

HISTORY (CONT.)

By 1860, Milton had a larger population than Sunbury, the county seat. This was the result of an influx of small factories, shops, distilleries, boot and shoe makers, clock makers, planing mills, taverns, and hotels. However, extending the railroad from Williamsport to Sunbury caused Milton to fall behind Sunbury in growth.

Milton's worst disaster hit on May 14, 1880. Although the town had suffered many floods, it was fire that almost destroyed the community. The day began quite peacefully—a beautiful spring day, even though the area was experiencing a severe drought. Strong gusts of wind were blowing from the northeast.

About 11:45 a.m., workmen discovered a fire about the size of a man's hand on the roof of the framing shop at the Murray, Dougal, and Co. Car Works. The building was located above Locust Street, across the canal from Clinger's Planing Mill. The workmen gave the alarm, but the tar and felt roof was a mass of flames by the time help arrived. The general alarm was sounded about noon; most Miltonians were not alarmed because they believed it to be the noon whistle. The building burned like a tinder box and was completely destroyed within five minutes. Meanwhile, the wind picked up large chunks of burning wood and hurled them through the air, igniting buildings 200 feet away. A man on horseback raced about warning the community of danger.

By the time the fire company got to the car works, 11 of their 15 buildings were in flames and their 450 employees were forced to flee for their lives.

Before long, the structures along Arch Street and the streets north of Broadway were in flames. Fire fighters arrived from Sunbury, Lewisburg, Watsontown, and Williamsport, but it was impossible to control the inferno. Six hundred and forty structures burned, and over 600 families were left homeless. The sounds of falling buildings mingled with the cries of the terror stricken populace. Within a few hours, 120 acres, which had contained churches, stores, thriving industries, and palatial residences, were in ashes.

At the moment when it seemed that the entire community was doomed, a shift in the wind saved the rest of the town. Help began to arrive immediately in carriages, buggies, and wagons. The generous people of Pennsylvania sent provisions to ease the suffering of the homeless. Rebuilding was in progress before the ashes

HISTORY (CONT.)

cooled, and an even bigger and better Milton emerged.

The Susquehanna River has always played a part in the history of Milton. In June 1972, Hurricane Agnes dumped over 19 inches of rain onto the town and the river; forever changing the architectural appearance of the town.

In a flash flood, Limestone Run, normally a placid, rural stream, gushed over its banks in a two-block wide stretch, flooding basements and the first floors of homes, schools, and the Milton Armory.

As Limestone Run receded, the Susquehanna River rose, sometimes a foot an hour. When the river crested, the streams backed up and became higher than before. Milton suffered the worst flood in its history.

The Hetherington House (No. 41) had 86 inches of water on the first floor. Milton industries suffered over \$10 million in losses. Some Milton merchants never recovered. The Dreifuss Store (No. 31) lost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 in clothing. After the flood waters receded, the town began its hard task of cleaning up the mess.

Redevelopment came to Milton with a vengeance. Entire blocks of buildings were razed. The oldest home in town, located at the southeast corner of Front and Mahoning Street, was demolished. In its place is the parking lot for the Milton Towers, a mid-rise building for the elderly and/or disabled. As you walk along South Front Street on the tour, you will see vacant lots where flourishing businesses stood before 1972. In many ways, Milton has never recovered from Hurricane Agnes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS If you would like to learn more about Milton's history, visit the Milton Historical Society located in the Cameron House (No. 40) on Route 405, south of Milton. The Society holds regular meetings and special events throughout the year. Tours are by appointment only. For further information, or to schedule a tour, call 570-568-5603. Architectural information provided by Tom Deans.

Please respect the privacy of the owners of these properties. The residences featured on this tour are not open to the public.

Researched, drafted, and photographed by Deborah Owens, a member of the board and past president of the Milton Historical Society. Edited by Jane DuPree Richardson, former director of the Northumberland County Historical Society. Layout and design by PhaseOne Marketing & Design. Publication funded by a grant from the Degenstein Foundation. © 2007



MILTON

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PA.

Showing rendition of
walking tour area in 1883.
West Branch Canal located in center.

WELCOME TO HISTORIC MILTON!

As you walk through Milton's Historic District on this self-guided tour, you will have the opportunity to learn about the history and architecture of a former frontier town that became an important transportation and industrial center in the 19th and 20th centuries. Its architecture reflects the more than 225 years that Milton has been in existence. This is a community proud of its heritage and committed to preserving it for future generations.



