

THE HISTORIC CARLISLE, INC. WAYSIDE MARKER PROJECT

The Borough of Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania was founded in 1751. Throughout the colonial period, Carlisle was the major jumping-off point for travel west to the Ohio Valley. It was George Washington's choice for his army's first arsenal and school. Carlisle was also home to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, a school for American Indians, of which Olympic champion Jim Thorpe is an alumnus. The location of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School now houses the U. S. Army War College. Carlisle is also home to Dickinson College which was chartered at the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783 – the first college to be chartered after the Treaty of Paris.

In 1994, Historic Carlisle Celebration, Inc. (now called Historic Carlisle, Inc.) was formed to promote Carlisle's history through education and awareness. In 2002, Historic Carlisle, Inc. and the Borough of Carlisle partnered to initiate the Carlisle Wayside Marker Project using interpretive signage to honor and preserve Carlisle's rich historical past for the enjoyment and education of Carlisle's residents and visitors alike. The Wayside Markers tell the story of Carlisle's people, buildings, and historic sites and events.

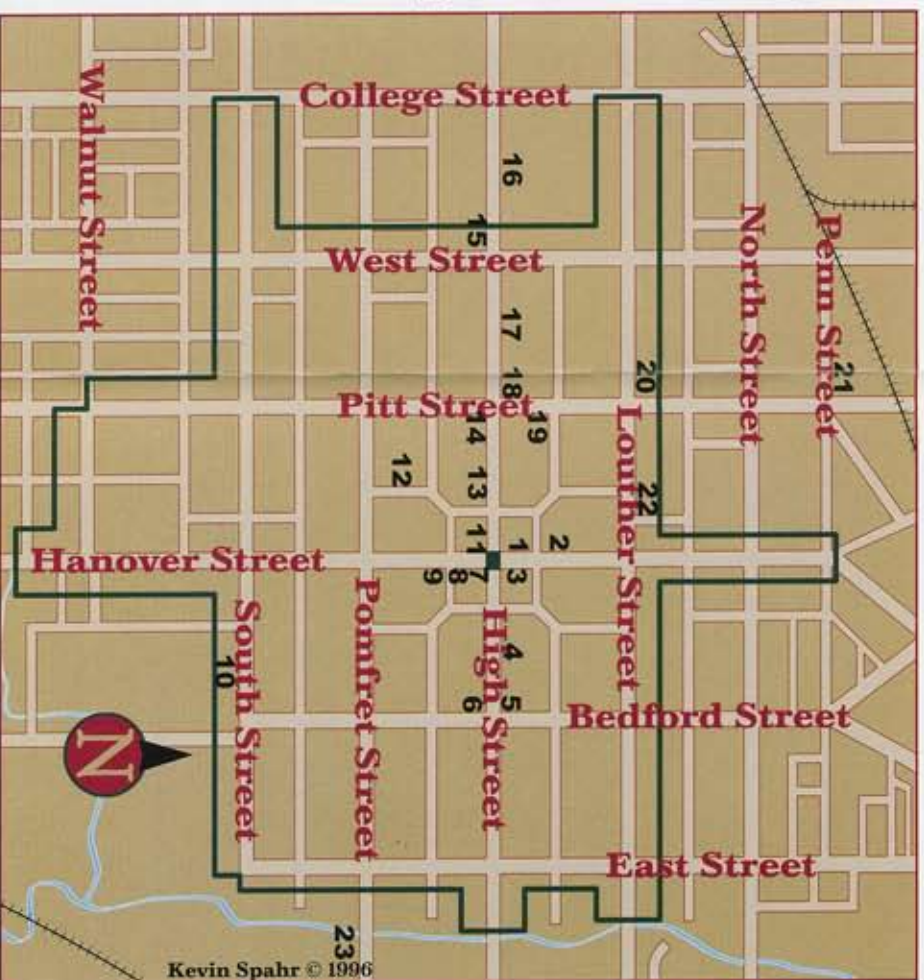
This brochure will assist you on a self-guided walking tour of the Wayside Markers through the streets and byways of Carlisle's Historic District and beyond. Please use crosswalks and watch for traffic as you learn more about the history of Carlisle.



THE BOROUGH OF CARLISLE HISTORIC DISTRICT FOUNDED 1751

The Historic District is indicated by a Bold Green Line.

The Square is indicated by the green box.



1. RETURN OF THE CAPTIVES

In 1764, British General Henry Bouquet arranged for the return of a number of settlers who had been held captive by American Indians during the French and Indian War. A marker on the Square near the First Presbyterian Church commemorates the settlers arrival in Carlisle.

2. EPHRAIM BLAINE HOUSE

This imposing late 18th century brick house was built by Colonel Ephraim Blaine. Wander down the sidewalk along the right side of the building to see the limestone rear portion which was once a popular Revolutionary-era tavern. The Ephraim Blaine House was restored in 2004 by owners John and Louise Broujos.

3. 1753 CARLISLE INDIAN CONFERENCE

In front of St. John's Episcopal Church on the Square is a marker describing Benjamin Franklin's 1753 visit to Carlisle to meet with representatives of several American Indian tribes.

4. FREDERICK DOUGLASS VISITS CARLISLE

Renowned abolitionist Frederick Douglass visited Carlisle on three occasions. During his visit in 1872, Douglass stopped for the night at the Bentz House, now called the Wellington.

5. THE OLD JAIL

One block away from the Square, at the corner of E. High and N. Bedford streets, is the Old Jail which was built in 1855 and remained in use as the Cumberland County Prison until the 1980s. Today the building houses county offices.

6. DUNCAN-STILES HOUSE

This imposing, three-story, Philadelphia-style residence was built in 1815 as a wedding gift for Stephen Duncan and his bride Margaretta Stiles. It is notable for its large oval parlor, curving staircase, and beautiful interior woodwork.

7. MARKET HOUSE SQUARE

Near the front steps of the "New" (circa 1962) Cumberland County Courthouse is a marker describing the history of Carlisle's market houses. The Penn Charter establishing Carlisle designated this corner of the Square as the site for commerce and it was the location for decades of the town's farmers market. The last market house was razed in 1952.

8. THE MCCLINTOCK RIOT

Located just beyond the front steps of the New Courthouse is the marker commemorating an 1847 riot which followed the release from jail of three escaped slaves from Maryland. When the slaves were returned to their former owners, townspeople initiated a melee and helped two of the fugitives to hide and eventually make their way to freedom.

9. COLONEL ROBERT MAGAW

Just across Liberty Ave. at 3 S. Hanover Street is the site of Revolutionary War hero Robert Magaw's home.

10. THE OLD GRAVEYARD

A little past Cemetery Ave. and inside the entry gate is the Wayside Marker for Carlisle's Old Graveyard. Take time to wander quietly through this historic graveyard. Please remember that the gravestones in this burial ground are old and extremely fragile. It is important that you do not disturb the stones and monuments by standing, walking, sitting or leaning on them.