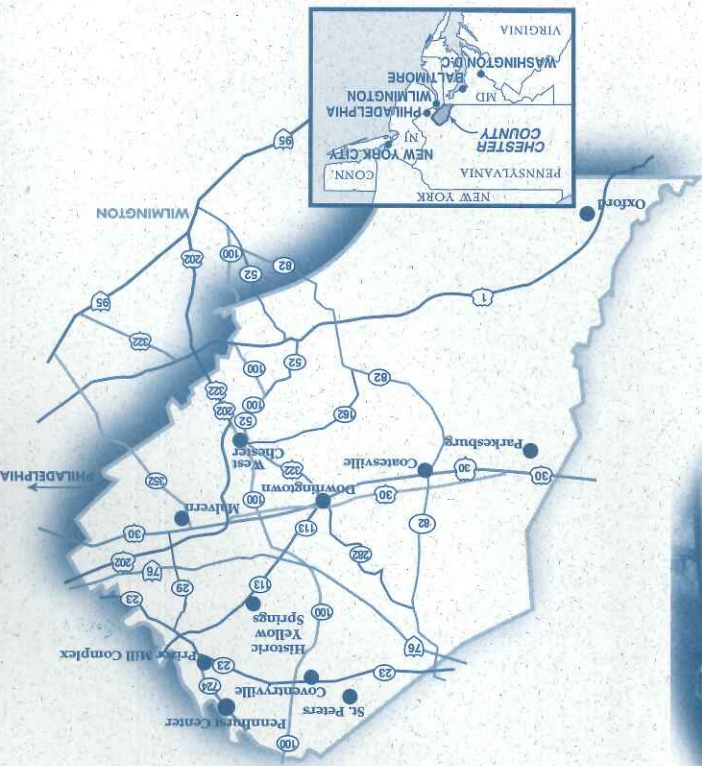


Photograph on cover: County Commissioners open the 1997 season at the Lincoln Building on Market Street in West Chester. Photograph to the left (in oval): Fricks Lock, 1997. Photograph on mailing panel: Kennett Square, 1997.

IN THE HEART OF THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY

CHESTER COUNTY TOURIST BUREAU

601 Westtown Road
 Suite 170
 West Chester, PA 19382-4536
 www.brandywinevalley.com

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!

Discover how our own lifestyle give you ideas for your period architecture, it will and adaptive reuse of our Observe the preservation new tour itineraries. part of this summer's ed Historic Districts are these, along with designat- Historic Places. Many of



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

Early Quaker families continue to play a part today, just as do those of later arrivals who came to live, work and make important contributions to Pennsylvania's diverse cultural heritage. Here, homes are lovingly restored and show the charm of small town life in the Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Victorian and pre-war eras. In Pennsylvania, Chester County is second only to Philadelphia in the number of sites listed on the National Register of

Your guides, some in period dress are experts in local history and architecture. They bring to life the people who lived and worked along the streets you'll travel. Highlighted are properties, both residential and business, revealing the fabric of three centuries of domestic, social and industrial life in our region, one of William Penn's first named counties.

The nostalgic delights of our historic villages are yours to discover as you spend lovely summer evenings on any, or all, FREE Thursday evening **Town Tours & Village Walks**. Designed to evoke memories of life in simpler times, they're an experience to share with family and friends.

TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS

FREE guided evening strolls
 Chester County Welcomes Thee!

The 4th Annual TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS



Thursday evenings,
 June 4 through August 27, 1998

Chester County, Pennsylvania
 in the Heart of the Brandywine Valley

MAKE AN EVENING OF IT!

Why not make these FREE **Town Tours & Village Walks** your excuse for a summer getaway? Some of Brandywine Valley's most charming B&Bs and inns offer special package rates. Many are historic properties so you can extend your experience of times past as you enjoy our countryside for an overnight or even a long weekend.

Many of our restaurants will feature "early bird" specials for pre-tour suppers or other dining values for after your TT&VW.

To request a copy of our newspaper, call the Brandywine Valley Tourist Information Center at 1-800-228-9933.

