

NEW CASTLE HISTORIC TRAILS



ADMINISTERED BY
DELMARVA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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NENTEGO LODGE #20
THE ORDER OF THE ARROW

Welcome to the New Castle Historic Trail! In these trails you will see many of the historic sites in Old New Castle including the Court House, Town Hall, and the Amstel House. This trail is currently in draft form. Additionally, there are no patches to be awarded at this time until this document becomes finalized.

There are three trails (A, B, and C). In these trails you will have to answer questions and do different activities at different locations.

Part A includes tours of the Courthouse, Dutch House, Amstel and Read Houses. This part of the trail focuses on the changing lifestyles of the early Americans, from 1700 – 1820. It is recommended for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. This section will take approximately three hours to complete.

Part B is an exterior walking tour and is recommended for Boy Scouts. It will take you on a tour to include historic markers, landmarks and houses. This part of the tour follows the chronological history of New Castle from the 17th Century through the 20th Century. This part of the tour also looks at basic architectural changes through this time period. This section will take approximately four hours to complete.

Part C includes walking tours of historic building and locations and is recommended for Boy Scouts. This part of the tour focuses on the different changing modes of transportation throughout New Castle's history, from packet boats to railroads. The route will also take a more in-depth look at the changes which occurred in New Castle's architecture with a look at specific architectural elements. This section of the tour consists of more advanced

discussion questions, compass activities, and observation exercises. This section will take approximately four hours to complete.

Before you go out to hike the trails you need to have the right gear. You should bring a daypack that has a poncho, compass snacks, lunch (if necessary), and this pamphlet. You also need to make sure that you have appropriate footgear for hiking on roads and some grass. Please be sure to bring your compass. Also, there is a charge to enter several of the homes so be sure to bring along some money. The average price is \$4.00 for an adult and \$1.50 for a child. Remember that a Boy Scout is prepared!

Good luck and happy hiking!

**NEW CASTLE
HISTORIC TRAIL**

SECTION A

Section "A"

NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE

In New Castle's past, the flags of the Netherlands, Sweden, Great Britain, and the United States have flown overhead. New Castle was founded in 1651 by the Dutch under Peter Stuyvesant. He chose a bend in the Delaware River which gave command of all river traffic. Because of its strategic location, ownership of the settlement was constantly changing. The first time the town changed hands the Governor of New Sweden, Johan Rising, captured Fort Casimir as he sailed up the Delaware River. The Dutch recaptured the fort in 1655. A town grew up next the fort. Named New Amstel, the town served as a trading post where furs and tobacco were exchanged for finished goods. By 1660, several hundred people lived in New Amstel.

The English Duke of York, James, captured all of the Dutch colonies including New Amstel. At William Penn's request, the Duke granted him three counties along the Delaware so that Penn's new colony would have access to the sea. Penn came ashore at New Castle on October 27, 1682, where the representatives of the Duke's government gave him symbols of ownership – the key to the fort, a peice of soil, a twig, and a cup full of river water. These well established counties became dissatisfied with Penn's rule. When in 1704, a separate legislature was granted, New Castle became the colonial capitol of the Three Lower Counties on the Delaware. The new assembly met in the Courthouse in New Castle.

Over the next 70 years, tensions between Great Britain and the American colonies grew. As sentiment for separation steadily developed, the Continental Congress asked the colonies to form governments separate from Great Britain. On June 15, 1776, the measure of declaring the counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex separate and free from Great Britain took place. The separation also severed any ties remaining with the Penn family. The assembly changed the old colony name of the Three Lower Counties on the Delaware to the state of Delaware, naming New Castle the capitol. When the British occupied Philadelphia with warships lying in the Delaware River, the capitol was moved to Dover. New Castle continued as the county seat until the 1880's.

The first railroad in Delaware was the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad, completed in 1822. This improved travel between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Boats were required to complete the journey at either end with connections made on the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad directly connected these larger cities, sidetracked New Castle.

Throughout New Castle's History, a number of important people, among them judges, lawyers, and government officials, built handsome houses, many of which remain. Some houses were destroyed by the Great Fire of 1824, which started in the stables behind the Jefferson House. As a historical community, New Castle is a residential town where people live and work. Each house reflects the individuality of its past and present owners.

Section "A"
Historic Trail

THE COURTHOUSE

The center section of the Courthouse was built in (1) _____. It served as the state (2) _____ from (3) _____ until (4) _____, when it was moved to its present location in (5) _____, in Kent County. The 1732 structure sits on the site of an earlier courthouse, which was built in 1689. It was destroyed by the (6) _____.

