

## ARCHITECTURE

The Historic District of Northumberland was designated in 1989, when it received a listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is bounded by Fourth Street to the north, A Street to the east, the North Shore Railroad to the south, and Wheatley Avenue to the west. Architecturally, the District contains a variety of styles including folk and Federal houses dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries; Classical Revival, Gothic Revival, and Greek Revival from the 1830s; Italianate and Second Empire from the mid-19th century; Queen Anne from the 1880s and 90s; and Colonial Revival from the early 20th century. Brick and frame buildings predominate, although a few early structures are stone or log.

A few commercial buildings remain in the District, but the only remaining industrial building is the former grain mill at the western end of Priestley Avenue.

Buildings of the pre-Civil War period are primarily two and one-half story center hall or side hall types. Many of the earliest are brick, usually unpainted, and a large number of later examples are framed with wooden siding.

Houses dating from the Victorian period have a more open floor plan, with the customary profusion of bays. Most are two and one-half to three stories, which matches the height of their earlier neighbors. The majority of these are single family dwellings, mostly of frame construction.

Colonial Revival houses in the district are similar to earlier houses in scale and height, but the prevailing method of construction is brick. A few of them are duplex types.

The advent of the Pennsylvania Canal helped bring new architectural styles to Northumberland, including the Early Classical Revival Taggart House, graced with a double-tiered Tuscan order porch and pilastered entrances on both stories.

The Priestley Memorial Chapel is an early example of the Gothic Revival style. St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a later example of Carpenter Gothic. The Second Empire and Italianate styles are not numerous, but are represented by some of the grander houses in the district. A number of Queen Anne houses are scattered through the district, especially above the Park. A large number of buildings dating from the

## ARCHITECTURE (CONT.)

first quarter of the twentieth century are Colonial Revival in style. The District also contains some fine examples of post-World War I architecture such as the Prairie Vernacular houses at the upper end of the Park. All in all, the integrity of the Northumberland Historic District is quite high.

Although the Historic District does not include the downtown area, you might want to extend your tour by a walk along Queen and lower Front Streets. Here, you will find a blend of commercial buildings built in the 1930s with art deco influence, such as those along Front Street. Also on Queen Street, in the block north of Front Street, there is the First Presbyterian Church building which dates to 1844.

The Historic District of Northumberland is always changing. It is in a continual process of construction, renovation, remodeling, destruction, and alterations. Most of the buildings mentioned in this survey are still standing, though they may have been greatly altered. A few of them are not, having suffered the effects of time, floods, or neglect. The purpose of this tour is to make you aware that Northumberland has a history which is both abundant and distinctive.

The tour begins at the Joseph Priestley House where parking is available. Metered parking throughout the borough is suspended on Sunday. The tour, excluding a tour of the Priestley House, takes approximately two hours.

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** If you would like to learn more about Northumberland's history, visit the Northumberland County Historical Society located at the site of old Fort Augusta, in the Hunter House, 1150 North Front Street, Sunbury. It is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. Admission to the museum is free, donations accepted. There is a nominal fee for use of the library.

Researched and drafted by the Walking Tour Committee of the Friends of Joseph Priestley House: Gretchen Walberg, chair; Elizabeth K. Apple, Joseph Epler, Hope W. Kopf, JoAnn Long, and Joan Snyder Strouse. Photographs by Hope Kopf. Edited by Jane DuPree Richardson, director of the Northumberland County Historical Society. Other services provided by Andrea Bashore, historic site administrator of the Joseph Priestley House, and Charlotte Rhinehart, treasurer and office manager of N.C.H.S. Layout and design by PhaseOne Marketing & Design. Funded by a Degenstein Foundation Grant, a community grant from the Northumberland National Bank, and the Friends of Joseph Priestley House. The project was administered by the Northumberland County Historical Society. ©2003



## NORTHUMBERLAND

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PA.

Showing the junction of  
the North and West branches of the Susquehanna  
by Dr. Robert B. McKay, circa 1853



## WELCOME

Welcome to Historic Northumberland!

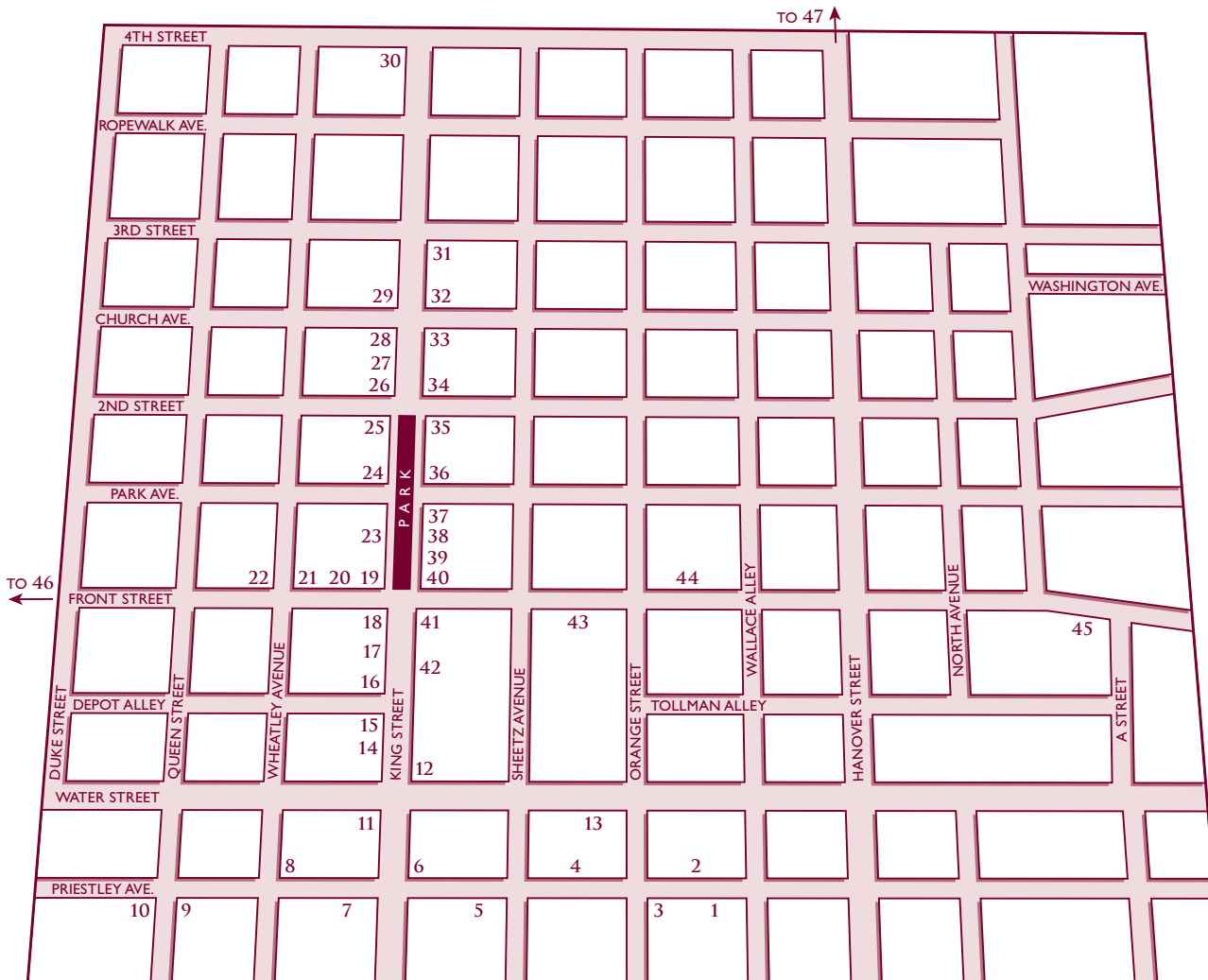
As you walk through Northumberland's Historic District

