

# Downtown West Chester Route



- 1 Chester County Historic Courthouse
- 2 Church of the Holy Trinity
- 3 West Chester University of Pennsylvania
- 4 Everhart Park
- 5 Chester County Historical Society
- P Parking
- Start/Stop

..... Distance 2.4 Miles

# Downtown West Chester Route

1

## **Chester County Historic Courthouse**

The Chester County Historic Courthouse has been in this location since the late 1700's. The main portion of the Courthouse, built between 1846 and 1848, opened on February 22, 1848. The original building was designed in the Late Victorian style by famed architect Thomas U. Walter who also designed the United States Capital's dome and both the House and Senate wings, among other federal buildings. In 1891, the Court House Annex was completed in the Italian Renaissance style with an expansion of the north wing being completed in 1964. In 1972, the courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. While the courthouse no longer houses the Chester County Courts, it does house other government offices.

2

## **Church of the Holy Trinity**

Built in 1868, the Church is a great example of one of many historic churches found throughout West Chester Borough. The building is designed in the style of Mid-19th Century Gothic Revival and is made of serpentine stone, a rare and unique stone with deposits found only a few places in the world, several of which are in Chester County. Characterized by its interesting green color, West Chester is home to several buildings made of this stone. The serpentine stone used to build the Church was mined from Brinton's Quarry in Westtown Township.

3

## **West Chester University of Pennsylvania**

West Chester University has been a school in West Chester Borough since 1812, known then as the West Chester Academy. In 1871, the privately owned school became the West Chester Normal School. The state took ownership of the Normal School in 1913 and renamed it West Chester State Teachers College in 1927. The school was designated the West Chester State College in 1960 and became West Chester University on July 1, 1983. The West Chester State College Quadrangle Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. Significant buildings within the district include Philips Memorial Building, Ruby Jones Hall, Recitation Hall, and the Old Library.

4

## **Everhart Park**

The 10-acre Park was created from land donated to West Chester Borough in 1905 by Dr. Isaiah Everhart, a nephew of the original property owner William S. Everhart. This was the scene of many important events throughout its history before being designated as a park, from abolitionist and temperance meetings to political rallies; it was even a Civil War camp used to train the First West Chester Volunteer Regiment. Today, the park features a large gazebo constructed in 1908 over the stream that traverses the park. Everhart Park is known for its array of old hardwood trees that encompass much of the property. Today, the Friends of Everhart Park help fund projects to maintain the park, along with West Chester Borough.

5

## **Chester County Historical Society**

The Chester County Historical Society (CCHS), founded in 1893, is home to a museum on Chester County history including extensive archived collections of artifacts, manuscripts, photographs and other historical exhibits. Visitors can conduct research in the society's library and enjoy lectures and events about the history of Chester County.