

Historic Sites at Fort Hunter

1. The Federal-style **Mansion**, on the site of the old French and Indian War Fort Hunter, was built in three sections. The two front sections were built by Archibald McAllister – the front mansion in 1814 and the middle “cabin” in 1786. The rear wooden portion was built by Daniel Dick Boas in 1870.
2. Margaret Wister Meigs was a niece of Helen and John Reily and the founder of Fort Hunter Museum. The **Margaret Wister Meigs Memorial** honors her vision to preserve Fort Hunter. The tiles were created by Henry Varnum Poor.
3. Butter was produced in the **McAllister Dairy**. This process required exacting standards in temperature as well as hygiene and was often housed in a specialized structure such as this.
4. Plants found in the **Flower Garden** represent the garden that was kept at Fort Hunter in the late 1800's. Conceived around 1885, the nearby Boxwood Allee is an example of Victorian landscaping.
5. Built around 1810, the **Ice House** was accessible to both the creek on the lower level and the back yard on the upper level. Blocks of ice were cut from the river and packed in sawdust. This type of “refrigeration” served the mansion throughout the summer months.
6. Listed in the book Penn's Woods, these two **Buttonwood Trees** are estimated to be over 300 years old. Also called sycamore trees, they are thought to be among the oldest in the state.
7. Incorporated into the present bridge which takes Front Street over Fishing Creek is the original single lane **Stone Arch Bridge** of the 19th century.
8. Elevated on stilts to avoid hungry rodents, the **Corncrib** was built around 1880. The slatted sides allow for ventilation of the corn.
9. The 1876 **Centennial Barn** housed John Reily's budding milk business. Constructed with Gothic Revival details in typical German bank barn form, the structure graciously housed the 19th century Fort Hunter Dairy.
10. The mound-shaped area accessible to the barn and road was built as a **Loading Platform** to ease the loading of dairy products onto market wagons.
11. The **Fort Hunter Station** was built in 1929 by the W. F. Martin family when gas stations were privately owned. Stations sold several brands at a time as they were not controlled by large gasoline companies. Like many others, this way station also included a restaurant, tourist cabins, miniature golf course, and a beer garden behind the main building.
12. The **Spring House**, built around 1800, may have housed a distillery but later was used to cool milk from the Dairy.
13. Called “The Practical Farmer”, the **Tavern House** was built around 1800 to sell Captain McAllister's brandies and whiskies, to accommodate overnight travelers, and to serve as a community center for surrounding farmers. Later it was home to the Dairy's milking crew and farm hands. It is restored to the period of about 1870.
14. The **Smokehouse** contained smoke that would permeate meats such as ham and bacon, hanging within, thus perserving them. This smokehouse has a strong iron bar on the door to deter would-be thieves.
15. The **Stone Stable** was built around 1810 in conjunction with the tavern to shelter travelers' horses. It is built in an unusual drive-through English form.
16. The **Everhart Covered Bridge** was built around 1881 to span Little Buffalo Creek in Oliver Township, Perry County. Mrs. Margaret Wister Meigs moved it to the Mansion's front lawn in 1941. By 1980 the bridge had deteriorated. It was dismantled and placed in storage where the original elements were used to recreate the current bridge.
18. The Eastern Division of the Main Line of the **Pennsylvania Canal** was begun in 1826 and completed in 1833. This 43-mile stretch linked Columbia to the mouth of the Juniata River at Duncan's Island. It was an integral link on the canal system that spanned the state and was used through the early 1900's. It is now the site of the Park's Natural Swamp Area that nurtures plants and wildlife indigenous to the area.
19. **Heckton Church** was built in 1885 on land donated by Henrietta P. McAllister, widow of a grandson of the builder of Fort Hunter Mansion, and served as a Methodist church until the 1990's. Damaged by fire in 1927 the interior reflects some alteration from that time. The building was moved to its current location in 2009 to avoid further flood damage.

Fort Hunter Mansion and Park is owned and operated by Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Department. County Commissioners: Mike Pries, Chad Saylor and George Hartwick, III



Centennial Barn



Stone Stable



Tavern House



Fort Hunter
Mansion *and Park*

5300 North Front Street
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www.forthunter.org



Fort Hunter Park

Walking
Tour



Susquehanna River

Please use crosswalk to cross Front Street.

Traffic is fast on North Front Street,
look both ways before crossing.