HISTORY

The present day Borough of Milton was first settled by Marcus Huling in 1772, when the land was covered by a dense forest. Huling built a log house near the end of Limestone Run and operated a tavern for travelers. His son, Marcus, Jr., established a blacksmith shop at what is now the corner of Front Street and Broadway. The British and Seneca Indians attacked Fort Freeland on July 28, 1779, just three days after Huling sold his holdings to George McCandish. Everything in the valley was burned, and when Andrew Straub arrived later that year, he found the settlement in ashes.

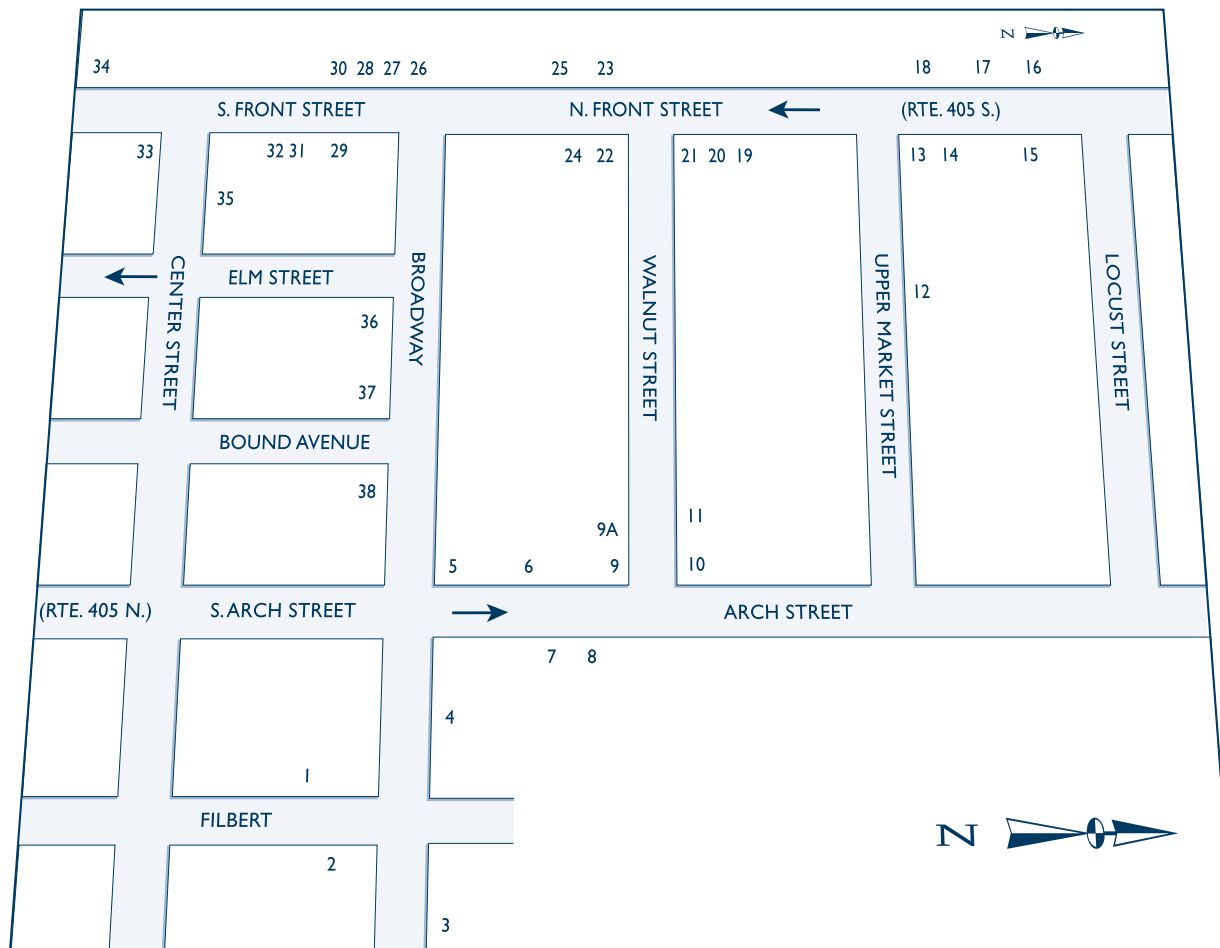
The beginning of a log home, "logged up and ready for the roof," survived the attack. This structure was probably started by James Black of Sunbury, who later owned the land north of Broadway, which became known as Black's addition, or Upper Milton.

Andrew Straub later purchased a large tract of land from Turbutt Francis, who had been awarded the property for military service to Colonel Bouquet. In 1791, Straub laid out the town of Milton and, on Limestone Run, built a log grist mill, which played a large part in the growth and prosperity of the community. Settlers from the surrounding countryside flocked to Straub's Mill to avoid the long trek to the Freeland Mill on Warrior Run. The new settlement was named Milton, an abbreviation of Milltown.

