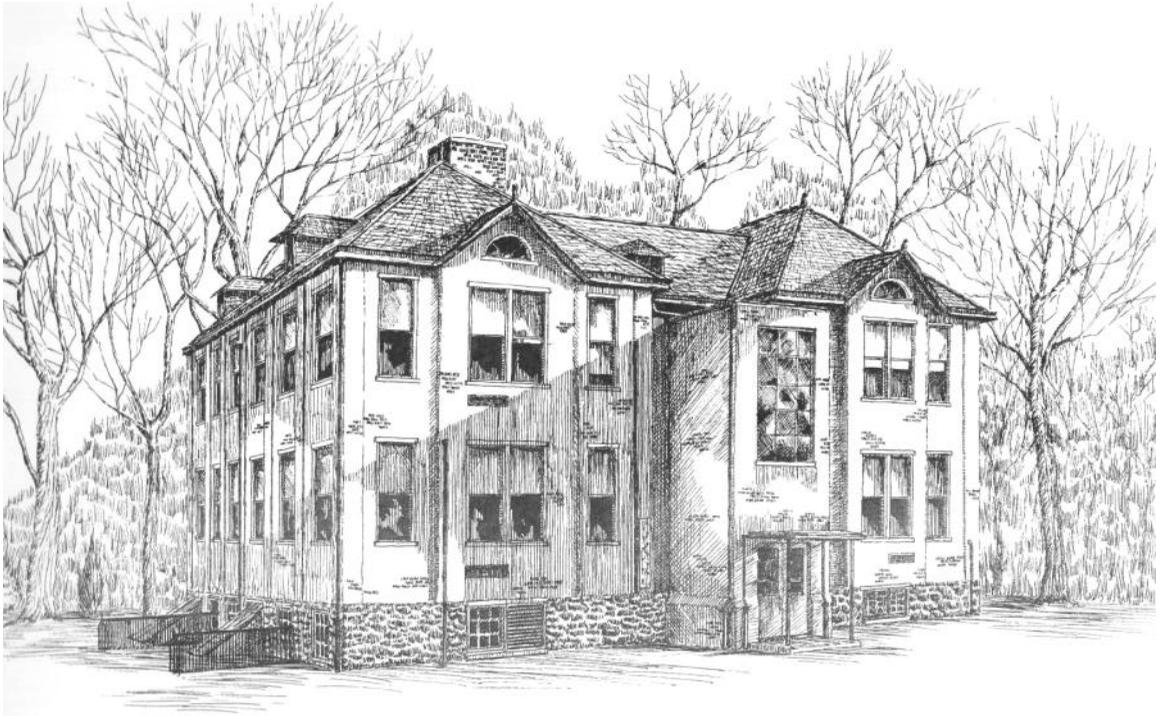


# Malvern Walking Tours

*Four separate tours to enjoy different aspects of our Borough*

**Incorporated 1889**

**Chester County, Pennsylvania**



MALVERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

E. MALBERT  
1-77

**Malvern History Center**

**McGuigan Hall—1 East First Avenue, Suite 3—Malvern PA, 19355**

[www.malvern.org](http://www.malvern.org)    [malvernboroughhistory@malvern.org](mailto:malvernboroughhistory@malvern.org)

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# THE BOROUGH OF MALVERN: A Brief History

**In 1681**, William Penn entrusted a swath of land from his American land holdings to settlers from Wales. Remnants of this Welsh Tract appear today as near to Malvern as Duffryn Avenue in Willistown, and as far away as Bryn Mawr College or Uwchlan Township. What we now call Malvern was dotted with forests and farmland when the Revolutionary War came through in September of 1777. The land was nameless, sans the moniker of Willistown Township, until the Pennsylvania and Columbia (Lancaster) Railroad came through in the 1830s. For about 40 years, the station that routed passengers and goods south to West Chester from Philadelphia was known as the Intersection, short for West Chester Intersection.

