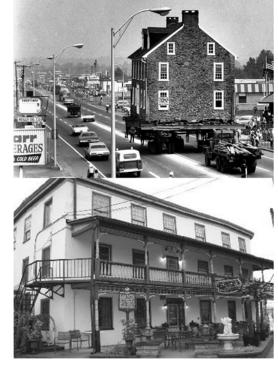# Quakertown Borough

Quakertown was originally known as Richland and the Great Swamp. It was part of William Penn's original manor holdings, a 1,000 acre tract known as the Manor of Richland. As a crossroad village with a tavern, it soon became a stopover for stagecoaches and commercial traffic between Allentown and Philadelphia. Although the center of an extensive community of Welsh and German farmers, the village center remained quite small until the mid-nineteenth century. By 1820, Quakertown contained approximately twelve dwellings. The construction of the North Pennsylvania Railroad (now the Reading) in 1855 gave a great impetus to growth in the area.

By the late 1860's, an unincorporated village, as large as Quakertown and known as Richland Centre, had sprung up around the railroad station. In 1874, the corporate limits of the borough were extended to include Richland Centre and by 1880, the town had a population of nearly 1,800 people. The local industry included production of cigars, boots, shoes, tools, harnesses, wheel spokes and stoves. The combination of the North PA Railroad and the ending of the Civil war brought expansion to the town and took it from a small village to a commercial center.

Quakertown Pennsylvania

1. 26 N. Main Street
Burgess Foulke House
Built in 1812, by Edward Foulke Sr. In 1854, Edward's son became Quakertown's first Burgess (mayor). Moved from its original location on 309 in order to make room for a shopping center. 215-536-3298

2. 1313 W. Broad Street
Lancaster Log House (former site)
(1747-1891) Built by an early Quaker settler.

3. 1301 W. Broad Street
Quakertown Savings Bank
Built c1809. Justice of Peace Griffith's home. Area's first bank. (1871-1877) Passenger terminal of "Liberty Belle Trolley."

4. Main & Broad Streets
Red Lion Inn
Built c1747, by Walter McCoole. First tavern/hotel. Later owned by Revolutionary War Col. Jacob Savitz. Site of Fries Rebellion rally and execution.

5. 10 S. Main Street
Main Street Theatre
In the early days, stage shows, suffragette lectures, burlesque and vaudeville shows were hosted here. Originally named the "Colonial Theatre" and "The Hall."

6. 44 S. Main Street
Richland Library Company
Founded in 1788. Commonwealth's first non-profit corporation in 1795. It is the third oldest library in Bucks County, and the seventh in Pennsylvania. 215-536-5636

7. 114 S. Main Street
First Drug Store
Built c1815, by Dr. James Green and his son Dr. James B. Green.

8. 120 S. Main Street
Maus Clock maker Haus
C1812. Home of clock master William "Billy" Maus. See Maus grandfather clock in St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital lobby.

9. 132 S. Main Street
First Post Office & Store
Built early 1800's; first store and post office. Dr. William Green kept the home before 1804. After him, Dr. Samuel Carey, physician, and Mrs. Irene Meredith were the later owners.

10. 140 S. Main Street
Heacock Weather Pioneer
Built 1769, by John Foulke. Oldest stone house. Home of Joel & Abigail Heacock. Scientist son J. Levi Heacock, was an early weather pioneer, recorded local conditions.

11. Main St. & Park Ave.
Quaker Meeting House
Built 1862 by Richland Monthly Meeting, Society of Friends (Quakers). Earlier meetinghouse c1723, was at Station Road. In 1730, the region's first church and school were rebuilt here. From beginning school served Quaker and German communities.

12. 401 S. Main Street
Underground Railroad Station
Built 1834 by Quaker potter Richard Moore. Thriving ceramic red ware factory and shop by day, hosted "Underground Railroad" activities at night.

13. 137 S. Main Street
Log House
One of the town's earliest homes, built by an early Quaker settler, an example of early log architecture, with a later brick addition.

14. 133-135 S. Main Street
Evan Penrose Home
C1830. Stone home. Listed on Bucks County and PA state registers of historic homes. Penrose's were kin to US Senator Boise Penrose (1860-1921).

15. 131 S. Main Street
Henry Franklin, Artist
Built c1813, home to early African-American artist Henry Franklin. A small candy and ice cream store was held in a shed, until he joined the renowned PA Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia.

16. 107 S. Main Street
Civil War Orphans School
Built before 1810 by Samuel Nixon. In 1818, Richard Moore & Thomas Lester had a boarding school here. In 1858, Rev. A.R. Horne opened the Bucks County normal & Classical School. In 1864-67, the Civil War Soldiers Orphans School was opened here. Eventually became part of Quaker City Harness.

17. S.E. Corner Main & Juniper Streets
Quaker City Harness CO.
Built c1889 by J.S. Harley on the site of former Continental Hotel and Bucks County Hotel. This was Quakertown's largest factory with 140 skilled hands employed. It contained steam powered equipment and the area's first elevator.

18. 1239 W. Broad Street
First Brick Home and Store
Built 1805 by William Green. Son Richard R. Green carried on the grocery business until 1892. A room "above the kitchen" served as the original home of the library of the Richland Library Company.

19. 21 N. Main Street
Market Place Museum
Built c1850. Current home to the Upper Bucks Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center. Open Monday-Friday 9-4. 215-536-3211

20. 1235 W. Broad Street
Liberty (Bell) Hall
Built 1772. The Liberty Bell "slept here" behind this stone building, overnight, September 23, 1777, while traveling to its wartime hiding place in Allentown.

21. 1222 W. Broad Street
Lucky's
Built in 1880's. This eatery was originally TWIN GABLES, before being reopened as PATRICK'S in the 1980's. Recently under restoration and renamed for it's 1930's owner, racing driver Lucky Loux.

**An address in Blue means that it IS open for tours and an address in Red means that it IS NOT open for tours.

Historic
QUAKERTOWN

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