Straub also built a house for his family near the present location of the Milton Public Library, and soon erected a second house, with a stable, on the west side of what is now Filbert Street. A third, even grander home, was built at the junction of today's Center Street and Turbot Avenue.

In 1795, James Black laid out the portion of town between Broadway and Locust Street. The two sections became known as Upper and Lower Milton.

In October 1830, the West Branch Canal was opened between Muncy and Northumberland, providing the area with better access to major markets. The canal was later replaced by the railroad, and when the first train entered the borough on December 18, 1854, Governor James Pollock was the speaker at the celebration. Pollock, a Miltonian, was the thirteenth governor of Pennsylvania. In 1987, when the new bridge was built from Milton to West Milton, it was named The Governor Pollock Memorial Bridge.



ARCHITECTURE

Milton is located on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River; and the majority of the historic district is in the flood plain. Its rise as a heavy industrial town after the advent of railroad transportation in the 1850s represents its greatest period of significance. This industrial influence has continued into the present day.

Since much of the historic district's early architectural heritage was lost in the Great Fire of 1880, or razed for urban renewal after the floods of 1972 and 1976, Milton's remaining architectural stock reflects the wealth of later industrial families. A pair of lovely stone Federal houses have survived, but the Greek Revival influence that accompanied the building of the West Branch Canal in the late 1820s has been lost, as well as many of the Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Second Empire buildings that followed. There is a wealth of 19th-century houses in the Richardsonian Romanesque, Queen Anne, Shingle, and early Colonial Revival styles. Commercial buildings of the post-fire era are usually Italianate. Significant buildings of the 20th century include some Craftsman-style bungalows and later Colonial Revival structures, followed by the Art Deco United States Post Office.

It is extremely rare to find the diversity of architecture represented on one street as is found on Front Street in Milton. If you take the time to walk the entire length of the street you will see examples of Art Deco,



ARCHITECTURE (CONT.)

Italianate, Arts and Crafts, Federal, Queen Anne, Dutch Colonial, Art Nouveau, Gothic Revival, Romanesque, Greek Revival, and English Tudor. An 1804 limestone house, constructed by one of Milton's first builders, is on the same street as a Sears & Roebuck pre-fab house of the 1920s. It is a veritable smorgasbord of architectural styles. This is especially surprising since 75 percent of Milton was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1880. The town began to rebuild itself immediately, and a bigger, better, more prosperous Milton began to evolve.

Front Street is not the only thoroughfare with beautiful and interesting homes. Broadway is lined with numerous architectural examples from the unusual Shingle Style to Colonial Revival.

Milton is an industrial town. Not only the grand homes of the mill owners are represented, but factory houses, row houses, and duplex homes of mill workers are in evidence.

Though most of the town's early structures have been destroyed by fire, flood, or redevelopment, it is a testament to the perseverance of its citizens that new homes have been built and that Milton continues to grow and prosper.



1

2 FILBERT STREET



The Walking Tour begins at the Milton Borough Municipal Building, 2 Filbert Street, where parking is available. The Reading Railroad Freight Station, once part of a complex handling passengers and goods on the Reading lines, now houses the

Borough government offices. Railroads were important to the economy of the town. By 1900, Miltonians could select from 56 daily passenger trains, more than in any other Central Pennsylvania town or city. There were a dozen hotels to accommodate train passengers.

This one and one-half story brick structure was built ca. 1890.

2

1 FILBERT STREET



Looking across at 1 Filbert Street, you see the former Pennsylvania Railroad Passenger Station, a classic Queen Anne design, built ca. 1885. This one and one-half story structure is frame with brick veneer and features corbeled decoration. The restored building now houses the Milton Police Department.

2A. The roof of the associated shed, used for the protection of waiting passengers, is supported by ornate iron columns. Proceed straight ahead to Broadway and look to your right.

3

NORTH SIDE OF BROADWAY



On the north side of the street you will see St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Built in 1883, the church originally had a central spire. This Gothic Revival structure of brick, laid in common bond, has lancet stained glass windows. On the right side is a two and one-half story tower with corbeled brickwork, lancet windows, and a spire. Prior to the building of the church, the old Milton Academy was situated on this property. A well-known and prestigious educational center, the Academy produced two Pennsylvania governors, Andrew Curtin and James Pollock.

Turn left on Broadway.

