

#### 4 The Paper Trail

In 2007, the term "Paper Trail" was coined for a number of Huntingdon public art installations. *Paper Trail* is based on the role that paper in its various forms has played in the community. Birthplace of the paper tablet, Huntingdon Borough benefited greatly from the economic impact of the tablet manufacturing plant and the benevolent philanthropy of its owner, J. C. Blair.

Joe Brenman and Christopher Drobnock installed the mosaic adjacent to a descriptive plaque about the Paper Trail in 2009.

#### 5 J.C. Blair and the Mainline Canal, 2008

The former Miller's Department Store, provides the canvas for more *Paper Trail* artworks. The building was constructed in 1901, with additions to the east and west as the business prospered. Although the business has changed, a lunch counter on the main floor continues to be a unique attraction.

The murals depict two major sources of Huntingdon's prosperity: the Mainline Canal and J.C. Blair, founder of the Blair Paper Company. To the right, the mural shows examples of artistically designed cover pages for J.C. Blair's paper tablets, invented and produced in Huntingdon. The murals were created by local artist Don Dietz in 2008. A lifelong Huntingdon County resident and artist, Dietz is known for his theater stage set designs and love for historic architecture. A selection of his paintings is on public display at J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital and in the Huntingdon County Public Library.



#### 6 The Cliffs, 2008

Close to the corner of Fifth and Penn Streets, two murals face east-going traffic. "The Cliffs" was created in 2008 by Philadelphia artists David Guinn and Phillip Adams. Guinn was recruited as the lead artist due to his substantial work with the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program. Adams was working with Guinn at the time and is an outstanding artist in his own right. The mural was the first Huntingdon mural created on

a non-woven fabric in a Philadelphia studio, and was then installed on site with a technique similar to wallpapering.

As the name implies, "The Cliffs" refers to local land formations. To travelers along Route 22 east, the sandstone cliffs near Mill Creek are a landmark that already inspired artists over 100 years ago, including Thomas Moran who painted "The Juniata Evening" (circa 1864). Guinn and Adams had visited the Huntingdon Cliffs, on the edge of the Highland neighborhood, looking west over the Juniata River and parallel railroad tracks. Look for the connection to the *Paper Trail* – a paper tablet in the satchel.



#### 7 Mosaic at Children's Services

A passion for art and children has inspired local mosaic and glass artist Deb Tumlin to create small mosaic vignettes at the site of Huntingdon County Children's Services, located in the Courthouse Annex II.



#### 8 Arch and Pillars, 2011

Framing the parking lot on Fourth and Penn Streets, "Arch and Pillars" was created by David Berger, a local, second generation blacksmith who hand forged the ironwork gracing the twisted columns. The *Arch and Pillars* pay homage to the historic district, brick and iron industries and the craftsmanship traditions of the community. Similar to the mosaic mural, this installation creates a focal point at one of the gateways to the community and was a collaboration of the Borough of Huntingdon and the Arts Council.



#### 9 The Art Space & Pieceworks – 40 Years of Arts and Culture in Huntingdon County, 2012

The Huntingdon County Arts Council has been responsible for many of the public art installations in the borough and county. It therefore seemed fitting that the non-profit organization would celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2012 with a mural depicting milestones of its service to the community.



Elody Gyekis, a Centre County artist, designed the mural and developed instructions for true hands-on public participation. Huntingdon artists Matt Wren and Diahann Mosier helped youth groups and adults make the mural come together as a unified piece. The mural design is reminiscent of the mosaic mural on Penn Street, the Arts Council's first major public art project.

The Huntingdon County Arts Council operates a gallery space at 212 Fourth Street in Huntingdon, the *Art Space*. Here local and visiting artist exhibits are on display, changing monthly with opening receptions, presentations, classes and other public activities.