on this self-guided tour, you will have the opportunity to learn about the history and architecture

of a frontier city, which served as an important transportation center during the canal and railroad eras. Its architecture

reflects the more than 225 years that Northumberland has been in existence. This is a community proud of its heritage and

committed to preserving it for future generations.



## HISTORY

The picturesque and historic town of Northumberland is located at the juncture of the North and West branches of the Susquehanna River. Geographically, it is located in the center of Pennsylvania in the area now called the Susquehanna Valley. At the time it was settled, Northumberland County was the western frontier, not only of Pennsylvania, but of the English colonies.

Before European settlement, these were important lands for the native Americans. Their village of Shamokin, now Sunbury, was a meeting ground for the Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy. In 1768, this was the last tract of land to be relinquished to the European settlers in Pennsylvania. After the Penn's Purchase of 1768, land claims by European settlers increased, and land speculation was big business. In 1772, John Lowden and William Patterson, having received four tracts of land from Thomas Penn, one of the heirs of William Penn, laid out the town of Northumberland. By 1774, there was an extensive tax list of newly arrived landholders, and Reuben Haines, a wealthy Quaker from Germantown, secured a patent to develop the land surrounding that of Lowden and Patterson. Eventually, Haines purchased all the landholdings. He developed the town around a common green, in the manner of an English village. As the eighteenth century drew to a close, the population center of Pennsylvania had shifted west, and, in 1809, Northumberland was considered as a site for the state capital. Instead, in 1812, Harrisburg was chosen, and Northumberland never became the urban, English community envisioned by Haines, Lowden, and Patterson. After the War of 1812, land prices deflated, and the American frontier moved farther west.

Because of its location, Northumberland was a convenient center for trade and retained its status as a transportation and banking center through the nineteenth century. It was an important canal and later railroad center. Northumberland is home to close to four thousand people. Its civic pride and downtown revitalization have created an attractive and comfortable community.

1

**472 PRIESTLEY AVENUE**



The walking tour begins at the Joseph Priestley House located on the south side of the former dirt street called North Way. This house was the American home of the Reverend Doctor Joseph Priestley, discoverer of oxygen. He lived here from 1798 until his death in 1804. Priestley had a laboratory in the east wing of the house, and in 1799, he isolated carbon

monoxide there. His wife, Mary Wilkinson Priestley, helped plan and supervise the construction of the house, but died before its completion in 1798. Priestley, a chemist, theologian, and political theorist, fled his native England in 1794, and found refuge in the new nation, the United States of America. His sons and good friend Thomas Cooper chose Northumberland as his future home. Priestley brought Unitarian thought to Northumberland and conducted meetings in his home. After Priestley's death, his family returned to England. The house remained a private residence and later became a boarding house. In 1926, Penn State University opened the house as a museum. In 1955, they presented the home to the borough of Northumberland. Since 1959, it has been administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The house is a National Historic Landmark, and, in 1994, was designated a National Historic Chemical Landmark by the American Chemical Society.

The house is a five-ranked Georgian, having its windows aligned horizontally and vertically on both the street and river facades. The central hallways are flanked by rooms having two windows each. The Priestley House is also known as a four-square Georgian, meaning four rooms per floor, usually two over two on each side of a center hall. In the Priestley House, however, the interior rooms are not equal in size. It is a frame house, constructed of kiln-dried lumber. The front of the house faces the Susquehanna River.

2

**429 PRIESTLEY AVENUE**

As you leave the Priestley House parking lot you see, directly across the street, a small, red brick house. The sale of the original lot by Reuben Haines to the trustees of the Union School of Northumberland for 5 shillings was recorded in 1792. The original school, on this site, was a log structure, later replaced by a brick structure. In 1871, the Northumberland School District sold the lot and a building to John C. Chesney for \$655. This building remained in the Chesney family until 1916.

3

**10 ORANGE STREET, CORNER OF PRIESTLEY AVENUE**



The lot on which this two-story Georgian brick house is built was part of the original Priestley tract. Ellis Lewis of Lancaster purchased the land with no house in 1843. Lewis was an early president judge of the 8th Judicial District of Pennsylvania, comprising Northumberland, Lycoming, Union, and Columbia Counties. He later

3

**10 ORANGE STREET, CORNER OF PRIESTLEY AVE. (CONT.)**

became a judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and a chief justice of the United States. Joseph Johnson, a boat builder, purchased the property in 1846 and built the house in the two over two room style, with one of the first floor rooms serving as the kitchen. Originally, the gable ends had no windows. The front entrance of the house is similar to the river entrance of the Joseph Priestley House.