4

BETWEEN FILBERT AND ARCH STREETS



As you walk toward Arch Street, you will be passing over what was once the West Branch Canal, which ran north-south through Milton between Filbert and Arch Streets. Completed in 1830, the canal made it possible for Milton, then with a popula-

tion of 1,500, to have a water trade connection with the outside world for the first time. Docks, wharves, warehouses, and hotels sprang up along its banks, and the merchant class burgeoned. The canal was closed in 1901, due to floods and the expansion of the railroad.

5

65 BROADWAY



According to word-of-mouth, the first pottery in Milton was located on the northwest corner of Broadway and Arch Streets in 1799. The site (now Enterline's Flower Shop) at 65 Broadway later became the residence of U. Q. Davis, M.D.

(1821-1887). Four generations of medical doctors from the Davis family practiced in Milton. The two and one-half story frame building with brick veneer has a slate roof with curved brackets and two projecting dormers. At the entrance, the projecting bay window and the slate porch roof are also supported by curved brackets.

6

18 ARCH STREET



Turn right and continue down Arch Street. On your left at 18 Arch Street, you will see the former Gothic Revival St. John's United Church of Christ. Destroyed by the 1880 fire, the new cornerstone was laid in 1881. That structure was torn down in 1887, due to faulty construction. Rebuilt at a cost of \$17,000, it was rededicated in 1895. The original steeple was removed in the 1920s, and a four-story tower with corbeled brick decoration was added. The carillon was installed several years later. The large central gable with stained glass windows faces the street. This is one of the few churches in Milton with a second floor sanctuary.

7

21 ARCH STREET



Across the street at 21 Arch Street is the third home of Milton's only hometown newspaper, The Standard Journal, founded by William Penn Hastings in 1890. Constructed in 1923, this two-story Neo-Classical frame building with

brick veneer, has a dentiled cornice across the front at the roof line with pilasters at each corner. The entrance is flanked by massive columns topped with composite Corinthian capitals; this is the only building in Milton with such architectural features.

8

L. M. & W. TROLLEY ON ARCH STREET



The L. M. & W. trolley line that opened in 1898 followed Arch Street and traveled between Lewisburg, Milton, and Watsonstown. The same company also owned and operated Riverside Park north of Milton. The recreational park increased

the usage of the trolleys as well as supplemented the cost of operations. The automobile caused the demise of the company in the early 1930s.

9

60 WALNUT STREET



Across the street, on the corner of Arch at 60 Walnut Street, is the Fonda Mansion, built in 1891 by Henry A. Fonda, a former superintendent of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. This Richardsonian Romanesque

Revival house mimics French medieval chateau construction. Under the personal supervision of Guy King, a member of the architectural firm of Moses & King of Philadelphia, it was constructed of rough-cut brown Pennsylvania mountain stone, laid in regular courses, and trimmed with "Hummelstown" brownstone. The roofs of the corner towers still retain the red Spanish tile that originally covered the entire roof. Hale & Kelburn of Philadelphia supplied the interior woodwork, made to the architect's specifications, as well as the artisans to install it. The furniture for the entire house was specially designed

by the architects. The only known remaining piece is a clock currently owned by Eddie Bartholemew. The building now houses the Milton Developmental Services, Inc.

9A

60 WALNUT STREET



The Fonda carriage house at 60 Walnut Street is a Romanesque building of brown sandstone with a central truncated tower. The front porch is original.

10

65 WALNUT STREET



Across the street, at 65 Walnut Street, is the Presbyterian Manse. Completed in early 1883, the house combines many features of the Gothic Revival style with details from the Italianate style. The porch, a later addition, is supported by

six-sided wood Tuscan columns. Look carefully at this house, recently restored by the First Presbyterian Church, because you will soon see its "sister" (See No. 13).

11

47 WALNUT STREET



To the left of the Manse, at 47 Walnut Street, is the First Presbyterian Church of Milton. The Gothic Revival building of brown sandstone was erected in 1887 at a cost of \$42,000, and was dedicated debt-free. The original spire rose over 150 feet. Side windows are lancet stained glass. The front façade is topped by a cross, and many of the arches have keystones with incised flower decorations. The Tudor Revival wing at the rear dates to ca. 1910. This is the only church in Milton to have a clock in the tower.

Return to Arch Street, continue to Upper Market Street and turn left. This street was the primary business district of Milton (Black's Addition) north of Broadway prior to the 1880 fire. Weekly curb markets would be set up here. There is also a Lower Market Street (Straub's Addition). Broadway divided the town. Lower Milton was mainly German; Upper Milton was mostly Scotch-Irish.

