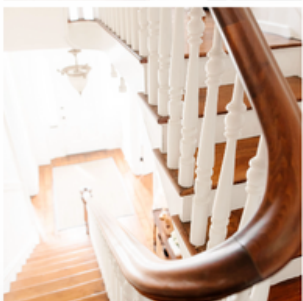
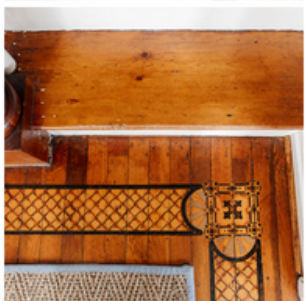
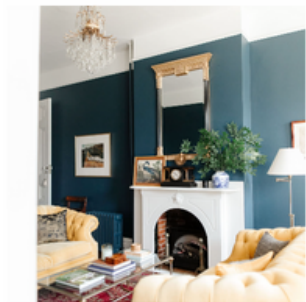
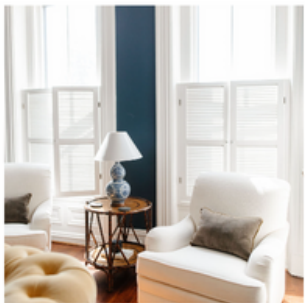


DISCOVERCOLUMBIA.COM

FREEDOM HOME

653 LOCUST STREET





WELCOME!

WHERE HISTORY COMES BACK TO LIFE.

The historic rivertown of Columbia, PA boasts some of the oldest architectural styles in America, gives direct access to trails, waterways, and river life, holds the secrets to the early days of our Nation's birth – from civil war bridge burnings to the birthplace of the false-bottom railcars used in the underground railroad to free slaves – and you can now experience it all in one of its iconic homesteads from 1876.

The Freedom House is located across from the Mount Bethel Cemetery (1720) where guided historic tours through winding walkways showcase the incredibly preserved tombs of those pre-dating Samuel Wright's establishing of the Columbia Borough (1788). Just one block's walk from the library, park, and exciting eateries, antique shops, boutiques, gift shops, micro-breweries, and artisan shops where you can enjoy endless local fare.

The Columbia Market House (1869) is open on Saturday's and features local goods, crafts, live music and entertainment, and plenty of food and fun. Don't forget to tour the jail house under the floor where famed goonies like Al Capone spent a few nights!

140+ YEARS OF HISTORY AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The home was designed and built by William Hougentogler – around 1876 – who served in the Civil War as a musician and then returned home. He designed and built homes in Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other Columbia homes – as well as the adjoining homes in the early 1900s. The home's underground partial tunnel and secret attic room behind a removable bookcase have locals wondering if there is any Underground Railroad history connected with the home, but that is yet to be verified.

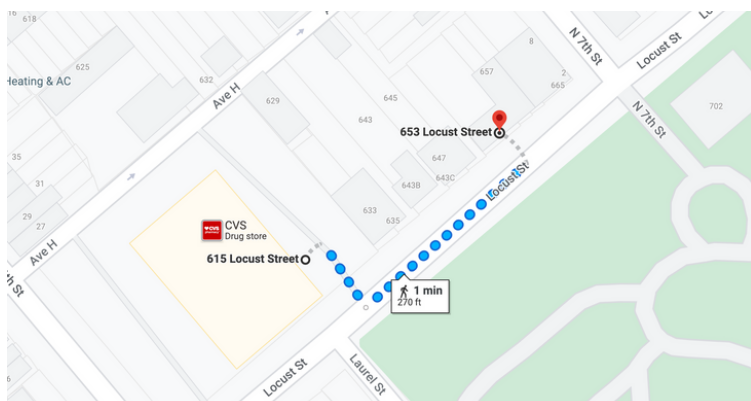
The home then became the home and medical practice of Dr. Gardiner P. Taylor – who practiced as a physician and for whom the Taylor School was named after in Columbia.

Other notable owners were the Columbia Postmaster and Columbia Phone Secretary (Charles Taylor – 1930), a State House of Representatives and PA State Senator (Cleon Berntheizel – 1935), and the Deitrich family (1940s). Recently it was the Jonal Gallery – a gallery home for practicing artists and live music/theatre.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

PARKING

There is **FREE off street designated parking marked FOR YOU** at the CVS Pharmacy just a few doors down - please park there overnight to make sure you don't get a street cleaning ticket and to keep it clear for neighbors coming and going.