4

**373 PRIESTLEY AVENUE**



In 1800, John Philip DeGruchy came to Northumberland from England and purchased this land from the Reverend Dr. Joseph Priestley. DeGruchy established a brewery, a boat yard, and a cooper's shop across the street. He also owned the corner lot at Orange Street and Priestley Avenue, and operated a store in one of these buildings. After DeGruchy's

death, his widow returned to England, and the property was sold to David Starick through Joseph Rayner Priestley, Priestley's grandson. It has remained a private residence to the present time.

This one and one-half story cottage, built about 1805, has a hall and parlor layout with an entry door to the right that originally opened into a hall. It now opens directly into a front parlor; which may have been a single room that also served as a kitchen. Originally, the staircase at the rear of the house accessed the sleeping and storage space under the roof. The house is built of stone, covered with painted stucco, typical of colonial Pennsylvania construction. Because colonial mortar had a low lime content, most buildings were plastered to protect them from the weather. The north wall of the house was altered during remodeling, but the original cottage was never large. It has an interior fireplace at the west gable end. Notice that there are no windows on the gable ends. A hatch or skylight may have provided light to the original loft room.

5

**356 PRIESTLEY AVENUE**



The present train station for the North Shore Railroad was built as a freight station by the Delaware, Lackawanna, & Western Railroad in 1915. The office was a small section to the right, and the remainder of the building was a large warehouse. This station dealt only with small shipments such as barrels, crates, or packets. At that time, the tracks ran

down the middle of Priestley Avenue. In the 1920s, the Pennsylvania Railroad built their tracks behind the station over the old canal bed. The tracks on Priestley Avenue were used until 1948, at which time, all trains used the PRR tracks. The station was sold to the North Shore Line in 1984. The building now serves as office space for several train lines. North Shore serves Northumberland, Danville, Bloomsburg, and Berwick.

6

**10 KING STREET AT PRIESTLEY AVENUE**



The Washington Tavern, at the northeast corner of King Street and Priestley Avenue, was the site of meetings and business talks during the stagecoach, canal, and railroad periods. The old tavern is said to have gotten its name during the Revolutionary War through the popularity of General George Washington.

The building consists of two three-bay structures. The building on the corner of Priestley Avenue is a two and one-half story frame hall and parlor folk house, constructed in 1776, four years after Northumberland's incorporation as a borough. In 1812, John Shreiner expanded the building by adding the brick section. It has been enlarged several times throughout the years, and now has twenty-two rooms for living quarters. At one point, the property was owned by Susquehanna University, which acquired it as part of a debt owed to the school. In 1937, James Oplinger and his wife bought the tavern from the University. In 1977, Robert Rose purchased the property and had the entire building covered in aluminum siding in the 1980s. It continues to serve as a tavern. *Please cross King Street carefully and continue west on Priestley Avenue.*

7

**284 PRIESTLEY AVENUE**

Hawkins Boone married Jane Fortinbaugh in 1774, and purchased this lot in 1775, from Reuben Haines. Four years later, Boone was killed at the Battle of Fort Freeland near Turbotville. Ebenezer Greenough, a lawyer from Sunbury, is known to have owned this two-story brick house, built before the 1834 tax record. In 1866, his son, William Greenough, sold the property to Josephine Brown, who married William Weimer, the postmaster of Northumberland at that time. Josephine succeeded him as postmistress after his death. In 1880, Charles and Jane Gervin sold the house to John Chesney, who sold it to Gertrude Sanders in 1917, and it remains in the Sanders family today.

The house is a hall and parlor with two rooms and a hall downstairs and three bedrooms and a landing upstairs. A two-bay dormer has been added at the street roofline. Interior features include a chair rail, a high ceiling in the front room and pegged beams in the attic and basement. There are four fireplaces; the two chimneys in the attic are shaped in a Y. At some point, a kitchen was added to the back.

8

**251 PRIESTLEY AVENUE**



The stone house at the northeast corner of Priestley and Wheatley Avenues is one of the oldest in the historic district. Built circa 1795, it is made of rough coursed stone with heavy quoins in the corners. Its gable roof is covered with metal. Although the house now has a single entrance, it may originally have been a double-

**8 251 PRIESTLEY AVENUE (CONT.)**

entrance German-style folk house. In the early 1800s, James Hiatt lived in the house. He was a purser in the British Navy and fought at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 under Admiral Lord Nelson. Through the years, the property came to be known locally as the Peter Jones Tavern, "a profitable, busy, and notable tavern."

**9 206 PRIESTLEY AVENUE**

In 1786, Reuben Haines sold this lot to Ennion Williams, a Berks County merchant, who conveyed the property to several Philadelphia merchants. They sold it to William McQuahae of Northumberland in 1803. McQuahae married Deborah Cowden, daughter of John Cowden, and after his death in 1846, their children sold the property to Forsyth, Wilson, and Co., a firm of Northumberland merchants. William T. Forsyth purchased it in 1851, and the Cummings Map of 1858 shows a house on the lot at that time. In 1866, Martha Kapp, the widow of Michael Kapp, a stagecoach agent, purchased a "two-story frame dwelling house and a one-story log kitchen." Later that year, she conveyed the property to her son Hosea Kapp. Eventually, it became a rental property owned by George and Ella Wendt Eckert, who sold it as "a single dwelling house" to Shirley Dagle in 1972.

The house, in the hall and parlor style, incorporates the log kitchen and has the later addition of a two-story bay window extension.

**10 138 PRIESTLEY AVENUE**



Captain John Boyd purchased this property from Reuben Haines in 1774, and became one of the first merchants in Northumberland. He had served in the Continental Army in the east and with the Rangers on the western frontier. In 1773, he came to Northumberland with his widowed mother and served as a volunteer at Fort

Augusta. In 1793, he sold the property to Thomas Hamilton, a surveyor, and his wife Elizabeth, who belonged to the "Northumberland Book Society" and held meetings in her home. In 1794, Boyd married Rebecca Bull, daughter of General John Bull. In 1812, the house was sold to Heath Northbury, a Northumberland attorney. By 1828, George A. Frick had acquired the property, then sold it to Joseph B. and Rebecca Frick Norbury (Frick's sister). In 1848, John Bower, a boatman, purchased this "frame house and lot of ground," which he owned until 1881, when Jesse James became the owner.

In 1970, Shirley J. Dagle purchased this large single frame home, with a semi-attached two-story grain mill, formerly Bolig's Mill. Here, Mrs. Dagle operated the former "Feed Mill" Restaurant, famous for its home-style food.