On June 15, (7) _____, the Colonial Assembly voted to separate from (8) _____. In 1776, the (9) _____ was adopted in the second floor Assembly Room. The first (10) _____ for the state of (11) _____ was adopted in the Courthouse in (12) _____.

The dome which sits on top of the Courthouse is called a (13) _____. It became the (14) _____ of the 12 mile radius from New Castle to Delaware's northern (15) _____ in 1750. Delaware's western boundary (North/South line) was surveyed by (16) _____ & _____. They used the cupola to be certain the line was 12 miles from the center of New Castle.

(17) _____ different flags fly from the Courthouse. From 1651 until 1776, New Castle was governed by four different countries at different times. They were (18) _____, _____, _____, _____.

Architecturally, the Courthouse is an example of the (19) _____ style. This style characterized by the symmetry of the (20) _____ and (21) _____. Also seen (22) _____ courses (rows) of bricks between the floors, called a (23) _____ course. At each end of the building, on the second floor level, is a (24) _____.

DUTCH HOUSE

The Dutch settlers came from (1) _____. They were the first people to settle the town of (2) _____, Delaware. You step (3) _____ as you enter the Dutch House because the (4) _____ was built after the house.

DINNING ROOM – The main table is called a (5) _____ table. The (6) _____ of the table tilts up to save space, which is important in such a small room. Most of the dinnerware was made of a metal called (7) _____. The people ate with (8) _____ and (9) _____ - there are no (10) _____ on the table. Also on the table you will see a large flat dish called a (11) _____. Most meals were eaten from one large shared central dish.

KITCHEN – Here you will find many different ways to provide light before the days of electricity. A (12) _____ lamp is a small pan in which grease and a piece of string called a (13) _____ were placed. When

the wick was (14) _____ it would provide a small amount of light. A piece of swamp grass called (15) _____ would be dipped in hot (16) _____ and then placed in a (17) _____ light. When lit, this also provided light. Candles were made of the grease left over from cooking called (18) _____. They were made by repeatedly dipping a (19) _____ into hot (20) _____. By the fireplace you will see a can shaped object which was used to roast (21) _____. Large (22) _____ jars were used to store pickled (23) _____ such as cabbage.

PARLOR – Families would gather in this room in the evenings. On the table is a large (24) _____ which is written in Dutch. The family would listen as the (25) _____ read from the (26) _____. The large storage closet is called a (27) _____. The Dutch would store their valuable objects in this closet. Next to the fireplace is a small (28) _____ box called a foot warmer. Hot (29) _____ would be placed in the (30) _____ bowl inside the (31) _____ box. Also near the fireplace is a (32) _____ warmer. Hot coals were placed in the brass pan and then run between the (33) _____ on the bed. In the corner is a (34) _____ wheel which was used to spin (35) _____ from flax and wool. Early Americans had to (36) _____ their own thread and weave it into material in order to make clothes, blankets, and other (37) _____ items.

THE AMSTEL HOUSE

This house was built in (1) _____ by Dr. John (2) _____. It was later occupied by Nicholas VanDyke, Sr. The Amstel House is built in the (3) _____ style. The (4) _____ are all neatly lined up. Over the door is one of the earliest (5) _____ in New Castle. Between the second and third floors is a decorative curved (6) _____.

KITCHEN – The fireplace was very important in colonial times. It was used to (7) _____ the food, it made (8) _____ to see by, and gave off (9) _____ to keep the family warm. There are several ways to cook over an open fire. A (10) _____ can be hung on a (11) _____ from the (12) _____ directly over the fire. A (13) _____ is a pan with legs which cooks food over hot (14) _____. Hot coals are also piled all around the (15) _____ oven, in order to cook muffins and cakes. The (16) _____ oven was heated by building a (17) _____ in it which would heat the bricks. The (18) _____ were raked out and then (19) _____ or cookies were baked in the oven. A bucket of (20) _____ was always kept near the fire as a safety measure.

DINING ROOM – Many different types of activities would take place in the dining room. It was the style of the time to keep the (21) _____ pushed up against the wall until it was needed. If they wanted to eat dinner, they pulled the (22) _____ and (23) _____ into the center of the room. Standing near the fireplace is a (24) _____ warmer. This

allowed the (25) _____ to heat the plates, so they wouldn't crack and so the food would stay warm longer. Also next to the fireplace is a (26) _____ jack. Men used this to take off their (27) _____. If you look at the floor, you see that there is no (28) _____ on it. At this time, fabric was very expensive and so you wouldn't want people walking on them with their (29) _____ feet. Rugs were often displayed by hanging them on the (30) _____ or draped over (31) _____.

