



HERITAGE  
TRAIL  
LEBANON COUNTY

Map

JON

Jonestown

Thank you for taking the time to explore historic Jonestown. Imagine a dusty trail with horse-drawn carriages and locals on horseback. Squint your eyes and try to visualize the massive chestnut logs that still exist behind the wood and vinyl siding. Most of the structures on this tour are constructed of hand-hewn logs. Can you tell which ones?

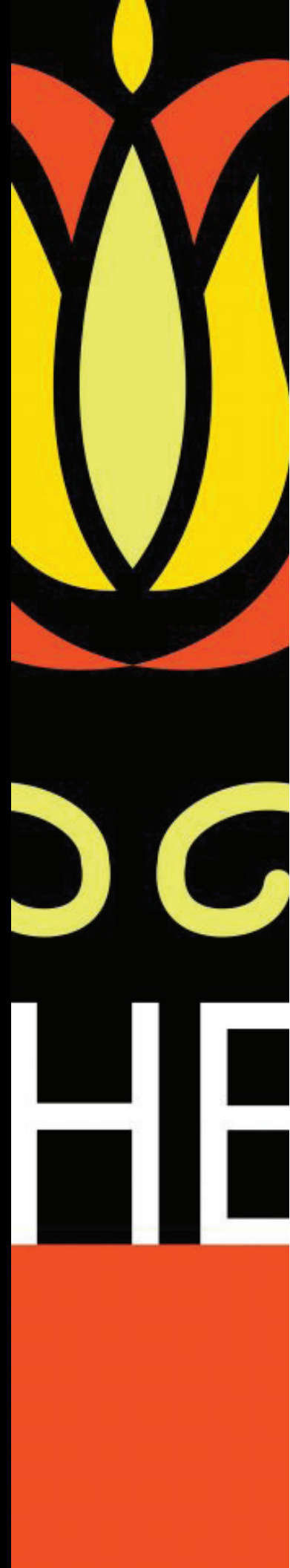
The Borough of Jonestown grew from a 300-acre plot purchased for 60 pounds by William Jones from heirs of the Charles Stout Estate, on June 4, 1761. Jones originally rented the lots to proprietors who were required to construct structures at least 16 feet wide by 20 feet deep. Each structure was to have a good chimney because originally there was no fire department.

