

Hidden Philadelphia

Tour Leaders: Curt DiCamillo and Jim Mundy

May 12-17, 2022



Heritage Tours

by American Ancestors

Join us this spring on an odyssey to 21st-century Philadelphia, the Athens of America and birthplace of American independence. Accompanied by Curt DiCamillo, historian Jim Mundy, and other experts along the way, we will explore the great treasures of art and architecture that define this city as one of the most important cultural and historical destinations in the United States.

Tour highlights include private guided visits to Andalusia, William Strickland's Greek-revival mansion; Ardrossan, Horace Trumbauer's Georgian country estate and inspiration for *The Philadelphia Story*; early 19th-century townhouses on Philadelphia's most elegant street; the First Bank of the United States; and a national architectural masterpiece: Thomas Ustick Walter's Girard College. Additional visits include the estates and houses of the Du Ponts and Pitcairns. We'll end our tour with a farewell dinner at Carpenters' Hall, meeting place of the first Continental Congress.

The Inn at the Union League, Philadelphia

Our home will be the Four Diamond Inn at the Union League, whose Second Empire and Beaux Arts clubhouse combines distinctive history and old-world hospitality. Guests have referred to the Inn as the "best-kept secret in Center City Philadelphia" because of its ideal location on Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts, with access to the best historic sites and iconic restaurants.

Itinerary

Thursday, May 12—Philadelphia

Arrive independently in Philadelphia and transfer to the **Inn at the Union League** in Center City Philadelphia. There will be time to settle in before meeting Curt DiCamillo and Jim Mundy in the late afternoon for a private tour of the clubhouse. We will further acquaint ourselves with fellow travelers over cocktails and a welcome dinner at the **Philadelphia Club**, the oldest chartered city club in the United States. Notable members have included Owen Wister, grandson of the infamous couple, Pierce Butler and Fanny Kemble, the renowned English actress. Owen was the author of the "The Virginian," the prototype Western novel in American literature.

Friday, May 13—The Scotts & The Du Ponts

We're off this morning to Villanova, where we will privately tour **Ardrossan**, the Georgian Revival mansion designed in 1911 by Horace Trumbauer. For more than a century, the 850-acre idyll served as the family seat of the Montgomery Scott clan of financiers, lawyers, and horsewomen. Trumbauer's 33,000-square-foot country house has 50 rooms, with interior decorations by White, Alom & Co. (who decorated Buckingham Palace) and portraits and genre paintings by Charles Willson Peale, Thomas Sully, Gilbert Stuart, John Singleton Copley, Augustus John, and a Sir John Lavery. For a large house, it "has always been two things—family house and a party house." The playwright Philip Barry, a family friend, later immortalized the estate and its upper-crust inhabitants in the 1930s comedy, *The Philadelphia Story*.



*Ardrossan,
Courtesy of Tom Crane*

After lunch at a nearby restaurant known for its fresh, locally-sourced and creative cuisine, we'll continue on to Delaware, where we will visit **Nemours Mansion & Garden**, created by Alfred I. du Pont in 1909–10 as a gift for his second wife, Alicia. The famous American architectural

Cover image: Ardrossan

firm of Carrère and Hastings designed the mansion in the Louis XVI style and filled it with rare 18th-century French furniture and an eclectic collection of notable antiques, works of art, and tapestries. Among the notable pieces in the collection is a chair from the 1937 coronation of King George VI, an event attended by Alfred I. du Pont's third wife, Jessie, and a chair from Independence Hall. Patterned after the gardens of Versailles, the estate has the most developed and largest *jardin à la française* (French formal garden) style landscape park in North America. The other grounds are beautifully landscaped and feature plantings, fountains, pools, a carillon tower, statuary, and a pavilion surrounded by naturalized woodlands. We will return to the Inn in the late afternoon for time on your own before dinner in a private club in Center City.