PARLOR – The parlor was the finest (32) _____ in the house. It was used to entertain guests after a dinner party or on special occasions such as (33) _____ and christenings. There was a wedding in this room. The couple's pictures are on the wall. They are (34) _____ VanDyke and Kensey Johns (of course they were much older when these were painted). The famous General (35) _____ attended this wedding. On both sides of the fireplace are (36) _____ cupboards. They are called this because the (37) _____ are shaped like butterfly wings. In these cupboards are dishes made of fine (38) _____. It would often take (39) _____ to get your dishes from overseas. They came on (40) _____ which were powered by (41) _____. Near the fireplace is a (42) _____ screen. It was used to protect a person's (43) _____ from the (44) _____ of the fire. A favorite colonial drink was (45) _____ which they drank from the (46) _____ pot. It was made of milk, biscuits, and hot wine or ale. Men would often sit in this room and smoke on a (47) _____ pipe. When the end got worn, they (48) _____ it off so that they could keep using the pipe.

**NEW CASTLE
HISTORIC TRAIL**

SECTION B

Section “B”
Historic Trail

THE 17TH CENTURY

The second section of the New Castle Heritage Trail begins by helping you find out about the 17th century. It was during this century that European colonists first settled in Plymouth, Massachusetts and Jamestown, Virginia. The first step as people began to try to live in this new world was to build small, primitive fort settlements. As more people came to the colonies in America, these settlements grew into towns. It was a hard life for those who came. Daily they struggled for protection, food, shelter, and clothing. Life was hard in all of the colonies, including Delaware, in the 17th century.

In 1609 the Dutch explorer, Henry Hudson, sailed his ship, the Half Moon, into the Delaware Bay and anchored off what is now known as Cape Henlopen. He claimed the Delaware Bay and the Delaware River (which he called the South River) and all surrounding land for the Dutch.

FORT CASIMIR

Fort Casimir Stone Marker & Historic Plaque #23 corner of Second & Chestnut Streets. Read both the stone marker and the blue & gold marker #23. Use the information that you find on them to answer the following questions.

- (1) In 1651, the Dutch build a fort here. What is it called?

- (2) In 1654, the Swedes captured this fort from the Dutch and renamed it The Swedes Trafildigheets or Trinity because they took the fort on Trinity Sunday. When did the Dutch recapture the fort from the Swedes?
- (3) Both times the Fort was taken without a shot being fired. Petrus (Peter) _____ led the Dutch who captured the Fort from the Swedes.
- (4) According to the stone marker, part of the fort now lies beneath the Delaware River. How could this have happened?
- (5) Both the plaque and the stone marker give a possible location for the fort. Name these two locations.
- (6) Which location looks the most probable?
- (7) How big do you think the fort would have been?
- (8) Why would a fort have been located here?
- (9) Walk up near the edge of the River. You can see a great distance from here. What possible importance would this have had to the Dutch when they built the fort?
- (10) What land mass is located across the river from you?

DUTCH HOUSE

32 E. THIRD STREET

The Dutch settled in New Castle in 1651. This house was built around 1700. When this house was built there were probably many others like it in New Castle.

- (1) How does the size of the Dutch House compare with the size of the houses around it? Why?

- (2) What is different about the roof of the Dutch House?
- (3) The roof has a larger overhand than the other houses. What purpose would this serve?
- (4) Compare the location of the doors and windows on the Dutch House with the houses near it. What is the difference?
- (5) To the left of the door you will find another door. Where does this other door lead? Why would this type of door be useful?

WILLIAM PENN STATURE & PLAQUE

The plaque located on the 2nd Street side of the wall surrounding Immanuel Churchyard. Read this plaque. Also examine the stature of William Penn located on the Market Green between 2nd and Market Streets. William Penn received the land which is now Pennsylvania and Delaware from King Charles II of England. After you have followed the directions above, answer the following questions.

- (1) What were the four things William Penn received when he landed?
- (2) What did these gifts represent?
- (3) When did this occur?
- (4) Which direction does William Penn's statue face?

THE GREEN

Plaque located on SW corner of the Green. Read the plaque.

- (1) What other name was the Green known by?
- (2) Why would it have been given this other name?
- (3) Who laid out the Green?
- (4) What else used to be located on the Green?

Leader: Please explain the use of stocks as a form of corporal punishment and the use of the gallows as a form of capital punishment.

THE 18TH CENTURY

The turn of the 18th century found the American colonies, including Delaware, undergoing significant changes. Delaware was no longer a dangerous and primitive frontier settlement. New Castle had grown into a bustling port city. Large houses with fine furnishings were being built along the newly laid out streets.