**In the 1860s and 1870s**, the railroad's presence was proving to be lucrative, and Quaker businessmen David Evans, his nephew William Penn Evans, and Josiah Roberts bought up parcels of this part of Willistown Township. They sold some of their land, built rental properties and businesses on others, and even gave some away to suit their purposes. It was an 1873 Pennsylvania Railroad upgrade that presented us with a name: Malvern.

**On August 13, 1889**, the Borough of Malvern became its own governmental entity, separate from Willistown Township.

Churches of multiple faiths, more businesses, several civic groups, and many more houses sprung up over the ensuing decades. **Today**, the 1.3 square-mile Borough of Malvern remains nestled in at the northern border of Willistown Township.

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## MALVERN HISTORICAL COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

**Material in this brochure was sourced from the publications below, all available for purchase at McGuigan Hall at 1 East First Avenue, Malvern.**

*A Century in Malvern* (©2007 reprint of ©1989 Centennial book)—edited by Nancy B. Schmitt

*Malvern Items: 1870-2006* (©2006)—Nancy B. Schmitt, author

*The Borough of Malvern Coloring Book* (©2008)

—Willistown Artist Michael Anthony Fernandez & Malvern Historical Commission

*Malvern Treasures: In the Company of Malvern Borough Women 1835-2011* (©2011)

—Nancy B. Schmitt, author

*Malvern Walking Tours* (©2015)—Kelly Maude Schmitt, compiler & designer

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## ONCE AROUND THE BLOCK (This tour begins at the Municipal Lot at Burke Park.)

### **Roberts Lane and Channing Avenue (St. Patrick Parish)**

Colloquially called St. Pat's, fifty local families and a number of wealthy Philadelphians who summered in the Malvern area established this church on June 3, 1915. The original building was dedicated November 11, 1917, on Channing Avenue at Roberts Lane, with the addition built in 2000. **St. Patrick School** and a convent were established in 1925 at the southeast corner of Roberts Lane and Channing Avenue.



### **28 South Warren Avenue (privately owned; was Entriken Hall)**

Charles C. Entriken sold refurbished furniture on the first floor of this building, before the Borough purchased it in 1908. This two-story brick building was the first permanent home of the Borough of Malvern, Police Department, and Malvern Public Library. The Monday Afternoon Club also met here, passing refreshments up a “tea brigade” to their second floor meetings. After 1965, the building was the Union Hall for the workers from the Matthey Bishop Platinum Works (which was across Warren Avenue where Burke Park is now), and then a Chester County District Judge’s office.



### **24 Monument Avenue (Mauger-Givnish Funeral Home)**

W. Frank Mauger moved here from Warwick, PA, to go into partnership with undertaker G. Birdsall Passmore from 1921 to 1931 at Roberts Lane and South Warren Avenue. In 1931, he built the funeral home to the left of his home at the corner of Monument and Powelton Avenues. Other Mauger family members continued the business over the years before joining the Givnish operations.



### 33—133 West King Street (Malvern Shopping Center & Post Office)

The Malvern Post Office building was just a year old when the Malvern Farm Supply next door burned to the ground in 1964. Built on this same site, this center has been an important location for retail, professional, and food services for decades. Long-term tenants include Englund's Apparel for Men, Kohlerman Pharmacy, and Worrell's Butcher Shop.



### 9 West King Street (The Malvern Train Station)



The railroad upgraded all its stations along the main line, changing the name of the West Chester Intersection to Malvern in 1873. The current brick structure was built in 1893, after a spark from a passing train burned the previous wood frame station to the ground. Today, SEPTA's Paoli-Thorndale commuter train and Amtrak run to, from, and past the Malvern Train Station.

The Malvern Community Arts Project commissioned Dennis Goldsborough to complete the *Patriotic Mural* on the reverse of the Gallagher's Auto, visible to train riders. A waving American flag backs the images of a horse-mounted General Anthony Wayne and his Revolutionary War soldiers on the left, while contemporary children on the right celebrate the freedom won for all Americans.



