

**NOTE:** This is laid out as though someone will be photocopying and stapling the pages together. Therefore it is not in logical page order.

### **Stop 1: Chester County Historical Society**

(North building, 225 N. High Street)

**FYI:** This building has been home to a horticultural society, meeting place for abolitionists (1850s), the site of Pennsylvania's first women's rights convention (1852), an opera house (1880s), headquarters for Civil War veterans, and now home of the Chester County Historical Society. It is built of serpentine, a greenish stone quarried here in Chester County.

**Talk About It:** How did architect Thomas U. Walter use balance (symmetry) in his design?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester's past. Check one or more.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> datestones         | <input type="checkbox"/> look up         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> markers/ monuments | <input type="checkbox"/> obvious changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> leftovers          | <input type="checkbox"/> style           |

**Do It!** Find this building's datestone. How long ago was it built?

### **Stop 22: Market House**

(120 N. Church Street, opposite YWCA)

**FYI:** In the early 1800s, farmers sold their produce off wagons or carts parked in the middle of Market Street. Later, farmers sold their produce in market house buildings. This building was constructed in 1870 as West Chester's second market house (the first is no longer standing).

**Talk About It:** If you were a farmer, would you rather sell fruits and vegetables from a cart or in a building. Why?

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**Do it!** If the building is open, step inside to see how an old building has been adapted for modern use. As you leave the market house and walk north toward CCHS, be sure to look for a leftover in front of 128 N. Church Street. Try it out!

**Stop 21: Justice Center**

(201 W. Market St.)

**FYI:** The Justice Center was completed in 2008, replacing the courthouse on High Street. This 7 story building houses the entire Chester County Court of Common Pleas and all court related departments.

**Talk About It:** How is this building different from most of the structures in the town of West Chester?

**Stop 2: Row of brick shops**

(100 block, N. High St., E. side)

**FYI:** The brick buildings on this block were built in 1859 and were used as lawyer's offices. The block was once called "Rogue's Row." A rogue is an unprincipled person, a scoundrel. Why would a block of lawyers' offices be given this nickname?

**Talk About It:** Why is West Chester a good place for lawyer's offices?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester's past. Check one or more.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> leftovers          | <input type="checkbox"/> style           |

**Do It!** Check off the styles of doorways you find in the Rogue's Row block.

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Pediment          Transom          Arch          Other   Draw It!

**Stop 3: Inquirer Block**

(100 block, N. High St., W. side)

**FYI:** This half block structure, including 1 story shops and the 3 story former Warner Theater, was built in 1930 in the Art Deco style. The theater was the only example in eastern Pennsylvania of the opulent movie houses built by the Chicago firm of Rapp & Rapp. Bayard Rustin, distinguished African American civil rights leader and advisor to Martin Luther King, was arrested in 1931 for sitting downstairs in the theater when blacks were only permitted in the balcony. The theater closed in the 1980's, later becoming an office of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* newspaper.

**Talk About It:** How can you tell that the block was built as a single unit? What is the building material?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester's past. Check one or more.

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|---|--|
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**Do It!** What designs do all the buildings share? Draw it!

**Stop 20: First Presbyterian Church**

(SW corner of. Miner and Darlington Sts.)

**FYI:** Built in the classical style in 1834, this church was Thomas U. Walter's first commission in West Chester. Other Walter buildings still standing are First Union Bank, Chester County Courthouse, and Chester County Historical Society (north building). Walter gained a national reputation by designing the U.S. Capitol dome and wings.

**Talk About It:** Walter used columns with Ionic capitals (decorative elements at the top of the columns). How would you describe Ionic capitals to a friend who had never seen them?

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| <input type="checkbox"/> datestones         | <input type="checkbox"/> look up         |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> leftovers          | <input type="checkbox"/> style           |

**Do It!** Examine the doorways carefully. How are they unusual? How do they open?

**Stop 19: Carriage house**

(opposite 103 & 115 Miner St., behind 100 S. Church St.)

**FYI:** This building is one of the few remaining carriage houses in modern West Chester.

**Talk About It:** What does this building tell us about old West Chester? How has today's owner adapted this building to meet modern needs?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester's past. Check one or more.

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> datestones         | <input type="checkbox"/> look up         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> markers/ monuments | <input type="checkbox"/> obvious changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> leftovers          | <input type="checkbox"/> style           |

**Do it!** Mimic the sounds you might have heard coming from this building when it was new. Mimic sounds you might hear coming from this building today.

**Stop 4: Iron Hill Brewery**

(NW corner of High and Gay Streets)

**FYI:** West Chester's first one-room schoolhouse stood here long ago. During the American Revolution, the school building was used as a hospital for wounded American soldiers. Across the street (where the Greentree Building now stands) was a hotel for drovers (cowboys!) who drove their cattle through West Chester on their way to market in Philadelphia. Cattle were penned behind the hotel.