#### 10 Mutual Benefit Group Garden

The block between 4th and 5th Streets is dominated by Mutual Benefit Group, an insurance business that has its roots in Huntingdon and now serves Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Mutual Benefit Group and its predecessor Swigart Insurance faced expansion efforts gracefully and with great sensitivity to the historic fabric of its neighborhood. The first significant project was the infill construction on the 400 block of Penn Street. The new structure on the corner of 4th and Washington Streets echoes historic architectural details while observing high energy efficiency. This cornerstone building borders a little known secret garden with entrance on Washington Street. A natural spring feeds a pond and provides a shady oasis in the heart of Huntingdon.



#### 11 The Standing Stone

The oldest monument and public 'art' in Huntingdon is the *Standing Stone*. This replica of an earlier marker was erected in 1896. The *Standing Stone* is believed to be an ancient wayfinding sign with significance to the Native Americans who inhabited the area before European settlers arrived.



#### 12 The Little House at the Huntingdon County Historical Society

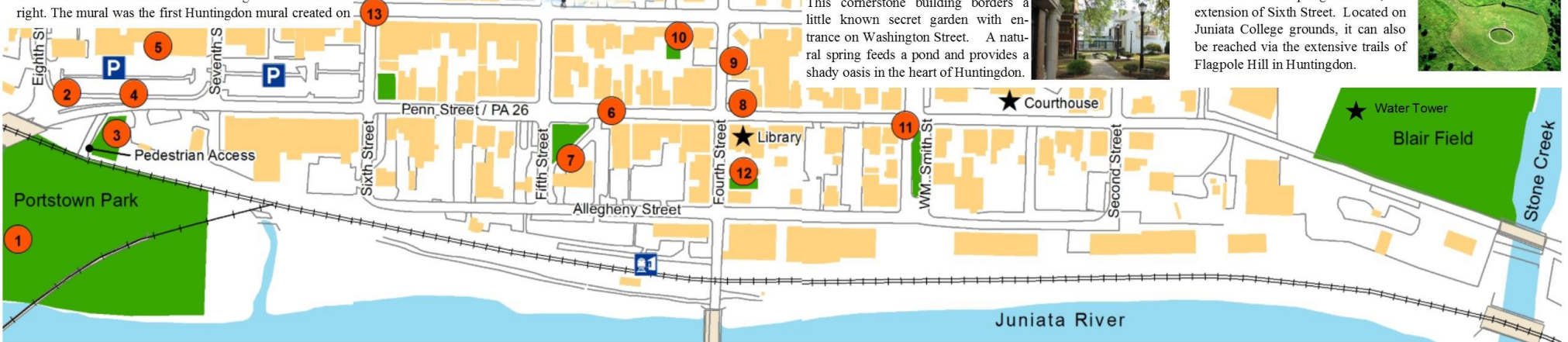
The *Little House* in the garden of the Historical Society was first built by the local Cottage Planing Mill for participation in Huntingdon's centennial parade in 1887. It was later restored and donated to the Historical Society for public display.



#### 13 Public Art Installations at Other Locations

Huntingdon neighborhoods are unique and can be explored on foot or by bicycle utilizing a network of sidewalks, alleys and trails. Juniata College is home to an excellent art museum and library and has recently added sculptural pieces on campus. J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital has been an active partner to the Arts Council and features public art both within its buildings and on its campus. On Bryan Street, "Peace Flight", was designed in 2013 by foremost origami artist and physicist Robert Lang and executed by sculptor Kevin Box. In the radiology department, a lighted photo display was created by New York photographer Dan Burkholder in 2008; and paintings by Don Dietz for the hospital's centennial in 2011.

In 1988, renowned sculptor and landscape artist Maya Lin designed the "Peace Chapel", accessible from Warm Springs Avenue, the extension of Sixth Street. Located on Juniata College grounds, it can also be reached via the extensive trails of Flaggpole Hill in Huntingdon.







Bicycling in Huntingdon County enjoys many accommodations. As cyclists pause from exciting mountain biking at Raystown Lake or more leisurely rides on Rails to Trails, Huntingdon's bike racks deserve a special mention. Custom wrought iron bike racks were created by local blacksmith

David Berger (see Arch & Pillars) to harmonize with the historic surroundings at the County Library. In addition, the Lutheran Church, Standing Stone Coffee Company, Juniata College, and Community Center all feature custom made bike racks created by Brian Nevel.