Nemours Estate

Saturday, May 14—Rittenhouse Square



Rittenhouse Square

This morning we gather in the lobby to walk to *Saint Mark's Church* and the **Wanamaker Chapel** for a private tour. St. Mark's was founded in 1847 as part of the Tractarian Anglo-Catholic Oxford Movement revival in the mid-19th century. The building was designed by the Scottish-born Philadelphia architect John Notman in the Gothic Revival style between 1847 and 1849. The tower was designed by Notman and completed in 1865 by George Hewitt. The Lady Chapel was designed by Cope and Stewardson in the late decorated Gothic style. It was built in 1900 and contains a

world-renowned silver altar with nearly 150 individually sculpted saints and scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary. The construction of the chapel, and its furnishings, were donated by John Rodman Wanamaker in memory of his wife.

Next, we continue to the **Edward C. Knight, Jr. House**, designed by Horace Trumbauer, Philadelphia's greatest and most prolific Gilded Age architect. The house, at 1629 Locust Street, is an excellent example of Trumbauer's townhouse designs. Built in 1902, this French-inspired home reveals the architect's ability to bestow dignity and grandeur on a small scale in an urban setting.



Delancey Place

Before a relaxed lunch, we'll enjoy a guided tour of historic **Rittenhouse Square**, one of five original open-space parks planned by William Penn and his surveyor, Thomas Holme, during the late 17th century. Widely considered one of the finest urban public spaces in America, the square's present appearance dates to 1913, when the French-born architect Paul Phillippe Cret redesigned it in the popular Beaux Arts style. The tree-filled park is surrounded by high-rise apartments, hotels, restaurants, and commercial buildings.

This afternoon Barbara Eberlein, ASID, President and Creative Director, Eberlein Design Consultants Ltd., will share

with us the social and architectural history of the **Delancey Street Townhouses**. Barbara was educated in the classics, which provided a rich background that has enhanced her passion for design and the restoration of significant historic structures of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. Barbara is a resident of Delancey Street, considered the most elegant block in Center City Philadelphia. We will return to the Inn at the League where you will have the rest of the afternoon and evening at leisure.

Sunday, May 15—Old Architecture for a New Century



Eastern State Penitentiary

This morning we depart for the **Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site**, once the most famous and expensive prison in the world. Today it stands in ruin with crumbling cellblocks and empty guard towers. Known for its grand architecture and strict discipline, this was a true “penitentiary,” a prison designed to inspire penitence or true regret, in the hearts of prisoners. We’ll return to Center City for an independent lunch at **Reading Terminal Market**, one of America’s largest and oldest public markets, housed since 1893 in a National Historic

Landmark building. After lunch, we’ll have a brief visit to **Wanamaker’s**, founded in Philly by John Wanamaker as one of the first department stores in the United States. Famous for its Grand Court, which contains the world’s largest pipe organ, the current Florentine style palazzo building was opened by President William Howard Taft on December 13, 1911.

Next we’ll have a private visit to Thomas Ustick Walter’s imposing masterpiece, **Founder’s Hall**, at Girard College, one of the greatest expressions of 19th century Greek Revival architecture in America. The school was founded and permanently endowed from the shipping and banking fortune of Stephen Girard who, at his death in 1831, was the wealthiest man in America. The 1832 competition held by the Girard trustees and Philadelphia city government was the first American architectural competition to have truly national participation. Founder’s Hall took 14 years to complete and was the second-most expensive building in America at the time of its completion.



Founder’s Hall

In the late afternoon, we will visit the **First Bank of the United States** (opened in 1797), the brainchild of Alexander Hamilton, who was Secretary of the Treasury after the Revolutionary War. Chartering the bank was a major congressional move toward a firm financial foundation for the new nation. The First Bank served the nation until 1811, when its charter was not renewed. At that time, **Stephen Girard** purchased the building and its furnishings, and opened his own bank, **Girard’s Bank**, the principal source of government credit during the War of 1812.

Next we’ll walk to the nearby **Second Bank of the United States**, established in 1816 by a bill signed by President James Madison. The Second Bank was designed by William Strickland, a student of Benjamin Latrobe, and erected between 1819 and 1824. His design is based on the Parthenon in Athens and is a significant and early example of the Greek Revival style in America. This is best illustrated by the north and south facades, which are reached by a large set of steps leading up to the main entrance platform, where Strickland placed eight Doric columns crowned by a triglyph entablature and simple triangular pediment. Today the building is part of

Independence National Historic Park and is used as an art gallery that features many portraits of 18th- and 19th-century political leaders, military officers, explorers, and scientists.

