Welcome to the City of Frederick, founded in 1745 by English and German settlers. The City of Frederick has a proud history and diverse building stock with a range of architectural styles and influences. From small dwellings to public, commercial, and industrial structures, many of the sites on this tour date to the first half of the 19th century, a significant period of growth for the city. In its early years, Frederick grew quickly with dense development along Market and Patrick streets. In 1806, Congress authorized the construction of a new National Road connecting Maryland to Missouri. The Maryland segment connected Baltimore to Cumberland, generating growth along main streets in Frostburg, Cumberland, Middletown, Frederick, and Mt. Airy. Patrick Street is significant for its early role as the main street route of the National Road. While the sites on this tour are concentrated around the original downtown core, centered at Market and Patrick, the city now extends far beyond this area. As development pushed out of the downtown, the city’s 80-block historic district has remained remarkably intact. Recent revitalization of the historic core and growing interest in walkable communities has put The City of Frederick on the map! Whether this is your first time visiting Frederick or you walk these historic streets daily, new discoveries await you. The sites featured in this guide are just a handful of highlights within the city’s extensive historic district. The buildings you encounter as you navigate between the featured sites are equally important to Frederick’s architectural history. As you meander through the city, you are sure to find other sites that interest you. We encourage you to take pictures as you go and submit ideas for additional sites, making this a dynamic tour guide. After your visit, we encourage you to tell us about your adventures! Visit us at https://www.cityoffrederick.com or call us at 301-600-1380.

Architectural Walking Tour Sites

1. Frederick City Hall - 101 N. Court Street
2. All Saints Episcopal Church - 106 W. Church Street
3. Potts House - 100 N. Court Street
4. Masonic Temple - 22 W. Church Street
5. All Saints Episcopal Church - 106 W. Church Street
6. Pythian Castle - 20 N. Court Street
7. Weinberg Center for the Arts - 20 W. Patrick Street
8. Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center - 40 S. Carroll Street
9. Hendrickson Building - 44 N. Market Street
10. Winchester Hall - 12 E. Church Street
11. Residential Duplex - E. 3rd St between Chapel Alley and Maxwell Ave
12. Evangelical Lutheran Sunday School - 26 E. 2nd Street
13. Museum of Frederick County History - 24 E. Church Street
14. Trail Mansion - 106 E. Church Street
15. St. John the Evangelist Church - 116 E. 2nd Street
16. Town Homes - E. 3rd St between Chapel Alley and Maxwell Ave
17. Evangelical Lutheran Sunday School - 26 E. 2nd Street
19. Houck Mansion - 228 N. Market Street
20. Schifferstadt Architectural Museum - 1110 Rosemont Avenue

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2. All Saints Episcopal Church - 106 W. Church Street

Church towers over Court Square. This ca. 1855 Gothic Revival Episcopal church was designed by well-known architect Richard Upjohn. With its massing and proportions, its north and south towers rise high above the commercial structures and dwellings of high status, its stylistic elements are featured across a range of the city’s building types. For more information on All Saints Episcopal Church, see: http://all-saints-frederick.org/

3. Potts House - 100 N. Court Street

Located on the city’s main thoroughfare, this is an example of Frederick’s high style architecture. The original side passage townhouse is notable for its entryway with elliptical fanlights, Palladian windows, and delicate inns. While the original entryway and fenestration remains, it is no longer the focal point of this well-preserved and restored building. The original front entrance and staircase are preserved, as are the original four-story façade. Built at the turn of the century, the piazza and the surrounding gardens were designed by the Dempwolf architectural firm. The piazza is a prominent feature that can be found on some of the city’s Federal style buildings. The Potts House was designated a historic landmark in 1976. For more information on Potts House, see: http://www.pottshouse.org/

4. Winchester City Art Center - 40 S. Carroll Street

This Beaux Art style building was designed by the Dempwolf architectural firm in 1926, as Frederick Art Center. With its three stories, monumental sense to the streetscape, it is an example of Frederick’s high style architecture. The building was designated a historic landmark in 1976. For more information on Winchester City Art Center, see: http://www.winchesterartcenter.org/

5. Houck Mansion - 1110 Rosemont Avenue

Established in 1974, the Schiferstadt Architectural Museum is a museum dedicated to preserving early Frederick architectural heritage. The Museum features the remaining example of early stone construction in Frederick. Built by German immigrants as a farmstead in 1758, Schiferstadt is a rare example of early German Colonial architecture in Frederick. For more information on Houck Mansion, see: http://www.schiferstadt.org/

Visit Frederick: http://www.visitfrederick.org/

SCHIFFERSTADT ARCHITECTURAL MUSEUM
Established in 1974, the Schifferstadt Architectural Museum features one of the remaining example of early stone construction in Frederick. Built by German immigrants as a farmstead in 1758, Schiferstadt is a rare example of early German Colonial architecture in Frederick. For more information on Houck Mansion, see: http://www.schiferstadt.org/

Check out the following websites and books for more information:

Historical Society of Frederick County: www.hsfcinfo.org

Tourism Council of Frederick County: www.fredericktourism.org

Everyday Architecture of the Patapsco Valley (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), by Barbara F. Henry and Eric C. Schmitt-Oldenbourg

Photography Courtesy of Laura Perrotta