### **1—7 West King Street (Restaurant Alba)**

From this original group of four buildings, numbers 3, 5, and 7 have housed the post office, Malvern Federal bank, a florist shop, aquarium, gun shop, arcade, gift store, and a series of restaurants including Mary Wilson's and King Street Grille. Number 1 at the corner was a news agency from 1894 to the 1960s under John Phelps, Samuel E. Grubb, and others.



### **12 West King Street (12 West Boutiques)**



Across the street from the train station, “The Malvern Inn” has been a landmark for many decades. Built in 1890, it has housed a drug store, eating houses both with and without liquor, an inn favored by summer residents, the post office, various stores, and apartments. At one time there was a livery stable at the rear of the property.

### **2 West King Street (The National Bank of Malvern)**

Established in 1884, the bank started in rented space at 120 East King Street, with Charles C. Highley as the first cashier. In the early days, paper currency was delivered to the bank with its name on it in uncut strips and unsigned. The local bank would then cut the strips into individual notes and the bank president and cashier would sign each one. This building opened April 1, 1887, and was designed to become an apartment



house or residence if the bank did not survive. It not only survived, but thrived, never closing during major financial events such as the Great Depression. The bank is the longest continuously running business in Malvern. Now run by Highley's descendants, it is the only female-owned bank in the state of Pennsylvania, and, as of 2014, only one of thirteen such banks in the United States.

# A STROLL DOWN KING STREET

(This tour begins at the Municipal Lot just east of Malvern Pizza and Beer.)

## 103—105 East King Street (Posh and Malvern School of Music)

In 1922, this building became the site for an existing hardware business, first owned and/or run by Nathan Suplee and his sons, and then by Horace J. Quann and Dave Magee. Since the 1990s, the building has housed a variety of businesses.



## 121—123 East King Street (The Flying Pig Saloon)

This corner building once was occupied by Lewis K. Reeves' general store, who was also Malvern's first postmaster when the federal government established a post office here in 1876. For a number of decades in the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was Lou's Bar, followed briefly by the Kingsbridge Pub.

## 106—108 East King Street (private residence; was Malvern Temperance Hotel)



As the Malvern Temperance Hotel, it offered an alternative to those who chose not to stay at a place like The Malvern Inn where liquor was served. Summer rail passengers, as well as permanent residents, stayed at the hotel and sometimes local civic groups held luncheons there. Originally the stable and icehouse for the hotel, the building next door at 5 Channing Avenue has long been Pisano and Son Shoe Repair.

## 22 East King Street (Hunt Engineering Company)

Built around 1927 as the garage and showroom of the Chester V. Thomas Chevrolet dealer, this brick building is constructed in a simple Art Deco design popular with garages built in the 1920s and 1930s. Since 1966, various businesses have occupied this building, though its original façade remains immediately recognizable.



### 16 East King Street (King Street Traders)

In 1909 the R.T. Warner Hardware opened in this building. The business was sold to W.I. Bartram in 1927. Later it was an office for the J. Bishop and Company Platinum Works, which had other buildings on East King Street and a large manufacturing structure behind this one, where Burke Park is located today. J. Bishop and Company, later Matthey Bishop, was a national leader in platinum products during its stay in Malvern from 1903 until 1974.

### 1, 3, and 5 East King Street (Malvern Saddlery & Malvern Quality Cleaners and Tailors)

Numbers 1 and 3 have housed such businesses as a barber, butcher, shoemaker, photographer, TV-radio sales and service, a delicatessen, toy store, grocer, and electrician. Number 5 has been a cleaning and tailoring establishment for decades.



### 19 East King Street (Malvern Pizza and Beer)

J. Jones Still, who operated a bicycle shop on what is now the Malvern Pizza parking lot, built this structure around 1910. Still was the original chief of the Malvern Fire Company, and one of the signers of Malvern Borough's incorporation.



