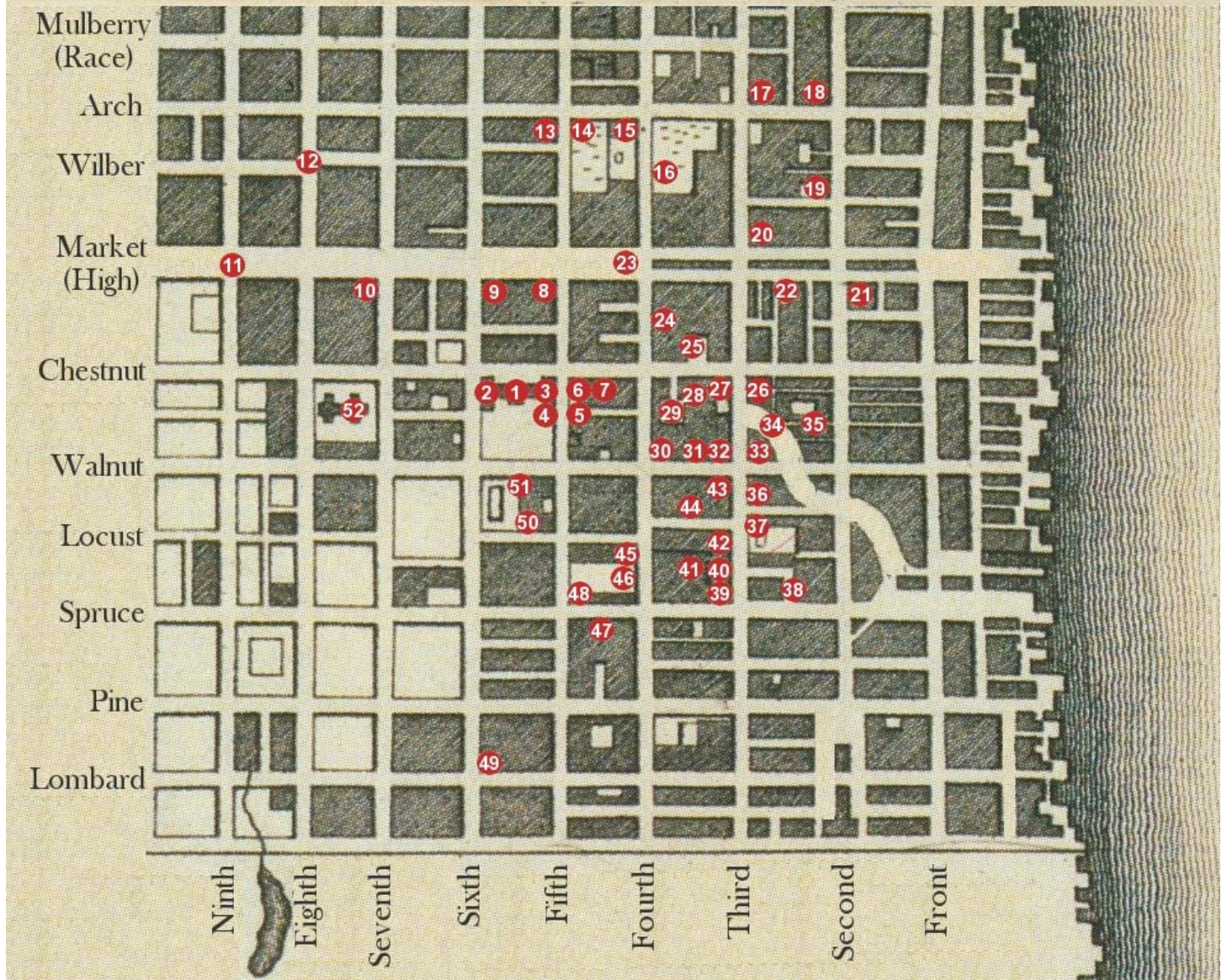


City of Philadelphia



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1. Independence Hall

Fifth/Sixth and Chestnut Streets



Construction of the Pennsylvania State House, later known as Independence Hall, began in 1732 and was completed in 1753. The National Park Service, in 1950, decided to return the building to its original appearance in anticipation of the bicentennial of the signing of Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. These two signings make Independence Hall the most sacred ground in the political history of the United States.

Americans are the beneficiaries of the concerted efforts, first by the state of Pennsylvania and second by the National Park Service, to restore and revitalize Independence Mall. This historic area is bounded by Race Street on the north, Chestnut Street on the south, Sixth Street on the west, and Fifth Street on the east.

A sort of “dueling architecture” has emerged in this “sacred” area of the American founding. On the south side is Independence Hall and accompanying buildings that have an authentic late Eighteenth Century feel to them. And then there is the new home of the Liberty Bell, the Visitors Center, and finally the National Constitutional Center located on the north side at Fifth Street and Race Street that have a more futuristic tone to them.



William Russell Birch did a number of sketches and paintings of Philadelphia at the start of the 19th century. We will use two of his paintings here to depict what Independence Hall looked like in the late 18th century.

The first is called “State-House with a View of Chestnut Street.” This is probably painted from a spot near the current location of the Liberty Bell. Situated to the east of



Independence Hall is City Hall which the United States Supreme Court occupied in the 1790s. According to Jacob Hilzheimer, a prominent Pennsylvania politician and Philadelphia resident, there was a tavern right across the street from

Independence Hall.

The second Birch painting of Independence Hall is on “the other side” of the building. The front side, which is on Chestnut Street between Fifth Street and Sixth Street, is the one usually displayed. But there is this other, and more picturesque, side to Independence Hall that extends between Fifth Street and Sixth Street all the way to Walnut Street. Sometimes this area is called the State House Yard. It was a spot where people would gather

to hear speeches, like James Wilson’s famous Statehouse Speech that helped launch the debates over the ratification of the Constitution, or gather to chat about the events of the day. See for example, the clusters



of people in the Birch painting including the group of Native Americans who are probably in the capital to discuss the practical implications of Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution that bestows on Congress the power to regulate commerce with “the Indian tribes.”

Independence Hall has had a varied history since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the signing of the Constitution. The building has performed many functions, including

being the warehouse for the “memorabilia” of the American Founding and the inspiration for the Christy painting in the first half of the



twentieth century. But it never did revert to its original purpose as the location of the Pennsylvania government. The Pennsylvania government moved elsewhere in 1800.

Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827) painted the “noted worthies” or “celebrated personages,” of the American Founding. Several of these “museum portraits” were purchased by civic-minded Philadelphians and made available for viewing

in Independence Hall in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. The official opening was on George Washington's birthday in 1855. A lithograph in 1856 by Max Rosenthal, a Polish immigrant, captures the notion of Independence Hall as the first ever National Portrait Gallery. Note the Peale museum portraits hanging on the walls, the William Rush statue of George Washington, the "Rising Sun" chair, and the Liberty Bell, on top of which a bald eagle is perched, all on display to the public.

According to Doris Fenelli, "before and during the Civil War, the Assembly Room of Independence Hall achieved a growing recognition as a shrine to liberty." Abraham Lincoln visited Independence Hall on his way to Washington D.C. for his inauguration. His body later lay in state in the Assembly Room. John C. Milley says, "thousands queued for twenty-four hours dumb-founded, incensed, at a loss to explain how such a senseless thing could have happened." Fellini reinforces this point: "In April 1865, more than eighty-five thousand people filed through Independence Hall to pay their last respects to President Abraham Lincoln, whose body lay in state in the Assembly Room for two days."

In 1872, in anticipation of the centennial celebrations, the city of Philadelphia decreed: "Independence Hall is hereby set apart forever, and appropriated exclusively to receive such furniture and equipments of the room as it originally contained in July 1776, together with the portraits of such men of the revolution as by their presence or action served to give the building its historic renown, and forever endear it to the hearts of patriots." This decision led to yet another renovation of Independence Hall and, most importantly, "a restoration of the Hall to its original appearance."