**Talk About It:** What would it be like to attend a one-room schoolhouse, with one teacher and students of many ages?

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|---|--|
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**Do It!** Make a mental list of the sounds do you hear at this corner today? What sounds would you have heard at this corner long ago?

### **Stop 5: Shop--Coins of Chester County**

(20 N. High Street)

**FYI:** The storefront dates from 1911, but the building is the oldest house standing in downtown West Chester. Brick facing covers the original stone.

**Talk About It:** Why do some old buildings survive while others do not? Why are some old buildings changed over time?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester's past. Check one or more.

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**Do it:** Write the date when this house was built.

### **Stop 18: White brick double house**

(100 & 102 S. Church Street, SW corner Church St.)

**FYI:** The area in front of these 1839/40 houses has some of West Chester's most fascinating leftovers: a hitching post, bootscraper, and two carriage mounting blocks (one of marble, the other of serpentine).

**Talk About It:** What do these leftovers tell us about old West Chester?

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|---|--|
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**Do It!** Pretend you are visiting the homeowner of #102. As a courtesy, scrape the mud or dust off your shoes.

### **Stop 17: Brick row house**

(19 S. Church Street)

**FYI:** This block contains typical residential row houses of the mid-1800s. Across the street, the building that is now a pizza shop is the much changed Cabinet of Sciences, West Chester's first museum. It's natural science collection is housed today at West Chester University.

**Talk About It:** Why did the homeowner of #19 Church St. equip his house with solid shutters on the ground floor and louvered shutters on the upper floors? Can you think of a practical reason?

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|---|--|
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**Do it!** Find two different brick patterns on this block.

English bond

Flemish bond

### **Stop 6: Brick house with attached columns**

(19 N. High Street, south of Sunset Hill Jewelers)

**FYI:** This restored building is typical of downtown West Chester's early 1800s dwellings. The "hand-in-hand" plaque centered over the porch is from the nation's first fire insurance company. Insurance companies offered cash bonuses to volunteer fire departments that saved insured buildings from destruction.

**Talk About It:** Why did homeowner's prominently display their fire insurance plaques on their houses?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester's past. Check one or more.

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|---|--|
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**Do It!** With a partner, form a "fireman's carry" like the one on the insurance plaque.

### **Stop 7: Courthouse Annex (1964)**

(2 N. High Street)

**FYI:** This modern building is decorated with relief carvings honoring notable Chester Countians.

**Talk About It:** Which of the people represented do you consider famous? Which people have you never heard of? How could you find out more about these people?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester's past. Check one or more.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> datestones         | <input type="checkbox"/> look up         |
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**Do it:** Write down the name of someone pictured on the Courthouse Annex that you would like to know more about.

### **Stop 16: West Chester's First Fire House**

(Moose Family Fraternity, 20 N. Church St.)

**FYI:** The home of the first fire company in West Chester, this building is a delightful combination of materials and styles. Double datestones over the doorway indicate the date when the fire company was founded (1799) and the date that this building was built (1888). The tower was used for drying wet hoses!

**Talk About It:** How does it compare to the classical style buildings you see in West Chester?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester's past. Check one or more.

- datestones
- markers/ monuments
- leftovers
- look up
- obvious changes
- style

**Do it!** In 1895 a tightrope was strung from the firehouse tower across Church Street. Find a crack in the sidewalk and pretend you are that tightrope walker.

**Stop 15: State Representative Andrew Dinniman Office**

(1 N. Church St., NE corner of Market and Church Sts.)

**FYI:** Erected in the 1800s to shelter shoppers as they strolled through West Chester, the shed roof above your head is one of the few remaining in West Chester.

**Talk About It:** Where do you do most of your shopping today? How does the architecture make you comfortable? Why do so few people shop “in town” now?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester’s past. Check one or more.

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- style

**Do it!** Peek through the windows to see the original pressed-tin ceiling in this old building.

**Stop 8: Wachovia Bank**

(17 N. High Street)

**FYI:** West Chester has been called the “Athens of Pennsylvania” because of this and other large public buildings in the classical style. Many classical buildings have columns and are balanced (symmetrical).

**Talk About It:** Where have you seen other buildings in the classical style?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester’s past. Check one or more.

- datestones
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- leftovers
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- style

**Do It!** To find out the name of this building’s architect and when it was built, stand near the entrance, face High Street and look up.