12 21 UPPER MARKET STREET



At 21 Upper Market Street is Christ Episcopal Church. Dedicated in 1849, it was the only existing church to survive the Great Fire of 1880. This small brick building has lancet stained glass windows on each side of the entrance door. The steeple and entryway are not original, and the interior was

extensively renovated following a fire in 1944. The Episcopal Church was the first organized church in Milton.

Turn right at the corner.

13 201 NORTH FRONT STREET



At 201 North Front Street, on the corner of Upper Market, is the Murray House. Built in 1883 by Samuel W. Murray, one of the founders of the present-day ACF Industries, this house is the "sister" to the Presbyterian Manse seen earlier (See No. 10). This two and one-half story brick structure, also Gothic Revival with Italianate elements, is laid in common bond. A layer of sand, to serve as a fire deterrent, is sandwiched between the double brick walls. Later changes include the walled garden, the conversion of the carriage house to a garage, and the expansion of the kitchen, dining room, and master bedroom in the rear. An elaborate front porch was removed.

14 213 NORTH FRONT STREET



213 North Front Street is known as the Hull House. Dr. Thomas Ryerson Hull, Sr. purchased the land for \$1,800 in 1863, and the house was built shortly thereafter. Hull, a skillful

physician who enjoyed a large practice, was a member of the electoral college which elected Lincoln to the presidency in 1860. He was also Chief Burgess of Milton for two terms and a member of the Board of Education. His only daughter, Miss Margaret Hull, lived in the house until 1914. Dr. Hull was a grandson of Joseph Marr, one of the pioneer founders of Turbot Township. This five bay, two-story structure is frame with brick veneer covered with vinyl siding. The porch is a later addition that spans the entire façade. It is supported by plain, round wooden Tuscan columns; the entrance is also flanked by Tuscan columns with smaller, fluted columns between the door and its sidelights. The house, originally at street level, was raised following one of the floods.

15 NORTH ON NORTH FRONT STREET



As you walk north, notice the row of townhouses constructed to resemble English row houses.

Across North Front Street are three large Queen Anne style mansions. Each is a two and

one-half story frame structure with brick veneer, yet each is unique in its design of roof, gables, chimneys, windows, trim, dormers, and porches. All three were built by members of the same family and are on the National Register of Historic Places.

16 246 NORTH FRONT STREET



246 North Front Street was the residence of Elmer Shimer, son of Samuel J. Shimer. Elmer became president of The Milton Manufacturing Company in 1903. The house originally

had four fireplaces. A large wrap-around porch was removed in the 1930s and replaced with a sunroom. Windows in the small attic dormer to the left and in the large intersecting gable to the right have leaded glass panes.

17 228 NORTH FRONT STREET



Samuel J. Shimer (1837-1901) built the 228 North Front Street mansion in 1890. A lumberman, inventor, land developer, and industrialist, he was an important member of the community. He founded

Samuel J. Shimer & Sons in 1868, and organized The Milton Manufacturing Company in 1886. The house is distinguished by its circular tower projecting from the second and attic floors, and by the Romanesque arches of the entrance door and the multi-paned second-story window above. There is a decorative sunflower medallion below the windows in the intersecting gable on the right.

18 216 NORTH FRONT STREET



George S. Shimer, another son of Samuel J. Shimer, built the house at 216 North Front Street. Because the narrow lots went down to the river, none of these houses had a parking area. The problem was solved when Samuel built a large brick

garage on the south side of Upper Market Street, behind the Presbyterian Church. It is no longer there. Brown sandstone is used for the quoins at the corners of the house and as surrounds on all the windows. The porch roof is supported by octagonal wood columns with terra cotta Ionic capitals. Above the original entrance is a sandstone arch with flanking brick columns. A second newer entrance has been added to the right.

19 125 FRONT STREET



Continue walking south until you come to 125 Front Street. Now the Dale Ranck Funeral Home, it was originally the home of Frederick Godcharles, a noted state historian. This two and one-half story stucco Second Empire structure has a mansard roof with an intersecting front gable. The projecting eaves are

supported by large brackets, and there is a dentiled frieze. The decorative crown over the entrance door is supported by large brackets; the door is flanked by paneled pilasters. Elaborate cast iron handrails flank each side of the entrance steps.

20 117 NORTH FRONT STREET



The Masonic Temple at 117 North Front Street is an imposing Neoclassical structure built in 1929, just before the stock market crash. Constructed of concrete, it was the only totally fireproof building in the borough at the time. The John

Wanamaker Department Store furnished the interior, and the majority of the original furnishings still remain. A roller skating rink was downstairs, but the wooden floor was severely damaged by a flood and removed. The space has been converted into a banquet hall. The monumental façade is wedded to an otherwise simple brick building. The large stone pediment above the two-story stone Ionic supporting columns rests on a stone-faced, raised basement.