The sesquicentennial of the Declaration, the Great Depression, and World War II, actually restored the notion of Independence Hall as shrine rather than a museum. Maybe it could be both shrine and museum. The Historic Sites Act of 1935 authorized the National Park Service to preserve property of "national historical... significance." Congress named Independence Hall a national historic site in 1943. Independence National Historical Park was created in 1948. These Peale portraits of the founders were, in turn, moved to the Second Bank in 1974. Similarly, the motivation was, no doubt, the forthcoming bicentennial anniversaries in 1976 and 1987. We now face the 250th anniversaries in 2026 and 2037.

2. Congress Hall in the 1790s

Sixth and Chestnut Streets

The United States Congress deliberated in Congress Hall during the 1790s when Philadelphia was the capital of the United States. In 1792, Washington was inaugurated as President for a second term. In 1796, John Adams was sworn in as President in the House of Representatives chamber. According to reliable reports of the time, there was ample room for the Representatives to chew tobacco, drink sherry, port, and Madeira.

Copies of original pictures of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette in Versailles hang in the Senate building of Congress Hall in commemoration of the fact that France was the first country to recognize the independence of the United States. Ironically, the

monarchs were beheaded during the 1790s at the very time that the Congress met in the building.

According to Robert Teitelman, the new theatre across the street from Congress Hall on the northwest corner of Sixth and Chestnut Streets acquired the nickname of "The Old Drury." Birch portrays a rather large crowd waiting to enter the building. Teitelman captures this: "Up to its time it was the grandest theatre built in North America, having an audience capacity of 1,165 persons. Stage lighting was controlled, in the French manner, with oil lamps that were raised and lowered to darken or brighten scenes."

The Liberty Bell is now located on the northeast corner of Sixth and Chestnut Streets.

3. Old City Hall

Fifth and Chestnut Streets

This was the home of the United States Supreme Court in the 1790s. When the U. S. Government moved to Washington D.C., this building became known as City Hall because it housed the city officials. In 1901, it became known as Old City Hall, because the city government moved to a new location.

Among the Court's early members were:

- Oliver Ellsworth—Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, 1796-1800. He attended the Constitutional Convention and was instrumental in crafting the Connecticut Compromise. He is the presumed author of the 1789 Judiciary Act.
- James Wilson—Associate Justice, 1789-1798. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. He died in 1798 while serving on the Supreme Court.
- John Blair—Associate Justice, 1789-1796. He was a signer of the Constitution. Although there is no record of him saying anything at the Convention, his vote was critical to Madison's project.
- William Paterson—Associate Justice, 1793-1806. He introduced the New Jersey Plan but became a signer of the Constitution.
- John Rutledge—Associate Justice, 1789-1791. He too was a signer of the Constitution.

4. Philosophical Hall

Fifth and Chestnut Streets

The American Philosophical Society was founded in 1743, an idea fostered by Benjamin Franklin. According to the "mission statement" of the Society, it sought "the promoting of Useful Knowledge, especially as it respects the Agriculture, Manufactures, and Natural History of North America." The Society moved to its permanent home in 1789. Prior to that date, they met in Carpenters' Hall and at Christ Church.

5. American Philosophical Society: Library Hall

105 South Fifth Street

Associated with the American Philosophical Society is what we shall call the second Library Hall, located at 105 South Fifth Street. Although not the first public library in the country, it was

the prototype for the Library of Congress. The original Library Hall was built in 1789 and remained in this spot until 1884. In the same wave of 1950s historic preservation that restored Independence, the Library Company's original building was reproduced, according to Earle Spamer of the American Philosophical Society, "right down to the statue of Benjamin Franklin in a toga." The Library Company, after a long bout of financial difficulties, now thrives at 13th and Locust Streets. Franklin is counted as a founder by both the American Philosophical Society and the Library Company. In the library and museum, are an original of William Penn's 1701 Charter of Privileges and an original painting of Washington by Stuart Gilbert. William Jackson, "in obedience to a vote of the Convention" thanked the library director for extending borrowing privileges to the delegates. Rufus King and Luther Martin were over a year late in returning their books. According to Robert Teitelman, Library Hall is a fine example of the restoration effort made in the 1950s. It also marked the starting point of the memorial procession for George Washington in December 1799. He also points out that the "statue of Franklin was given by the wealthy Senator William Bingham in 1792." A plaque now commemorates the site of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in the 1790s.

6. Stuart House

Chestnut Street between Third and Fourth Streets

Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828) is arguably the most famous American portrait artist of the Founding era. He lived during the era and had access to the actual Founders. Stuart is especially known for his portraits of George Washington. He painted three portraits of Washington when they both lived in Philadelphia in the 1790s. His first, the Samuel Vaughan Portrait (1795), emphasizes the right side of Washington's face; the second, the Marquis of Lansdowne Portrait (1796), is a frontal and full-length portrayal of Washington; and the third is the Athenaeum Head (1796), which emphasizes the left side of Washington's face. This is the one on the dollar bill. Near the site of the Stuart House is a monument commemorating the work of "the signers," erected in honor of the Framers of the Constitution.

7. Second Bank of the United States

Fourth and Chestnut Streets

William Strickland designed the bank in the early nineteenth century after President James Madison decided not to veto Congressional legislation establishing the bank. The bank was closed in 1836 when President Andrew Jackson did exercise his veto power over the renewal of the charter. We have included the Second Bank in this Historic Map because the bank is a virtual portrait gallery of the Framers. In the gallery are portraits of five of the Supreme Court Justices who served in Old City Hall: John Jay, Oliver Ellsworth, William Cushing, Samuel Chase and Bushrod Washington. A portrait of Bishop by Charles Willson Peale also hangs in the Second Bank. A statue of Robert Morris, financier of the Revolution, is at the back of the bank. Also in the general area at the back of the bank are

reminders of the location of the Secretary of the Navy's Office and the Surgeon's Hall Site. One can also find a reconstruction of what "a working class garden" might have looked like in the late eighteenth century.

8. Mary House's Boarding House

Fifth and Market Streets

Mary House ran an "upscale" boarding house during the 1780s and her reputation for providing high quality accommodations was well known. George Washington, for example, signed up to stay there during the Convention until persuaded otherwise by Robert Morris. Five delegates stayed at her house—Edmund Randolph, James Madison, James McClurg, George Read, and John Dickinson—but since room availability was at a premium, Dickinson and Read from Delaware shared a room: "Mr. Randolph expects his lady." Randolph was one of seven delegates to bring his wife to Philadelphia in the summer of 1787. Elbridge Gerry was another married delegate seeking accommodations for two. He made an application for accommodation, writes Read, but since he, Read, was first on the list, the offer was Dickinson's to accept. The boarding house still attracted Washington's attention even though he was not a resident. Washington's diary entry of July 17th states: "dined at Mrs. Houses." The boarding house was used by the Virginia delegates to hammer out the Virginia Plan. One resident delegate described Mrs. House's establishment as "very crowded, and the room I am presently in [is] so small as not to admit of a second bed." A public bathroom occupied the site during the late twentieth century. A plaque that used to hang on the Fifth Street side notes that Madison resided here during the Constitutional Convention. That plaque has been removed. I first noticed the change in the plaques in 2000. In 2007, the public bathroom was razed and replaced by a park. A monument to the First Amendment is now in its place.

9. Robert Morris's Town Home

Sixth and Market Streets

Robert Morris, "financier of the Revolution," and born in Britain, purchased the house in 1785 and shared it with George Washington during the Constitutional Convention of 1787.



