



Walk Danville

*A self-guided walking tour of
historic Downtown Danville and
the surrounding historic districts.*

Photo: Thomas Beaver Library, 1903

TURN TO DANVILLE DOWNTOWN

Danville's West Market Street Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. A second area, shaped in an irregular grid oriented to the river and the major Streets of Mill, Market and Bloom Streets, was added in 1994.

In the early 1800s, Danville, because of its location, was a market town. By the mid-18th century, it was an iron town, and remained so for the next 100 years.

The town's modest beginnings were centered close to the Susquehanna River. Many of the homes that stand today in that area began as log cabins.

In November 1774, General William Montgomery purchased 180 acres of land to bring his family from Chester County to the frontier. He erected mills along Mahoning Creek and built a log cabin. In 1792, Montgomery built the Federal stone home at the corner of Mill Street and Route 11. His home and barn (which no longer stands) were built away from the other settlers so he could develop his orchards and farmland.

As early as 1800, Montgomery recognized the value of the iron ore in the surrounding mountains and he predicted Danville's future as a successful iron town. When his vision was realized, entrepreneurs came to Danville

to mine the iron ore, erect the furnaces to smelt it and build the rolling mills to produce the finished products. The Montour Iron Works rolled the first iron T-rail in America on October 8, 1845. For a time, Montour was the largest iron mill in the country. The iron industry, of course, brought new wealth to this little town and many of the grand residential homes you will see on this tour, along with the buildings in the Mill Street business district, are a result of the wealth iron created in Danville.

Please take note, as you stroll on Danville's Mill Street, of the ornamental iron work on some of the downtown buildings, many of which were produced by talented local ironworkers. There are also decorative iron fences throughout the historic district.

A walk through the streets of Danville is a study of 19th century architecture: Federal, Second Empire, Italianate, Colonial or Classic Revival, Victorian and Queen Anne. The home of Abigail Geisinger and the Thomas Beaver Free Library built by and named after an iron baron is among the town's treasures and are both visible on this tour.



TOUR 1

Upper Mill Street & West Market Street

*This tour is approximately
one mile in length.*

*Starting on Mill Street at the Borough Building,
traveling South towards the Susquehanna River.*

Notice the park and interpretive sign next to the Danville Borough Building. The historic Pennsylvania North Branch Canal passed through the center of Danville at this location.

1. 239 Mill Street

Built in 1922 as a Masonic Lodge, this building demonstrates the Classical Revival style of architecture. Since 1995, the offices of the Borough of Danville have occupied this building.

2. 235 Mill Street

The City Hotel, built in 1872, occupied this building, which in 1957, became the home of the Danville Police Station and the mayor. At one time, the White Swan Hotel, owned by the Cornelison family, stood on the site. Abigail Geisinger was a descendant of this family. The Montour Trust Company added the massive concrete facade in the 1920s.



3. 201 Mill Street

In 1920, Jouvard & Lavigne constructed this building, which once had a basement swimming pool, for use as a recreation facility for their female employees. It was also home to the Odd Fellows Organization for many years.

4. 129 Mill Street

This building, c. 1920, is an example of the Art Deco style.



5. 113 Mill Street

The fan-lighted entrance on this brick home, is typical of the Federal style that was built in the early 1800s. A later addition and renovations are still evident: the mansard roof, larger windows, and bracketing. This residence was the first brick building in Danville and was the home and office of James Scarlet, a local attorney who was famous for representing the state in the 1908 Capitol Graft cases. Mr. Scarlet served as an advisor to Abigail Geisinger when she was planning her hospital.

6. 101 Mill Street

The Bank of Danville, Danville's oldest bank opened for business in 1850. In 1865, it became the Danville National Bank and in 1881, they constructed



the building that stands today. The addition was built in 1965. Sovereign Bank is the current owner of the building, which displays common elements of the Italianate style.

Turn right onto West Market Street.

The West Market Street Historic District features homes of the Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Victorian, Eclectic, Queen Anne, Shingle and Colonial Revival Style built during the period 1800 to 1925. While all the homes on this street are worthy of mention, a few are highlighted below.