21 101 NORTH FRONT STREET



The structure located at 101 North Front Street was known for many years as the Hotel Milton. This stately house was built by Charles A. Godcharles (1843-1903), head of C. A. Godcharles & Co., which manufactured iron and steel cut nails and spikes. Godcharles had lived in

Milton at the time of both the 1880 fire and the 1889 flood, and he made sure the first floor of this house was higher than the level of that flood. In 1920, it became the Manufacturers' Club and was opened to members and guests. This two and one-half story Queen Anne structure is frame with brick veneer. It has a hipped roof with an intersecting gable. The six-sided tower at the right is three stories in height. Notice the lion head gargoyles for water drainage.

22 45 NORTH FRONT STREET



Across Walnut Street is the McCleery Mansion at 45 North Front Street. The McCleery family was prominent in Milton and involved in medicine, saw mills, and industry. This house was completely gutted by the

1880 fire, leaving only the brick shell. This two and one-half frame with brick veneer was rebuilt within the original walls and looks very much as it did, pre-1880. It has projecting two-story bays on both the Walnut and Front Street facades.

23 50 NORTH FRONT STREET



Across the street at 50 North Front Street is the Chapin House. This two and one-half story frame structure was built in the 1890s, above flood level, and is an excellent example of two architectural styles melded

together. The plain, four-square Colonial Revival style is embellished with Queen Anne details. It is covered with shingles and clapboard. There is a centered projecting attic

23 50 NORTH FRONT STREET (CONT.)

dormer with casement windows, and a centered inset oval window on the second floor.

24 43 NORTH FRONT STREET



The United States Post Office is a gem of Art Deco architecture. This steel frame building with masonry veneer walls is one of the few existing Art Deco post offices built by the Works Progress Administration. Erected in 1935, this building houses

classic Art Deco, brushed aluminum chandeliers and terrazzo flooring. In the frieze above the entrance is carved "United States Post Office," and along the façade are bas-reliefs carved by local artisans depicting Native Americans and the different modes of mail transportation. Above the modern aluminum door is a large decorative panel with a United States Eagle, below a cast bronze representation of the Susquehanna River at Milton, dividing Milton and West Milton. The bricks were made locally and were made to a custom size.

25 28 NORTH FRONT STREET



The Wilson House, located at 28 North Front Street, is an example of the Queen Anne style. It was built in 1887, by R. F. Wilson, owner of the Wilson Fly Net Factory in Milton. The Queen Anne influence is seen in the hip roof, projecting dormers, and three-story turret.

The porch has mutule blocks at the roof line and is supported by double or triple Tuscan columns. It served as the Milton Borough Building for many years and has recently been restored.

Continue on Front Street to Lincoln Park.

26 LINCOLN PARK



In 1772, Marcus Huling was granted a license to open a public house on this spot. It was burned by the British and Seneca Indians in 1779. It remained a very small park until the 1950s, when it was enlarged to its present size. The gardens are maintained by the Milton Garden Club, and this is the site of the

annual Christmas tree lighting.

27 SOUTH FRONT STREET



Next to the park, on South Front Street, stands the Odd Fellows/Post Office Building. Bethuel Vincent, postmaster, directed the first postal service from his tavern situated on this site prior to 1800. The post office moved several times after that, but in 1892, it was relocated to a newly-built structure here on its original site. The building also served as the headquarters for the International Order of Odd Fellows.

28 14 SOUTH FRONT STREET



At 14 South Front Street is the former First National Bank, now Big Andy's Bar and Grill. This classic Greek Revival building has a granite façade, with two-story Ionic pilasters flanking the entrance door. The bank was established by George Chapin, owner of the Chapin Home (See No. 23). The bas-reliefs on the frieze depict angels, sometimes mistakenly identified as soldiers. The building was constructed to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Bank (1864-1924).

29 23 SOUTH FRONT STREET



The original Milton National Bank was located across the street, at 23 South Front Street. It was razed to make way for this Neoclassical style building, which was purchased by the library in 1932 for \$20,000. The white marble façade has dentiled decoration below the cornice above

the frieze with the engraved name of the bank. Over the entrance is a large compound Romanesque arch, flanked by single Tuscan columns. A mezzanine elevator was added in 1995. Both vaults are still intact, and some of the original marble desk and flooring remain.

30 36 SOUTH FRONT STREET



The first store rebuilt after the Great Fire was located at 36 South Front Street. J. F. Gauger's tailor shop continued as a men's clothing store until 1986. This Neoclassical structure retains some Italianate features. Its stucco façade has five pilasters on the second story below an elaborate

pressed metal cornice. The ground floor storefronts retain their cast iron Corinthian columns and pilasters. Virtually the only details that have been changed are the second floor window treatments and the residence door at the right.