Despite Washington's heavy social and political calendar, he dined with Morris most evenings during the summer of 1787. Morris's house was also the "President's House" of the United States from 1790 to 1800: Washington and John Adams resided here during their presidencies. A public bathroom occupied the site during the second half of the twentieth century. This building was demolished around 2000.

The reconstructed site opened officially on December 15, 2010 after a decade of extensive discussion among various civic organizations and community representatives. The site is literally open to the public 24/7 since it is not enclosed. It is now known as “President’s House: Freedom and Slavery in the Making of a New Nation.”



According to its supporters, the site is an “homage” to nine enslaved Africans, owned by President Washington, who lived and worked in cramped quarters in a nation dedicated to

freedom. They wish to expose a “Great Contradiction”: slavery in the presence of freedom. Detractors respond that the site has very little to do with the Washington and Adams Presidencies and little effort is made to integrate the site into the story of liberty and slavery already represented elsewhere on Independence Mall. They point, for example, to the pavilion containing the Liberty Bell.

Looking south from the President’s House is an unobstructed early twenty-first century view of the Liberty Bell Pavilion.

Looking north is the Independence Hall Visitor’s Center also taken in the early twenty-first century with Jefferson’s draft of the Declaration of Independence visible on the outside wall of the building.

10. Graff House

Seventh and Market/Chestnut Streets

In June 1776, Thomas Jefferson secured a two-bedroom furnished lodging at the home of Jacob Graff, who, in 1775, built Graff House “on the outskirts of town.” The house is also popularly referred to as Independence House and Declaration House. Although the bed was reputed to be too small to accommodate the tall Jefferson, he preferred this more rural location to “the downtown” area to write the draft of the Declaration of Independence with its stinging attack on the institution of slavery. It is reported that Jefferson complained about the horseflies that visited the nearby stable. John Dunlap also resided at Graff House during the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

11. View of Market Street from Ninth Street

This is Birch’s rendition of an eastern looking view of Market Street from Ninth Street, what in those days might well be



known as the western outskirts of the historical city proper. Note the Fourth Street covered mall way in the distance five blocks away that then goes on to Front Street.

According to Robert Teitelman, the eminent contemporary historian of Philadelphia, the regiment depicted is from the First City Troop. And according to the May 13 diary entry of Jacob Hiltzheimer: “The City Troop of Horse received” General Washington in Philadelphia for the opening of the Constitutional Convention “at Grays Ferry. The Artillery Company saluted with firing the cannon.”

Birch is portraying a neighborhood that is more residential than commercial. The commercial district probably doesn’t start much before Sixth and Market Streets. And, also probably, Graff House, where Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, is about one third of the way down the right-hand side of the painting.

Very close to the tree-lined street section of Market Street near Ninth Street, and free of commercial activity, was the proposed location of the house intended for the president. Birch paints

this intended presidential residence on Ninth Street between Market and Chestnut Streets. Clearly the surroundings are not commercial but neither Washington nor Adams resided in the presidential residence; instead they both lived in Robert Morris’s town house at Market and Sixth Streets.



12. Near Arch and Seventh Streets

Major Alexander Boyd had a Boarding House near Arch and Seventh Street that was a meeting place for Antifederalists in the Fall of 1787. Pennsylvania Federalists—John Barry, William Jackson, Michael Morgan O’Brien, immigrants from Ireland and England—searched this area down to Market Street for the two Antifederalists needed to secure a quorum. William Findley, an immigrant from Northern Ireland and a prominent Antifederalist, eluded them by going down Market Street. James M’Calmont, a son of an immigrant from Northern Ireland, and Jacob Miley were less fortunate; they were “escorted” back to the Assembly to the cheers of the assembled citizens.

This episode is documented in two entries from Jacob Hiltzheimer’s diary:

28 September 1787

“It was proposed by Mr. G Clymer that this House recommend to the people, to choose a convention as soon as convenient to deliberate and confirm the Federal Constitution as recommended by the late Honorable Convention. This occasioned a long debate, the speaker in favor of it, also the two Clymers, Fitzsimmons and Robinson. Against it, R. Whitehill and William Findley. The vote was taken: 43 for it and 19 against it. The House adjourned to 4 o’clock in the afternoon.

“Half an hour after, the speaker took the chair. The members names being called, it was found that 18 of those members that voted against the measure stayed away and one of the 43, Mr. Artis (?). Mr. Brown was the only one who appeared in the House that voted against it in the forenoon. Therefore, not members enough appearing to make a house, the members present adjourned to half past nine tomorrow morning.”

29 September 1787

“When the speaker, Gen Mifflin, took the chair, two members were wanting to make a house although there were 20 members about the city that stayed away on purpose.... But the spectators being much displeased that a matter of so much consequence should be left undone for want of two members when 20 at the same time were in the city—they hunted up two, Calmont and Miley (?), and brought them to the House. After that the report was adopted, which is that the several counties elect the same number of persons to serve in the convention as they have in the Assembly, to be elected the 4th Thursday in November next and to met in Philadelphia in two weeks after.” House adjourned.

13. Free Quaker Meeting House

Corner of Arch and Fifth Streets

This is where the Free Quakers met after they were read out of the meetings held originally at Market and Second and subsequently at the new Fourth Street building between Arch and Market. They were called Free Quakers because they supported the American Revolution of 1776 and these Quakers made a specific exception to the general Quaker principle opposing war during that period. Among the most famous Free Quakers was Betsy Ross.

14. Christ Church Burial Ground

Fifth and Arch Streets

In 1719 the burial ground connected to Christ Church had become full and thus land was purchased along the Fifth Street suburbs to provide suitable burials for future generations of worshippers.

Five signers of the Declaration of Independence are buried here. The most famous of these is Benjamin Franklin. According to contemporaneous sources, at Franklin’s death some 20,000 Philadelphians followed his cortege to the gravesite.

Also buried here are:

- John Dunlap (1742-1812), printer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Dunlap resided in the Graff House when the Constitution was written. He was also the founder of the Pennsylvania Packet, the first daily newspaper in America.
- Major William Jackson (1759-1828), another immigrant from Britain who served as Secretary to the Constitutional Convention.
- Dr. Benjamin Rush (1745-1813), signer of the Declaration of Independence and “The Father of American Medicine.” He founded Dickinson College and the Philadelphia Dispensary and was an avid supporter of the abolition of slavery.
- Philip Syng (1703-1789), maker of the ink stand used for the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.
- Thomas Willing (1731-1821), Mayor of Philadelphia, delegate to the Continental Congress and President of the First Bank of the United States.

15. Lutheran Church

Fourth Street just south of Arch Street

This is the spot on which the new Lutheran church was located in the late Eighteenth Century. The exact location is in dispute,



but it was probably near the corner of Arch and Fourth Streets. These two churches were near each other and were built to accommodate the large influx of German immigrants. As an aside, the Constitution was distributed in both the

English and German languages in Philadelphia right after the signing on September 17, 1787. Bishop White conducted the memorial service in honor of George Washington at the new Lutheran church in December 1799. And it was on this occasion that Congressman Henry Lee delivered the famous eulogy: George Washington was “First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

16. Quaker Meeting Home

Fourth Street between Arch and Market Streets

This was the site of the Quaker Meeting Home in 1803 having moved from Market and Second. The term “Quaker” is a pejorative term for what is officially called the Religious Society of Friends. One of the founders of the movement that originated with the religious turmoil in 17th century Britain is reported to have told a judge investigating their activity that he should “tremble” at the word of the Lord. The judge, in response, is quoted as saying that “It was you, Mr. Fox, the founder of the Society, who should be quaking in his boots.”

17. Second Presbyterian Church

Third and Arch Streets

Numerous delegates to the First and Second Continental Congress attended services here.

