

# A Walking Tour of CARLISLE'S WAYSIDE MARKERS



## HISTORIC CARLISLE, INC.: WAYSIDE MARKER PROJECT

The Borough of Carlisle was founded in 1751. George Washington chose Carlisle for an Army arsenal and one of the Army's first schools. Carlisle was home to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School (1879-1918). Olympic champion Jim Thorpe was a student there. The Indian School's former campus is now home to the U.S. Army War College. Chartered in 1783, Dickinson College was the first college in the United States to be chartered after the Treaty of Paris.

This brochure will assist you on a self-guided walking tour of the wayside markers throughout Carlisle's Historic District and beyond. Look for Civil War plaques—another Historic Carlisle, Inc. initiative—on buildings in existence during that period; the blue and gold Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) markers; and the Pennsylvania Tourism Office's (PTO) Civil War Trail blue and white markers. **On this map, Historic Carlisle, Inc. markers are numbered; markers placed by PHMC, the PTO and other community organizations are noted with a letter.** Please use marked crosswalks and watch for traffic.

Begin at Veterans' Courtyard adjacent to the Old Courthouse at the corner of West High and South Hanover streets. Find the Historic Downtown Carlisle marker and, near it, the map of the downtown area. You may choose to explore one or two sections of Carlisle's quadrants at a time. Banners on lampposts indicate red for west, green for east, purple for south and blue for north.

### A. HISTORIC DOWNTOWN CARLISLE

This marker, provided by Carlisle's Rotary Club, orients visitors to the borough. Carlisle was organized by William Penn's sons in a grid pattern. Streets are parallel, 2 blocks in each direction from the central 'square' with the outermost named North, South, East and West. Interior street names honor Penn family and friends. Main streets are 60 feet wide, secondary streets 40 feet wide, and alleys 20 feet.

### 1. THE SHELLING OF CARLISLE

During four days in the summer of 1863, Carlisle was occupied by Confederate troops and subjected to one long night of artillery shelling. Marks of the shelling can be observed in the Old Courthouse sandstone pillar and a window sill to the right. They were dubbed "Lee's calling cards" for Confederate Brigadier General Fitzhugh Lee, the nephew of Robert E. Lee, whose artillery shelled Carlisle. Another "calling card" marks the front of 15 W. High St., half a block to the northwest.

### 2. MARKET HOUSE SQUARE

For two hundred years a farmers' market was held every Wednesday and Saturday on the southeast quadrant of the square. Nearly 150 stalls inside and outside of the last Market House provided consumers with produce, meats, confections and other goods. Sermons and lectures were also offered.

### 3. THE MCCLINTOCK RIOT

A riot and subsequent trial took place at the 1846 Courthouse across the street. Dickinson College's Professor McClintock's knowledge of a newly enacted law affecting fugitive slaves led to the 1847 riot that made national news in the turbulent years leading to the Civil War. Dickinson considered dismissing McClintock because of his involvement; he was not dismissed.

### 4. COL. ROBERT MAGAW

Born in Philadelphia, Magaw moved to Carlisle c. 1750 and began practicing law c. 1759. By the 1770s he had the largest share of legal business in the county. In 1775 he was appointed Major in Colonel William Thompson's Battalion of Pennsylvania Rifleman.

### 5. OLD GRAVEYARD

When Carlisle was first laid out, the Graveyard was on the outskirts of town because the Penn Family did not allow for graveyards within town limits, even for burials within church property. Note that the majority of the headstones face the rising sun. • *Enter the graveyard through this South Street gate, proceed straight ahead 40 paces; turn left and walk another 30 paces to the Armstrong gravesite and marker located under a juniper tree.*

### 6. MAJOR GENERAL JOHN ARMSTRONG (1717-1795)

Armstrong lived on the northeast corner of High and Bedford Streets, two blocks away. (A PHMC marker notes the location.) He befriended George Washington when both were surveyors during the French and Indian War. They remained lifelong friends. His son, John Armstrong, Jr., served in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 and was a diplomatic Minister to France in President Jefferson's administration. His other son, James, was an eminent physician here in Carlisle for many years.

### 7. ST. PATRICK CHURCH & CEMETERY

Formed in 1779, St. Patrick Church was the first Catholic congregation west of the Susquehanna River, sixth Catholic Parish in Pennsylvania and believed to be the first named for St. Patrick. Father Ganss, pastor from 1890 to 1910, composed music for John Philip Sousa. Visit the cemetery in the back and, if the doors are open, visit the beautiful church sanctuary.

