

Of Flemish-bond brickwork, the McLaughlin house was built in 1786 by Daniel Stouffer and Colonel Murphy, who also owned the Mansion House, a meeting place for townspeople through the 1800's. The house features an abundance of woodwork and a wood medallion graces the chandelier in the front hall.



The Presbyterian Church was built of stone in 1794. Many Scotch-Irish emigrated to Pennsylvania between 1700 and 1750 bringing with them the religion of their homelands. After working their way westward to the Cumberland Valley, they established the first Presbyterian Church of the Upper West Conococheague.



The Lane House is the birthplace of Harriet Lane, niece of the fifteenth president of the United States. James Buchanan; she presided over the White House during his administration. Built in 1828 of Georgian style architecture, its many distinguishing features include elaborately carved woodwork and a curved ceiling in the hallway.

Fendrick Library, formerly known as the Parker House, was built by Colonel Robert Parker, who served on General Washington's staff at Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, and in the siege of Yorktown where he witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis. Built in 1788 of native limestone, the library has finely carved moldings



William McKinstry came to Mercersburg in 1796 at the age of 22. He purchased a general store from James Buchanan, Sr. He was Justice of the Peace for twenty-five years, and publisher of Mercersburg's first newspaper, **The Mercersburg Visitor**. An accomplished builder, in 1810 he built McKinstry House as his residence and general store.

AN INVITATION

The home of America's 15th President, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, is a picturesque, small town, generally unspoiled by progress. Located in the beautiful Cumberland Valley at the foothills of the Tuscarora Mountains, Mercersburg is an unusual delight for the casual passer-by or the dedicated historian.

As part of its 225th anniversary celebration in 1975, Mercersburg created by ordinance, a historic district encompassing many of the fine stone, brick and log structures, several of which date back to the early 1700's.

Mercersburg is not a museum. Rather, it is a real, living and vital community. It has maintained not only its historic architecture but also its small town character. Folks greet each other on the street and congregate each day in the same cafes to discuss the day's events.

The Mercersburg Academy, a nationally known independent secondary school for boys and girls, is also located in the town. Located on a beautifully maintained 300 acre campus, the Academy also is home to the birthplace log cabin of President James Buchanan, a wonderful model railroad exhibit, and a magnificent gothic stone chapel which houses a 43-bell English Carillon.

Unique in many ways, Mercersburg is worth a visit for a walking tour or a few days. We have been called the "Jewel Box" of Franklin County. Come and see why. We are ten miles west of I-81 at Exit 5 on Pennsylvania Route 16.

Approximate driving time to selected cities...

Baltimore - 90 minutes	Pittsburgh - 3 hours
Gettysburg - 45 minutes	Richmond - 4 hours
Hagerstown - 20 minutes	Washington - 90 minutes
Harrisburg - 80 minutes	Antietam - 30 minutes
Philadelphia - 3 hours	Harpers Ferry - 45 minutes

More Information: Mercersburg Area Chamber of Commerce
717-328-5827 • www.mercersburg.org

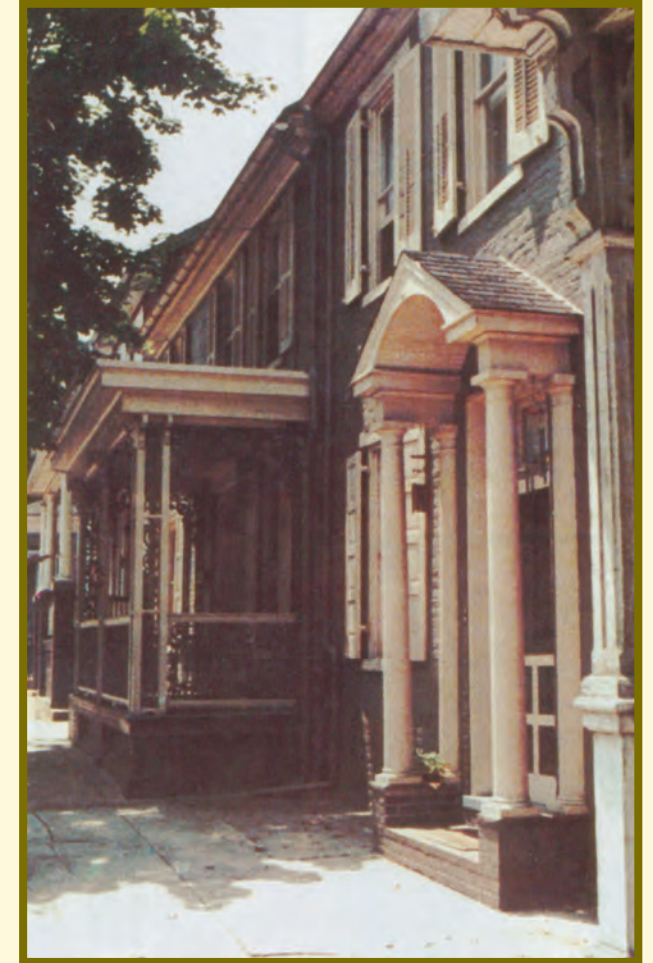


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Mercersburg Historic District



Mercersburg, Pennsylvania
Founded 1750

Listed on National Register
of Historic Places

U.S. Department of the Interior

The early history of the United Church of Christ, formerly Trinity Reformed Church, is closely woven with the history of the Mercersburg Academy since it served both the town and school communities. In 1836, Marshall College, forerunner of the Academy, was established. In 1837, the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church, which was located on the campus of the Mercersburg Academy, was founded. Trustees of Marshall College appropriated funds in 1844 to erect this church. The Seminary was renowned for its theologians.



The charm of the Historic District extends to its backyards, where smokehouses, pumphouses, and outhouses remind us of the lifestyles of our forefathers. Replaced by more modern methods and inventions, these structures now serve a variety of uses. They are of brick, stone, and weatherboard.



This limestone house with many elaborate features was built to specifications in 1786 for the widow and daughter of Squire Smith, founder of Mercersburg. The double chimney serves two of its five fireplaces.



Purchased by the school board in 1845, this brick house was once a two-room log schoolhouse: it formed the west boundary of the town. In 1880, Dr. Unger, a physician, added a second story for use as his home and office, where he treated the townspeople.

Please come for a visit. Each season of the year brings its own joy and pleasure. For additional information, please contact Borough Hall, 113 South Main Street, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania 17236, (717) 328-3116.

Log and stone structures are the oldest in the Historic District but are outnumbered by brick structures. Many are of Federal, Adams, and Georgian style architecture. Decorative porches and earth-tones in print and materials give the town a cozy atmosphere.



With ten rooms and ten fireplaces, Mercersburg's first full sized stone house was built in 1780 by Dr. William McGaw. The section to the right was added a few years later. Dr. McGaw served in the Revolutionary War with the confidence and esteem of the great General Washington. He then practiced medicine in Mercersburg for forty years.



Early records show that a "society" of the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed at Mercersburg prior to 1822. Since 1834, this church has housed the local congregation. Immediately after it was built the basement served as a school, and during the Civil War served as a hospital where Confederate soldiers received care.



This attractive kitchen is part of an old log house, now encased with brick. The plain mantel adds to the elegance of the room. The cellar of this house was part of the underground railroad during the Civil War.