18. Betsy Ross’s House

Second and Arch Streets

Elizabeth “Betsy” Ross was born into a Philadelphia Quaker family in 1752 and learned the upholstery business at an early age. She was “read out” of the Quaker Meeting because she eloped with an Episcopalian, John Ross, who was attached to Christ Church. Her pew at the church was adjacent to Washington’s. Robert Morris and Washington approached her in 1776 to sew the first American flag, which she did in this house. Widowed three times, she died in 1836 at the age of 84.

19. Christ Church

Second and Arch/Market Streets

Christ Church, popularly known as “The Nation’s Church,” was built between 1727 and 1754. Word has it that the Church possesses “the only surviving outdoor depiction of any English royalty on any public building in what were the American colonies.” George Washington (pew 56), Robert Morris, Benjamin Franklin (pew 70), Betsy Ross (pew 13), and Thomas Jefferson attended services at Christ Church. Church historians note that a remarkable feature of the church is the wine glass pulpit built in 1769 by Jon Folwell who crafted the Rising Sun Chair at Independence Hall. Bishop White preached here for over fifty years. White, James Wilson, Jacob Broom, and Pierce Butler are buried here.

According to David Stewart, “Christ Church in Second Street had a full octave of chimes, and [a]t Philadelphia there is always something to be chimed, so that it seems as if it was an Imperial or Popish city. Twice a week, the evening bells would announce the next morning’s market (held on Wednesdays and Saturdays).”

20. Mrs. Dailey’s Boarding House

Third and Market Streets

Alexander Hamilton and Gouverneur Morris resided here during the Convention. Perhaps it was here that the famous wager took place! Hamilton offered to pay for dinner for twelve if Morris would go up to George Washington, “slap him on the shoulder,” and say: “My dear General, how happy I am to see you looking so well.” Morris accepted the challenge, but was embarrassed by the dressing down he received from Washington upon performing this youthful indiscretion.

After his wife left for New York, Elbridge Gerry moved in. In a wonderful love letter, dated early August, he portrays Mrs. Dailey as an astute businesswoman. He concludes, “Adieu my only source of happiness.” He tells her that the weather in Philadelphia is very hot and it is for the best that she and the baby are in New York. In early September, Gerry writes to his wife that he realizes his ideas won’t prevail, but honor requires that he stay until the end of the deliberations. This is particularly troublesome to him because his wife’s health is rapidly deteriorating.

It is estimated that by the late 1780s, a fifth of all the taverns and tippling joints were managed by women. One reason is that widows were given preferential treatment when licenses were issued. It is also estimated that during this time there were over 100 taverns operating in Philadelphia, over twenty along Second Street, one block east of Mrs. Dailey’s establishment.

21. John Dunlap’s Print Shop

Second and Market Streets

John Dunlap’s Pennsylvania Packet was the first newspaper to publish the U.S. Constitution. Dunlap, and David Claypoole, also printed the Declaration of Independence and the Committee of Detail Report. The Constitution was published in

German immediately after the signing to accommodate the inhabitants of Germantown and Lancaster. On September 24, 1787, the Pennsylvania Assembly authorized Dunlap to publish 3000 copies of the Constitution in English and 500 in German at an estimated cost of \$1500.

22. Presbyterian Church

Second/Third and Market Streets

Jared Ingersoll is buried here.

The Presbyterian community had become more numerous than the Quakers by the mid-1700s, and the number of churches was expanding accordingly. This church was convenient for members of the Convention and the Pennsylvania Assembly because it was within walking distance of Independence Hall. Unfortunately, no visible evidence of the church remains.

Presbyterian ministers had considerable influence, perhaps none more so than John Witherspoon, the only preacher to sign the Declaration of Independence and President of Princeton University, “the University of the Framers.”

23. Market Street

According to David Stewart, “Visitors marveled at the market, which extended for two roofed blocks in the middle of town. Everything is adjusted in perfect order, and as neat and clean as a dining-hall. A Frenchman wrote home, ‘Even meat, which looks so disgusting in all other markets, has an attractive appearance.’ The offerings included raccoon, opossum, fish-otter, bear-bacon, and bear’s foot. The orderliness of the people also drew favorable comment, with one guest writing, ‘One would think it is a market of brothers.’”

According to Billy Smith, 250 vendors sold their extraordinary store of provisions. Most of the butcher stalls were run by German immigrants. Richard Beeman informs us that the



butchers, fishmongers, and tanners did their business of slaughtering and cleaning out in the open with pungent consequences. James Mease observed in 1811, “that it may be safely asserted, that no city in the world, is more animal

food consumed, in proportion to its size, than in Philadelphia.” Richard Beeman also mentions that since this area was close to the docks, drinking was rampant and prostitutes were plentiful. With respect to the former, he says that “most male Philadelphians began their day with a glass of beer” and continued drinking until bedtime. Beeman suggests that the Framers had lite beer for breakfast.

The end of Market Street in the east is actually the western entrance to the city from the river where the mariners congregated in one of the pubs of “the lower sort.” That’s where the prostitutes gathered to meet the mariners, who, according to Billy Smith, constituted 20% of the workforce.

This was also the area where the yellow fever outbreaks of the 1790s were concentrated. The mosquitoes arrived on the ships carrying West Indian seamen and immigrants. The disease

especially hit the European immigrant community. The only known cure was a) leave town during the summer and fall months and b) wait for the winter since the mosquitoes could not survive the cold weather. According to Smith, over 1/3 of the inhabitants of the city left every August/September until the signs of the first frost.

Today, in the early 21st century, there are markers on the sidewalk indicating where various merchants might have been located in the late 18th century. These thin black rectangle sidewalk markers are visible on the north side of Market Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

There were several taverns on Market Street. Jacob Hiltzheimer notes in his diary on July 2, 1787 that he “dined with other members of the Fire Co. at Erwin’s the Sign of the White Horse in Market Street.” There is no evidence today of the existence of this tavern. On August 29, he “went to a meeting with the Street Commissioners at Erwin’s;” Gunning Bedford of Delaware is listed as one of the people present. Apparently Hiltzheimer liked to dine at Erwin’s Tavern: On November 20 he had dinner at Erwin’s Tavern with Mifflin and Willing and other members of the Assembly. And finally this from his diary on October 29: “In the afternoon, attended the State House. At 12 o’clock in the night, heard the cry of fire. Found that it was an old building on the east side of Third Street between Market and Chestnut Streets, next to the Harp and Crown Tavern.”

There is another painting by Birch that portrays the view of what is, in effect, an early version of the covered mall on Market Street from the corner of Front and Market Streets all the way to Fourth Street. My hunch is that John Dunlap’s Print Shop was located near the Front Street section of the High Street Market.

What Americans today call Main Street, the British and early Americans called High Street. And Birch’s two paintings are a



portrayal of the extensive commercial or market life on High Street, also known as Market Street! In the Twenty-First Century, many British towns still retain the notion of the High Street market where farmers bring their products to

the High Street market on a Wednesday and Saturday, just as they did in Philadelphia in the 1790s.

This spot is probably what the Philadelphia locals in 1787 called “Market Street Gate.” According to Jacob Hiltzheimer, this was quite the gathering spot. He notes in his June 4 diary entry: “In the evening, my wife and I went to Market Street Gate, to see the great and good man General Washington. We had a full view of him, and Major Jackson who walked with him, and the number of people that followed him, on all sides, was astonishing.”

24. Indian Queen Tavern

Fourth and Chestnut/Market Streets

In addition to her boarding house, Mary House also owned the Indian Queen Tavern. Built in 1759, it was home to five of the delegates to the 1787 Constitutional Convention: Gorham, Strong, Mason, Pierce, and Bassett. According to folklore, many important negotiations took place there after the daily sessions in the State House were over. Word has it that the “Connecticut Compromise” was hammered out at the Tavern as well as the decision by the supporters of the Virginia Plan not to challenge the Compromise. What is recorded is that the five Convention delegates residing at the Indian Queen requested



the honor of Franklin’s “company to dinner at their Quarters on Monday next at half after three o’clock.” Monday next was July 3rd, the day before Independence Day. Menassah Cutler, heavily involved in the

negotiations over the Northwest Ordinance, notes in his journal on July 13th, that he saw Madison, Mason, Alexander, Martin, Hamilton, Williamson, Rutledge, and Pinckney having dinner at the Indian Queen. Several historians interpret this meeting as a backroom deal on the slavery question.