The mill is a three story building with beveled siding. The series of concrete dividing walls behind the mill served as support for a siding of the Delaware, Lackawanna, & Western Railroad. Coal

**10 138 PRIESTLEY AVENUE (CONT.)**

cars would be shunted up onto this siding and would drop the coal load into the bins below.

*Now, turn north on Queen Street. At the corner, turn right on Water Street and continue to the traffic light at the corner of King Street.*

**11 296 WATER STREET**



This two-story brick house is located on the southwest corner of King and Water Streets. In 1864, Amos E. Kapp organized the First National Bank of Northumberland. Later, a banking house was built on land that he owned at the corner of Market (now King) and Water Streets. A little more than a decade later it went out of business and

remained vacant for several years. In 1901, this building was listed as a one-story brick banking office. The First National Bank of Mahanoy City sold the property to Rachel A. Grant, whose husband, William T. Grant, was a descendant of Thomas Grant (1757-1815), an early resident of Sunbury. Thomas Grant had married Deborah Martin, daughter of Robert Martin, the first permanent settler in Northumberland. When Rachel Grant sold the property in 1918, it was listed as a two-story brick home.

This brick house has quoins at the corners on the first floor level. The second floor is a frame addition that has a bay window with a fanlight in the pediment above on the Water Street entrance side, and an oriel window with a fanlight in the pediment above on the King Street side.

**At the light, use the buttons for pedestrian traffic. Cross Water and King Streets carefully, and continue down Water Street.**

**12 309 WATER STREET**



A mortuary business has been conducted from this site on the northeast corner of Water and King Streets since 1927. Robert L. Davis, grandson of William Elliott, established the business, and Jerre W. and Christine Blank have continued it since they purchased the building in 1978. The oldest part of this building, to the rear, can be seen from

King Street; it was constructed in the late 1770s. In 1811, Joseph Priestley, Jr. deeded the property to John Boyd, a Northumberland merchant. William Elliott, a railroad contractor, purchased the home in 1863, and completed the large Second Empire addition on King Street in 1876.

The 44-room four-story dwelling is embellished with a tower, a slate Mansard roof, heavy cornices, round topped windows, and stylized

**12 309 WATER STREET (CONT.)**

corner quoins. The high windows on the first, second, and third floors are typical of the Mediterranean Italian villa style. The boxed or Mansard roof is typical of the mid-19th century French Second Empire. The early two-story brick structure facing King Street, is a four over four, center hall Colonial.

**13 384-386 WATER STREET**

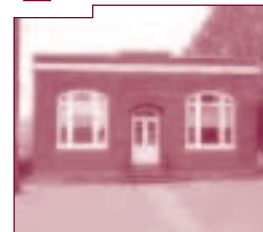


The Reverend Dr. Joseph Priestley purchased this lot in 1795, from John and Mary Allen of Northumberland. It was sold to John Philip DeGruchy in 1800. DeGruchy, a cooper (barrel maker), also had a boat yard, a distillery, and a general store. He lived just behind at 373 Priestley Avenue. This building is the former Town Market House which was

moved around 1867, from the Square at King Street to the upper half of this property to be used as a home. In 1933, it became the home of John W. and Lulu Doster.

*Retrace your steps to the King Street intersection. Cross with the light to the west side of King and continue north.*

**14 65 KING STREET**



This red brick, single-story building was constructed in 1922, by William Whitmer and Sons, Co. In 1956, J. Donald and Josephine Steele purchased the office building from Whitmer-Steele Co., and the building was used as his law office for many years. It was built in a modified form of the International Style, characterized by the flat roof

top, uniform wall surface, and absence of ornamentation.

**15 67 KING STREET**

On the corner of King Street and Depot Avenue is a two-story brick dwelling that dates after the Cummings Map of 1858 and before the Survey Map of Northumberland in 1894. In 1928, Margaret B. Vincent, widow of John H. Vincent, Jr., purchased this home from the Farmer's and Mechanic's Bank of Northumberland. In 1935, it became the home of Harry H. and Emma E. Haddon, and remained in the Haddon family until her death in 1992. Harry Haddon was president of the Daily Item, formerly the Sunbury Daily Item, from 1937 to 1960, and of the Sunbury Broadcasting Corporation from 1933 to 1968.

Originally a hall and parlor style house, a rear two-story addition was added at a later date. The house has a bracketed cornice with pedimented over-door and over-window moldings.

## 16 CORNER OF DEPOT ALLEY & KING STREET

The vacant lot on the northwest corner of Depot Alley and King Street was the site of the Burr Hotel, kept by George Burr, grandson of Theodore Burr, inventor of the wooden arch, or "camel-back" bridge, known as the Burr Truss. Theodore Burr built these covered bridges in New York State and New Jersey, as well as in the Central Susquehanna Valley. The only two remaining Burr Truss bridges in Northumberland County are the Rishel Covered Bridge on Twp. Road 547, off Route 45 east of Montandon, and the Sam Wagner Covered Bridge on Leg. Route 49057, off Route 642 north of Potts Grove. George Burr's daughter Mary (May) was known as a recluse and never appeared in public without a veil. After her death in 1930, the property was purchased by the Moose Lodge. The house was demolished and the lot was used for parking.

## 17 85 KING STREET

Because of the canal business, Northumberland became the financial center for a large area of Central Pennsylvania. This building was erected in 1834 as the Bank of Northumberland, and Joseph Rayner Priestley, grandson of the chemist, became its first cashier. The bank prospered and survived the panics of the 1840s under President Andrew Jackson's administration. In 1864, the bank was moved to Sunbury and became the First National Bank. When the bank closed, Joseph Bird, a prosperous businessman, who dealt in coal and iron, purchased the building and remodeled it as his dwelling. At that time, it was considered the finest and most costly home in the county. The Birds furnished it in luxurious style and adorned the parlor walls with fine paintings.

Originally, the bank was a large, impressive two and one-half story, four-over-four room Georgian. The portico, with Ionic columns and pediment, is an example of Neo-Classical architecture. The Birds converted the roof to a flat, Mansard style, added a tower at the front, and enlarged the structure at the rear. In 1917, the Loyal Order of the Moose purchased the building. Most of the rear half of the house was removed; the tower was also removed and the Mansard roof modified. In 2002, the building's ninety years of history as the Moose Lodge came to an end. The furnishings and fixtures were sold at auction, and the building and property were purchased by a private individual.