It was also during the 18th century that Delaware and the rest of the thirteen colonies claimed independence from Great Britain. This led to the Revolutionary War. Many of the people who lived in New Castle at that time played an important part in the Revolution. As you go through this segment of the trail, remember how many great historic events took place during the 18th century.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- (1) This church was founded in what year?
- (2) What was the nationality of the people that founded it?
- (3) Where was the original church located?
- (4) When was this church building constructed?

THE ARSENAL

Now called the New Castle Inn, 2nd Street and the Green.

This building was constructed in 1809 to serve as an arsenal. An arsenal is a building where guns and ammunition are stored. Go to the south end of the building and look up at the carved plaque located there.

- (1) What was the arsenal used for?
- (2) What do you think is the reason they placed an eagle and a cannon on the building?
- (3) Which direction does the eagle face?
- (4) Go to the north end of the building. Can you find where a door used to be located? Why would they need such a big door?

IMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THE GREEN

- (1) The Immanuel Episcopal Church was founded in _____.
- (2) However, the church was not build until _____.
- (3) The church was laid out in the shape of a religious symbol. What is that symbol? (Hint: You may need to go inside to figure this one out.)
- (4) In 1980 the church burned. Everything but the walls was destroyed. Why didn't the walls burn?
- (5) When the church burned, the tower was weakened. In order to strengthen the tower when they rebuilt, they changed two of the windows in the tower. What did they do to these windows?
- (6) Go around to the 2nd Street side of the church, to the porch door (the main entrance). Beside this door there is a large vault in the ground. What do you think this vault was used for?

THE ACADEMY BUILDING

3RD & HARMONY STREET

- (1) The Academy Building was built in _____.
- (2) Can you guess from its name what it was used for?
- (3) The building has a very neat and organized appearance with an equal and balanced number of windows. This is characteristic of the Georgian style of architecture. How many windows are there across the first floor on the side of the building facing the Green?
- (4) Over the doorway is a Palladia window like those in the Read House. How many parts does the window have? Is the center section flat or arched?
- (5) What architectural feature is found on the roof?

THE WIK HOUSE

2 E. THIRD STREET

The house located on the corner of Third & Delaware (2 E. Third Street) is a good example of a house built for a wealthy New Castlian. The house is build of (1) _____. This is both more durable and more expensive than other materials. From the front, also known as the fascade, you can see that the house is in (2) _____ parts. The smaller section to the right was built as an office. Professional men, such as doctors and lawyers often had their office in or near their home. (3) _____, who build his house of the Strand, was a lawyer who also did this.

Just like clothes, house styles change over time. This house was built in the mid-18th century. Which hundreds is the 18th century (hint – the hundreds are 1 less than the century)? (4) _____. Houses can be dated by noticing different details. How many floors or stories high is the main part of the house? (5) _____. Pay attention to the light gray colored stone above the first floor windows. This stone is called a pediment, which refers to the shape found above a window or door. Draw the shape of these pediments. (8)

Beyond being attractive, the pediments also support the weight of the bricks above. Look carefully at the shutters. Are they all the same? (9) _____. If not, what is the difference? (10) _____. The reason for this is that they allow for the circulation of air even when they are closed.

THE 19TH CENTURY

As you being the 19th century segment, you will notice dramatic differences between the buildings constructed at the beginning of the century and those at the end. The changes in the buildings you will look at reflect the changes which took place in the 19th century America. When the century began, we were a struggling new nation. As the century continued, more and more people came to the United States. As more people arrived, more land was needed. New states were formed from western lands settled by these people. In the middle of the century, the nation became divided as North and South fought each other in a Civil War. Big cities grew from small town as factories drew farmers away from the land. The factories reflected advances in technology which brought many changes to buildings and building materials.

TOWN HALL & MARKET HOUSE

2ND & DELAWARE STREET

Look at Historic Marker # NC 27 and look at the building and answer the following questions.

- (1) The area was used as a market as early as 1682. The building was erected in _____.
- (2) This building housed many important town meetings. In the early days, it also housed _____.
- (3) On the south end of the building, you will see arches and hinges in the brick. What do you think used to be there?

- (4) On the roof of the Town Hall is a _____.
- (5) What other building in New Castle have this architectural feature?

THE COOCH HOUSE

16 E. 3rd STREET

During the first twenty-five years of the 19th century, the town of New Castle was quite prosperous. The county court met in the Courthouse. The New Castle & Frenchtown Railroad began here, and ships stopped for supplies before crossing the ocean. Merchants, lawyers, and others in town benefited from all of this activity. Many of the houses around New Castle were built during this time. Down the street from the house you have already investigated on Second Street is #16, which was built during the first quarter of the 19th century.