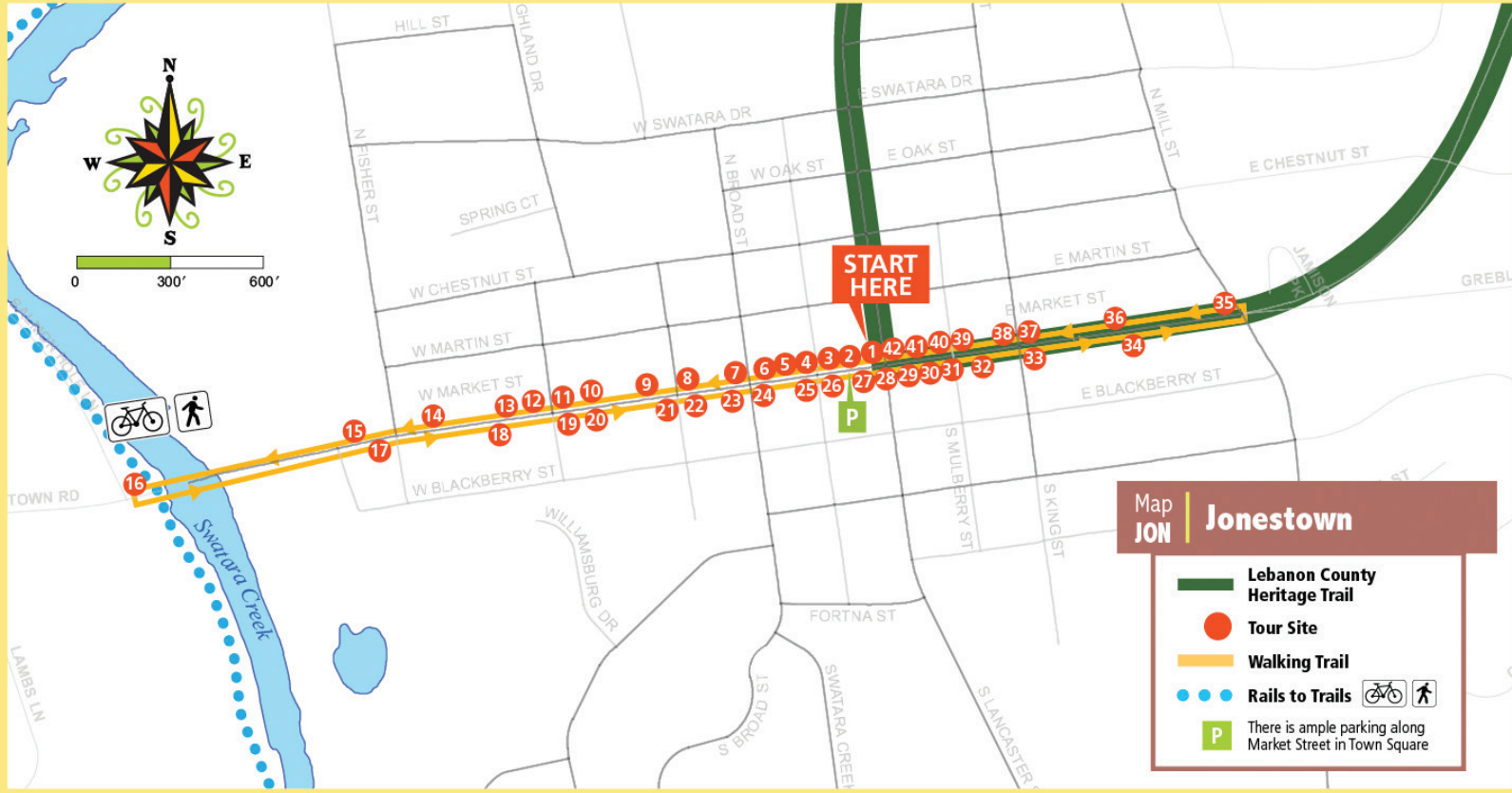
Jones called his settlement "Williamsburgh", but after his death in 1771, the name was changed to Jonestown to distinguish it from other Williamsburg's in the colonies. When Lebanon County was formed in 1813, it was Jonestown's state senator Thomas Walker who was expected to bring in the votes for the town to become the county seat. The night before the vote, Walker was invited to the Buck Hotel (Marker #25) where he was seduced into drinking a bit more rum than he could handle. Too drunk to get to Harrisburg the next day, the city of Lebanon won as county seat by a single vote.

Market Street, a main travel route between Harrisburg and New York, and the nearby Union Canal, which operated between 1827 and 1862, brought many travelers through Jonestown. The South Mountain Railroad would have sealed Jonestown's place as a major city in the area. This fabled rail line, which was to connect Harrisburg to Poughkeepsie, New York through Jonestown, went bankrupt before it was completed.

Jonestown has hosted political conventions, parades, traveling entertainers and bands. Cigar and shoe factories, saddle making, leather tanning, lumber, and coal businesses employed many area residents. The Jonestown School, famous for developing some of the finest furniture makers in the colonies, was established on the main square by Christian Seltzer in the late 1700s. A Dower chest made by Christian Seltzer sold at Kleinfelter's Auction house in downtown Lebanon in 2012 for over \$20,000.

The Jonestown Tour begins at the intersection of Market and Lancaster Streets. There is ample parking on the Square.





**1 Johann Rank Home**  
**9-5-3 W. Market St. (left to right)**

This large log home was owned by successful dower chest painter Johann Rank. It was also home to saddler Josiah H. Rank.

**2 Jonestown Post Office**  
**15 W. Market St.**

A smaller building used as a post office was once at this location. Aaron Yerger made two trips daily from the railroad station to drop off passengers and mail here. In the current building, Heilman "Heimy" Rank sold tobacco smoked candies among other items.