We will return to Philadelphia with time to relax before dinner at the Inn.

Monday, May 16—From Rags to Riches

Today we venture north of Philadelphia to **Andalusia**, located on a wooded promontory overlooking the Delaware River. The ancestral home of the Biddle family, Andalusia is one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the America. The house, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks in 1966, provides an unparalleled look into our nation's past, while also offering a glimpse into the life of a family that helped to shape its future. There will be time to explore the gardens, recently redesigned by the renowned London-based landscape designer and plantswoman Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd.



Andalusia



Carpenter's Hall

After a leisurely lunch, we'll continue to **The Woodlands**, a National Historic Landmark District set on 54 acres of undulating landscape. Here we'll visit one of the nation's most architecturally sophisticated neoclassical houses from the years following the American Revolution. There will be time to relax at the Inn before the evening activities.

The evening ends with an exclusive visit to **Carpenters' Hall**, home to Franklin's Library Company and where the First Continental Congress convened in 1774. Here we will have a tour, followed by cocktails and an elegant last night dinner.

Tuesday, May 17—Departures

Check-out after breakfast.

Tour Leaders: Curt DiCamillo and Jim Mundy

May 12-17, 2022

Curt DiCamillo



Curt is the Curator of Special Collections at New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS). Before he came to NEHGS he worked for the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the National Trust for Scotland. He is a noted historian and a recognized authority on the British country house, about which he has written, lectured, and taught in the U.S. and abroad. Since 1999 he has maintained an award-winning database on the web, TheDiCamillo.com, which seeks to document every English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish country house ever built, standing or demolished. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, is a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and a member of the Council of the American Museum in Britain.

Jim Mundy



Jim is the Historian and Art Curator for The Union League Legacy Foundation of the Union League of Philadelphia, where he has worked since 1978. Since then, he has held several positions, including Archivist, Librarian, Curator, and Director of Library & Historical Collections. Jim has lectured and written articles on Union League, Civil War, and Philadelphia history, and has taken League members on tours of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Italy. He also gives tours on Philadelphia architecture for The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art and The Preservation Alliance of Philadelphia. He is an alum of The Attingham Summer School, '06, and the immediate past president of The Woodlands Cemetery and The Woodlands Trust for Historic Preservation in Philadelphia.

Hidden Philadelphia

May 12-17, 2022

Tour Cost:

Payment by check:

Land Package: \$4,595 per person based on double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$595 (*For those who wish single occupancy, a limited number of spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis.*)

Payment by credit card (by phone or mail):

Land Package: \$4,755 per person based on double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$615 (*For those who wish single occupancy, a limited number of spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis.*)

Tour price is per person, based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 12 paying participants.

Activity Level:

Moderate; good walking ability is advised.

Flights:

Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their round-trip air arrangements.

Terms & Conditions:

The New England Historic Genealogical Society (“NEHGS”) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. NEHGS, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. NEHGS reserves the

right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date.

Travel Insurance:

NEHGS strongly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. NEHGS will send you travel insurance information upon tour registration. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

Tour Price Inclusions:

Five (5) nights’ accommodation at Four Diamond Inn at the Union League; breakfast daily, three (3) lunches, 2 drinks receptions, four (4) dinners; all sightseeing and admission charges as outlined in the itinerary; land transportation by deluxe air-conditioned coach; bottled water on coach; leadership of Curt DiCamillo and Jim Mundy for duration of the tour; expert local guides for planned sightseeing activities; gratuities at included sightseeing activities; gratuities at included meals and for guides and drivers; service charges and taxes; complete pre-departure documentation and materials, including recommended reading list, travel tips, and destination information.

Tour Price Exclusions:

Airline tickets, airline taxes, or fuel surcharges; baggage fees, airport portorage; airport transfers; meals other than those specified in the itinerary, gratuities for hotel cleaning staff; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, valet/laundry service, travel extensions, and tour deviations. If due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend any additional nights, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfer, and meal costs. Personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation is not included.

For more information, please contact Cy Britt, Director of Heritage Tours at cy.britt@nehgs.org or 617-226-1267.