Just text us when you arrive (or 15 mins out) so we can meet and greet you and open the Freedom Home for you :)

Justin - 717-371-7041

Typically, arrivals are between 3pm and 8pm, just let us know if you need anything different arranged.

Obviously, anything you need during your stay - we are a text away!

DURING YOUR STAY

Enjoy the home, history, local shops, cafes, nature, trails, views, river, antiques, and whatever piques your curiosity.

Please be mindful that the FREEDOM HOME is 140+ years old and we have filled it with cool local historic pieces, antiques, and a massive modernization so you can enjoy it. You'll find some special goodies, gift cards, maps, tips, and the essential kitchen, bath, bed, laundry, and home comforts! *The noise curfew is 10pm in the historic neighborhood.*

We hope you fall in love with Columbia, PA and will come back again!

+ Justin and Whitney / Owners, Discover Columbia & Freedom Home

LOCAL PLACES TO EXPLORE



MARKETHOUSE
DUNGEON (BELOW
COLUMBIA MARKET)



LONGEST SINGLE ARCH
CONCRETE BRIDGE IN
THE WORLD



OLDEST ARCHITECTURE
IN LANCASTER COUNTY



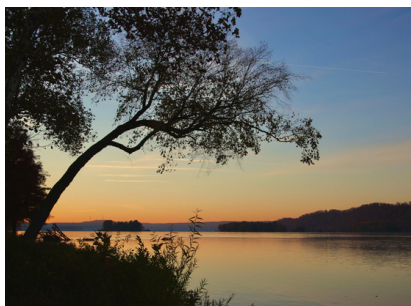
COLUMBIA
CROSSINGS RIVER
PARK & MUSEUM



HINKLE'S HISTORIC
RESTAURANT &
MERCANTILE



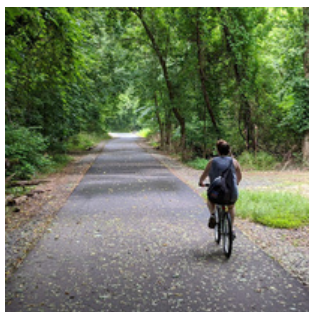
COLUMBIA
MARKET HOUSE
(OPEN SATURDAYS)



COLUMBIA BANK & BRIDGE COMPANY
(& SLAVE HIDEOUT) NOW ART PRINTING CO



CHICKIES ROCK COUNTY PARK &
HIKING TRAILS



NORTHWEST LANCASTER COUNTY
RIVER TRAIL BIKE PATH
(ACCESS FROM COLUMBIA
CROSSINGS)

LONGEST SINGLE ARCH CONCRETE BRIDGE IN WORLD

FACTS

- 1.2 MILES
- LIGHTED PIERS
- WALKING PATH

[READ MORE HERE](#)

[30 SEC VIDEO](#)
[HYPE BRIDGE](#)
[VIDEO ↗](#)



VETERANS MEMORIAL BRIDGE WALK & LEARN ABOUT SLAVES, WAR & MORE!

There were many bridges across the river.

The town (originally Wrights Ferry) changed its name to Columbia in honor of Christopher Columbus to try to win the vote for the Nation's capital... only to fall one vote short due to the shallow river depths.

The railroad yards next to the river is where the literal name "Underground Railroad" began in false-bottom train cars built and engineered and funded by Stephen Smith - a slave who purchased his own freedom in Columbia. The bridge piers are still present where the Civil War was averted when the bridge was burned to prevent confederate troops from heading towards Philadelphia... 3 days later as they headed back west, Gettysburg began!