**3 P.O.S. of A. Hall**  
**19 W. Market St.**

The original building was the first home of the Jonestown Fire Company, officially organized in 1803. William Rank and Henry and William Heilman, took a team of horses to Philadelphia to purchase the first hand pump used by the "bucket brigade" for 130 years. This building was later the office for the Justice of the Peace and tinsmith William Leffler. The P.O.S. of A. (Patriotic Order of the Sons of America), a fraternal organization founded in 1847 to promote patriotism, rebuilt this building in 1911. The group disbanded after World War II.

**4 David S. Rank Residence**  
**31 W. Market St.**

David S. Rank fought in the Civil War, was a teacher, sheriff's deputy, treasurer of Lebanon Fire Insurance Co, founding director of Jonestown Bank and superintendent of Lebanon Ice Co. The brick mansion, now clad with simulated stone, was built in the late 1700s. His father, David M., was the wealthiest citizen in Jonestown, almost

three times wealthier than the second wealthiest citizen.

**5 Town Hall, 37 W. Market St.**

The former Town Hall was the site of the first Jonestown Bank. The present building was constructed in 1917 as a fire hall where the first floor housed the fire apparatus. In addition, the building also served as a polling/voting place and the borough office. The second floor was a meeting place, classroom and courtroom. The basement housed a temporary jail. "Hobos" slept in the jail when they passed thru the town and the inebriated slept there till sober.

**6 David Smith Residence**  
**41 W. Market St.**

David Smith was a farmer and merchant.

**7 White Horse Tavern**  
**109 W. Market St.**

In 1788, on the site of the current parking lot, was home to Thomas Leshner's White Horse Tavern, which hosted large cattle and horse sales, numerous wagon circuses, medicine shows and vaudeville entertainers that came to town. The Tavern was granted the first liquor license issued by the Lebanon County court. In 1911 Jonestown United Methodist Church was built on land donated by Dr. George F. Bender who requested payment of a single red rose each year. Red Rose Day is still observed on the second Sunday in June.

**8 Gerhart Bakery**  
**121 W. Market St.**

The bakery which specialized in Sunnyboy Bread was started by Ed Shaud in 1892 and was in operation until 1960.

**9 Jonestown's First Post Office**  
**137 W. Market St.**

Jonestown's first post office was established here in 1802. John Bickel was the town's first postmaster appointed by President Jefferson. Lightning rod agent, John Souders also lived here.

**10 Dr. George F. Bender Residence**  
**151-149 W. Market St.**

Dr. George F. Bender was a successful pharmacist who donated land to the Methodist Church in payment of one red rose a year.

**11 Dr. Jacob Cooper Residence**  
**153 W. Market St.**

Physician Jacob Cooper employed and boarded several white male and female domestic servants. His services included bleeding his patients to cleanse their impurities.

**12 Christian D. Zehring Residence**  
**201 W. Market St.**

Christian D. Zehring was a conveyancer as well as Justice of the Peace off and on from 1867-1883.

**13 Moses F. Arndt Residence**  
**211 W. Market St.**

Moses F. Arndt was a farmer and Justice of the Peace from 1873-1877.

**14 Isele Residence**  
**231- 229 W. Market St.**

Originally, #229 was a 4-room log cabin built in 1829. In 1900, a big "X" was scrawled on the side bay window at #231 so arriving train hoppers could get free meals from Annie Isele. Evelyn Isele is a respected and published author of Jonestown history.

**15 John Arndt Residence**  
**315 W. Market St.**

This is the last building standing of the former Fisher & Arndt Tannery. The tall square stack was removed in 1925, but the vats are still visible. John Arndt was the third most-wealthy Jonestown citizen.

**16 Mansion House/Hotel or Washington House**  
**413 W. Jonestown Rd.**

The train depot of the Pennsylvania & Reading Railroad was once adjacent to the Mansion House/Hotel. George F. Meily, who worked in coal had a farm across the street, was the Captain of Company B during the Civil War. At least 10 acres of Italian-quality marble was found on the farm while workers were widening the Union Canal before it was destroyed by flood.