7. 11 West Market Street

This Second Empire Vermont stone and granite 3½ story house was built by Charles Hancock in 1872. His father, William, was one of the men involved in the development of the T-rail at the Montour Iron Works in Danville.



8. 19 West Market Street



This house was built by Edward Baldy in 1872. He was the son of Peter Baldy and he

succeeded him as president of the Danville National Bank. Originally, the house was a mirror image of the property at 11 West Market Street, Second Empire style. It was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style early in the 20th century, with a hip and gable-roof.

9. 101 West Market Street

The original house on this site was built by Montgomery descendants. Constructed in the Queen Anne style, this structure is noteworthy for its gables, dormers and extensions. It was remodeled by Mrs. L.E. Wells, Thomas Beaver's daughter, in 1913.



10. 109 West Market Street

This Federal style house was built by Mary Magill, mother of Dr. William Magill, one of Danville's earliest physicians. He was also the first burgess of Danville serving from 1812-1814. The house is a 2½ story, brick, gable-roofed 5x3 bay Federal style dwelling with parapetted double-end chimneys, Palladian gable windows and a fan-lighted entryway.

11. 111 West Market Street

This is a 2½ story, gable-roofed, log and frame, 5x2 bay, Federal-era dwelling. It was once occupied by Robert C. Grier, who was appointed to the United States Supreme Court by President Polk in 1846. It was later occupied by Dr. Solomon Schultz, first superintendent of Danville State Hospital.

12. 115 West Market Street

This Italianate-style residence was built by the Rhodes family in 1869. It includes a central facade pavilion and a 2½ story rear extension. William Benneville Rhodes was a Danville native and a European-trained artist with a national reputation. His well-regarded work includes portraits of Thomas Beaver and George and Abigail Geisinger.

13. 117 West Market Street

This is a 2½ story, frame, cross gable-roof Queen Anne/Shingle style dwelling. It was built by Theodore C. Angle, the editor of The Morning News, in 1911.

14. 123 West Market Street

This building has been on this site since 1855. It underwent extensive remodeling in the early 20th century and a restoration/reuse in 2011-2012. It was formerly The Danville Academy, established by General William Montgomery around 1819.

15. 205 West Market Street



Built early in the mid-19th century by a Montgomery, this home was later owned by Thomas Beaver. The last

Beaver occupant was the widow of Arthur Beaver, the only son of Thomas Beaver, who lived here until her death. It was sold to the Marks' family in 1908, and has been occupied by a member of the family since then. It is a 2½ story, brick gable-roofed dwelling with 5x2 bays and Italianate detailing.

16. 211 West Market Street

Onetime residence of William Faux, owner of the Danville Iron Works, this Italianate style building is distinguished by a facade wall dormer and rooftop belvedere. At one time, it had an exquisite view of the river.



Turn around and follow West Market Street back towards town.

17. 200 West Market Street

This Georgian Revival style residence was built by Jean Lavigne c. 1918. He owned the Danville Silk Mill. Note the gable roof and the fleur-de-lis ornamentation on the shutters.



18. 132 West Market Street

This home was once the residence of Dennis Bright, who was a member of the state legislature and partner with Colonel Charles Eckman in the Atlantic Oil Refining Company. The house was later occupied by his nephew, William Ward Watkin, who designed Rice University. Watkin was the grandson of William Hancock and graduated from Danville High School in 1903.

19. 130 West Market Street

This 2½ story home was built on the original site of the Speiser Bottling Company. Defining elements from the Shingle style include steeply pitched roof, undulating shingle detail and multi-light casement windows.

20. 114 West Market Street

This is a 2½ story, frame, gable-roofed Federal Era dwelling with 6/5 bays, 2/2 windows and a small late Victorian porch. This house was home to Dr. Strawbridge, a Civil War surgeon, who was a prisoner of war in Richmond, Virginia. He was elected and served in Congress after the war, 1873-1875.