## 18 91-95 KING STREET



At one time, the building on the corner of King and Front Streets was a store and a small chair factory run by the Clyde brothers. Note the two large service doors, surmounted by spandrel (half-sun) windows on the Front Street side.

The merchant lived in an apartment above the store. The second house, connected by a service passage for wood and coal, may also have been used as a residence above. From 1831 to 1834, the oldest part of the house was used as the first bank in Northumberland while the bank building was being constructed next door at 85 King Street. The Lyon family owned the property at one time. Edward Lyon was a friend of the Reverend Dr. Joseph Priestley and came to America with him on the ship "Sansom." In the mid-1960s, the back wing was used as a police station by the borough. The current owners have extensively restored the buildings.

The front part of this double brick house at the southwest corner of King and Front Streets was built around 1800; the rear portion was added in the 1830s. The southeast section was added in the 1840s. The front of the present structure is composed of two hall and parlor houses, each with a front entrance on the right hand side. The parlors are to the left of the interior halls. The cornices over the doors on the front façade were added in the 1860s. The double chimneys are known as Quaker chimneys, because they were typical of Quaker homes in the Delaware Valley. Each chimney serviced fireplaces on both the first and second floors. On the Front Street gable end, there is a large, Palladian attic window. Note, also, the iron stars, which indicate iron braces running between the floors to reinforce the large, brickwork structure.

## 19 CORNER KING & FRONT STREETS

This 1923 structure of the Christ United Methodist Church replaced the church built in 1855, which was badly damaged by fire on September 22, 1920. The main section of the church is in the Gothic Revival style and constructed of rough-cut granite.

*Now continue down Front Street to:*

## 20 271 FRONT STREET

John Taggart owned a wooden building on this site called the Black Horse Tavern, which burned to the ground in the 1840s. At that time, there were several suspicious fires in Northumberland; this might have been one of them. According to tax records, the present two-story building was constructed in 1884. The Townside Garden Café opened in 1994 and was named after one of the four original sections of town, which were: Townside, Essex, Sarah's Delight, and Nottingham.

This is a hall and parlor structure, with an add-on enclosed porch. The entrance is to the original hall, with a staircase leading to the second floor. The parlor area has been modified by the removal of a dividing wall and the later addition of the brick fireplace.

## 21 253 FRONT STREET

This two-story brick building was probably constructed around 1895, as the Van Alen Co. & Waples store. In 1948, the first floor was leased to Weis Pure Food Stores, and later became Curchoe's Food Market. At that time, the Eureka Lodge #404 Free and Accepted Masons moved to the second floor of the building. They purchased it from F. D. and Faye M. Kessler in 1953, and continue to hold meetings there.

## 22 CORNER OF FRONT STREET & WHEATLEY AVENUE



At one time, Northumberland was one of the banking centers of the state.

The Northumberland National Bank was organized in 1903, chartered on October 16th that year, and opened for business on November 2nd in leased temporary quarters at the corner of Water and Queen Streets, in a structure that was later torn down. For more than a decade, the bank occupied an attractive building at the corner of Water and King Streets. Albert

## 22 CORNER OF FRONT ST. & WHEATLEY AVE. (CONT.)

Boyer built the present structure in 1926. Charles Steele was the president of the bank until 1951. John L. Sheef was the cashier from 1903 to 1910, and M. H. Taggart was the solicitor in 1929. In 1957, the bank purchased the property at 243 Front Street, and an addition was completed in December 1957 to include a drive-in window and a small bookkeeping department. With continued growth, the bank purchased Mary's Dress Shop in 1967. In 1970, an addition with two offices, a conference room, a new drive-in window, and a spacious bookkeeping room was added. The bank later purchased the building used by Northern Central Bank on Queen Street for a drive-through area. An impressive addition, which doubled the size of the bank, was completed in 2001, and added needed office space and a large conference room. The stone used was quarried granite to match the original building.

This granite-ashlar structure was built in the Neo-Classical Revival style. Colossal fluted Ionic columns on each side of the entrance, wide Tuscan pilasters, and a high parapet give the Northumberland National Bank a more stately presence than its size alone conveys. After about 1890, Pennsylvania's banks were built in almost no other style.

*Now, return to King Street and continue north.*

## 23 141 KING STREET

In 1772, John Lowden and William and Esther Patterson granted this piece of land to Joseph Heister of Reading. After Heister's death in 1843, the property was sold to John Taggart. In January 1900, a structure was erected on the property, which has since been owned by numerous families. In 1958, it was given to the Methodist Episcopal Church to be used as a residence for the ministry. The current owners, who purchased the house in 1992, continue its restoration.

The house is a hall and parlor style, with a pedimented attic dormer over the front entrance, and a two-story bay window at the side. An addition has also been made at the rear of the house.

## 24 151-153 KING STREET



John Lowden and William Patterson, the original owners of this property, sold the lot in 1772, to John Buchanan of Buffalo Township, who later conveyed it to John Phillip Frick of Lancaster. In 1806, Frick deeded the property with a house to his granddaughter Catherine Frick

Montgomery. In 1831, John S. Carter, a chair-maker, purchased the property. In the second half of the twentieth century, the northern portion of the house became the office of Dr. George S. Deitrick of Sunbury. It is now a private residence.

This dwelling is two connected clapboard houses built in the Federal style in the 1790s. Their lack of ornamentation is typical of the Federal period. These houses never had porches, since porches in the United States date to the post-Civil War era. Note the original wood siding, and door and window surrounds. The windowpanes, originally four over four, have been replaced by two over two panes. The southern portion of the building is a five-bay Georgian with a center hall. The northern portion is a hall-and-parlor, with the entrance into a side hall with two adjacent rooms on the first and second floors.

25

**CORNER OF KING & SECOND STREETS**

St. Mark's Episcopal Church was built during three periods. The nave, or front of the church, was built in 1847. The transepts, which give it the shape of a cross, were added in 1875, and the bell tower was added in 1947. The bell, donated by A. E. Kapp, was used in colonial times to announce the arrival of his stagecoaches. According to tradition, the number of pews in the church is equal to the number of canal

boats that operated from Northumberland during the canal era. The stained glass window above the entrance door has a six-pointed Star of David. When the church was built, the star signified the connection of the Christian faith to the Old Testament, as well as reminding worshippers that Jesus Christ was born to the house of David. This frame structure was built entirely in the Carpenter Gothic Style.

