

The Lancaster County Convention Center and Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square

Views of a Treasured Past ...

Built in the heart of Downtown Lancaster and seamlessly incorporating the façade of the landmark Watt & Shand department store, the Lancaster County Convention Center and Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square features sophistication and modernism while paying tribute to the unique historical fabric and culture of Lancaster.

Downtown Lancaster has been fortunate to preserve or restore its history, architecture, and distinctive character, all of which the new integrated facility embraces through its location and design. With nineteen floors, the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square offers remarkable views of the city's historic landmarks and century-old buildings that have stood through generations and connect us to a treasured past.

Listed here are some of the landmarks that can be seen from the hotel and convention center's upper floors:

Northern View (from left to right)

- **Former Armstrong Headquarters**
This site was home to Armstrong World Industries – a global leader in the design and manufacture of floors, ceilings, and cabinets since the late 1800s – before the company moved to its present headquarters on Columbia Avenue.
- **First Reformed Church**
Built in 1736, this church was the first local house of worship. For ten years – until the construction of a steeple – the congregation hung the church bell from a hickory tree, thus giving the area its original name, Hickory Town.
- **First Presbyterian Church**
Built in 1850, the East Orange Street church became President James Buchanan's place of worship. Many other influential historical figures, including U.S. Congressman Thaddeus Stevens, also attended services here.
- **Lancaster County Courthouse**
This is Lancaster's third and present courthouse, built in 1854 to better meet the needs of Lancaster's growing population than the previous courthouse location in Penn Square.

Southern View (from left to right)

- **Woodward Hill Cemetery**
The cemetery was founded by the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and is the burial place of President James Buchanan and U.S. Congressman William Greist.
- **Conestoga Steam Mills**
Built between 1845 and 1910 and known for its production of Civil War Uniforms, this steam-powered cotton mill complex was the first and largest in Lancaster. One building now houses the Water Street Rescue Mission, and the two others encompass the Carter & MacRae Elementary School.
- **Southern Market**

One of Lancaster's five main markets, the market house was designed by Lancaster architect C. Emlen Urban and constructed in 1888 as one of the largest Queen Anne style structures in Central Pennsylvania. It closed as a market in 1986 and is now home to the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Eastern View (from left to right)

- **McCaskey High School**
This Art Deco masterpiece was the largest public building funded by the New Deal in Lancaster County, costing well over \$1 million at its time of construction in 1938.
- **Eastern Market**
This Second Empire style market house was built in 1883 to serve the city's eastern end. Although it closed as a market in 1927, recent revitalization efforts have resulted in a periodic open-air market at the site, featuring ethnic and organic foods.
- **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church:**
Constructed in 1738, the church had the largest congregation of any denomination in Lancaster County at one time, with 1,300 German-speaking members, most of which were first-generation immigrants. Its steeple was the first to be raised in the city and sounded the news of the Declaration of Independence to the local citizenry.
- **Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology**
With the belief that education is the great equalizer, Thaddeus Stevens granted \$50,000 in his will to establish a school for the relief and refuge of homeless orphans. Founded in 1905, the school has evolved into a two-year institution offering associate degrees and certificates in technical education.

Western View (from left to right)

- **Cabbage Hill**
German immigrants settled here after the 1850s, providing labor for the Conestoga Steam Mills. For an easy meal on wash days, the women would make sauerkraut from the cabbage in their gardens, causing the smell to permeate throughout the neighborhood, thus resulting in its name.
- **St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church**
Founded in 1741, "Lancaster County's mother church" had a predominantly Irish congregation and a reputation for embracing diversity in a changing neighborhood. The Gothic-style building was constructed in 1852 and at one time also housed a school, Saint Mary's Academy and Orphanage.
- **Jasper Yeates House**
This Georgian-style house – a mansion in its time – was built in 1765 and later served as the first home of WGAL-TV.
- **Fulton Theatre**
Built in 1852, the Fulton Theatre is the oldest continuously-operating theatre in the country and is one of only three national historic landmark theatres.
- **Pennsylvania Academy of Music**
The Academy has offered young musicians quality instruction in performance and music theory since 1991 and completed this state-of-the-art facility in June 2008.
- **Old City Hall**
Built in the late 1790s, City Hall housed various levels of government and served as the state office building during Lancaster's time as the state capital. It currently houses the Heritage Center Museum and the new Downtown Lancaster Visitors Center.
- **Central Market**

The building was constructed in 1889 and is the oldest continuously-operating farmers market in the country.

- **Greist Building**

The Greist Building was designed by Lancaster's most distinguished architect, C. Emlen Urban. Built in 1925 as Lancaster's first (and until now only) skyscraper, it symbolized the city's 20th century development and is named for U.S. Representative William Greist.

Additionally, in any direction you can see that Downtown Lancaster is home to many tobacco and silk warehouses from days past. The 1800s put these factories to use as the city became an industrial powerhouse and commercial center. Many of these sites have been re-used and renovated for office space and other purposes.

Thanks to Nancy Haubert of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County for help in deciphering the Downtown Lancaster skyline, and to Amy Schulz of the PA Dutch CVB for developing this fact sheet.