**17 Simon Desh's Shoe Shop**  
**310 W. Market St.**

Shoemaker Simon Desh and others also operated this shoe shop as a travelers' roadhouse. Townsfolk would gather in rows of chairs in the home to watch burlesque and other shows that came to town.

**18 David Earnest Residence**  
**216 W. Market St.**

Built in 1835, this was the home of coachmaker Harrison D. Lord. In the early 1900s, lamplighter David Earnest of the State Highway Department lived here. Every evening he would climb a ladder to light every oil lamp along the street. Every morning he would turn them out, trim the wicks, clean the globes and refill the lamps with oil.

**19 Dr. Daniel S. Cooper Residence**  
**162 W. Market St.**

Dr. Daniel S. Cooper was a physician and the fifth wealthiest citizen. His services included bleeding his patients to cleanse their impurities.

**20 John Souder Residence**  
**156 W. Market St.**

John Souder lived to be nearly 100. He made tin roofs, stovepipes and coal cooking stoves. The original log home burned and was rebuilt.

**21 Henry Heilman Residence**  
**124 W. Market St.**

Henry Heilman was a founding director of Jonestown Bank and the fourth wealthiest citizen of Jonestown. In 1879, the log cabin was torn down. Dr. Himmelberger had 100,000 bricks made for the new home in J. H. Shaud's local brickyard. He operated his drug store here.

**22 German Reformed Church**  
**120 W. Market St.**

This land was deeded from founder William Jones in 1765 to the German Reformed Church and now St. John's UCC. Originally used by both the Lutheran and Reformed congregations, in 1899 they began having services in English twice a month. After a fire at the United Brethren Church in 1910, that congregation temporarily used the property when not being used by the host

parishioners. The rent for the Brethren congregation was one third of the cost of the janitor and coal.

**23 Henry Leshar Residence**  
**108 W. Market St.**

Built in 1832, this home was owned by Henry & Caroline Leshar. The house has a roll up door in back to better protect the home from Indian attacks.

**24 Major Thomas Leshar Residence**  
**48 W. Market St.**

Major Thomas Leshar fought in the War of 1812. Another owner was John Seltzer, a founding director of Jonestown Bank and state representative from 1852-1853. This building was later used as a funeral home.

**25 Buck Hotel**  
**32 W. Market St.**

The Buck Hotel was the social center of town because of its piano parlor. Mourners gathered here for a meal after local funerals. Sleigh rides also began here in the winter. Without a public water system until 1910, one of the three public water pumps was located outside along the street. Former owners included Titus H. Rank and Harrison Shartle. Harrison was thrown by a horse which was scared by a train. His leg was amputated after the accident and was buried between his parents in the Reformed Cemetery. Upon his death, however, Harrison was buried in the Lutheran Cemetery.

**26 Heim, Barry and Phillips Residences**  
**14-20-24 W. Market St. (left to right)**

Postmaster Jefferson Heim resided and ran the Jonestown post office at #14. Resident, Dr. William A. Barry, who resided at #20 was a local physician as well as Justice of the Peace from 1867-1873. Clothier and founding director of Jonestown Bank, John Phillips lived at #24.

**27 Simon Boltz Residence**  
**10 W. Market St.**

Simon Boltz was a shoemaker and Lebanon County Commissioner for several terms.

**28 Christian Seltzer Dower Chests**  
**2 W. Market St.**

Formerly owned by Christian Seltzer, Sr. and Christian Seltzer, Jr., the property is the current location of Jonestown Bank & Trust Co. In the late 1700s, the Seltzers made dower chests with three panels of painted flowers. His chests are on display at the Smithsonian Institute and the Museum of Art in New York.

**29 Heilman House**  
**6 E. Market St.**

This hotel was run by Simon Heilman and later Jeremiah Heilman, who fought in the Civil War and was a fire insurance agent and innkeeper. Sleigh rides used to begin here in the winter. One of the three public water spigots/pumps was located outside. In 1911, this building housed the town's telephone switchboard. While Jonestown Bank resided here, a robbery took place in 1931.