### 8. LETORT SPRING RUN

Several locations were considered for Cumberland County's seat but Thomas Penn favored Carlisle with its close proximity to Letort Spring with its abundant supply of fresh water. Recognized since the 1800s as an outstanding trout fishery, the Letort remains a valuable natural resource. **NOTE:** At the southern end of the park, you can find a walking trail following an old rail bed that follows the Letort for a couple of miles to the intersection of Bonnybrook Road and Spring Garden Street. • *Return to South East Street, make a right, go one block to East High, make a left, go one block.*

### 9. DUNCAN-STILES HOUSE

After the death of his young wife, the former Margaretta Stiles, Stephen Duncan relocated to family-owned land in the Natchez, Mississippi area. He became the "King of Cotton" and one of the South's largest slave owners. He is buried in Philadelphia's Laurel Hill Cemetery.

### 10. OLD PRISON

The Penns planned for the jail to be on the Square; circumstances resulted in its placement one block east. A 1777 letter from British officers imprisoned here referred to the original stone jail as "...the worst on the continent, being rather a ruin than a jail...destroying our healths..." This 1854 structure was built to accommodate 96 men and 10 women along with living accommodations for the sheriff and his family.

### 11. FREDERICK DOUGLASS IN CARLISLE

When Frederick Douglass—former slave, abolitionist, author and internationally known statesman—was refused service in the Bentz House dining room in 1872, he reportedly commented, "There are many colors, but only one humanity."

### 12. 1753 CARLISLE INDIAN CONFERENCE

At his first turn at diplomacy, Benjamin Franklin mediated growing tensions between Native Americans and Pennsylvania citizens. Franklin's autobiography states the Indians "...were near one hundred men, women, and children... lodg'd in temporary cabins built in the form of a square, just without the town." Although a treaty was signed, it was short-lived; further bloodshed during the French and Indian War could not be avoided.

The Historic Carlisle, Inc. Wayside Marker Project was honored by the White House's 2004 designation of Carlisle as a Preserve America Community.



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Map courtesy of Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau

Photo courtesy of Dickinson College/Carl Socolow

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VISIT HCI'S WEBSITE:

P.O. Box 1211 • Carlisle, PA 17013-1211  
Historic Carlisle, Inc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BECOME A MEMBER, CONTACT

HISTORIC CARLISLE, INC., founded in 1994, is a non-profit corporation with the mission to recognize and promote the rich history of Carlisle and Cumberland County through annual presentations, celebrations and education programs. Since 2002, Historic Carlisle, Inc. has partnered with the Borough of Carlisle, Dickinson College, the Cumberland County Historical Society, and other community groups and individuals to place wayside markers which tell the story of Carlisle's people, places, and events.

31. CONFEDERATE ARTILLERY AT CARLISLE  
Confederate artillery under the command of Captain James Breathed located their guns at this road junction to shell the town on July 1, 1863. The Confederates, part of Major General J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry division, shelled the town, but were unsuccessful in their attempt to capture it before being called to the major battle at Gettysburg.

30. BUTCHER FAMILY TOT LOT  
Although Pennsylvania was the first state to abolish slavery, it was a gradual process. Slaves were owned by Pennsylvanians until 1847. Residences built along the alleys in this section of town were the homes of many African Americans, like that of John J. Butcher.

29. THE OLD LIVERY STABLE  
Though in business for only 25 years, the livery stable provided essential transportation services until it was supplanted by the automobile. Appropriately, a parking garage now sits in its place.

28. THE CARLISLE THEATRE  
In the 20th century the theatre replaced the residence of Dickinson College professor Spencer Fullerton Baird, who became the second Secretary to the Smithsonian, taking with him to Washington two railroad box cars of specimens—now part of the collections of our nation's "attic."

27. CENTENARY BUILDING  
In the 20th century, before a fire in 1999, this former brick church served as a pharmacy, book store and retro clothing business. Recently renovated but retaining its exterior 'church look', it contains modern apartments and retail spaces.

26. THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE: DICKINSON COLLEGE  
John Reed studied for the law after his Dickinson College graduation. He later served as a Pennsylvania State Senator and Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth.

## B. THE SHELLING OF CARLISLE

Civil War 150, a Pennsylvania Tourism Office project, placed this marker to describe the impact of the conflict on local citizens. After a successful career as a news reporter, James W. Sullivan, at 84 years of age and living in England, recorded his memories of the Confederate occupation for his cousin, Jane.

## 13. THE RETURN OF THE CAPTIVES

In the years prior to the American Revolution, Native American raids and kidnappings forced families to abandon their homesteads and flee to Carlisle for protection. When hostilities ended in 1764, General Henry Bouquet brought a group of white captives to Carlisle. Anxious families gathered in the public square hoping to find lost loved ones. In a dramatic scene, Regina Hartman was reunited here with her mother, nine years after her kidnapping.