Many of the details of the houses at #2 and #16 are similar, but some have changed. The changes help us date the building. The house at #16 is also built with expensive and stylish brick. The plot of land on which #16 is built is smaller than the land for #2. Which of the two houses is bigger? (1) _____. The larger size of this house is what we expect of houses built at this time. Do you remember the pediments on #2? They are located above the windows and are made of light gray stone. The same feature on #16 is rectangular with bull's eyes at the corners. Look at the corners. The bull's eyes are made in what shape? (2) _____. Look up at the cornice located just above the roof. The cornice on #2 is made of wood. On this house, the cornice is made of (3) _____. Above the cornice on the roof there are two windows. This means that there is enough space under

the roof for some rooms with slanted ceilings. This kind of space is called a half story. The windows have a special name. They are called dormer windows. What shape are the roofs on the dormers? (4) _____. Look more carefully at the windows on the house. The panes of glass are bigger than those on #2. Glass was becoming less expensive than in the past so more people could afford to have more of it in their homes. Did you notice the shutters on this house? Are they different from floor to floor? (5) _____.

10 E. THIRD STREET

By the late part of the 19th century, architectural building styles had changed a great deal. The construction material was still important, however, now people got creative with how they used those materials. What is the primary material that this house is built of? (1) _____. How many different kinds of siding can you count on the house? (2) _____. Different colors of paint were often used to emphasize the different parts of the house. There are (3) _____ colors used on this house. Other decorative elements on this house include the brackets (drawing), the porch, and the window bay. Houses built during the 18th century known as the Georgian Style emphasized regularity. This house does show that idea had changed.

COMPARISON OF 4 HOUSES

Walk across the street near the water fountain, stand so that you can see all four of the houses on Third Street. The next set of questions will ask you to

compare the houses at numbers 2, 10, 16, & Dutch House. The idea behind these questions is to help you see the differences in houses.

- (1) Which house has no shutters? _____
- (2) Which house has more panes of glass on the bottom of each window than on the top? _____
- (3) Which house has the largest panes of glass? _____
- (4) Which house has dormer windows? _____
- (5) Which house has the end of the roof, called the gable end, pointed towards you? _____
- (6) Which house has a chimney located at the end of the building?

- (7) Which house is not built of brick? _____
- (8) Which house has a rounded arch over the front door? _____
- (9) Which house has a triangular pediment over the front door?

- (10) Which house has only one story? _____
- (11) Which house is the largest? _____
- (12) Which house is the smallest? _____

OLD LIBRARY

40 E. THIRD STREET

This building was built in 1892 (check dates **building 1912) and served as a public library until 1965. The building is a unique example of fanciful Victorian architecture.

- (1) How many sides does it have?

- (2) What was the building originally used for?
- (3) On the sides of the library there are rectangles in the brickwork. These are edged in a molding style known as egg and dart. What would this molding be called this?
- (4) The cupola has glass sides and is called a skylight. What purpose would this serve?
- (5) This building was built in 1892 and is of the Victorian style. Victorian buildings are often fanciful with many interesting decorative features and architectural characteristics. Can you identify some of the characteristics?

OPERA HOUSE

308 DELAWARE STREET

Like houses of the late 19th century, public buildings tried to use building materials in new ways. The Masonic Hall located at 308 Delaware Street is a good example of this. Like the Courthouse down the street, the Masonic Hall was designed to show you how important it is by its size and the amount of decoration on it. Stand across the street from the Masonic Hall and look carefully at the building. Part of this building is missing. The middle section projects from the rest of the building. Up at the roofline what looks like a railing is called a balustrade. Just above this, there used to be a clock tower, which was torn down when styles changed.

What is the building material you see the most of? (1) _____

Look at the corners of the building. You can see large rectangular shapes. These decorative elements are called quoins. Can you tell what they are made of? (2) _____

Look at the side of the building. Can you see the chimneys?

On what other building in New Castle have you seen chimneys like this? (3) _____

How many chimney stacks are there? (4) _____

Cross the street and look at some the details on the Opera House. When was the Opera House built? (5) _____

Look again at the plaque which has the date on it. Above the date is the symbol for a men's group known as the Masons. Draw a picture of the symbol. (6) _____

Below the date is the symbol for another men's group – the Odd Fellows.

What are the three letters found in each of the interlocking links? (7) _____

From the records, we know that at least four more groups used the building for their regular meetings. By sharing the space in this manner, each group was able to afford a better building than if each had built its own.

**NEW CASTLE
HISTORIC TRAIL**

SECTION C

Section “C”
Historic Trail

Stand across Delaware Street from the Courthouse. Using all of the skills of observation that you have gained so far, fill in as many architectural details as you can. Plan to spend no more than 10 to 15 minutes doing this.