21. 100 West Market Street



home of Peter Baldy, Sr., an early merchant and industrialist. He helped found the first bank in Danville and served as its first president. At

the turn of the 20th century, it was purchased by William G. Pursel. He was a self-made man who rose from day laborer to a place of prominence as a civic leader and manufacturer. The Victorian Eclectic structure we see today is the result of an extensive renovation in the early 1900s.

22. 20 West Market Street

William Colt built this brick, gable-roofed, 5x2 bay Federal style structure in 1831. Colt was an original stockholder in the first river bridge at Danville, a major contractor on the North Branch Canal and a local merchant. His daughter Elizabeth married Dr. Clarence H. Frick, a veteran of the Mexican War, and they became the owners of this home. There were many distinguished guests at this home through the years, including Thomas Edison.

23. 16 West Market Street

Probably built by Evenuel Haupt, who ran a tanning yard behind this property, this house was occupied in 1869 by the widow and children of Alexander W. Rea, who had been the manager of the Locust Mountain Coal and Mining Company. Rea was killed in 1868 by robbers who believed he was transporting the mining company's payroll. Three members of the "Molly Maguires" were hung for the crime. This building is a 2½ story, brick, mansard-roofed Italianate/Second Empire style dwelling with a semi-hexagonal facade pavilion.

24. 14 West Market Street

Originally occupied by William Jennison, an early iron manufacturer, it later served as the parsonage for the Methodist Episcopal Church for approximately 100 years. This building is a 2½ story, brick, mansard-roofed Second Empire style dwelling with a semi-hexagonal 2½ story facade bay window.

25. 12 West Market Street

This home is a 2½ story, brick, gable-roofed 3x2 bay Italianate/Federal style dwelling, built by Simon P. Kase prior to 1840. Kase built railroads, iron mills and threshing machines. Please take note of the iron fence which was built by Wood & Company of Philadelphia.



26. Corner of Mill and West Market Streets

Designed by Charles Wetzel and built in 1871, the Montour County Courthouse features quoins, brackets, arched windows and a cupola of the Italianate style. This was Montour County's second Courthouse, the original building also stood on this site.





1. 239 Mill Street
2. 235 Mill Street
3. 201 Mill Street
4. 129 Mill Street
5. 113 Mill Street
6. 101 Mill Street
7. 11 West Market Street
8. 19 West Market Street
9. 101 West Market Street
10. 109 West Market Street
11. 111 West Market Street
12. 115 West Market Street
13. 117 West Market Street

14. 123 West Market Street
15. 205 West Market Street
16. 211 West Market Street
17. 200 West Market Street
18. 132 West Market Street
19. 130 West Market Street
20. 114 West Market Street
21. 100 West Market Street
22. 20 West Market Street
23. 16 West Market Street
24. 14 West Market Street
25. 12 West Market Street
26. Corner Mill & W. Market Sts.

27. 20 East Market Street
28. Corner E. Mahoning & Pine Streets
29. 205 Ferry Street
30. 120 Mill Street
31. 132-134 Mill Street
32. 200 Mill Street
34. 336 Mill Street
35. 339 Mill Street
36. 354 Mill Street
37. 1 Bloom Street
38. 12 Center Street

39. 118 Walnut Street
40. 6 Walnut Street
41. 117 Bloom Street
42. 101 Bloom Street
43. 9 Bloom Street
44. 5 Bloom Street
45. Memorial Park - Bloom St.
46. 330 Bloom Street
47. 218 Green Street
48. Nicholas Avenue & Railroad Street
49. 502 Railroad Street
50. 300 Water Street

Cross the street, staying on East Market Street.

27. 20 East Market Street

G. W. Miles, owner of the Glendower Iron Mill, lived in this Second Empire Style stone and granite mansion which was built circa 1870.



Continue down East Market Street, turning Left onto Pine Street.

28. Corner of East Mahoning & Pine Streets

This Italianate-style building with arched windows, brackets and quoins was erected in 1872-73 as the Danville High School and in 1928 a portion of the building became a grammar school. It was owned by the school district until 1989 when it was sold to a private party who restored/renovated it.

Turn left onto East Mahoning Street. Follow until Ferry Street and turn left.