## 14. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

William Penn's sons granted permission for construction of a Presbyterian meeting house on the Square's northwest side with provisions that the land would always be used for a religious organization, no burial ground would be established there, any open land would be fenced in and the congregation would pay a nominal annual fee. Colonists met here in 1774 to support Massachusetts' defiance of England. Confederate shells struck the building during the 1863 Invasion.

## 15. BLAINE HOUSE

Ephraim Blaine, lifelong friend of George Washington and later Revolutionary War Commissary General, began construction on this home in 1794 by adding onto the earlier stone tavern. See the original stone structure by walking left to the alley to go behind the building. **NOTE:** Walking Carlisle's alleys allows the imagination to recreate uses of the lots that were originally 120 feet deep.

## 16. THE UNION FIRE COMPANY

Members of the fire company were required to provide their own equipment: two leather buckets and a sturdy bag of linen to carry goods from endangered structures. See artifacts reflecting the company's history at 35 West Louther Street.

## NOTE: THE RICHARDSON HOUSE

101 W. Louther Street was the home of prosperous African-American Cyrus Richardson and his family. After Mr. Richardson's death, his wife and daughters continued to live in the house which came to be called the "Misses Richardsons' Cozy Corner". It was later the childhood home of noted impressionist artist Ruth A. Anderson.

## 17. LINCOLN CEMETERY

A pathway in Memorial Park at the corner of North Pitt and West Penn Streets leads to the former site of the African-American Cemetery, resting place of several soldiers who served with the 54th Massachusetts at Fort Wagner in 1863, portrayed in the movie, *Glory*. Additional markers, placed by Carlisle's African-American community, commemorate individuals once buried here and their contributions to the community and nation.

## 18. THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & HAMILTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Two floors of galleries allow visitors to explore the rich history of Carlisle and Cumberland County. A hands-on center is available at 29 West High Street, next to CCHS's History on High museum shop.

## C. MURAL MARKER, DOWNTOWN CARLISLE ASSOC.

Painted in 2001 in celebration of Carlisle's 250th anniversary, the mural illustrates the area's rich history of people and places.

## D. PRELUDE TO GETTYSBURG AND "SHELL AND BE DAMNED"

This marker describes the Confederate invasion prior to and during the Battle of Gettysburg. After the Battle, many of the wounded were brought to Carlisle for recuperation since the volume of sick and wounded filled the smaller town of Gettysburg.

## 19. THE HIGH STREET TRAIN STATIONS

This marker is on the site of the Cumberland Valley Rail Road's 1891 station. Just two months after the 1847 McClintock Riot at the Old Courthouse, townsfolk enthusiastically greeted Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison when their train stopped briefly at the station, formerly across the street.

## 20. THE FIGHTING BUTLERS

Revolutionary War period gunsmith Thomas Butler, Sr. had his residence and gunsmith shop located at this site. Butler provided gunsmith services to soldiers of the Cumberland County militia and also served as an armorer to the Continental Congress. Butler and his wife Eleanor had five sons, who were all distinguished officers in the Revolutionary War and whose descendants continued to serve in years to come. The marker details their story.

## 21. DR. BENJAMIN RUSH, FOUNDER OF DICKINSON COLLEGE

Rush was widely known for his keen intellect and wide-ranging interests: with former Carlisle resident (and Declaration of Independence signer) James Wilson, he designed Dickinson College's charter; with Thomas Jefferson he promoted maple sugar as an economical and native replacement for cane sugar.

## 22. WEST COLLEGE: A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Dickinson College was chartered in 1783; construction of the original West College building was completed in 1805. Old East, to the right, was used as a hospital after Carlisle's 1863 Confederate occupation. Old West's first floor is open to visitors when the College is in session. **NOTE:** Dickinson's campus has a number of markers highlighting people and events relative to the college's history. If time allows, walk the campuses on both sides of West High Street.

## E. DICKINSON STUDENTS PART WAYS

This *Civil War Trails* marker notes the quandary of Carlisle and Cumberland County citizens before and during the Civil War.

## 23. PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

Company G of the PA Guard's 8th. Infantry Regiment was ordered into federal service in July of 1917. Known as The Gobin Guards, this building served as the armory for Company G until a new armory was built on Cavalry Road in 1931. Being reassigned to Pennsylvania's 28th. Infantry Division, the Gobin Guards served with distinction in key battles on the Western Front.

## 24. THE FORBES ROAD

Having learned from General Edward Braddock's 1755 mistakes and using the "Camp Near Carlisle" (today's Carlisle Barracks) as his base of supplies, General John Forbes moved his forces southwestward to remove the Indians and French troops at Fort Duquesne.

## 25. THE CIVIC CLUB OF CARLISLE

Long before women could vote or hold elected office, the social activists of the Civic Club of Carlisle changed public policy and improved the health and welfare of all citizens of Carlisle. Several agencies founded by the club continue serving today's Carlisle community.