## Sponsors

Funding for this project was provided in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation's Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund and administered by Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission, and the Huntingdon County Arts Council; Huntingdon Borough; Huntingdon County Mapping Department; and the Huntingdon Rotary Club.

For more information see: [www.huntingdonboro.com](http://www.huntingdonboro.com)

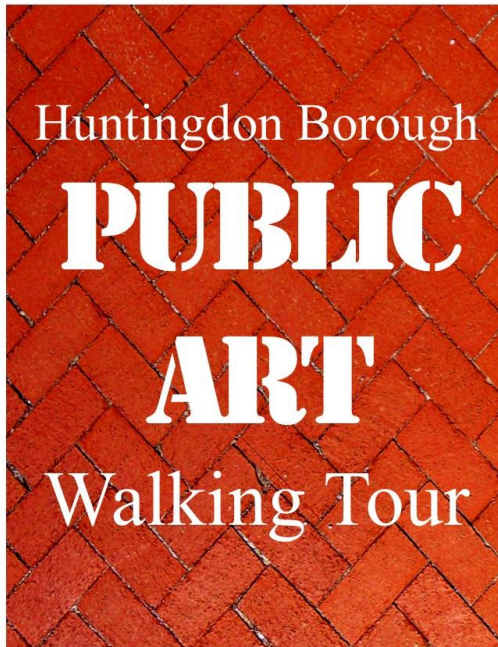


Brochure Design by Ilona Ballreich

Huntingdon, PA 1850

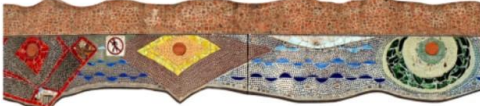


**1 Portstown Park** commemorates its namesake Huntingdon neighborhood that met its demise in the flood of 1972. This former working class neighborhood was at the intersection of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain Railroad (H&BT). Today, Norfolk Southern owns the main railroad tracks for both commercial and passenger service to Pittsburgh and New York. An abandoned rail trestle pays homage to the former H&BT Railroad whose service area roughly paralleled Route 26 South. Murals on the trestles created by Matt D'Alberto in 2003 constitute the first collaborative public art project of the borough and the Huntingdon County Arts Council. Public school history day activities allowed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders to sign the rainbow pillars. The park has a 1/8 mile walkway with markers identifying tree species, a



skate park, fishing deck, rain garden, playground, bocce ball court and pavilion. The park is home to the Farmers Market open on Thursdays in spring through fall, and is available for event rental from the Borough.

Exit the park via the Pedestrian Arch toward Penn Street. Constructed in 1906 to allow safe passage under the railroad on the road to Bedford, it was filled in when a new underpass and bridge was built in 1980/81. The arch was reopened when the park was established in 2002/03.



### 2 The Mosaic Mural, "Pieces in Time"

Created in 2003 by Philadelphia sculptor and mosaic artist Joe Brennan, the mosaic mural provides an artistic interpretation of Huntingdon's historic timeline. From right to left, each round clay relief medallion symbolizes a specific time period, depicting a representative scene. They are surrounded by the artist's mosaic interpretation of the time period. Community members provided input during the design phase and had opportunity to observe and participate during the installation.

**A.** The first medallion shows fossils as found locally, the random green surrounds represent the uncultivated, natural environment of prehistoric times.

## Welcome to Historic Downtown Huntingdon!

Since its establishment as county seat in 1787, Huntingdon Borough has been the center of the county's social, civic, business and governmental life. Its historic architecture bears witness to its prosperous past and local commitment to historic preservation. Parks offer outdoor recreation within Borough limits. Churches, social clubs and civic organizations support the community and provide outlets for individual engagement. This brochure provides a brief account of public art installations in historic downtown Huntingdon, primarily along the Penn Street corridor. A digital version and additional information is available on the web at [www.huntingdonboro.com](http://www.huntingdonboro.com) and partner websites. Most public art is easily accessible and free or metered parking is readily available throughout town.