The Courthouse consists of three main parts. The central section is the oldest. Although each of the sections is two stories high, this section is the tallest, partly because the floor to ceiling height is greatest here but also because of the cupola. Since this cupola stands not only as a focal point within the town of New Castle but is also important as a geographic landmark for the state of Delaware, make sure to include it in your drawing.

The roofline on the central section of the Courthouse is like that of the Read House on the Strand, pitched until it gets near the center, then flat allowing for a half story under the roof. The balustrade which stands at the edge of this section. Make sure to include this in your drawing. Now look more carefully at the roofs on the other two sections. Both of these have gable or slanted roofs. The newest section of the Courthouse is to your left (or western end). The roof on that section has a flatter slope than the other two. This is a clue that this is newer than the other sections. The building material that covers this section is different also. The other two parts are covered with wood shingles while the western end has a standing seam tin roof.

The outlines for the main sections has already been for you on the activity sheet “C”. The main section is 5 bay with a central door. The left or western end is also 5 bay with a central door. The right-hand or eastern end is a 4 bay building with an offset door. Look more carefully at the eastern end. It was not built at one time. Make sure to draw in the seam line that show the addition. There are other clues to this change, including the arches over the two left hand windows which are not directly over the windows. While looking at these windows, make sure to look at the details of ALL the windows. Take note of the number of windowpanes in each section, they are different. So are the pediments over the windows and doors.

Now look carefully at the brickwork. To do this, you should walk back across the street. Referring to the drawings below, you can determine which bond was used in each section. When working on your drawing, do not forget to indicate the location of the chimneys. Look at the foundation for each section. These are not make of brick but another material. The western end is made of a material that should be familiar by now, the blocks are sleepers from the New Castle & Frenchtown Railroad.

Can you find more details? List them on activity sheet “C”.

We hope that you have learned to look more carefully at buildings around you. Wherever you so, see if you can figure out when a building might have been built.

INSERT DRAWING OF COURTHOUSE FOR DETAILS TO BE DRAWN IN!!!!

NEW CASTLE AND FRENCHTOWN RAILROAD TICKET OFFICE

In the 1800's, railroads were an important means of land transportation for both people and goods. New Castle used to be a very busy port town and railroads when through New Castle.

This ticket office used to be for a railroad line which ran from

(1) _____, Delaware to (2) _____, Maryland. It was built in (3) _____.

(4) Why would the trains have come here to the wharf?

(5) Starting from the Ticket booth, what is the compass heading to the Roundhouse?

(6) What was a roundhouse used for?

PACKET ALLEY

Locate the historic marker for Packet Alley. After you have read the marker, answer the following questions. Where did the packet boats come from?

(1) _____. These boats traveled up and down the river on a regular basis, usually twice weekly. The sign indicates that this transfer point allowed travelers to continue south to what city? (2) _____. The sign

lists many important people who came to New Castle through Packet Alley. The Indians Osceda and Black Hawk were on their way to visit the “Great Father” in Washington. Can you guess who the “Great Father” was?

(3) _____.

Now, walk into the alley and face north. Please remember that the buildings on either side of the alley were private homes. **Please be as quiet as you can.** There is a sign painted on the side of the building. This sign is one of the oldest surviving advertisements of its kind. It probably dates from the second half of the 19th century. Today, the sign seems to be in an awkward place. When it was painted, many people passed through the alley on their way to and from the packet boats. The dock was located about where the white picket fence now sits. Remember that the shoreline has changed due to the Delaware River silting in. The building on which the sign is painted on once served as a dry goods store. Look on the sign. What are the specific items listed for sale? (4) _____. What brand of soap is advertised? (5) _____. Notice that the soap is not being recommended for bathing but rather for use in (6) _____.

THE STRAND ARCHITECTURAL ACTIVITY

The buildings along the Strand are similar in that most of them are two story, brick buildings, however, there are a number of details that differ from house to house. Historically, many of these building were build and used as shops. For instance, the dry goods store you investigated earlier and also the George Read II House which was also a law office. From Packet Alley,

walk north paying particular attention to the front doors. Using the provided worksheet, fill in the house number for each of the doors indicated. Look carefully, some of these are tricky.

a) #

b) #

c) #

d) #

e) #, #, #, #

f) #

Benjamin Franklin helped the city of Philadelphia organize that city's first fire company. While these fire companies helped reduce the damage wrought by fire, they could not do as good a job as modern fire trucks. Many cities and towns created their own fire companies. In order to pay for their equipment, these companies took money subscriptions from residents. Many companies issued insurance medals, usually a cast metal disk, which residents attached to the exterior of their building. Without this symbol, the fire company might not stay to put out the fire when called. There are several fire symbols along the Strand. Draw a picture of the fire symbols found at #26 and #9. Look above the front door.