26

**205 KING STREET**

This house, located on the northwest corner of King and Second Streets, was built in 1913. Samuel Gubin, a local attorney, bought the house in 1937, from the Homeowners Loan Corporation, and sold it to Dr. Paul Friedline in 1943. Dr. Friedline had come to Northumberland two years earlier to take over Dr. Rice's medical practice. The house remains a private residence.

The building has the wide eaves and low-pitched roof characteristic of post World War I Prairie Vernacular architecture, as well as the massive square columns supporting the porch.

27

**217 KING STREET**

In 1828, Dr. Samuel Jackson, one of the first physicians in Northumberland, built this two and one-half story brick home. Dr. Joseph Priestley, great-grandson of the Reverend Dr. Joseph Priestley, purchased it in 1850. His daughter, Annie was born here in 1856. After purchasing the house that is now the Priestley-Forsyth Library on the

corner of King and Front Streets, he sold this house to Lucetta B. and Sarah M. Cake, sisters of Joseph Warren Cake, who founded Caketown, now the 5th Ward of Sunbury. Their brother, Henry L. Cake, later acquired the property and sold it to Cornelius G. Van Alen, a partner in the Van Alen and Company nail mill. In 1918, he sold it to Morris Gubin, who emigrated from Russia to Boston in 1890. Gubin began as a peddler, supplying lumber camps and taverns with clothing and various items. After arriving in Northumberland, he continued to sell door to door until he purchased a building on the corner of Front and Queen Streets, which became the location of M. S. Gubin and Son Clothiers, known today as Gubin's Clothing and Shoes. The house on King Street remained in the Gubin family until it was sold at public auction to the current owner.

27

**217 KING STREET (CONT.)**

This center hall, two over two room style house has an entrance with a fanlight above the door and side lights. An entrance porch with Neo-Classical columns has been added, plus three attic dormers on the front. The house has been extended at the rear; and there is a side porch with columns matching those at the front entrance.

28

**235 KING STREET**

This property, with no building, was owned by Dr. Joseph Priestley and his wife Hannah in the 1850s. Later, it belonged to Dr. Stoddard S. and Laura T. Burg, who sold the land to William Bright in 1910. At that time, Bright had this two and one-half story brick dwelling built. He sold it to Russell H. and Helen F. Fairchild in 1944. Charles F. and Virginia M. Lloyd Lewis purchased the house from the estate of Mrs. Fairchild in 1980. "Chappie" Lewis was a teacher, the mayor of Northumberland from 1970 to 1980, and later a County Commissioner. The current owners purchased the property in 1993.

This is a center hall, two over two room house. The entrance has leaded glass side lights, and the porch is in the Neo-Classical style with Tuscan columns, under a dentiled frieze. There is a projecting pediment over the entrance steps. At some date, hipped dormers were added on three sides of the attic roof.

29

**253 & 255 KING STREET**

The block from Church Avenue to Third Street was the site of the first Presbyterian Church in Northumberland. From 1844 to 1870, it was known as the "Old School" Presbyterian Church. Dissension caused a split in the congregation, and afterward, it served other purposes until it was gutted by fire in the early 1900s. Sometime before 1929, Frank Gervin had the two and one-half story, double house built using bricks from the old church. It was later owned by Frank S. and Margaret Twist, who owned the former "Norry Orchard Supply" business on Priestley Avenue.

In keeping with the other houses nearby, this double house has a Neo-Classical porch with columns and a dentiled cornice. Two gabled attic dormers have been added to the front.

30

**389 KING STREET**

This home located on the southwest corner of Fourth and King Streets, was originally built in 1910, by Helen, Clara, Mary, and Anne, the daughters of Amos Kapp and was known as the Kapp Mansion. Amos Kapp was a pioneer in three modes of transportation. In 1832, he came to Northumberland to take charge of a stagecoach business. He was

then involved with the packet boats on the canals and later became one of the directors of the North Central Railroad. In 1957, the Roman Catholic Congregation of St. Thomas More Church used this house as their rectory. It is currently a private residence.

This is a two and one-half story yellow brick house with a hipped roof and a hipped dormer. It has a Neo-Classical wrap-around porch with mutules, a dentiled frieze, and Ionic columns. The entrance is framed with a fan light and side lights.

*Now, cross the street and walk down the east side of King Street.*

31

**296-294 KING STREET**

After John Lowden and William and Esther Patterson sold this lot, there were other notable proprietors: Aaron Levy, a Northumberland man who made money selling salt during the Revolutionary War and later founded Aaronsburg, PA; Thomas Cooper, president judge of the 8th Judicial District of Pennsylvania, comprising Northumberland, Lycoming

and Union Counties; Joseph Priestley, Jr., who may have built the 294 King Street home about 1802; John Painter, a skinner, and his wife Catherine Taggart Painter; Samuel Shannon who donated some of this land to the first Methodist Church in 1819; George Long, a wheelwright with a log cabin blacksmith shop; and Dr. John M. and Marion DeLong Lewis.

This is two individual houses. The older house, to the right, is a two and one-half story hall and parlor house with small attic windows under the eaves. In 1888, a two and one-half story hall and parlor house was built on the north. It has a Gothic Revival front gable with a wrap-around porch.

32

**256 KING STREET**

This two and one-half story brick home was built in the Colonial Revival style in 1909, for Miss Mary Taggart. It has a center hall with two rooms on each side and five bays, upstairs and down. It has a heavy cornice with mutules (projecting blocks) under the roof line on the second story, and a dentiled frieze. The two attic dormers have

pedimented tops; there are palladian windows in the gables; the porch has Tuscan columns with a pediment over the entrance steps; and there are leaded glass side lights to the front door. Note the solid shutters on the first floor and the louvered shutters on the second floor.

33

**250 KING STREET**

During the prosperous era of the Pennsylvania Canal, new architectural styles appeared in Northumberland. One example is this Early Classical Revival 1830s home. In 1829, there was a small brick building on this property. In the mid-1830s, John Taggart acquired the property and enlarged the house. Taggart was a banker, brewer, and canal

commissioner. The Taggarts also owned the adjacent lot, which had a well-maintained lawn. Taggart's wife, Hannah, enjoyed entertaining her friends at lawn parties. At that time, there was iron fencing around the front of the property. This fencing has been relocated to

**33 250 KING STREET (CONT.)**

the back of the property. The Taggart's daughter Hannah married Dr. Joseph Priestley, great-grandson of the Reverend Dr. Joseph Priestley. The present occupants have owned the house since 1959.