The Indian Queen Tavern—there was also an Indian King Tavern during the colonial era—was licensed to sell wine and spirits in addition to beer and cider. These fancier taverns, that often provided lodgings, served the politically and intellectually inclined. They were distinguished from “humbler taverns,” that sold beer and cider to the “ordinary” Philadelphian, and unlicensed “tippling houses,” located near the waterfront. No visible evidence of the Indian Tavern remains, but it is known to be just to the west of Franklin Court.

According to David Stewart, “The Indian Queen boasted sixteen rooms for lodgers, plus four garret rooms. A visitor there in 1787 described being greeted by a liveried servant in coat, waistcoat, and ruffled shirt. The servant produced two London magazines, called for a barber, brought a bowl for washing off road dust, and served tea.”

No doubt lots of interesting events took place at the Indian Queen Tavern. According to Carl Van Doren, author of *The Great Rehearsal*, “Much discussion, unrecorded and so only to be guessed at, went on at the Indian Queen, a tavern in Fourth Street near Chestnut which had already begun to be the informal headquarters of Convention delegates.”

But here is one non-event that brought considerable relief to delegate William of Georgia. According to Pierce:

“When the Convention first opened at Philadelphia, there were a number of propositions brought forward as great leading principles for the new Government to be established for the United States. A copy of these propositions was given to each Member with the injunction to keep everything a profound secret. One morning, by accident, one of the Members dropt his copy of the propositions, which being luckily picked up by General Mifflin was presented to General Washington, our President, who put it in his pocket. After the debates of the Day were over, and the question for adjournment was called for, the

General arose from his seat, and previous to his putting the question addressed the Convention in the following manner:

Gentlemen: I am sorry to find that some one Member of this Body, has been so neglectful of the secrets of the Convention as to drop in the State House a copy of their proceedings, which by accident was picked up and delivered to me this Morning. I must entreat Gentlemen to be more careful, lest our transactions get into the News Papers, and disturb the public repose by premature speculations. I know not whose Paper it is, but there it is (throwing it down on the table), let him who owns it take it.

“At the same time he bowed, picked up his Hat, and quitted the room with a dignity so severe that every Person seemed alarmed; for my part I was extremely so, for putting my hand in my pocket I missed my copy of the same Paper, but advancing up to the Table my fears soon dissipated; I found it to be the hand writing of another Person. When I went to my lodgings at the Indian Queen, I found my copy in a coat pocket which I had pulled off that Morning. It is something remarkable that no Person ever owned the Paper.”

The Indian Queen Tavern was the largest in Philadelphia and its “companion,” the Indian King Tavern, was located on the southeast corner of Market and Third. There is no remembrance of the Indian Queen Tavern or the Indian King Tavern in 21st century Philadelphia.



But there was construction taking place in 2010 as shown by what appears to be a bus stop right next to where the Boarding House used to be located.

25. Benjamin Franklin Court

Center of Third/Fourth and Chestnut/Market Streets

Located in the Franklin Court area today are the United States Postal Service Museum, the Franklin Print Shop, and the Franklin Museum. Originally, Ben Franklin’s house was part of the Court area; fire gutted it in 1812. In addition to being known as “The American Socrates,” he was also a printer, inventor, publisher, and Postmaster. The Post Office is the only one in the nation not to fly the flag of the United States, because it opened in 1775 before there was an official flag. It is also the only Post Office that can use the stamp, “B. Free Franklin.”

One of the more delightful Franklin stories linked to the Constitutional Convention can be found in R.M. Devins’s *Our First Century* published in



1881. According to Devins’s rendition of what Madison in his Notes at the end of June 1787 calls the Convention at “full stop”:

“For some days, angry debates occurred which, but for the timely and healing wisdom of Dr. Franklin, the Mentor of the convention, would have ended in the breaking up of the body. As soon as there was an opening for him to speak, the doctor rose, and in a most impressive manner, said, among other things:

It is to be feared that the members of this convention are not in a temper, at this moment, to approach the subject on which we differ, in a candid spirit. I would therefore propose, Mr. President, that, without proceeding further in this business at this time, the convention shall adjourn for three days, in order to let the present ferment pass off, and to afford time for a more full, free, and dispassionate investigation of the subject; and I would earnestly recommend to the members of this convention, that they spend the time of this recess, not in associating with their own party, and devising new arguments to fortify themselves in their old opinions, but that they mix with members of opposite sentiments, lend a patient ear to their reasoning’s, and candidly allow them all the weight to which they may be entitled; and when we assemble again, I hope it will be with a determination to form a constitution; if not such an one as we can individually, and in all respects, approve, yet the best which, under existing circumstances, can be obtained.

“(Here the countenance of Washington brightened, and a cheering ray seemed to break in upon the gloom of the assembly.)

“The doctor continued:

Before I sit down, Mr. President, I will suggest another matter; and I am really surprised that it has not been proposed by some other member, at an earlier period of our deliberations. I will suggest, Mr. President, the propriety of nominating and appointing, before we separate, a chaplain to this convention, whose duty it shall be uniformly to assemble with us, and introduce the business of each day by imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing upon our deliberations.

“The doctor sat down, and never did a countenance appear at once so dignified and so delighted as that of Washington, at the close of this address. The motion for appointing a chaplain was instantly seconded and carried. The convention also chose a committee, by ballot, consisting of one from each state, to sit during the recess, and then adjourned for three days.

“The three days were spent in the manner advised by Doctor Franklin. On re-assembling, the chaplain appeared and led the devotions of the assembly, and the minutes of the last sitting were read. All eyes were now turned to the venerable doctor. He rose, and in a few words stated, that during the recess he had listened attentively to all the arguments, pro and con, which had been urged by both sides of the house; that he had himself said much, and thought more, on the subject; he saw difficulties and objections, which might be urged by individual states, against every scheme which had been proposed; and he was now, more than ever, convinced that the constitution which they were about to form, in order to be just and equal, must be formed on the basis of compromise and mutual concession. With such views and feelings, he would now move a reconsideration of the vote last taken on the organization of the senate. The motion was seconded, the vote carried, the former vote rescinded, and by a successive motion and resolution, the senate was organized on the present plan.”

There is, however, an equally wonderful account in Madison's Notes indicating that a chaplain was not appointed because of a shortage of available funds. The Committee referred to by Devins was the Gerry Committee, on which Franklin served as the delegate chosen from Pennsylvania, that hammered out the practical implications of the partly national-partly federal compromise introduced by the Connecticut delegation. Devins's account is an important source for the "Miracle at Philadelphia" interpretation of the events of the Summer of 1787. Washington encouraged this interpretation of events in his letters and speeches.

26. Mrs. Marshall's Boarding House

Carter's Alley and Smith's Alley

Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth, both from Connecticut, resided at Marshall's Boarding House. Not much is known of their daily routine or the quality of the accommodations, but they were certainly able to discuss their plans for the Connecticut compromise in relative privacy. It also must have been convenient to be so close to the City Tavern where the dramatic political action took place.

As early as June 26, 1787, Ellsworth seemed fed up with all the politicking. He wrote to his wife: "I mix with company without enjoying it am perfectly tired with flattery and form. To be very fashionable we must be very trifling and make and receive a thousand professions which everybody knows there is no truth in. Give me a little domestick circle where affection is natural and friendship sincere and I do not care who takes the rest."