### Fourth Street Corridor: "Four and More"



Huntingdon's unofficial cultural district is along its Fourth Street corridor. The Huntingdon County Historical Society, Library, Arts Council and the Health & Wellness Association are housed on a three-block section of Fourth Street, and they have organized as *Four and More*, part of Huntingdon Landmarks, Inc. The group offers summer walking tours, including an Art Walk on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Check out Four and More's Facebook page for more information.

**B.** This medallion depicts Huntingdon's oldest symbol: the Standing Stone. Circles of green tile and marble reference nature and its importance to Native American life and culture once present in the region.

**C.** The third medallion is within the sightline of the Blair Building and represents Huntingdon's industry. A pair of hands holding a rectangular object, brick or paper tablet, pays tribute to the workers of Huntingdon who created the built environment and economic base. The yellow/green tiled diamond shape represents the "Diamond", the area at the intersection of Fifth and Penn Streets.

**D.** This plaque features the railroad and a stylized canal. Corner insets commemorate local events and businesses, such as the bicentennial, J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital, the prison, and bricks from the former brickyard. Black and red represent coal and fire, the basis for much of early industrial development.

**E.** The final medallion is a tribute to local artisans, potters in particular. Adjacent to the plaque, local potter Jack Troy lent a helping hand and arranged ancient pottery shards with modern pottery pieces by local artists and students in a yin-yang pattern.

The brick work above the mural, reminiscent of work by Spanish architect Antoni Gaudi, was completed by John Lamberson using recycled brick pavers in 2003.

**The Huntingdon County Arts Council** operates *The Art Space* at 212 Fourth Street, home to monthly exhibitions and events. The Arts Council has been instrumental in commissioning many the public art installations in Huntingdon. The non-profit organization also coordinates numerous performing arts events and outreach activities in the county. [www.huntingdoncountyarts.com](http://www.huntingdoncountyarts.com)

**The Huntingdon County Library** and the **Historical Society** share a property along Fourth Street that was previously owned by Clara McMurtrie, benefactor to both organizations. The Library faces Penn Street with a 1960s addition serving as the main entrance and collections room. It serves the county as part of the Pennsylvania Library System. The library's Pennsylvania Room has a selection of books on Pennsylvania history while the Historical Society's library has a more extensive offering on local history and genealogy.

The Historical Society operates a house museum at 106 Fourth Street. Its historic library and offices are open to the public and genealogical researchers during set hours. On occasion its Gallery is open for special presentations and exhibitions. [www.huntingdonhistory.org](http://www.huntingdonhistory.org)

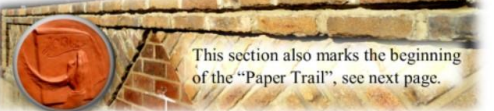
**The Huntingdon Health & Wellness Association** is located at the corner of Fourth and Mifflin Streets. Its focus is the health and well-being of individuals and the community through the promotion of alternative, complementary, and integrative health care and wellness initiatives. [www.hhw.org](http://www.hhw.org)

The art works at this location intend to create a gateway and welcome to the borough from the south and west. In addition to the mosaics and murals, Huntingdon Borough continues to improve its infrastructure. The adjacent municipal parking lot has been refurbished with historic lights and flags. The local government supports an active tree commission, and trees have been planted throughout town to commemorate community leaders. The Mayor's Office, Garden Club, Rotary Club and others have shared in the responsibility of maintaining flower beds, gardens and plantings.

**3** On Penn Street, the original Huntingdon fire bell crowns a monument dedicated to the service of Huntingdon's fire fighters. The stone work was created by local mason Ken Evans in 2014.



**4** In 2015, Ken Evans created the multi-patterned brick wall to further beautification and visual interest at this gateway. The bricks used in this project once paved Huntingdon roads and sidewalks.



This section also marks the beginning of the "Paper Trail", see next page.