The *Victorian Era* mural on the side of the building depicts what life may have been like around 1889. The Malvern Community Arts Project commissioned Carrie Kingsbury of Promiseland Murals for this piece. From left to right are the original Malvern Fire House (101 Church Street), Malvern Baptist Church (146 Channing Avenue), the **David and Eliza Evans house**, the National Bank of Malvern (2 West King Street), and the Malvern Train Station (9 West King Street). All of the structures in the mural are still in use today, save for the David Evans' home, which previously stood at the corner of Roberts Lane and Channing Avenue. A major developer of Malvern from the 1860s to his death in 1898, the Quaker Evans was a businessman, surveyor, teacher, and farmer.



# THE WAY IT USED TO BE

(This tour begins at the Municipal Lot at Church and King Streets.)

## 101 Church Street: The original Malvern Fire House (now Arcus Design Group)



The Malvern Fire Company used this building from 1899 to 1982 when they moved south of East King Street at the eastern boundary of the borough. A variety of businesses and retail shops have occupied this building since. The building was recently reconstructed to look like it did over a hundred years ago, reversing updates made by the fire company and other tenants.

## 20 Woodland Ave: Originally the Malvern Friends Meeting House (now the Malvern Bible Chapel)

The Malvern Friends Meeting (Quakers) was built in 1879. Male and female ministers were members of a local meeting, authorized to speak and pray at worship times and to visit members and nonmembers. Services were held on First Day (Sunday). Today it is the Malvern Bible Chapel.



## 21 Woodland Ave: Originally the Malvern Friends School (now a private residence)

The school at the northeastern corner of Woodland Avenue and Roberts Lane was open from January 20, 1890, to 1904. It then housed the Malvern Public Library prior to becoming a private residence.



## 202 East King: John Entriiken Platinum Works (now Pete's Auto Service)



The stucco-covered, frame building to the rear of this brick factory building was the original structure of the John Entriiken Platinum Works. It was relocated off of King Street when the brick building was built. F.A. Hale opened a used car business here in 1924. In 1932, it became Hughes Garage. Fords, gasoline, refrigerators, and radios were sold along with auto repairs.

## **211 King Street at Bridge Street: William Penn Evans Flour Mill (1873-1884), Hires Rootbeer and Condensed Milk (1899-1917)**

**(now Sheffield Furniture and Interiors and the Malvern Design Center)**



Prior to the Borough's incorporation, Quaker businessman **William Penn Evans**, David Evans's nephew, operated a flour mill on the north side of King Street, across from Woodland Avenue. Since bread was still made at home, patrons would bring their wheat to be milled here, by horse cart or by train.

**Charles E. Hires** opened a multi-story factory at this site (using the original WP Evans mill building for offices) in 1899 to produce condensed milk and rootbeer (as Hires punctuated it), the latter a temperance beverage he first introduced at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Hires condensed milk was made there until at least 1917. Nestlé's then took over the space. When the original building became empty and deteriorated into an eyesore, it was demolished in the 1930s.



## **218 East King: Buffington's Garage (now Knots & Weaves)**

The building in the front was built around 1939 for John Buffington's Garage. The façade was updated multiple times under subsequent businesses such as The Copy Spot and now Knots & Weaves. The larger building behind was built before 1882 and was used as John Coates and Alfred Elliot's Wheelwrights Shops. R.T. Warner had his carriage factory until 1908. The house at 208 next door was built as Alfred Elliot's home in 1886.



## **237 East King Street: Fisher & Son, Inc. (now Eastside Flats)**

This was the former site of Fisher & Son, Inc. Until this business moved to West Whiteland early in 2008, it had been the oldest continually running operation in Malvern, established in 1863 as Thomas and Haines Feed and Lumber Company. This location is now a part of Eastside Flats, spanning 233 through 429 East King Street, which was completed in 2014. Multiple businesses, restaurants, and apartments comprise this complex.



# I THINK I'LL GO FOR A WALK

(This tour can begin at either Malvern Borough Hall or—in reverse—the Paoli Battlefield and Memorial Grounds.)