29. 205 Ferry Street

Designed by Charles Wetzel and constructed in 1886 on the site of the former Danville hotel, the Thomas Beaver Library and the YMCA cost \$195,000 to build. All of the funding was donated by local industrialist Thomas Beaver. The library now occupies the building that was once the YMCA. It is built of Ohio gray stone with granite trimmings and Scotch granite columns.

Continue on Ferry Street. Turn right onto East Market Street. Turn right onto Mill Street.

30. 120 Mill Street

Paired brackets and quoins distinguish this four-story Italianate-style building known as the “Baldy House.” First built as a dwelling house in 1870 by Peter Baldy, Sr., it was converted into a hotel by William C. Williams in 1891. At the time it was built, it was the tallest building in Danville.



31. 132-134 Mill Street



Faithfully restored by Bob McWilliams to its early 20th-century appearance, this Italianate style building, often referred to as the Keystone Building, is now home to the Homecare and Uniform Shoppe. Valentine Best, the State Senator noted for his influence in the separation of Montour County from Columbia County, lived in a building that previously occupied this site. Many local organizations occupied this building and from 1904 to 1939, it was home to the Danville Post Office.

32. 200 Mill Street

The Danville Post Office was built on the site where Danville’s famous Opera House stood from 1873 to 1937.



TOUR 2

Lower Mill Street & Bloom Street

This tour is approximately a ½ mile in length.

Starting on Mill Street at BJ's Steak & Rib Restaurant, traveling north.

33. 291 Mill Street

Notice the G. F. Smith inscription on the buttressed cornice, c. 1888. This distinctive brick building was operated as the Palace Hotel and is currently home to BJ's Steak & Rib House Restaurant.



34. 336 Mill Street

Built in 1870, Cole's Hardware operated their store out of this Italianate style building for over 100 years before it was converted into a restaurant in the 1980s.

35. 339 Mill Street

The Huber Ironworks manufactured the cast iron features of this Italianate style building in Danville, c. 1869. Formerly the Union Hotel, it is now home to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

36. 354 Mill Street

The First National Bank, chartered in 1864, is an example of the Classical Revival style. It was built in 1923 on the site of an earlier structure that had been built by Alexander Montgomery.

Cross over Bloom Street/Route 11.

37. 1 Bloom Street

Built in 1792 by William Montgomery, the founder of Danville, this dwelling houses the Montgomery House Museum and the office of the Montour County Historical Society. This 2-1/2 story stone Federal three-bay structure has a simple projecting cornice with returns. The house contains original 8-over-12 and 6-over-9 window sash, panelled shutters and pedimented entrance. An attached frame ell on the east side replaced an earlier log house. The property is bounded by a stone retaining wall and wood picket fence of early construction. To arrange a tour please call (570) 271-0830, 275-7875 or 275-8528.



Continue on Mill Street, turning right onto Center Street.

38. 12 Center Street



Onetime residence of Abigail Geisinger, the founder of Geisinger Memorial Hospital, this Queen Anne style house is distinguished by a three-story turreted tower, c. 1850.

Continue on Center Street. Turn right onto Pine Street. Cross Bloom Street, staying on Pine Street. Turn left onto Walnut Street/Route 11.

39. 118 Walnut Street

This brick church was built by the Emmanuel Baptist Congregation in 1893 for their 62 members. They disbanded in 1908. The AME (African Methodist Episcopal) congregation purchased it in 1914. It became Studio Brick in 1990, a place for learning and enjoying the arts.



Turn around and follow Walnut Street/Route 11, crossing over Pine Street, towards Bloom Street.

40. 6 Walnut Street

This house was built in the 1890s and was the onetime residence of Rufus K. Polk and his wife Isabella, a descendant of William Montgomery Polk was a U. S. Congressman from 1899 until his death, at the age of 35, in 1902. He was the nephew of President James Polk.

Cross over Walnut & Bloom Streets/Route 11, turning right onto Bloom Street.

41. 117 Bloom Street

This Second Empire style home features paired brackets and quoins. c. 1865. Jacob Cole, whose family once lived in this home, was the founder of Cole's Hardware.



Turn around and continue to follow Bloom Street/Route 11 towards Mill Street.

