

Things to see and do in Northumberland

- Enjoy a picnic with a Susquehanna River view at Pineknott Park.
- Get wet and wild with fun-filled water activities at Liberty Splashland, 200 Prince St.
- See the New Deal-era sculpture featuring 18th-century chemist Joseph Priestley in the U.S. Post Office lobby, 75 Queen St.
- See the Northumberland Fire Co. No. 1's Pat Lyon hand pumper engine built in 1796, on display at Second and Queen Streets, the oldest piece of fire fighting apparatus remaining in the United States.
- Stop by King Street Park between Front and Second Streets for a variety of community events throughout the year, including History Day in May, Pineknott Days in mid-summer and Lemonade Day and Corn Festival in August. Dates, details and more community events at www.northumberlandborough.com
- Explore Northumberland's architecture using the self-guided Historic District Walking Tour brochure.
- Visit Joseph Priestley House, a National and Chemical Historic Landmark, 472 Priestley Ave. www.josephpriestleyhouse.org
- See the Unitarian Joseph Priestley Memorial Chapel, built in 1834, and memorial garden at 380 Front St. www.priestleychapel.org
- Explore the quiet pathways in Riverview Cemetery along Seventh Street, established 1853.



How to find Northumberland

From the North and South: Take Route 11 to Route 147, which passes through Northumberland, bordering its Historic District and downtown. The intersection of Routes 11 and 15 at Shamokin Dam is 3.5 miles south of Northumberland.

From the East and West: Take the Danville exit off of I-80 which is 15 miles north of Northumberland. Follow Route 54 east to Route 11 south to get to Northumberland.

What is a Pineknott?

Each year Northumberland welcomes people to Pineknott Days and they begin asking, "What exactly is a PINEKNOTTER?" "Pine" is a versatile evergreen. "Knot" is a hard piece of wood growing from a branch. Pineknotters have been and will be versatile and hard. The "Pine Tree" gives a vision of pride, standing erect. The "Knot" strength and the will to win.

Source: Northumberland Alumni Book 1883 to 1965

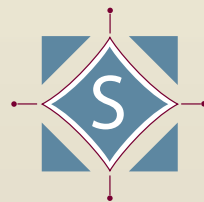


**NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Northumberland County
Historical Society**

1150 N. Front St.
Sunbury, PA 17801

(570) 286-4083
NorthumberlandCountyHistoricalSociety.org



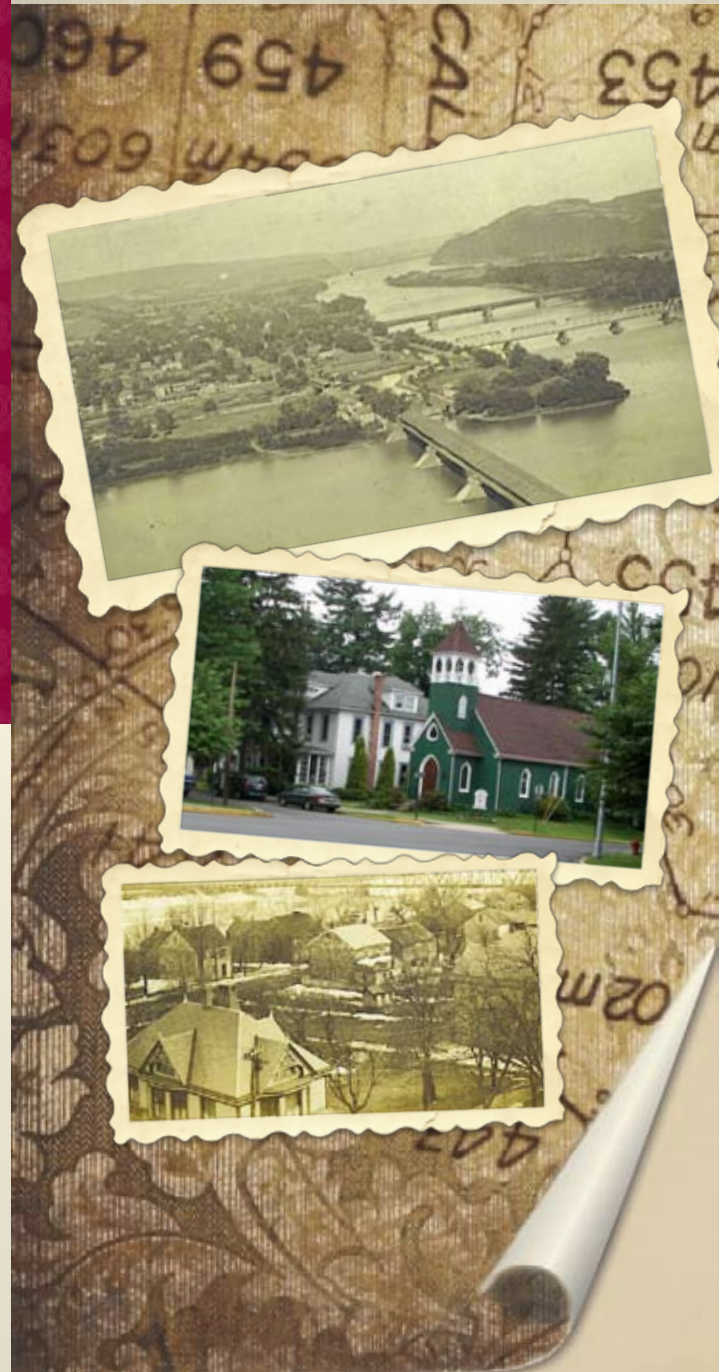
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**Susquehanna River Valley
Visitors Bureau**