**More:** Look for an historic marker near this bank to learn about one of West Chester’s important citizens.

**Stop 9: First National Bank**  
(9 N. High Street)

**FYI:** This bank building has double datestones above the columns, indicating when the bank was founded (1864) and when this building was built (1912).

**Talk About It:** Why would a business want its customers to know when it was founded?

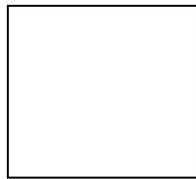
**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester's past. Check one or more.

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- style

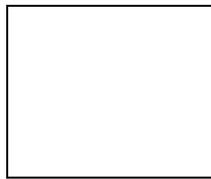
**Do It:** The two banks and the courthouse in downtown West Chester illustrate the three major orders (types) of classical columns. Complete the drawings below.



Doric



Ionic



Corinthian

**Stop 14: Courthouse Annex**  
(opposite 28 W. Market Street)

**FYI:** When the Chester County Courts needed more room, T. Roney Williamson designed this addition to the 1846 courthouse.

**Talk About It:** Should an addition to a building use the same style as the original or create its own, new style? What did T. Roney Williamson do?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester's past. Check one or more.

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**Do It!** Copy this building's unusual datestone over the arched doorway. What is the date?

M=1000  
D=500  
C=100  
XC=90  
I=1



### Stop 13: Old Chester County Courthouse

(NW corner of High and Market Sts.)

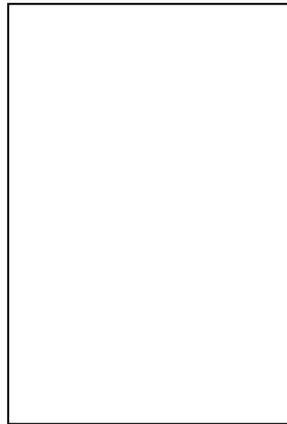
**FYI:** In 1846, Thomas U. Walter designed a new, larger courthouse to replace the original built in 1786. At the request of Chester County citizens, Walter added a medieval-style clock tower to his classical-style building and incorporated the 1835 Isaiah Lukens clock from the old courthouse. In 2008 the Chester County courts were moved to a new location.

**Talk About It:** Why did Chester County citizens request a clock tower for their new courthouse? Was it simply so they would know the time?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester's past. Check one or more.

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- style

**Do it!** Complete this drawing of the courthouse clock tower.



### Stop 10: First National Bank Annex

(NE corner, High and Market Sts.)

**FYI:** The Turk's Head Inn, which gave West Chester its original name, Turk's Head, stood at this corner. Built in 1769, the original structure was made of logs.

**Talk About It:** Why is a crossroads a good location for an inn? Why would a community grow up around an inn?

*The original Turk's Head Inn sign is on exhibit at the the Chester County Historical Society.*

**The Sign of the Turk's Head**

Stop 11: “Old Glory” statue  
(NW corner of High and Market Sts.)

**FYI:** Dedicated on Memorial Day, 1915, this statue honors people from Chester County who fought in the Civil War.

**Talk about:** Monuments and markers show what a community considers important. What does “Old Glory” say about the values of Chester Countians?

**Get a clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester’s past. Check one or more.

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|---|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> leftovers          | <input type="checkbox"/> style           |

**Do It!** Read the quote by Abraham Lincoln on the base of the statue. It comes from an important speech called the Gettysburg Address.

### Stop 12: Drinking fountain

(N. High St., in front of Chester County Courthouse)

**FYI:** Mary Hickman gave this fountain to the horses, dogs, and people of West Chester in 1869. Originally, thirsty people drank from a tin cup attached by a chain.

**Talk About It:** Would you drink from a “community” cup today? How have our knowledge and attitudes toward hygiene (health and disease prevention) changed since 1869?

**Get a Clue:** At this stop, I found these clues to West Chester’s past. Check one or more.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> markers/ monuments | <input type="checkbox"/> obvious changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> leftovers          | <input type="checkbox"/> style           |

**Do it:** Draw a person, horse, and dog at the fountain.











## Get a Clue !

Use these clues to finding the old among the new in West Chester...or another historic town.

1. **Datestones**—Some old buildings wear the date they were built front and center; others have datestones at corners.
2. **Markers and Monuments**—Historic markers and monuments indicate buildings, people, or events that a community considers important.
3. **Leftovers**—Objects that once served a purpose, but no longer serve that same purpose give clues to the past.
4. **Look up**—Upper floors of buildings are often the last to be remodeled. Look up for evidence of earlier times.
5. **Obvious changes**—Look beyond parts of buildings that don't “go” with the rest to uncover the past.
6. **Style**—Shapes and patterns express ideas and values that go beyond mere architecture.

Passport  
to  
Historic  
West Chester

## Passport Stamps

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