## 1 East First Avenue (Malvern Borough Hall)

The former “Little Red Schoolhouse” at the southeast corner of First and Warren Avenues was built in 1899, due to the school population outgrowing the original Broad Street location (now a private residence). This public school, in operation from 1899 to June 1981, had its own Board of Education to oversee the elementary and junior high schooling of the students. After becoming part of the Paoli Jointure, it and other area schools formed the Great Valley School District in 1969. The school building was turned back to Malvern by the Great Valley School District in 1984 for \$1.00. Now named McGuigan Hall, more commonly known as Borough Hall, this structure houses the Borough Administration, the Malvern Public Library, the Malvern Police Department, and the Malvern History Center. In 2004, the building was dedicated for Patrick McGuigan, a Malvern civic leader in the 1990s. The Malvern Community Arts Project commissioned Randall Graham to complete several paintings hung in the lobby, most notably *King Street, Malvern-1889* and *King Street, Malvern-2014*.

## 146 Channing Avenue (The First Baptist Church of Malvern)

The East Whiteland Baptist Church moved from East Whiteland Township in 1835 to land purchased from deacon Isaac Ruth and his wife Juliann on the east side of South Warren Avenue, where the cemetery is now. It was renamed the Willistown Baptist Church, keeping that name until ten years after the borough was formed, when it became the First Baptist Church of Malvern. The present building was dedicated in 1876.



## 9 West First Avenue (Willistown Country Day School – Montessori)

In 1964, the Borough of Malvern bought the building financed and constructed in 1928 by the Monday Afternoon Club of Malvern at the northwest corner of South Warren and West First Avenues. Again, quarters were shared with the Malvern Public Library and, for a time, the Malvern Police Department. The building now houses the Willistown Country Day School-Montessori.



## Architecture: What Gives Malvern its Look

As one walks up Powelton Avenue and down Monument Avenue, Malvern Borough's richly diverse architectural heritage is apparent. The modest to the extravagant can often be found on the same block, and homes and businesses intermingle. Throughout the Borough are grand brick Victorian houses and commercial buildings as well as simple frame designs, quaint Sears bungalows, Edwardian twins (and one quadruplex), postwar houses, and apartments and condominiums. More recent structures are of modern design, some with Victorian touches.

### 137 Monument Avenue (private residence; called the Josiah Roberts House)



A large private residence was built for the prominent Josiah Roberts prior to Malvern's incorporation. Roberts was on the first Borough Council, and donated land to establish the National Bank of Malvern. His nursery business spanned the land from King Street, and Warren, Monument, and Griffith Avenues. Not the entrance of this house faces east towards Warren Avenue, not south to front Monument Avenue.

### Monument and Wayne Avenues: The Paoli Battlefield Park & Memorial Grounds

During the American Revolutionary War, the Paoli Battle took place September 20, 1777, on the south side of Monument Avenue between Warren and Wayne Avenues. Fifty-three Patriots are interred in an enclosed common burial place, with the 1817 monument atop the site. The name Paoli was attached to the massacre because the Patriot-friendly Paoli Tavern was located about a mile east of the battle. The Tory-friendly General Warren Inn still stands today, just north of the Borough's borders.

Since 1896, the parade grounds and the burial site comprise the **Paoli Memorial Grounds**, and have been owned and maintained by the Paoli Memorial Association. Millions of dollars in local, county, state, and federal funds were raised by the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund organization, formed in 1996, to purchase the adjacent battlefield (east of the Paoli Memorial Grounds) from the Malvern Preparatory School.

**The Paoli Battlefield Historic Park** has been virtually untouched since 1777. Following a rigorous application process to the federal government, these two parcels are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



# Four different tours of the Borough of Malvern, as presented by the Malvern Historical Commission.



ONCE AROUND THE BLOCK



A STROLL DOWN KING STREET



THE WAY IT USED TO BE



I THINK I'LL GO FOR A WALK



Parking is FREE  
in Malvern's  
municipal lots,  
denoted by  
these triangles.