**30 Infilled House**  
**8 E. Market St.**

After the Heilman House was rebuilt from a fire in the 1860s, this space was infilled with one room on the first floor for business use and a false front at the second floor level.

**31 Hon. Thomas Walker Residence**  
**16 E. Market St.**

Thomas Walker was a liquor dealer, U.S. assessor and one-term member of the state House of Representatives from 1891-1893. Rep. Walker was to bring in the vote for Jonestown to become the county seat. He was encouraged to get drunk the night before and never made it to Harrisburg for the vote.

**32 Henry C. Philips Residence**  
**32-30 E. Market St.**

Henry was the first bank cashier at Jonestown Bank.

**33 Col. Valentine Shouffer Residence**  
**100 E. Market St.**

Col. Valentine Shouffer built this home in 1809. He fought in the Revolution where he was captured, but escaped.

**34 Jonestown Polling Place**  
**128 E. Market St.**

A 10'x20' shed was built by John Wenger on this property solely as a voting place and was used for one hundred years, until 1916.

**35 Michael Mohn Residence**  
**165 E. Market St.**

Michael Mohn was a laborer and nationally recognized poet.

**36 Peter Freylinghouser Residence**  
**129 E. Market St.**

Mr. Freylinghouser, a carpenter and fire insurance agent, was elected county commissioner in 1847.

**37 Zion Lutheran Church**  
**103 E. Market St.**

The original land was purchased from Jesse Jones, grandson of William Jones. The original congregation was started in 1735 by Rev. John Caspar Stoeber, who in 1733 was the second Lutheran pastor ordained in America. The cornerstone of the 1792 structure was laid by the son of Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. The second pastor, Frederick Melzheimer, chaired a committee that determined all services, meetings and business of the Lutheran Churches must be done in German. He also authored a book "Insects of PA" containing 5,302 species and 14,774 specimens. Since free public school began using English, the seventh pastor William Gerhardt (1817-1917) was the first to preach regularly in both English and German. Services in German were discontinued in 1918. The eighth pastor, Franklin Schantz, was a co-founder of the Lebanon County Historical Society. An elevator was installed in 1988.

**38 George W. Ellis Residence**  
**37 E. Market St.**

Formerly the residence of Jacob Heilman, the current house was built by George W. Ellis, state representative from 1895-1897 and painter of the angel faces on the ceiling of the sanctuary of Jonestown's Zion Lutheran Church.

**39 The Wolf Tavern**  
**25 E. Market St.**

This limestone house was built by mason Jacob Wolf, who bought the land in 1762 from town founder William Jones. A tavern was on the first floor. The P.O.S. of A. met here also. Holes in the basement walls were designed to aim rifles at Indians during attacks. This was the home of Hon. Jacob Heilman and later George Meily who were state legislators. There is also suspicion of a tunnel used by the Underground Railroad from the basement to the Lutheran Church.

**40 Dr. Samuel Gilbert Residence**  
**15 E. Market St.**

This house was once the home of Dr. Samuel Gilbert, who practiced in Jonestown, in the early 1900s.

**41 John A. Capp Residence**  
**9 E. Market St.**

John A. Capp was a physician and commissioner for the South Mountain Railroad, which was to connect Harrisburg to Poughkeepsie, NY. The completion of the rival Lebanon Valley Railroad, the depression of 1873, and the outbreak of the Civil War caused the railroad's demise.

**42 Judge Thomas H. Capp Residence**  
**3-5 E. Market St.**

This was the home for the prominent Capp family, the second wealthiest in town. Judge Thomas H. Capp took up politics at age 21, including becoming U.S. Commissioner for Lebanon County. Despite not having a college education, he was one of the youngest lawyers admitted to the Lebanon bar at age 22 and also president of Jonestown Bank. At 27 he began serving three terms in the State House and later as Dauphin County judge. His brother, George T. Capp, was a successful china merchant in Philadelphia and was Justice of the Peace from 1878 till after 1883.