81 Hafer Road
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Explore
NORTHUMBERLAND
Every Town a Treasure



Historic Northumberland

Founded in 1772, Northumberland's location near the confluence of the north and west branches of the Susquehanna River influenced its development from the days of Native Americans and pioneers to its evolution into a transportation and industrial center. The appealing architecture of Northumberland's historic homes and buildings and its traditional English layout enhanced by attractive green space and parks make it a quaint and peaceful place to visit.



Northumberland's Priestley Dynasty

Curious about Northumberland's long-standing connection with generations of Joseph Priestleys? Take a stroll through our neighborhoods to get a sense of their preferred tastes and styles. Joseph Priestley Jr. came to Northumberland from England in 1793 to engage in land speculation. He lived with his wife and two young children in the oldest part (to the rear) of the present-day building at 309 Water St. It is believed he also built the present house at 294 King St. about 1802.

For a brief period after his arrival in America in 1794, Rev. Dr. Joseph Priestley (1733 to 1804), noted 18th-century chemist and Unitarian minister, resided with his wife, Mary, in his son Joseph Jr.'s home. Within a short time, Joseph and Mary Priestley decided to build a house of their own along the Susquehanna River in Northumberland. After his wife's death in 1796, Rev. Dr. Priestley occupied his new house with his son, Joseph Jr., and his son's family, until his death in 1804. The Priestleys' junior continued to reside in the house that still stands at 472 Priestley Ave. until 1812 when they returned to England and thereafter sold the house.

In 1817, a grandson of Rev. Dr. Priestley, Joseph Rayner Priestley, who is believed to have had business dealings in England and Pennsylvania, married Frances Biddle in Reading. Joseph Rayner and Frances moved to Northumberland in 1819, thereby re-establishing the Priestley family dynasty in the borough where they raised a family of 10 children including sons Marks Biddle Priestley and Joseph Priestley, M.D.

A cashier of the Bank of Northumberland from 1831 to 1863, Joseph Rayner Priestley resided in various locations and owned several properties in the borough including Lot #35 at Front and Orange Streets, 80 King St. and 96 King St. (both of which were inherited by Marks Biddle Priestley in 1863), and 620 Front St. (present-day Priestley-Savidge House). Joseph Rayner built the Front Street house in the 1850s for his daughter, Frances, who married Harry Toulmin in 1859.

In 1850, Joseph Priestley, M.D., resided with his family at the present-day house at 217 King St. In 1864, he purchased the former Cross-Keys Inn at 100 King St. where he lived and practiced medicine, and which he later willed to his four daughters. In 1926, Frances Priestley Forsyth and her sister-in-law Mary Forsyth Herr donated the home to the community as the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library which continues in operation.

Self-Guided Historic District Walking Tour

Northumberland's Historic District Walking Tour begins at 472 Priestley Ave., the home of the Rev. Dr. Joseph Priestley, and continues along Priestley Avenue, Water, King and Front Streets. The tour offers the opportunity to learn about Northumberland's people and its history at a pace which enables an appreciation of the town's historic buildings and their architectural features. Walking tour brochures are available at the Joseph Priestley House, the Northumberland Borough Office, 221 Second St., Northumberland and the Northumberland County Historical Society, 1150 N. Front St., Sunbury.



Northumberland Heritage

Robert Martin first settled in the area that became Northumberland in 1767, where he established a tavern to serve travelers. William Penn's sons, Thomas and Richard Penn, transferred four tracts of land "Sarah's Delight," "Essex," "Nottingham" and "Townside," which totaled 1,659 acres to John Lowdon and William Patterson who laid out the town in August of 1772. An enterprising Reuben Haines, a wealthy brewer, iron works owner and land developer from Philadelphia, purchased the town site about 1775 and sold lots in Northumberland, which later incorporated as a borough in 1828. Northumberland County established its first post office in Northumberland in 1795.

The hub of the Pennsylvania Canal and a major Pennsylvania Railroad center, Northumberland boomed with the activity of successful agricultural and industrial operations and grew rapidly during the 19th and 20th centuries. Various religious denominations built houses of worship in Northumberland; some have congregational history dating back to the late 1780s. Northumberland's residents have always had a strong sense of community and developed volunteer fire departments, recreation areas and a public library, and continue to serve Northumberland through various fraternal and civic organizations.