42. 101 Bloom Street

This c. 1830 Federal style home is a brick painted 2-1/2 story, three-bay side hall residence. The entrance features sidelights and a multi-light transom. The windows are 6-over-9 on the first floor and 6-over-6 on the second. All windows retain their original shutters. The double end wall chimneys are linked with a low parapet wall. The last residents of this home were William Henry (Harry) Cole and his family. It now serves as the business offices for Cole's Hardware.

43. 9 Bloom Street

This was once the home of William Chamberlin, an entrepreneur who was married to Thomas Beaver's daughter, Emily. This stone Second Empire Style dwelling is noted for its massive central tower. The building was restored by St. Joseph's Church and is used as an annex to their school. Built c. 1875.



44. 5 Bloom Street

This house is a well-preserved example of the Queen Anne style, which features a variety of architectural details including corbelled chimneys, a projecting oriel window, bracketing and a pyramidal roof. Built in 1885 by Daniel Montgomery Boyd, grandson of Danville's namesake, it was also home to the Danville Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks for 77 years (1923-2003). It was purchased by the Montour County Historical Society in 2010.

TOUR 3

Focuses on homes and buildings outside the downtown area. It is recommended to drive to these locations.

From Mill Street, turn right onto Bloom Street/Route 11N, following Bloom Street.

45. Memorial Park - Bloom Street



This site was formerly the Presbyterian Cemetery, which was Danville's first cemetery. The Park now contains the only 'object' nominated for inclusion in the Danville Historic District

-- a 73' stone obelisk that was dedicated to the Veterans of the Civil War on May 31, 1909. There are also monuments throughout the park remembering and honoring those who served in other wars. This park occupies part of a three-acre tract of land given in 1775 by Amos Wickersham for use as a burying ground and for the location of a church and school house (Grove Presbyterian Church). After 130 years, the ground was no longer used as a cemetery, and, through the efforts of a group of citizens, this park was created. Over four hundred bodies were removed and reinterred at other locations. A few still rest herein. The park was opened in 1908.



46. 330 Bloom Street



Built in 1875, the Grove Presbyterian Church combines round arches and stone detail of the Romanesque style with Gothic features. A tall, narrow stone structure with steeply pitched roof, buttresses,

polychrome arched entrances and windows and corner tower, reflects the massing of the Gothic period. Site of Danville's first church and school.

*Turn right onto B Street.
Then turn right onto Green Street.*

47. 218 Green Street

Built by Daniel Frazer in 1819, this stone dwelling is a good representative of the Federal Style. Frazer owned 100 acres of farmland in this vicinity; much of it would have been in today's Danville borough limits.

Continue on Green Street, turning left onto A Street. Stay straight onto Nicholas Avenue.

48. Nicholas Avenue & Railroad Street



The Grove Brothers, who owned the Columbia Iron Furnaces, built this expansive mansion in 1867. This magnificent home is a "double" house. It became the motherhouse of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1919.

49. 502 Railroad Street

This Reading Railroad Station was originally built in Philadelphia to accommodate the large crowds in Fairmont Park for the nation's Centennial Exposition celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In the late 1800s, it was dismantled and moved to its present location in Danville. It is currently the home of Buckley's Carpet & Linoleum.



*Continue on Railroad Street, crossing Route 11.
Turn right onto East Market Street. Turn left
onto Iron Street, following it until you turn right
onto Water Street.*

50. 300 Water Street

In 1898, F. Q. Hartman, built this home in the late Queen Anne style, which was popular from 1880-1910. It has all the elements of the style: asymmetry, variety of form, irregular roof line, tall chimneys and a tower (turret). It also has a turret that includes a second story balcony that faces the Susquehanna River. Hartman built three local silk mills and 18 throughout the state. He was an area philanthropist, re-constructing the unsightly river bank near his home, naming it "Montgomery Park." He donated land for a Boy Scout camp and most notably the ground for a sports field that still carries his name.

TURN TO DANVILLE DOWNTOWN

Danville Business Alliance
17 East Mahoning Street
Danville, PA 17821
570-284-4502
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