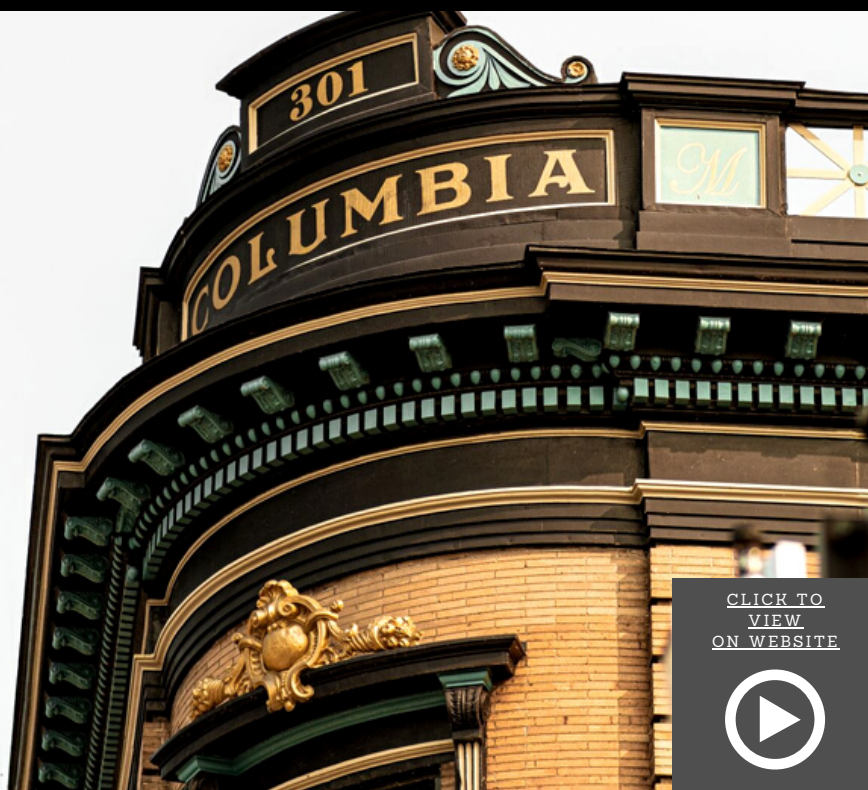
The bridge tells many stories... about early american entrepreneurship with the first ferry crossing, and you can add your memories with your visit.

COLUMBIA CROSSINGS



[VISIT THE WEBSITE TO GET TRAILS & MUSEUM INFO](#)

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE WALKING TOUR



[CLICK TO
VIEW
ON WEBSITE](#)

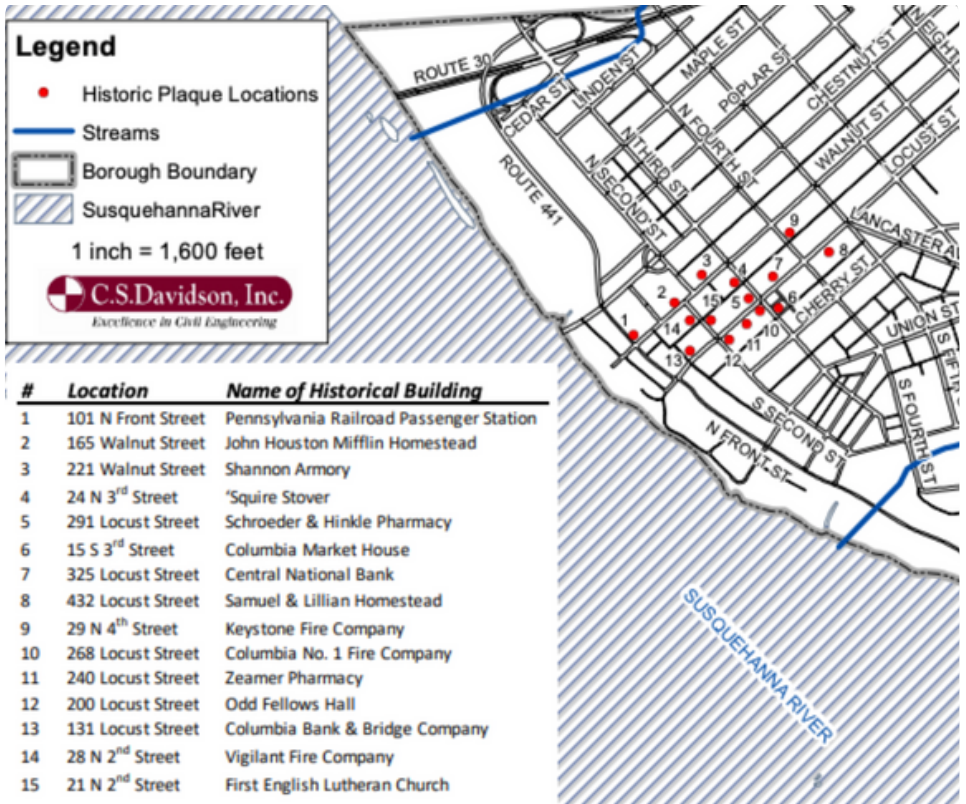


EXPLORE HISTORY
WALKING TOUR OF
HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Explore buildings dating from the 1700s to the 1930s - and learn the local history via the online PDF guide or video tour!