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- JUNE 4 WEST CHESTER
- JUNE 11 PARKESBURG
- JUNE 18 PENNHURST CENTER
- JUNE 25 COVENTRYVILLE
- JULY 9 MALVERN
- JULY 16 HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS
- JULY 23 ST. PETERS VILLAGE
- JULY 30 no tour
- AUGUST 6 COATESVILLE
- AUGUST 13 PRIZER MILL COMPLEX
- AUGUST 20 DOWNINGTOWN
- AUGUST 27 OXFORD

During Independence Day Week no walks are scheduled, but many communities celebrate with parades & festive events. Call 1-800-228-9933 for details.

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

TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS



WEST CHESTER - JUNE 4

A very special tour!

It has been 150 years since the Chester County Court House, designed by Thomas U. Walter, opened on George Washington's birthday, February 22, 1848. Begin your June 4 evening with a tour of the Court House—you will see mid-nineteenth century features and the handsome court rooms without being a prisoner in the docks. Then our guides will conduct a variety of walks—your choice—about the downtown and the fine northwestern streets of West Chester, with varying mixtures of social and architectural history. Many coffee-houses and restaurants await you.

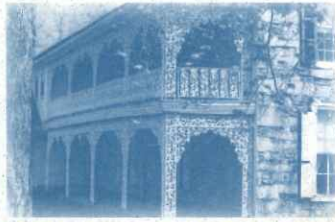


Chester County's Greek Revival Court House

Tour Hosts: Board of Architectural Review
Reservations: 610-431-7010 or 431-1238

PARKESBURG - JUNE 11

Parkesburg, named after prominent local land owners, was incorporated in 1872. However, it was the original site of the Fountain Inn, a colonial tavern and stopover for Lancaster farmers taking their livestock and produce to Philadelphia. Parkesburg was modeled after the prosperous European industrial towns and was home to the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad repair shops and the Parkesburg Iron Company. Visit a 19th century country store and enjoy the ambience of an old fashioned ice cream parlor. Stroll past historic Italianate and Second Empire commercial buildings.



The Parks House embellished with intricate ironworks

Reservations: 610-857-1458

Hosts: Parkesburg Area Business Association and the Greater Octorara Historical Society

PENNHURST CENTER - JUNE 18

See and learn the fascinating history of a forgotten institution. In 1908, "The Eastern Pennsylvania State Institution for the Feebleminded and Epileptic," opened its doors to men, women and children from all over the state. A self-contained community of Colonial Revival style buildings and surrounding farmland, the Pennhurst Center (as it was renamed in 1923) served thousands of patients until it was closed in 1987. Today, this deteriorating complex which sits on a hill overlooking the Schuylkill River, awaits its chance for adaptive reuse in the 21st century.



Pennhurst Center features Dutch Colonial Revival architecture

Tour Hosts: East Vincent Township Historical Commission

Reservations: 610-933-4424

COVENTRYVILLE - JUNE 25



Coventry Forge, an 18th century social center in William Penn's back country

Coventryville, a quiet village of 18th and 19th century homes near French Creek, in its earliest days, was a hub of industry and derring-do with the Coventry Forge turning out both useful and decorative iron works, and later ammunition for the Revolutionary War. Rebecca Grace, wife of ironmaster Robert Grace and close friend of Benjamin Franklin, entertained officers of the Continental Army at

Coventry Hall where the first Franklin stove had been installed in 1742. The world-famous Coventry Forge Inn, is the site of the old Rising Sun Inn which had opened for business in 1750.

Tour Hosts: South Coventry Township and Historic Coventryville

Reservations: 610-469-0444

MALVERN - JULY 9

Stroll on King Street, the section of King Road that passes through Malvern, where most of the businesses in the borough are located. Malvern, a quaint market town, was developed because of the railroad. So, the tour will start at the 1893 railroad station. Along the route, guides will be posted at lovely late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century buildings. See hotels, shops and buildings once occupied by a carriage factory, a platinum works and private homes. The historic business district has been impressively revitalized.