Since the streets were not paved until later, the streets became very muddy. During winter and spring, the streets might not dry out for weeks at a time. A boot scraper was often found next to the front door. This allowed those

entering the house to get ride of the worst of the dirt. Find the boot scraper drawn on (g) and indicate the house number.

g) #

Just like today, people like to know what is happening in their town and street. A devise which was popular during the 18th and 19th centuries was called a “busybody.” Placed at a second story window, using above the front door, it allowed a person sitting in the window to see what was happening along the street and who might be at the front door without being seen. A drawing of one of these is shown on (h). At what house numbers can you find these between Packet Alley and Harmony Street.

g) #

EAGLE TAVERN ON SECOND STREET

From the beginning of European settlement in America through the 19th century, taverns served many important functions. Whether located in a town or a crossroad, taverns were gathering places for everyone. People could get local, national, and international news. A tavern was a good place to conduct business, to pick up mail since mail was not usually delivered to individual homes, or to have someone read a newspaper or letter to you if you could not read. Of course, a tavern was also a place to obtain something to eat or drink and some taverns provided lodging. New Castle had several taverns throughout its history. The building you are standing in front of was once known as the Eagle Tavern. Little about the exterior would tell you about this earlier use. Most often in historic times a wooden sign would be posted outside the building to let everyone know. Since many people could not read, a symbol was a most important form of identification. Most likely the Eagle Tavern had an eagle on its sign. This would have been seen as a very patriotic symbol in the early years of the 19th century.

Look more carefully at the building. It has gone through many changes. Can you tell when the building was first built by looking at the brick bonds? (Example on Courthouse Architectural Activity Sheet.) 1) _____.

Where was the front door originally located? 2) _____. What has happened on the side? 3) _____. Draw an elevation of the original building.

ANSWER SHEET
SECTION "A"

COURTHOUSE

- (1) 1732
- (2) Capital
- (3) 1776
- (4) 1777
- (5) Dover
- (6) Fire
- (7) 1776
- (8) Great Britain
- (9) Declaration of Independence
- (10) Constitution
- (11) Delaware
- (12) 1776
- (13) Cupola
- (14) Center
- (15) Boundary
- (16) Mason & Dixon
- (17) Four
- (18) Dutch, Swedish, British, United States of America
- (19) Georgian
- (20) Windows
- (21) Doors
- (22) Two

- (23) Belt
- (24) Chimney

DUTCH HOUSE

- (1) Holland
- (2) New Castle
- (3) Down
- (4) Street/Sidewalk
- (5) Hutch
- (6) Top
- (7) Pewter
- (8) Knives
- (9) Spoons
- (10) Forks
- (11) Charge
- (12) Betty
- (13) Wick
- (14) Lit
- (15) Rush
- (16) Wax
- (17) Rush
- (18) Tallow
- (19) Wick
- (20) Tallow
- (21) Coffee Beans
- (22) Pottery/Ceramic

- (23) Vegetables
- (24) Bible
- (25) Father
- (26) Bible
- (27) Kas ?
- (28) Wooden
- (29) Coals
- (30) Ceramic
- (31) Wooden
- (32) Bed
- (33) Sheets
- (34) Spinning
- (35) Thread
- (36) Spin
- (37) Cloth

AMSTEL HOUSE

- (1) 1738
- (2) Finney
- (3) Georgian
- (4) Windows
- (5) Fanlights
- (6) Cornice
- (7) Cook
- (8) Light
- (9) Heat

- (10) Pot
- (11) Hook
- (12) Crane
- (13) Spider
- (14) Coals
- (15) Dutch
- (16) Beehive
- (17) Fire
- (18) Ashes
- (19) Bread
- (20) Water
- (21) Furniture
- (22) Table
- (23) Chairs
- (24) Plate
- (25) Fire
- (26) Boot
- (27) Boots
- (28) Carpet/Rug
- (29) Dirty
- (30) Wall
- (31) Tables
- (32) Room
- (33) Weddings
- (34) Ann
- (35) George Washington
- (36) Butterfly

- (37) Shelves
- (38) China
- (39) Years
- (40) Boats
- (41) Sails/Wind
- (42) Fire
- (43) Face
- (44) Heat
- (45) Possett
- (46) Possett
- (47) Clay
- (48) Broke

ANSWER SHEET

SECTION "B"

FORT CASIMIR

- (1) Fort Casimir
- (2) 1655
- (3) Stuyvesant
- (4) The land was eroded & the river banks widened.
- (5) (a) from the stone marker: 250 feet East/Northeast
(b) from plaque: NC # 23: 100 feet East
- (6) Discussion Question
- (7) Discu
- (8) ssion Question
- (9) Access to water route & had a good view up & down the River for protective/defensive purposes.
- (10) Defensive purposes
- (11) New Jersey

DUTCH HOUSE

- (1) It is much smaller. It is much older than the houses around it.
When the Dutch House was built, the settlers build small houses because of tradition and expense.
- (2) It is much higher and steeper pitched.
- (3) It would prevent rain from going in the windows and in the cellar.