31 45 SOUTH FRONT STREET



Another mix of styles can be seen on the storefront at 45 South Front Street. Built in the 1880s as a men's store by Wolfe and Samuel Dreifuss, this two and one-half story building with a brick façade has an intersecting front gable characteristic and two attic dormers with truss work characteristic of the Gothic Revival. Characteristic of the

Italianate style is the elaborate frieze board with a simple cornice above the first floor, and a more elaborate frieze board is at the roofline of the second floor. At the corners of the plate-glass windows flanking the entrance door are fluted columns.

32 51 SOUTH FRONT STREET



The building at 51 South Front Street formerly housed the Milton Trust and Safe Deposit Company, chartered in 1887. The front of this Neoclassical structure, erected in 1888, is cut granite with square pilasters at the corners. The recessed entrance is flanked by one and one-half story fluted Ionic columns. The Neoclassical style of all three bank buildings on South Front

Street was designed to instill public confidence by looking massive and safe.

33 107 SOUTH FRONT STREET



Continue south on Front Street to 107 South Front Street, the Bethany United Methodist Church. This building was reconstructed after the 1880 fire in the Gothic Revival style. Its complex steeple has multiple roofs and elaborate cast iron finials. A later wing has been added at the rear. The bell, installed in 1901, was purchased by Moses Chamberlin (1812-1902), a prominent local merchant whose beautiful home is located at 700 North Front Street (See No. 39).

Continue South on Front Street...

34 122-124 SOUTH FRONT STREET



On the river side at 122 - 124 S. Front Street, a very early Milton structure is located. It was early 1790s when Andrew Straub laid out the town of Milton. This spot is centrally located within the original town site. The alley or landing site

allowed access to the river for goods transported and traded in the town and surrounding area. On the south side, you can see the stone warehouse that was built before 1797. The front, or east side, is now brick, which was used to replace the damage caused by the fire of 1880. Brick around the windows and doors on the west and south sides identify changes in the building as it evolved through the years. This building not only served as a warehouse, but also as a cabinetmaker's shop, a mortuary, and, in more recent years, offices with living quarters on the second floor. There was an elevator installed to move the furniture and coffins between the first and second floors.

Straub's deed to Jared Irwin indicates "lots of ground and premises." The deed of Seth Iredell included "the buildings and improvements." Cabinetmaker Williamson Marsh's 1860s deed included "a stone warehouse and lot." The earliest known picture is from 1909 when the Imbody's had a funeral home here. By then a front porch roof appeared and the building was designed more like a modern storefront, which was later removed.

35 DOROTHY HERMANI PARK



Park. This lovely oasis is maintained by the Milton Garden Club and was named for the Club's past state president.

Exit the park and turn left onto Elm Street. Continue north to Broadway.

36 32-36 BROADWAY & CORNER OF ELM



At 32-36 Broadway, corner of Elm Street, is the Swartz Building. Henry M. Swartz's three-story commercial structure with a marble veneer on the Broadway facade, once Milton's showpiece, was damaged in the 1880 fire and

rebuilt in 1881 as the high cornerstone attests (look over the door of the residence on Elm Street). Swartz owned the Milton Steam Marble Works, and the original cornice advertised his work. Later, the building housed the Seidel and Spangler Department Store, and later the Broadway Hardware. A fire in 1952 devastated the building and ruined the marble cornice. Note the quoins at the corner of the building and the projecting bays on the second floor of the Elm Street façade, which is covered with a brick veneer rather than marble.

Continue east on Broadway to Bound Avenue.

37 46 BROADWAY



At 46 Broadway is the YMCA, originally the Broadway House Hotel. A major consideration in 1880 was housing for out-of-town construction workers brought in to rebuild Milton. It is said that the Broadway

House was the first to be rushed to completion. The three-story hotel had 42 guest rooms, a restaurant, and a saloon/gentlemen's bar. A liquor store in the basement had an entrance at the front of the building. The YMCA was established in Milton in 1889 and was originally located across the street. This three-story, seven bay, brick commercial structure in the Italianate style has a series of small arches at attic level, below a projecting cornice. The arched entrance was restored in 1997.

38 48 BROADWAY



Across Bound Avenue, at 48 Broadway, is the Elks building. This asymmetrical French Eclectic style structure with multiple attic dormers was built about 1890. The Broadway entrance was originally up four

marble steps; the first floor has since been lowered. The side porch is a later addition. The Elks eventually left this building for more spacious quarters at 21 North Front Street, and the building has served a commercial function ever since.