HISTORIC BUILDINGS WALKING TOUR



Download Digital & Video Guide:

VISIT SITE



291 LOCUST STREET
HINKLE'S RESTAURANT & PHARMACY



[VISIT THEIR WEBSITE HERE!](#)

HINKLE'S





15 S. 3RD STREET COLUMBIA, PA

COLUMBIA MARKET HOUSE

Columbia Market House was built on April 17, 1868. The beautiful building stands 118 feet long, 80 feet wide, and is furnished with 180 stalls inside and 37 under the projecting roof outside.

The design of the Columbia Market House is attributed to Isaac Hobbs and Samuel Sloan, with Michael Liphart as the builder. The large open interior space is uniquely spanned with arched Howe trusses, reinforced with iron tension rods.

The Columbia Borough funded the construction of the Market House, which was unusual at the time. Many of the market buildings in the state were privately funded. After years as a successful farmers market, the Market closed in 2017 due to slowing business but reopened again in 2021.

You can visit the year-round market today and find many different vendors and local goods on Saturdays from 7 am to 3 pm.

15 S. 3RD STREET / ACROSS FROM HINKLE'S



COLUMBIA
MARKET HOUSE

MARKETHOUSE DUNGEON

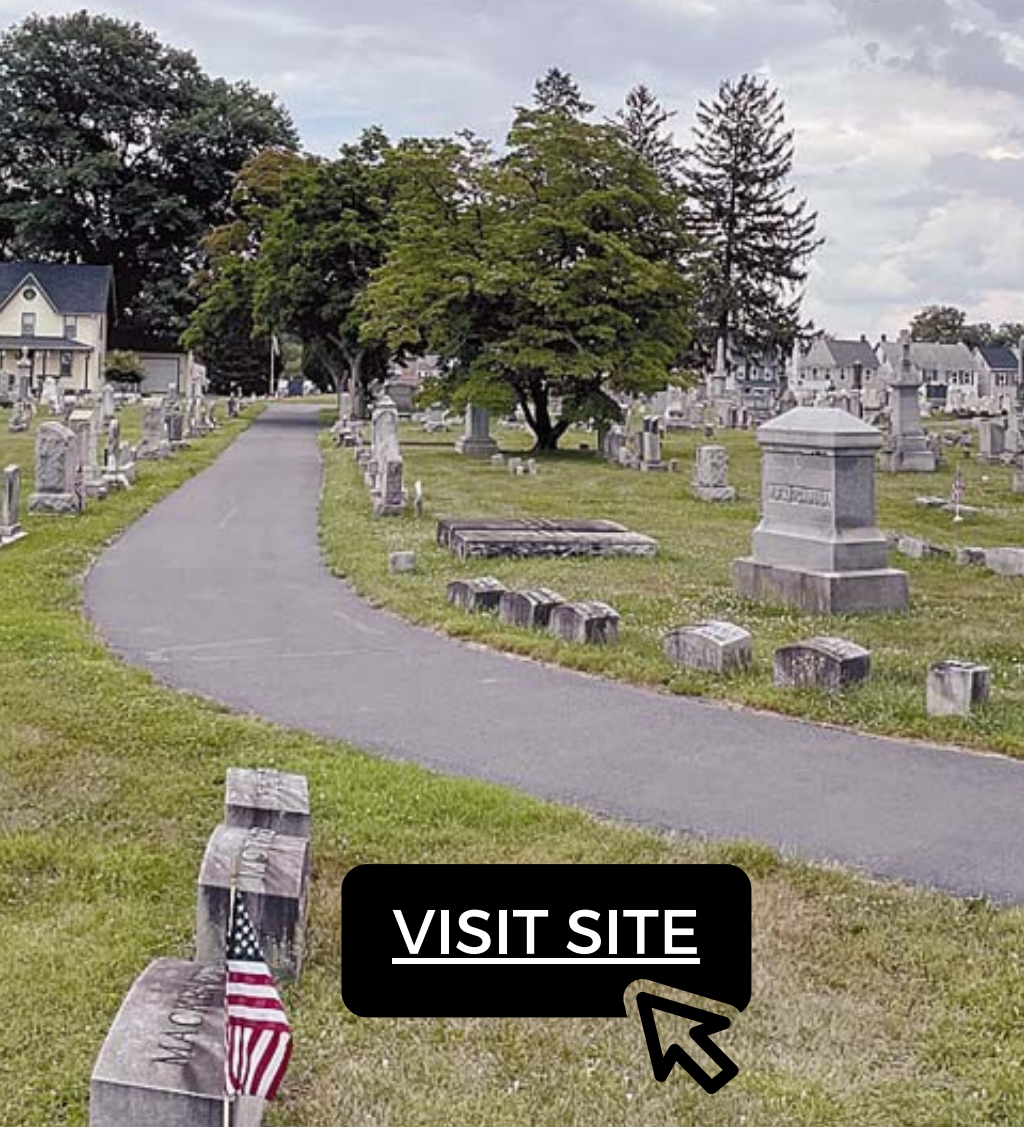
HOSTED AL CAPONE. THOMAS EDISON.
BIG JOHN... TO NAME A FEW!