- (4) The Dutch House has a central door between two windows. The other houses have the door on one side or the other. They were built using a side hall entry plan.
- (5) It allows access to the cellar. This door allows for the easy storage of large objects such as farming equipment.

WILLIAM PENN STATUE & PLAQUE

- (1) Key to the fort, piece of turf, a twig, a pitcher of river water.
- (2) Ownership of the land, the fort, the water and all that is found on the land.
- (3) October 27, 1682
- (4) South

THE GREEN PLAQUE

- (1) Market Plaine
- (2) Weekly markets were held on this large flat area
- (3) Peter Stuyvesant
- (4) A jail and a gallows

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORIC MARKER

- (1) 1657
- (2) Dutch
- (3) On the Strand
- (4) 1707

ARSENAL

- (1) It stored weapons for the United States of America.
- (2) East
- (3) Wagons could be drawn into the building for loading or unloading guns and ammunition.

IMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THE GREEN

- (1) 1689
- (2) 1703
- (3) A cross
- (4) They were made of stone.
- (5) They filled them in to strengthen the tower.
- (6) Discuss. It holds dead bodies when the ground is frozen hard and they cannot be buried.

THE ACADEMY BUILDING

- (1) 1799
- (2) A school
- (3) ?
- (4) Three, arched
- (5) Cupola

2 E. THIRD STREET

- (1) Brick
- (2) Two
- (3) George Read II
- (4) 1700
- (5) Two
- (6) Three
- (7) Three
- (8) ?
- (9) No
- (10) The shutters on the first floor are solid, while the ones on the second floor are slatted.

TOWN HALL & MARKET HOUSE

- (1) 1823
- (2) Fire Engines
- (3) Arched doorways with doors to allow for the storage of fire engines.
- (4) Cupola
- (5) Courthouse, Arsenal, Academy Building, Presbyterian Church

16 E. THIRD STREET

- (1) Three
- (2) #16

- (3) Circles
- (4) Wood
- (5) Rounded
- (6) No, the shutters are all solid.

10 E. THIRD STREET

- (1) Wood
- (2) Two
- (3) Five
- (4) Does

COMPARISON OF 4 HOUSES

- (1) 10 E. Third Street
- (2) 32 E. Third Street, Dutch House
- (3) 10 E. Third Street
- (4) 16 E. Third Street
- (5) 10 E. Third Street
- (6) 16 E. Third Street
- (7) 10 E. Third Street
- (8) 16 E. Third Street
- (9) 2 E. Third Street
- (10) 32 E. Third Street, Dutch House
- (11) 16 E. Third Street
- (12) 32 E. Third Street, Dutch House

OLD LIBRARY

- (1) Six
- (2) A public library. When the library moved, this building became a museum.
- (3) Because the pattern looks like eggs with darts in between them.
- (4) It could provide sunlight inside the Library so that patrons could read.
- (5) Hexagonal shape, cupola weathervane, arched doorway, skylight, large fanlight over door, decorative brick molding, alternating brick pattern.

OPERA HOUSE

- (1) Brick
- (2) Carved Stone
- (3) The old library building on 2nd Street
- (4) Four
- (5) 1879
- (6) ?
- (7) F, L, & T

ANSWER SHEET

SECTION "C"

NEW CASTLE AND FRENCHTOWN RAILROAD TICKET OFFICE

- (1) New Castle
- (2) Frenchtown
- (3) 1832
- (4) Because trade goods were being transported in and out of New Castle by boats from this wharf. Railroads brought goods to these boats and took goods from other boats and carried them to other parts of Delaware and the United States.
- (5) ?
- (6) To store, repair and turn locomotives around.

PACKET ALLEY

- (1) Philadelphia
- (2) Baltimore
- (3) U. S. President
- (4) Dry Goods, Groceries, Provisions, Hardware Paints, Oils, Ship Stores
- (5) Ivory
- (6) The Kitchen

THE STRAND ARCHITECTURAL ACTIVITY

- (a) #43
- (b) #21
- (c) #58
- (d) #23
- (e) #27, 29, 31, 33
- (f) #60
- (g) #30
- (h) #21, 26, 29, 31, 56