Sherman was also homesick and left to visit his wife at the end of July and early August. The word on Sherman is that he didn't drink, smoke, curse, or have any hobbies. All he wanted to talk about was politics—except on Sundays.

There is no commemorative plaque and no evidence of the existence of the residence of these two prominent Connecticut delegates who were instrumental in the creation of the Constitution.

27. First Bank of the United States

120 South Third Street

During the first administration of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton debated exactly what the Framers meant when they wrote "the necessary and proper clause" into the Constitution. Did the clause permit Congress to establish a national bank? Jefferson said, "no," and Hamilton said, "yes." Washington sided with Hamilton and signed the Congressional legislation. The First Bank was built during the 1790s. But President James Madison helped defeat the renewal of its charter in 1811. In 1812 Stephen Girard reopened the building as a privately held bank.

28. Quaker Meeting House

Chestnut Street between Third and Fourth Streets

Although there were numerous Quaker Meeting Houses in Philadelphia during the eighteenth century, very few remain active today. Most simply went out of existence as illustrated by this memorial plaque of the Quaker Meeting House to the

east of Carpenters' Hall. The Quakers split over the Revolutionary war; some remained pacifists while others, like Betsy Ross understood themselves to be "Free Quakers." The Philadelphia Quakers also founded the first Abolitionist Society in America in 1787.

29. Carpenter's Hall

320 Chestnut Street

Founded in Philadelphia in 1724, the Carpenters' Company was an organization of carpenters who associated with each other to advance their trade and help each other out in time of need. Their building—Carpenters' Hall—hosted the First Continental Congress in 1774. The rumor was that the State House—subsequently Independence Hall, and the home of the Second Continental Congress—was full of "Tory Sympathizers." It was also chosen as the site for the First Continental Congress because it was one of the few buildings in Philadelphia large enough to host a convention.

Carpenter's Hall was also the original home of the First Bank of the United States from its creation in 1791 until the completion of the First Bank building in 1797.

30. Todd House

Fourth and Walnut Streets

Widow Dolley Payne Todd (b. 1768), met bachelor James Madison, 17 years her senior, in the early 1790s while he was a member of Congress. They married in September of 1794 and although they never had children, the Madisons were a happy couple who together raised Dolley's son, Payne.

After serving as Secretary of State to Thomas Jefferson for eight years, James Madison was elected President of the United States in 1809. Dolley, who was always the gracious hostess, was famous for her social tact even after the White House burned down during the War of 1812. They retired at their plantation in Montpelier, Virginia until James passed away in 1836. Dolley then returned to a modest life in the capital until her death in 1849.

31. Bishop William White's House

309 Walnut Street

William White became the first consecrated bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church of America. He was the rector of both Christ Church and St. Peter's Church. Later, White became the Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Pennsylvania. He also became Chaplain for the United States Senate. Bishop White's sister, Mary, was married to Robert Morris.

We have included the First Bank in our Historic Map because it is symbolic of the conversation that took place in Philadelphia during the last part of the eighteenth century concerning what the federal government could and could not do.

32. Benjamin Rush House

Corner of Walnut and Third Streets

Benjamin Rush (1746-1813) lived here right in the center of Philadelphia. He signed the Declaration of Independence and was a member of both the Continental Congress and the Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention. He was a warm opponent of slavery and was a physician of note at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

33. Thomas Fitzsimons's House

Third and Walnut Streets

Thomas Fitzsimons is not a well-known political figure, yet this prominent Philadelphia merchant and former member of Congress, had an important part to play in the creation of the Constitution. He was a reliable supporter of a stronger federal government. He wrote the following to Noah Webster near the end of the Convention: He asks for Webster's assistance; he portrays "the present moment as the crisis that will determine whether we are to benefit by the revolution we have obtained, or whether we shall become a prey to foreign influence and domestic violence."

Fitzsimons lived within walking distance of Independence Hall, and like fellow delegates Clymer and Mifflin, did double duty that summer. He was a member both of the Convention and the Pennsylvania legislature that met upstairs in Independence Hall. He was one of four Irish immigrants who were elected to the Convention and he was one of the few Catholics in attendance.

Billy Smith reckons that Third Street and Walnut Street is pretty close to the center of this city of two square miles and 40,000 people which included 1) a large number of indentured immigrants from Ireland and Germany, 2) refugees from France and the West Indies as a result of the French Revolution, as well as 3) 4,000 free American-born blacks who gravitated to the city. Half the inhabitants in 1800 were between the ages of 18 and 44. (The east-west streets are named after trees found in the area.) By comparison, New York had a population of 25,000 and London was 1 million. Smith estimates that laborers, merchant seamen, shoemakers, and tailors accounted for between a third and a half of the occupations of "the lower sort" of free males in the latter half of 18th century, a considerable number of whom lived in the area of Arch and Third Streets.

90% of the workingwomen were employed in five occupations: shopkeepers, teachers, nurses, seamstresses, and boardinghouse keepers. The last mentioned women are particularly prominent at the time of the Constitutional Convention. See, for example, Mrs. House's Boarding House as well as Mrs. Marshall's and Mrs. Dailey's Boarding Houses.

In the triangle area bounded by Third, Walnut, and Dock Streets, "lived a physician, a lawyer, a cabinet maker, a merchant tailor, two gentlewomen, two grocers, and two master shoemakers." And on the northwest side of Third and Walnut lived Bishop White and Dr. Benjamin Rush.

According to Richard Beeman, Richard Allen lived on the northeast corner of Dock and Front Streets. (Please see the

34. Scene of Gouverneur Morris's Accident

Dock Street

Gouverneur Morris spoke more than anyone else at the Convention and has been viewed as having one of the most brilliant intellects of all the American Founders, yet his status as Founder is somewhat tarnished by his sexual escapades. One recent biography referred to him as "the rake that wrote the constitution."

Dock Street is one of many difficult alleys to traverse in the eastern section of Philadelphia between Walnut and Chestnut. Logan's Alley, next to the City Tavern, was among the most difficult for Philadelphians to negotiate in the evening.

Historian Dave Kimball, an Independence Hall historian, first alerted me to the approximate site of Morris's accident; it turns out to be near where Logan's Alley joins Dock Street right in front of what became the Philadelphia Merchants' Exchange Building in the early 1800s. Rumor has it that Morris was quite attracted to women and they to him. Moreover it didn't seem to be crucial as to their marital status. In 1780, his carriage ran over his leg during an attempt to flee from an irate husband. Apparently the amputation of his leg did not make Morris—who never took himself too seriously—less attractive to women.

Historian Forrest McDonald tells the story of Morris's escapades in Revolutionary France fifteen years after his initial accident. He had replaced Thomas Jefferson as U. S. Ambassador to France during the time of mass uprisings against the aristocracy and the monarchy. Morris was apparently with a lady friend in an ornate carriage, when an angry mob approached and started shaking the carriage. Thinking quickly, Morris whipped off his peg leg, shoved it through the window, and waving it shouted: "Vive la Révolution." He was cheered by the sans-culottes as the carriage sped into the night.

According to Carl Van Doren, author of *The Great Rehearsal*, the rumor was that Gouverneur Morris jumped from a balcony to avoid an irate husband and, thus, had to have his leg amputated. Van Doren, as does McDonald above, says Morris actually lost his left leg being thrown from a carriage. According to Van Doren: "There were no amorous balconies in Philly." A friend is said to have written to Morris that the loss of his leg might have a good effect on his morals, since it would reduce his inclination to engage in "the pleasures and dissipations of life, into which young men are too apt to be led." The young Morris responded: "You argue the matter so handsomely, and point out so clearly the advantages of being without legs, that I am almost tempted to part with the other." John Jay apparently wrote to Morris that he was "tempted to wish" that Morris "had lost something else."