Now, a two-story brick house, it has five bays and a center hall, with two adjoining rooms upstairs and down. It features a two-story front porch supported by slender Tuscan order columns (unfluted), surmounted by a pediment. Both doorways are topped with fanlights and flanked by side lights.

**34 210 KING STREET**



The Joseph W. Epler Funeral Home is located at the corner of King and Second Streets. In 1870, Henry L. Cake sold the property to the trustees of the Presbyterian Church. The house was erected sometime between 1870 and 1889 to be used as the Presbyterian manse. From the late 1930s until 1942, Dr. H. C. Ennis of Sunbury, had a medical office

here. In 1944, George Lewis Hancock purchased the property from the church. In 1979, Mr. Epler purchased the house and opened a funeral parlor here in 1980. In 1986, the building was enlarged and a two-stall garage added.

This two and one-half story frame house is in the Queen Anne style with a corner octagonal tower, a front attic dormer, and a broad veranda. On the south side of the house is a two-story bay window with a pedimented dormer attic window.

**35 188 KING STREET**



James Lee, an innkeeper, built this house about 1815. In 1835, it became the property of James Taggart, who owned and operated canal packet boats. In 1887, his son Grantham Taggart sold the house to his cousin, John Taggart Colt, a local merchant who also dealt in real estate. Colt remodeled the house, which remained in his family until 1944.

The house is an example of a Federal hall and parlor layout. The entrance door on the right opens to a hall that goes to the end of the house. To the left of the hall is the downstairs parlor with the original kitchen area behind it. This hall and two-room layout is repeated upstairs. Pennsylvania-German shutters and Gothic corbel brackets were added in 1890, as well as the porches in the Neo-Classical style. Notice that the brick section originally had only the attic ventilator window, no other windows or doors. This solid wall on the hall side of the house is typical, as this style of construction was used in cities as row houses. The wooden addition in the rear dates to the 1890s. Over the entrance door is a fanlight, original to the house and typical of the Federal period.

**36 168 KING STREET**



This house was built about 1890. In 1893, Edmund and Margaret Van Alen moved into it, and their daughter Cornelia inherited the house after her marriage to Bruce Weirick in 1961. It remains in the Weirick family.

This is an Italianate L-shaped, two and one-half story frame structure with heavily bracketed cornices and semi-circular hood moldings, or "eyebrows," over the windows. The corners are finished with rusticated quoins. The side porch has been enclosed with an elaborate window arrangement.

**37 144 KING STREET**



This home was built in the late 1930s by Frederick Delroy Kessler, a local contractor and builder. This two-story stucco house is representative of the Prairie Style, which takes its name from the prairies of the Midwest where it was first generated and built; notable examples are by Frank Lloyd Wright.

**38 130 KING STREET**



The Shannon family owned this property from 1814 until 1865. According to the 1837 tax records, a house and stable had been built on the lot. From 1893 to 1930, the house was owned by the Van Alen family, proprietors of a nail mill in Northumberland called the Van Alen and Co.

This two and one-half story brick house with a center hall and four rooms downstairs and four upstairs, is typical of the Georgian Style. The bracketed cornice and hooded moldings, or "eyebrows," over the door and windows were added at a later date.

**39 122 KING STREET**



In 1821, John Hanna purchased this house, and, in 1832, he willed it to John Taggart. In 1840, Harry Renninger, a shoemaker in Northumberland, rented the house until he purchased it in 1848. His son, James Renninger, later remodeled it. The current owner purchased the property in 1989, and has done extensive restoration.

This small house is a surviving folk house of log construction, dating from approximately 1797. Originally, a hall and parlor house with a side hall and two rooms upstairs and down, it was later expanded by the addition of two rooms, upstairs and down, on the southeast side. The older section of the house may have been an earlier Market House on the Square, that was moved to this site.

**39 122 KING STREET (CONT.)**

The patio has been laid with bricks from the chimney removed from the old kitchen. A porch with Tuscan columns has been added to the front of the house, as well as a bay window. Some of the original six over six sash windows have been retained.

**40 100 KING STREET**



The three-story brick building, now the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library, was constructed between 1814 and 1828, as the Cross-Keys Inn. In 1864, Joseph Priestley, M.D., a great-grandson of the Reverend Dr. Joseph Priestley, purchased the house, which he later willed to his four daughters: Hannah Priestley Catlin Milliken, Frances Priestley Forsyth, Sarah Ann (Annie) Priestley, and Jean Biddle Priestley, Jean and Annie

continued to live in the house until Annie's death. In 1922, Frances Priestley Forsyth and Mary Forsyth Herr endowed a library in memory of their families, and in 1926, they donated the home to the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library.

This building is typical of three-story Pennsylvania taverns of the Federal period. The brickwork is in the Flemish bond pattern. In the 1860's it was modernized with Gothic Revival woodwork. Note the solid shutters on the ground floor and the louvered shutters on the second and third floors. The corbel brackets, or roof supports, are typical Gothic Revival. The roof overhang features fielded panels like the first floor shutters. The second floor windows have six over six panes of glass and are original to the house. The windows on the first and third floors have two over two panes and date from the 1860s.

**41 96 KING STREET**



Marks Biddle Priestley, a great-grandson of the Reverend Dr. Joseph Priestley, inherited this property in 1863, and he may have built the present house. "Colonel" John M. Bain, a federal court reporter, bought the property in 1932. In the 1960s, William Ashleman owned the house and operated a tearoom on the property for a brief time.

It later became an apartment building and continues as such today.

This three-story brick structure is an Italianate Victorian. It has a steep roof with flared eaves, and an elaborately trimmed gable end on the entrance side of the house, as well as a first and second floor bay window. There is a bracketed cornice at the roof line and curved hooded molding, or "eyebrows," over the windows and doors. The house, originally a hall and parlor layout, has had several later additions.

