



Walking Tour: Notable Trees of Downtown Lewisburg

Lewisburgpa.com Walking Tour #2: Notable Trees of Downtown Lewisburg

Lewisburg has been acknowledged by The National Arbor Day Foundation, the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, as a Tree City since 1988 because of its efforts to promote street trees. There are hundreds of interesting trees in the Borough of Lewisburg, and this walking tour highlights but a small sample. Specimens are numbered on the accompanying map. This walking tour contains information gleaned from walking tours previously organized by the Lewisburg Shade Tree Commission. Special thanks to Brian Gockley for lending his expertise, and considerable knowledge of all things tree-related, to this project. The tour starts on the corner of St George and South 7th Streets. The total time this walking tour will take to complete is, in comparison to the lifespans of the venerable trees you will meet on the tour, infinitesimally small.

*The cultivation of trees is the cultivation of the good,
the beautiful and the ennobling in man.*
—J. Sterling Morton

1: This ancient Oak by the Lewisburg Cemetery was part of the original survey of the town in 1769. The marker to the right, itself some 70 years old, eloquently elaborates on the history of this majestic tree. It would be worthwhile to take a few minutes and view this tree from inside the cemetery as well.

2: A stately American Elm marks the entrance to Kidsburg at the lower end of Hufnagle Park. This is one of the few remaining Elm trees in the area not devastated by the Dutch Elm disease that ravaged the country in the 1960's. The high branching vase shape made Elms one of the most popular street trees, and their loss has left huge holes in many towns and cities across the country. Modern disease-resistant hybrids are being developed, but none have as graceful a form. Foresight preserved this tree during the playground construction, and the brick pavers allow water to the roots.

3: The large Spruce at the top of Hufnagle Park is probably about 75 years old. It was thoughtfully preserved during the construction of this park so that we can enjoy it today. It serves as a centerpiece for the park and also holds the annual Christmas Tree lights.

4: The young Hawthorne tree standing opposite Hufnagle Park (in front of 516 Market Street) was recently planted by the Lewisburg Shade Tree Commission. The Shade Tree Commission, appointed by the Council, has governance over the Borough's street trees.

5: Turning right onto South 5th Street, alongside the Pineapple Inn, the you will pass 3 Butternut trees. The 4th tree on your right is a Kentucky Coffee tree. Seeds from the Kentucky Coffee Tree, a member of the pea family native to North America, were used during colonial times as a coffee substitute. Lewisburg boasts several fine coffee houses, so you may confidently walk on by, leaving this young tree's seeds intact.



6: The Southern Magnolia tree located in front of 227 South 4th Street is a true evergreen. Observe the very thick, almost plastic-like, waxy leaves & very showy, fragrant, large white flowers in late spring. Note: Under the wooden siding of this house is a log home supposedly built between 1790 and 1800. The log part of the house is the true two story portion of the house.

*The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only
a green thing that stands in the way. Some see Nature all ridicule and deformity,
and some scarce see Nature at all. But to the eyes of the man of imagination,
Nature is Imagination itself.*

—William Blake

7: The group of Bartlett Pears around the corner of 2nd & St. Louis, alongside the funeral home, are typical of this popular old-style pear. They have a gorgeous white flower and stay fairly small, but they often split at the top, and are not chosen much anymore, rather the Cleveland or Callery pear is used.

8: A fabulous specimen of Magnolia is found on the corner of Second and White Pine Alley, in the yard adjacent to 32 S. 2nd Street. Note the way that the branches dip, root and then rise again in successive waves.

9: The Silver Maple behind the Highland pub (101 Market Street) is said by some locals to be the tallest and oldest tree in Lewisburg. This point can no doubt be debated over drinks inside the pub.

10: The old evergreen behind 27 & 35 South Water Street is another fine specimen of Spruce. It is approximately one hundred years old. It really spruces up the place.

11: The Elm at 26 Water St. is another lovely specimen. Considerable effort has been made by the homeowners to preserve it. Note the impressive reach of its limbs as they lean out to touch the house across the street.

12: Soldier's Park holds many great trees, from the spruces around the water tower to the sycamores dotted throughout. A summer, 2003 windstorm wrought great damage on the park, and destroyed several old specimens. New plantings will be made over the next few years. The Spruce trees that stand around the stone remnants of the old water towers in Soldiers Park were originally planted to hide the tanks that stood here. The tanks' wooden parts have long since rotted away, but these trees remain, marking a typical phenomena in America where forest trees are planted in small areas (which they outgrow) by gardeners (whom they outlive).

13: Several Cryptomeria stand watch over the walled garden of the Packwood House Museum. These redwood trees, also known as Japanese cedar, have a foliage that is similar to that of their famous cousin, the giant Sequoia. The garden is open during regular museum hours. Please visit for a closer look. And why not visit the museum while you're in the neighborhood?

14: Two sturdy Walnut trees are visible on the south side of Cherry Aly, just past the intersection with Chestnut Aly.



*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.
—Joyce Kilmer*

15: Walking up the south side of Market Street, from S. 2nd to S. 3rd Streets, you will pass the following array of trees: two Winged Elm trees outside 201 Market Street, two European Linden trees outside 213 Market St., two Ghinkos at 219 & 223 Market St., two Columnar Copper Beeches at 229 Market St. and finally a Silver Maple in front of the bank. Across 3rd street you will see Several Locust trees lining the sidewalk around the Post Office. The post office lawn also boasts two hybrid apple trees that are part crabapple and part regular apple. These trees bloom both pink and white. Stop by in the Spring and see for yourself!

16: Nine Columnar Elm trees border the sidewalk on St. John Street between North 2nd and North 3rd Streets, behind Cole's Hardware and alongside Heritage House. Columnar trees, with their narrow, stately profile are often planted in lines like this, where they conjure up images of tall sentries standing at attention.

17: The Star Magnolia behind the fence at the north end of Apple tree alley is reputed to be 120 years old. It is a National Heritage Tree, and is so designated because of its age, its size and the fact that it is at the northern end of its growing range. This tree stood here before you were born. Its National Heritage Tree status helps to ensure that it will continue to stand here for many, many years to come.

*Trees can reduce the heat of a summer's day, quiet a highway's noise, feed the hungry, provide shelter from the wind and warmth in the winter. You see, the forests are the sanctuaries not only of wildlife, but also of the human spirit. And every tree is a compact between generations.
— George H. W. Bush*