That Gouverneur Morris lost one leg in the 1780s is not in dispute. But which leg did he lose? Was it the left leg or the right leg?

35. City Tavern

Second and Walnut Streets

City Tavern, built in 1773, also called the Merchants' Coffee House, was the political and business center of Philadelphia. All the leading persons who signed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution met here. In fact, the Founders of the Constitution had their farewell dinner here on September 17, 1787. George Washington's diary indicates that he would dine and talk politics with other delegates here at least once a week. William Samuel Johnson, Rufus King, and John Lansing resided here during the Constitutional Convention.

According to contemporaneous accounts, the Tavern was considered among the leading establishments of its kind in the entire United States. Not only were food and wine served there, one could view dramas and listen to music.

According to David Stewart, "William Samuel Johnson of Connecticut incurred large charges as a host at the City Tavern. Much politicking occurred at such occasions."

According to Robert Teitelman, the Board of Directors of the City Tavern "represented the city's most socially, financially, and politically prominent individuals, among who were... William Shippen Jr., Robert Morris, and Thomas Willing... Torn down in 1854-1855 it was faithfully reconstructed by the National Park Service in 1975-1976 for the bicentennial celebrations."

36. Robert Bell's Print Shop

Near the Corner of Third and Walnut Streets

Robert Bell's Print Shop was one of many across the country that published pamphlets and broadsides during the deliberations of the late eighteenth century. Benjamin Franklin is well known for his encouragement of the use of the printing press to spread the message of the Enlightenment and Dunlap is known for his publications of official public documents. But the impact of the political presses should not be discounted and Bell's Shop published one of the most influential pamphlets that ever hit the streets: Tom Paine's *Common Sense*; it sold half a million copies between 1776 and 1783.

37. Old St. Paul's Church

Third Street and Willing's Alley

St. Paul's Church was one of two leading Anglican Churches in Philadelphia during the eighteenth century, the other being Christ Church on the north side of the Historical District. They jointly encouraged the founding of the Episcopal diocese of Pennsylvania in the 1780s and were supporters of the cause for Independence. Some of the greatest support for severing ties with Great Britain came from the pulpit.

38. Mrs. Curry's Residence

Third and Spruce Streets

Elbridge Gerry, age 43, had been married for just over a year to 20-year-old Ann Thompson; he was one of only a handful of delegates who brought their families to Philadelphia. Housing was at a premium, but Gerry managed to secure board at Mrs. Curry's Residence. When the weather worsened during the summer, he sent his wife to New York for health reasons. Their exchange of love letters is a precious reminder of the conflict between the "felicity of home" and "duty to country."

39. Bingham Mansion

Third and Spruce Streets

Just across the street from the Curry Residence was the Bingham Mansion. William Bingham was a warm supporter of the adoption of the Constitution, friend of the Pennsylvania delegates, and very influential in Philadelphia politics. He was a wealthy merchant who married well; he and his wife, the former Ann Willings, held regular, and reportedly, lavish parties for the visiting delegates. George Washington entered the following observations in his diary. On the 21st of May: "Dined, and drank tea at Mr. Bingham's in great splendor." Washington also dined and "drank tea at Mr. Bingham's," on the 2nd of July, the 10th of August, and the 5th of September.

Apparently, the Bingham Mansion gardens were spectacular as was the inside of the mansion. According to Robert Teitelman, "a self-supporting wide marble staircase graced the front hall. Mirrored parlors decorated with paintings and magnificent imported furnishings were the settings for the most elegant entertaining in the city." The houses depicted to the north of the Bingham Mansion in the Birch painting to the left are probably the Willing House and the Powel House.

Close by was Shippens Alley. Jacob Hiltzheimer notes in his diary on September 15, 1787 that he went with Mifflin to Shippens Alley "between Walnut and Spruce" in the morning for some kind of show.

According to David Stewart, Anne Bingham is generally acknowledged to have been Stuart's model for the figure of liberty on the Draped Bust coins minted in 1795. Anne Bingham was the niece of Elizabeth Powel and the daughter of Thomas Willing. William Bingham, Anne's husband, was, according to Billy Smith, "a merchant, land speculator, and United States Senator."

40. Chew and Powel Houses

Near Third and Locust/Spruce Streets

One block from the Bingham Mansion is the Benjamin Chew House. Chew lived on Third Street, south of Walnut, and in the late 1780s entertained the delegates to the Constitutional Convention. George Washington in his diary recorded the following: On May 23rd, "Dined at Mr. Chews—with the Wedding guests... Drank Tea there in a very large Circle of Ladies."

Samuel Powel was the first post-Revolutionary mayor of Philadelphia and entertained George Washington often during the late 1780s and early 1790s. His house was next door to

Chew House in the upscale residential area near Willing's Alley.

According to Richard Beeman, "there was certainly no one in Philadelphia... whose company Washington enjoyed more" than Elizabeth Powel. Of course, he adds, "there is nothing to suggest any impropriety." Nevertheless, "after the new government had moved there from New York in 1790, she continued to see him regularly." And according to David Stewart, Washington was a guest "ten times" at Mayor Powel's house during the summer of 1787.

41. Bingham Court

Between Willing's Alley and Spruce Street

William Bingham was a prominent citizen of Philadelphia who entertained the delegates during the summer of 1787. He provided luxurious surroundings for his guests. He is also known as the patron for one of the three paintings of Washington by Gilbert Stuart. Bingham gave one of the paintings to the Marquis of Lansdowne, an English supporter of American independence.

42. Willing House

Third Street

There is no marker indicating the residence of this prominent member of the Philadelphia community. Thomas Willing was part of the Robert Morris mercantile activities and the brother of Elizabeth who married Samuel Powel, the mayor of Philadelphia. He was also the father of Anne who married William Bingham. Near St. Joseph's Church in Willing's Alley was a Quaker African School.

43. Fort Wilson

Corner of Third and Walnut Streets

James Wilson's house was built in 1779 and while there is no hard evidence that Wilson was living in the house during the time of the Constitutional Convention, he certainly lived there in the preceding years. Wilson was an ardent supporter of majority rule at the Convention, which is all the more remarkable given his experience with what Madison would call mob politics. Wilson's house was attacked by an angry mob in 1778—The Fort Wilson Riots—because Wilson defended the right of Philadelphian loyalists to hold private property.

Wilson was accused by a bunch of Philadelphia militiamen, who had been drinking at a nearby tavern, of helping Tory sympathizers. The standoff between Wilson and the "Get Wilson" insurgents ended with the intervention of the City Troop of Light Horse.

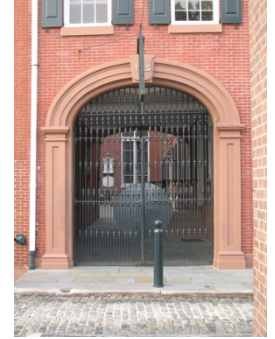
44. Old St. Joseph's Church

Willing's Alley between Third and Fourth Streets



Old St. Joseph's Church and National Shrine (between Third and Fourth Streets near Walnut Street) was founded in 1733. It is the oldest Roman Catholic Church in Philadelphia. A commemorative

plaque indicates that in 1733 it was the only place in the entire English-speaking world where public celebration of the Mass was permitted by law. Nevertheless, the church and its accompanying facilities were not visible from the alley.



45. George Clymer's Residence

Fourth/Fifth and Prune Streets

George Clymer lived within walking distance of Independence Hall where he split his duties between being a member of the Convention and an elected representative in the Pennsylvania legislature.