## 42 80 KING STREET



John Leisenring, a potter, built this large two and one-half story brick house in 1836. The deed states that there was a two-story brick kitchen and storehouse, small pump house, and large frame stable when the house was sold to Joseph Wallis in 1850. Joseph Rayner Priestley purchased it in 1853. The house was willed to his son, Marks Biddle

Priestley, in 1863. Marks Priestley, a lawyer; a real estate agent, and an insurance agent, married Mary Taggart. In 1889, Matthew Taggart bought the property, and it remained in the Taggart family until 1902, when it was sold to Charles and Mary Steele. Steele was a state senator and one of the organizers of the Whitmer-Steele Company. Their daughter, Mary, inherited the house. A talented musician, she gave piano lessons on one of the two grand pianos in the large first floor room on the right. She owned the property until 1984. Today, the house, called the "King Street Commons," is owned by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Susquehanna Valley and is used as an educational facility.

This structure combines several styles. It is a five bay brick house in the Flemish bond pattern. An Italianate cornice and an attic cross gable were added sometime after the Civil War. The elaborate entrance, with Ionic columns and Tuscan (unfluted) pilasters, full side lights, and a transom over the door, are Greek Revival. The side porch is a 1920s Greek Revival addition.

Now, turn around and walk back to Front Street. Turn right and walk up the south side of the street.

## 43 380 FRONT STREET: JOSEPH PRIESTLEY MEMORIAL CHURCH



The Joseph Priestley Memorial Church is the home of the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of the Susquehanna Valley. In 1834, thirty years after the death of the Reverend Dr. Joseph Priestley, the Taggart family donated a small plot of land here so that a building for the Unitarians could be constructed.

This is the oldest extant church building in Northumberland. The cost of this Gothic Revival structure was \$1,000 at that time. By 1895, the Congregation had dwindled, and regular services were discontinued. In 1900, all the pews except for the choir and the two rows in the rear, were removed and the building was rented to the school district as an additional classroom to relieve overcrowding until a new schoolhouse was built. In 1910, the building was refurbished, arrangements were made for the installation of the present stained glass windows, ownership was transferred to the American Unitarian Association, and the building was rededicated as the Joseph Priestley Memorial Chapel.

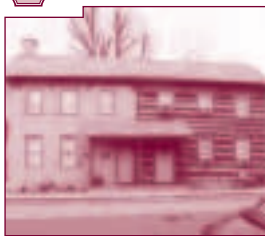
The Priestley Chapel Associates, a not-for-profit historical and educational organization, was incorporated in 1981, to restore, maintain, and regulate the use of the Chapel. Since 1991, weekly services have been held by the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of the Susquehanna Valley.

The façade of this plain building reflects the Gothic Revival. The bricks are laid in the Flemish bond pattern, which creates a wall that is two bricks thick. The windows, the organ and choir loft lancet, and the over-door light all have Gothic arches. The cabinet

## 43 JOSEPH PRIESTLEY MEMORIAL CHURCH (CONT.)

pipe organ dates from 1815. It was made by John Wind of Lancaster, PA, and is the only known organ by this maker; though several of his pianos have survived. The organ was completely restored in 1982-83 by James R. McFarland & Co. of Millersville for the Priestley Chapel Associates.

## 44 469-471 FRONT STREET



The log portion of this house has been traced back to at least 1815. When it was purchased by the Hummels in 1989, they decided to restore the building inside and out. The logs were covered with clapboard siding; after it was removed, they were scrubbed with soap and water; then sealed to guard against insect damage. This

type of structure is typical of Pennsylvania-German houses, which were never left in the log state, as the wood was subject to rot. The brick side of the house, probably added between 1815 and 1830, has also been restored.

Now, continue up Front Street to Hanover Street. Turn right and walk back to Priestley Avenue and the Joseph Priestley House.

## JUST A SHORT DRIVE

There are several sites of historical significance that cannot easily be reached by walking. However, all of them are only a short drive away. From the Priestley House drive east on Priestley Avenue; turn left onto Hanover Street; turn right onto Water Street, which is one-way. Continue to A Street. Turn left and cross Toulmin Alley to Front Street. Turn left; the Savidge House is on your immediate left.

## 45 620 FRONT STREET



This house was built in the 1850s by Joseph Rayner Priestley, grandson of the Reverend Dr. Priestley, for his daughter Frances, who married Harry Toulmin in 1859. Her name is on the front door knocker. The road behind the house is Toulmin Alley. In 1918, the property was purchased by Claude and Mary Savidge. At that time, the road to

Danville was dirt and the property was considered so far out of town and so isolated that the Savidge family spent the winters in town. The house continues to be occupied by a Savidge descendant.

The two and one-half story brick house retains its original size. There is a pedimented cross gable in front with a Roman arch attic window. There is a bay window on the first floor. The large, square columns on the front porch were added later. A garage was also added later, as well as a hot house built in the rear of the property for the owner's collection of orchids. A gray brick smokehouse and an outhouse have been demolished. In spring, the landscape features extensive azalea gardens.

Front Street is a one-way street west. If you continue west to the end of Front Street, you will get to the next site.

## 46 2 FRONT STREET - FRONT STREET STATION



The Pennsylvania Railroad yards at Northumberland were very important from 1910 until 1960. At one time, the Northumberland yards were the fifth largest in the world. Thousands of cars moved in and out daily. This structure was the Northumberland Train Station, used by both freight and passenger trains. In the 1970s, Fox Dry

Cleaning had a business at this location. In 1988, the property was purchased by a local restaurateur, Jay Seidel, who restored the building, enlarged the restaurant and created a banquet room with four railroad cars placed around the sides. This property now consists of 26,989 square feet.

For the next site, turn left on leaving Front Street Station. Continue to Seventh Street and turn right. The cemetery is between Orange and Prince Streets. (From the Priestley House, turn right; go one block and turn left on Hanover Street. Continue to the end at Seventh Street. The entrance to the cemetery is almost directly in front of you.)

## 47 SEVENTH STREET - RIVERVIEW CEMETERY



The agreement to sell twenty acres of ground for the Riverview Cemetery was signed, in 1852, by Benjamin Hummel, owner; and Joseph Rayner Priestley, first president of the Board of Managers and grandson of the Reverend Dr. Priestley. This property was formerly the James Johnson farm.

The graves of the Reverend Dr. Joseph Priestley, his wife, Mary, and his younger son, Harry, were removed from the Quaker Cemetery to Riverview Cemetery about that time. In 1971, a six-foot monument was placed at Priestley's gravesite, because the cemetery board and concerned citizens felt that his grave should be more easily recognized. Other members of the Priestley family are also buried there.