Just a Short Drive Away . . .

39 700 NORTH FRONT STREET



The Chamberlin House, on the northeast corner of North Front and 4th Streets, is a two and one-half story Second Empire style structure with a mansard roof, built by Moses Chamberlin (1812-1902). The

son of Revolutionary War Colonel William Chamberlin and youngest of 23 children, Moses Chamberlin was a Milton merchant engaged in milling, lumbering, and farming. His life spanned 21 United States presidencies. A life-long Methodist, he was instrumental in building the Bethany United Methodist Church (See No. 33) after the Great Fire of 1880. The house is covered with wood siding cut to resemble ashlar, a thin, dressed square stone, used for facing brick walls. Moses Chamberlin chose the best lumber for his home, using 8" x 8" logs in its construction. The logs were floated down the Susquehanna River and brought in at the 4th Street Channel.

40 500 NORTH FRONT STREET



The Clinger House, a beautiful river front home, is a wonderful example of the Italianate style of the 1850s. It has a bracketed cornice and mutules at the roofline of the porch and porte-cochere. There are also

mutules under the entrance cornice under a decorative wrought iron balcony. The double entrance doors, topped by a band of rectangular glass, are flanked by Tuscan columns. The house is in its original condition, and is the only home in Milton with an intact cupola on the roof.

41 355 SOUTH FRONT STREET



At 355 South Front Street on the corner of Apple Street, the Hetherington House is a sturdy limestone structure in the Georgian style that has occupied this location for over 200 years. The entrance has a triangular pediment over a Romanesque arch. The side porch

was added at a later date. Peter Schwartz, a prominent contractor, built the house with his sons for John Hetherington in 1804. The limestone for the house came from Grove's Quarry, just south of Central Oak Heights on Route 15. (Though still visible today, it is no longer in operation.) The stone was then ferried across the river on flat boats at a cost of \$40. The cellar of the house was once used as a stop on the underground railroad by runaway slaves. They would hide there during the day and travel on toward Canada at night. The house has withstood several floods, and also escaped the Great Milton Fire in 1880, which was only two blocks away when the wind shifted and the flames swept eastward along Mahoning Street.

42 ROUTE 405 SOUTH



The Cameron House, on Route 405 south of Milton, is important because of its historic association with one of Pennsylvania's distinguished families. The property was acquired by James Cameron

from Robert H. Hammond in 1841. He improved the estate, and he and his wife Rebecca (Leman) Cameron occupied the house in 1851 as the home of a resident gentleman farmer. At the same time, he acquired the adjacent property to the south, the John McCleery Farm (See No. 22). The three-story brick Federal style farmhouse is unusual for this area. Situated on a small rise on a tree-shaded tract, the house has survived four major floods and the Great Milton Fire of 1880. It is considered a monument to early rural Pennsylvania craftsmanship and a tribute to the skill of its designer and builder; and, in spite of tasteless modern encroachments and inappropriate past uses, it possesses both architectural integrity and historical importance. The Cameron House has been the headquarters of the Milton Historical Society since 1981.

James Cameron was born in Lancaster, PA in 1801, the fourth of five children. In 1808, the family moved to Sunbury. After the father's death, James began working in the printing trade with his brother Simon at the Northumberland County Gazette. In 1827, he became associated with the Lycoming Gazette in Williamsport. He returned to Lancaster County two years later to become publisher of the Political Sentinel. At that time, he read law with James Buchanan, later president of the United States. He was admitted to the bar in 1829, practiced law until 1846, and also served as superintendent on the Columbia & Philadelphia Railroad.

From 1845 to 1847, he was involved in the Mexican War. On his return to Milton in 1851, he assumed an important position with the Northern Central Railroad and became active in local affairs, including the Milton Fair.

At the beginning of the Civil War, he became a secret agent for the United States government and was sent to intercept dispatches and to watch secret troop movements of the Confederate States.

Through the recommendation of his brother, Simon Cameron, Secretary of War under President Lincoln, James was commissioned Colonel of the 79th New York Regiment on June 21, 1861. A month later, he fell at the First Battle of Bull Run, shot and killed instantly. He was the first officer of his rank in the Union Army, and the first officer from Pennsylvania to be killed in action. Buried in a common grave at the site, his body was later removed to the cemetery in Lewisburg, PA.

His wife Rebecca continued to live at the farm, which was sold at auction in 1861. She moved to Lancaster, where she died in 1890, at the age of 87. She was buried in the Leman plot at the Lancaster Cemetery.