George Washington was invited to have dinner and tea with many people who had residence in Philadelphia. He paid particular attention to his political invitations during the Convention. Washington dined at Clymer's on June 3, 1787. The next day, he dined with another Pennsylvania delegate who resided in Philadelphia, namely, Thomas Mifflin, head of the Pennsylvania delegation. It is not known where Mifflin resided, but it was probably near Clymer. On July 10, Washington again visited Clymer's house for tea. And on July 22, Washington had both breakfast and dinner at Mifflin's house.

There is no commemorative spot indicating where George Clymer or Mifflin lived, but it is likely that they resided in one of the many upscale houses on Prune Street, known in the 18th century as Locust Street.

Jacob Hilzheimer, a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly, provides a slightly different account of where Clymer and Mifflin resided. On January 20, 1787, he writes: "In the forenoon, went to Mr. George Clymer's in Fourth Street South of Walnut Street." And on 13 February 1787, he "spent the afternoon at General Mifflin's at his house in Market Street." On February 20th, Hilzheimer notes that he and Mifflin, the speaker of the Assembly, called on Robert Morris. "After taking a few glasses of wine we three went to the State House together where only 36 members met." The quorum requirement was 46.

46. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

Fourth and Spruce Streets

Old St. Mary's Catholic Church, built in 1763, was the site of the first public religious celebration of the Declaration of Independence. Members of the Continental Congress officially attended services and George Washington worshiped here on at least two occasions. So too did John Adams and George Mason, neither of whom were known for their affection toward



Catholicism. In fact, the entire Virginia delegation—"except the General"—attended Mass here prior to the opening of the Convention. Having expressed a sympathetic reception to the early parts of the service, Mason gets a bit irritated: "While I was pleased with the Air of Solemnity so generally diffused thro' the Church, I was somewhat disgusted with the frequent Tinkling of a little Bell; which put me in Mind of the drawing up the Curtain for

a Puppet-Shew. I wonder they have not substituted some more solemn & deep-toned instrument."

Thomas Fitzsimons and Commodore John Barry are buried here.

Barry, an Irish immigrant, has a statue erected in his honor on the south side of Independence Hall. Why it is there is a mystery and the conventional response is that it is to honor the "Father of the American Navy," as he has come to be known. But there is another explanation that at least makes for a good Irish story.

Word has it that Barry led a group of pro-constitutionalists, in late September 1787, and hauled Anti-federalists from taverns and churches. He brought them to Independence Hall so that the Pennsylvania Assembly could secure the quorum needed to pass a resolution endorsing the Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention. What better way than to honor Barry with a statue at Independence Hall!

According to Billy Smith, between 1789-1793, 53% of all immigrants to Philadelphia came from Ireland and 27% came from France and the French West Indies because of political turbulence. This amounts to an influx of roughly 2,000 Catholics a year into Philadelphia during this five-year period.



47. Society Hill Synagogue

Spruce Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets

The National Museum of American Jewish History, on Fifth



Street north of Market, and the Congregation Mikveh Israel, founded in 1740, on Fourth Street south of Arch, provide an account of the Jewish presence at the Founding. We have chosen, however, the Society Hill Synagogue to symbolize that presence of the 3,000 Jews in America during the 1780s because the architecture is authentic; it is arguably one of the best examples of 18th century Philadelphia

architecture.

Philadelphian Jonas Phillips, on behalf of American Jews, urged Washington in the summer of 1787, to exercise his influence at the Convention to secure an oath that would not exclude Jews from holding federal office; Jews were excluded in Pennsylvania because office holders had to swear belief in the New Testament. "We are faithful Whigs," wrote Phillips. The Framers agreed that there would be no religious qualification for holding office. In his 1790 letter to "The Hebrew Congregation in Newport," George Washington affirmed that America would "give to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

48. Madison House

429 Spruce Street

Representative James Madison and Dolley Madison, resided here during the 1790s when he was a representative from Virginia in the U. S. Congress. Philadelphia was a special city for Madison. He lived on the corner of Fifth and Market Streets during the Constitutional Convention. He reportedly bumped into Dolley Payne on his way to the Congress in the 1790s and it was in Philadelphia that he and Jefferson created the Democratic Republican party. We have included this site in the Historical Map to emphasize the close association between Madison and Philadelphia.

49. African Methodist Episcopal Church

419 South Sixth Street

Richard Allen (1760-1831) was born in Philadelphia and owned by Benjamin Chew, a successful lawyer who became chief justice of the Pennsylvania Court of Appeals.

Chew sold his slave, Allen, along with the rest of the family, in 1767 to a Delaware farmer. Allen bought his freedom when he was twenty years old. He became the first African-American Methodist minister, and Philadelphia's St. George's Church, located at 235 North Fourth Street between Race and Vine and America's first Methodist church, invited him to become a regular preacher in 1786. In 1787, Allen, concerned about racial

tensions at the interracial services, envisioned a separate African Methodist congregation. He received assistance from Benjamin Rush and William White, the first bishop of the newly formed Episcopal Church, and purchased land at Sixth and Lombard and built the American Methodist Episcopal Church in the area where seventy percent of the free blacks of Philadelphia resided.

The African American Museum on Seventh and Arch Streets chronicles the African-American heritage in Philadelphia.

According to Billy Smith, “the black population doubled between 1783 and 1790, and almost tripled during the 1790s as blacks migrated” from rural America and “as far away as the Caribbean.” By 1790, the free black population was 5% and, by 1800, 10% of the total population of Philadelphia. They were attracted to Philadelphia because Pennsylvania was the first state to start the emancipation process in 1776 and the availability of work in the maritime trade as sailors. He suggests that by the 1790s, African-Americans “accounted for as many as one of every five seamen.” Smith suggests that the number of free blacks increased from 300 in 1776, to 1,000 in 1780, to 1,850 in 1790, and to 6,000 in 1800.

50. Philadelphia Debtors’ Prison

Sixth and Prune Streets

Robert Morris was a member of the U.S. Constitutional Convention (1787) and served (1789-95) as U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania.



His private business, continued in his terms of office, ultimately ended in bankruptcy as a result of the collapse of extensive land speculation. He was in debtors’ prison from

1798 to 1801 and never recovered his fortune.

51. Walnut Street Prison

Sixth and Walnut Streets

Just to the north of the Debtors’ Prison is the Walnut Street Prison. Reports state that Benjamin Franklin entered the Convention on May 28 in a sedan chair carried by four convicts from the prison. According to Earle Spamer of the American Philosophical Society, Franklin brought the chair from Paris but only used it a few times. There are various stories about the chair, the two most popular being that he relied on the chair because of his gout and because of painful stones.

According to David Stewart, “Crime and its consequences were often before the delegates, as the Walnut Street prison stood behind the State House. The inmates called to passing delegates ‘with Billingsgate language,’ extending ‘long reed-poles, with a little cap of cloth at the end’ to solicit donations. A citizen who failed to deposit alms would trigger ‘the most foul and horrid imprecations.’ In March of 1787, eighteen inmates escaped through and over the prison’s walls, prompting municipal consternation. On May 12, the day before General Washington arrived, Philadelphia hanged one Robert Eliot for

a burglary he committed before the laws were made ‘less sanguinary.’”

According to Billy Smith, of the 1,000 prisoners a year on the Trial Docket, 40% were in prison for burglary and 22% for assault. Of the 400 a year on the Vagrancy Docket, 27% were there for disorderly conduct, 40% for vagrancy, and 24% for servants, apprentices, slaves, and mariners who ran away or misbehaved.

52. Robert Morris’s Unfinished House

According to Robert Teitelman, who has made it his business to recapture historic Philadelphia, Robert Morris in the early 1790s “purchased the entire square between Chestnut and



Walnut Streets from Seventh to Eighth.” Morris ran into financial difficulty, the project was abandoned, and in 1798, he landed in the debtor’s prison located a block away on Sixth and Locust Street! The unfinished

Morris house was demolished in 1800 partly to pay off the creditors.