



## Expedition Easton – A Walking Tour for Kids

Get some fresh air and learn about Easton’s history with this walking tour. It’s conducted entirely within “The Circle” or Centre Square and doesn’t require crossing any streets. The short tour has many opportunities for discussion and deeper thinking. You can also add in map reading skills by referencing the included map or bringing up a map on your phone and looking at it during the tour. Additional ideas are listed at the end, which can help engage children of multiple ages. Enjoy your Expedition Easton!

*Begin on the west side of the Square facing the Monument and share a brief history Soldiers and Sailors Monument.*

Built in 1900 the 75-foot tall Monument dedicated as a tribute to all Union militia in the Civil War. It replaced an iron fountain, which is now in Nevin Park on College Hill. The Bugler at the top of the monument faces west toward the sunset to play taps for fallen comrades.

- Why do you think the bugler faces west to play taps? (The sun sets in the west, which is symbolism for the ending of a life.)
- How tall do you think the Bugler is? (5 feet)
- Are you shorter or taller than the Bugler?

Do you see the Family Dollar? This building used to be a huge department store called Bush and Bull. People liked coming there from the small towns on the edge of Easton to do their shopping.

- What kinds of things could you shop for in a department store?
- Where do you buy those things today?

*Now turn to your right until you see the Dunkin’ Donuts.*



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The building where you see Dunkin' Donuts on the ground floor is called the Detwiller Building. It is named for a doctor who came from Switzerland and had his office there over 150 years ago. If you look closely at the top of the hill, you can see a church steeple and some of the buildings at Lafayette College. The college was founded in 1826 and existed for more than 40 years by the time Dr. Detwiller had his practice in Easton.

- What direction are you facing now? (North)

*Walk to your right again to the other side of the monument facing Northampton Street.*

- What direction are you facing? (East)
- If we kept walking east, what would we find? (Delaware River, New Jersey, Atlantic Ocean)

One of the reasons that Easton became a city was because of the river. It was important to help transport people and products like coal and logs to other places. The river was difficult to navigate in some places, so canals were built to make the journey easier.

*Move to your left, across the street from the Bayou Restaurant to an informational panel with an illustration of what Centre Square used to look like.*

Easton was a planned city. About 15 years (1756 to 1761) before the Revolutionary War, a city plan was laid out in a grid with a square in the center. In 1765 the first Northampton County Courthouse was constructed. On July 8, 1776 Robert Levers performed the third reading of the Declaration of Independence from the courthouse steps.



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- When does Easton celebrate independence day? Why not on July 4<sup>th</sup>? (The Declaration of Independence was read in Easton 4 days later, which is why we have Heritage Day on the Sunday after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.)

*Walk around the Circle to your right, facing S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.*

- What direction are we facing now? (South)
- What will you find in this direction? (Lehigh River, the Canal, South Side Easton, railroad tracks, Route 78).
- Why were the two rivers in Easton so important?
- There are also railroad tracks and interstate highways – what do they have in common with rivers and canals?

Just in front of you, on the right side of the street, is the tallest building in Easton. It's called the Alpha Building. It started out as a 2- story (floor) bank. More floors were added on top until it reached its height today of 9-stories.

- Look carefully at the floors of the Alpha building and see if you can tell where the building was added on to.

This is the end of the tour – but there is so much more history in our city! Just for fun, here are some things to look for and questions to answer while you're in Centre Square:

- How many different things do you see that tell people to stop?
- How many flags do you see? What do they each represent?
- What do firefighters use to put out fires today (hydrants)– how many do you see in the circle? What do you think people in early Easton did if there was a fire?
- Find something that is more than 100 years old. Find something



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that is less than 100 years old. How can you tell?

- Try to find all the letters of your name on signs of businesses around the circle.
- What natural things can you find here in the middle of the city?
- Go on a shape hunt – try to find examples of geometric shapes all around the circle.