[READ MORE AND WATCH VIDEO HERE!](#)

MOUNT BETHEL CEMETERY
ACROSS STREET FROM FREEDOM HOME

C. 1730



[VISIT SITE](#)



GHOST TOURS
CAN BE
SCHEDULED
AND LEARN
MORE
HERE!

131 LOCUST STREET COLUMBIA, PA
**COLUMBIA BANK &
BRIDGE COMPANY**

In 1839, Colonel Samuel Shoch kept the books tidy and became the cashier of the Columbia Bank and Bridge Company. Samuel was born in Harrisburg on May 29th, 1797, and received an early education at various preparatory schools, as well as Nottingham Academy in Maryland. Later on, he was made Recorder of Patents under John Cochran in 1812, secretary of Land Office, and Recorder of Surveys for Andrew Porter.

Stephen Smith, Thaddeus Stevens, William Whipper, William Wright were all directors for the Bank and Bridge company in following years. Additionally, the first covered bridge to span the Susquehanna was completed in 1814 and Columbia Bank and Bridge instituted the first tolls for all forms of passage.

Today, the Columbia Art Printing Company occupies the building.

Wait till you hear about its use on the Underground Railroad...

THANKS FOR VISITING COLUMBIA, PA

CAFES

HOMEGOODIES CAFE
301 CAFE
GARTH CAFE & GALLERY
COFFEE & CREAM

MICROBREWERIES

STARVIEW BREWS
COLUMBIA KETTLE WORKS

RESTAURANTS

HINKLES
UNION STATION
ROCKY'S BBQ
KETTLE WORKS
ROSES DELI & MORE
UNION STATION GRILL

PARKS & OUTDOORS

CHICKIES ROCK PARK
COLUMBIA CROSSINGS
LOCUST STREET PARK
MOUNT BETHEL CEMETERY

GROCERY & FOOD

CVS PHARMACY
AJ'S SURPLUS
WEIS MARKETS
ANDY'S MARKET AND DELI

ANTIQUES SHOPS

BURNING BRIDGE ANTIQUES
TOLLBOOTH ANTIQUES
BOOTLEG ANTIQUES
THINK BIG THINK SMALL SHOP
RIVERTOWNE ANTIQUES

RETAIL & GIFT SHOPS

MAYFLY
KINDRED COLLECTIONS
THISTLE & SAGE
MURPHY'S MERCANTILE
THE GRATEFUL THREAD
FRAGMENTS OF THE PAST

BAKED GOODS

THE GOLDEN WHISK
HOME GOODIES

TOURS & MUSEUMS

TURKEY HILL EXPERIENCE
NATIONAL WATCH & CLOCK
MUSEUM
WRIGHT'S FERRY MANSION
COLUMBIA CROSSINGS
HAUNTED LATERNS TOUR



Discover
COLUMBIA