Tour Hosts: Borough of Malvern Historic Commission

Reservations: 610-644-2602



Hearts and hosta reflect a bygone era

HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS - JULY 16

Visit the site of an elegant health spa west of Philadelphia in the 1820's. Meet Mrs. Margaret Holman, Innkeeper, and learn how the spa grew to its Golden Era. Learn from Mr. John Knight about his experiences as he sought to cure his throat ailment. Elegantly-attired ladies will tell of their social life and model the "proper" attire to "take of the mineral waters." Whether visiting for health or social reasons, life at the Yellow Springs Spa was interesting and exciting in the beautiful Chester County countryside.



Repose in the gazebo to capture the mild cooling of summer breezes

Tour Hosts: Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.

Reservations: 610-827-7414

ST. PETERS VILLAGE - JULY 23

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 to serve miners and quarry workers, are now shops and are part of this evening's tour.

Tour Hosts: St. Peters Businesses and Warwick Township Historic Commission

Reservations: 610-469-3809



People are the life of this quaint Victorian industrial village

COATESVILLE - AUGUST 6

This city, so influenced by iron and steel, straddles the original Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike constructed between 1792 and 1794. The tour begins at impressive Graystone Mansion, the home of the Huston family, owners of the Lukens Iron and Steel Works. See the town's unique 19th century Italianate, Romanesque and Richardsonian architecture in its commercial buildings; found no where else in our County. Hear the stories about locally made bricks, the early iron industry, and why many properties were owned by women here in Chester County's second-largest National Register Historic District.

Tour Hosts: Graystone Society and the Coatesville Historic Commission

Reservations: 610-384-9282



Historic streetscapes abound in Chester County's only city

PRIZER MILL COMPLEX - AUGUST 13

The industrial cluster, located between Seven Stars and Hares Hill Roads and Mill Lane in East Pikeland Township, is what was once a thriving mill complex. Included in the evening's itinerary is perhaps the oldest Kimberton house, the miller's stone house, possibly built before 1790. Next are the remains of a three-story grist mill, mill race, Prizer's Victorian house, a converted barn, three mill complex houses, a unique cistern and the scenic French Creek, crossed by the very photogenic Kennedy Covered Bridge.

Tour Hosts: Pikeland Historic Society and East Pikeland Township Historic Commission

Reservations: 610-933-1770



Architecture in the complex spans numerous decades

DOWNINGTOWN - AUGUST 20

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? See Breesey Court, the home of Governor Curtin's daughter; and Downingtown Friends Meeting, c. 1806, with its traditional Quaker cemetery. Enjoy the tranquility and setting of the fieldstone John Taylor Farm, c. 1738, from which the Borough of Downingtown was carved.



The interior of Downingtown Log House

Tour Hosts: Downingtown Historic and Parks Commission and the Downingtown Historical Society

Reservations: 610-269-0344, ext. 287

OXFORD - AUGUST 27

Enjoy a guided tour past large well-preserved homes constructed 1870 - 1905 by builders Walker, Sloan and others. Savor a story of Hood's Tavern stagecoach stop between Philadelphia and Baltimore, now Oxford Hotel, refurbished as senior housing. Revisit post Civil War times when the Oxford area Dickey family founded Lincoln University and promoted Oxford as a railroad center exporting local bricks, tools, timber, and tobacco from the well-preserved brick Grain and Hay Mill.

Tour Hosts: Oxford Historic Commission

Reservations: 610-932-2500



Queen Anne Revival home at the intersection of Pine and Maple Streets

1998 TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS

At a Glance

- JUNE 4 - WEST CHESTER, 431-7010 or 431-1238
- JUNE 11 - PARKESBURG, 857-1458
- JUNE 18 - PENNHURST CENTER, 933-4424
- JUNE 25 - COVENTRYVILLE, 469-0444
- JULY 9 - MALVERN, 644-2602
- JULY 16 - HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS, 827-7414
- JULY 23 - ST. PETERS, 469-3809
- JULY 30 - no tour
- AUGUST 6 - COATESVILLE, 384-9282
- AUGUST 13 - PRIZER MILL COMPLEX, 933-1770
- AUGUST 20 - DOWNINGTOWN, 269-0344 ext. 287
- AUGUST 27 - OXFORD, 932-2500