

MARKING THE **Journey**

PA's Role in 250 Years of U.S. History

American Experiment

Just as William Penn's "Holy Experiment" for religious tolerance and democratic governance in the Pennsylvania colony laid a framework for the establishment of the United States, the people of PA have continued to champion revolutionary ideas, challenge authority and the status quo, and set precedents for the American nation. This trail explores how ideas tested here—through both progress and setbacks—have helped define the ongoing work of building a republic.

Use the maps and addresses below to create your own road trip to visit the markers!

1 **1967 Black Student Walkouts** 📍 Former Board of Education Bldg., N 21st & Winter Sts., Philadelphia

The 1967 Black Student Walkouts marker recognizes one example of how Americans have responded to inequality by challenging the status quo. Students and teachers from Philadelphia schools led a walkout calling for equal education for Black students that included improved facilities and materials and representation in the curriculum and staff. The event was an early part of a movement that spanned the nation.



Related Markers

1. **Desegregation of Pennsylvania Schools** 1216 S Main St., Meadville
2. **Homestead Strike** 880 E Waterfront Dr., Munhall Borough
3. **Newport Fugitive Slave Rescue** 320 Market St., Newport Borough
4. **Hanover Resolves** 10105 Allentown Blvd., East Hanover Township
5. **William Camp Gildersleeve (1795-1871)** 20 E Ross St., Wilkes-Barre
6. **Woman's Rights Convention of 1852** N. High St., West Chester
7. **1910 Bethlehem Steel Strike** Pierce & E 3rd Sts., Bethlehem
8. **Gay Rights Demonstrations July 4, 1965-1969** 6th & Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia



2 **Eastern State Penitentiary** 📍 2027 Fairmount Ave., Philadelphia

This marker highlights one of Pennsylvania's leading roles setting precedents for the nation. Eastern State Penitentiary became a new "progressive" model of prison reform aimed at rehabilitating inmates rather than punishment, establishing the Pennsylvania System of penology. Over time, society came to see severe flaws in the system. The museum in the former penitentiary brings awareness to current debates of prison reform.



Related Markers

1. **Birthplace of the Direct Primary**
Courthouse at Diamond Park Sq. / Main St., Meadville
2. **Marianna Mine Explosion** Beeson Ave./Maple St. & Mine Access Rd., Marianna
3. **Creation of the Pennsylvania Game Commission** NW corner of City Park, Corry
4. **Fishing Creek Confederacy** 90 Mill St., Benton Borough
5. **Rhoads Opera House Fire**
Fairview Cemetery, north side of W Philadelphia Ave., Boyertown
6. **Berwyn School Fight** 380 N Fairfield Rd., Tredyffrin Township
7. **Supreme Court of Pennsylvania** 2nd & Market Sts., Philadelphia

3

The Aaronsburg Story 📍 331 E Aaron Square, Aaronsburg, Centre County

This marker addresses how Pennsylvania's early adoption of religious tolerance allowed revolutionary stories of inter-religious cooperation and support like the Aaronsburg Story. Aaron Levy, a Jewish immigrant who founded the village, donated significant ground for Lutheran and Reformed congregations. Many years later in 1949, the community recognized their origins by holding week-long celebrations to recognize the religious and racial understanding of its origins.



Related Markers

1. **Pittsburgh Platform** 300 Stockton Ave., Pittsburgh
2. **Groundhog Day** Gobbler's Knob, 1548 Woodland Ave., Punxsutawney
3. **The Beginning of Agricultural Cooperative Extension Service** 3744 Pitt St., Schellsburg Borough
4. **Carl E. Stotz** Original Little League Field, 1681 W 4th St., Williamsport
5. **The Slinky Toy** 2 W Baltimore Pike, Clifton Heights Borough



4

Howard Zahniser 📍 Rt. 62 ~.8 miles N of Pigeon Hill Rd., Tionesta Township, Forest County

Widely known as the "Father of the Wilderness Act," Howard Clinton Zahniser's passion and advocacy for the environment resulted in the National Wilderness Preservation System Act of 1964, preserving over 100 million acres across the nation. The marker celebrates how one person can help push a revolutionary national movement.



Related Markers

1. **Rural Free Delivery** 135 West Pennsylvania Ave., New Stanton Borough
2. **Rolling Mill Mine Disaster**
At the bottom of the Inclined Plane Bridge, S.R. 56., Johnstown
3. **Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission**
1601 Elmerton Ave., Susquehanna Township
4. **LGBTQ+ Policies Under Gov. Milton Shapp** North and Third Sts., Harrisburg
5. **Articles of Confederation** Continental Square at Market & George Sts., York
6. **Erie Railroad Co. v. Tompkins** Rock St & Summit Terrace, Hughestown Borough
7. **Gouverneur Morris (1752-1816)** Market and Third Sts., Philadelphia



5

Dorothy Mae Richardson (1922-1991) 📍 1419 Arch St., Pittsburgh, Allegheny County

This marker recognizes the hard work of Dorothy Mae Richardson, a community activist who founded the Neighborhood Housing Services in 1968. Her work inspired a national movement for resident-led community development and the creation of NeighborWorks America.



Related Markers

1. **John William Heisman (1869-1936)** Central Ave. & Brown St., Titusville
2. **Thaddeus Stevens** 51 Chambersburg St., Gettysburg
3. **Bob Hoffman** 3300 Board Rd., Manchester Township
4. **Frederick Douglass (1818-1895)**
West Chester Univ., between Library and Main Hall, West Chester
5. **Caroline Burnham Kilgore (1838-1909)** 1301 Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township
6. **Nile Swim Club** 513 S Union Ave., Yeadon Borough