

While you are in Downingtown, please consider stopping for dinner at one of our many fine restaurants which helped sponsor this tour...

St. Anthony's Restaurant
259 Church Street

Station Taproom
207 West Lancaster Avenue

Downingtown Diner
81 West Lancaster Avenue

Anthony's Cucina Fresca
78 West Lancaster Avenue

Lione's Pizza
102 Wallace Avenue

Georgio's
149 East Lancaster Avenue

East Branch Brewing Company
202 East Lancaster Avenue

Estrella Tacos y Mas
202 East Lancaster Avenue

Pomodoro Pizza and Italian Restaurant
200 Chestnut Street

P.J. Whelihans Pub & Restaurant
853 East Lancaster Avenue

Farmhouse Coffee & Espresso Bar and Creamery at the Farmhouse
115 West Lancaster Avenue

Chester County *Town Tours* & *Village Walks*

**The Johnsontown Historic
Walking Tour is sponsored by:**

**Downingtown Borough
Historic Commission**

**Downingtown Area
Historical Society**

St. Anthony's Lodge

**For assistance with this event,
special thanks to:**

Our Johnsontown neighbors

**Downingtown-Thorndale
Regional Chamber of Commerce**

FXT Mechanical / FXT Contracting

David Massimini

McGovern Septic & Waste Removal

St. Anthony's Women's Auxiliary

Joe Bird

Anonymous Donor

**We also thank a number of former and current
Johnsontown residents for their willingness to be
interviewed and share their experiences of growing
up in this neighborhood.**

Johnsontown Historic Walking Tour

In Downingtown, Pennsylvania

August 22, 2019, 5:00 PM



1. Johnson/McGraw House



When John Johnson began to build the community, he first built his own grand home at 249 Church Street in the middle of the development. Local businessman John McGraw later lived here.

2. Cozzone’s Store/Herbie’s Meat Market



Nicandro Cozzone opened this store at 227 Church Street around 1902. Herbie Talucci took over in the 1960s and operated it until 1977 when he sold it to Tony Formica. The store closed in 1982.

3. Petrella’s Store/The Food Center



Arthur Petrella opened a store on the corner of Bradford Avenue and Church Street in 1925. Later on it was called the “Food Center” when operated by different owners. It closed around 1970.

4. Irish Catholic Benevolent Union Hall

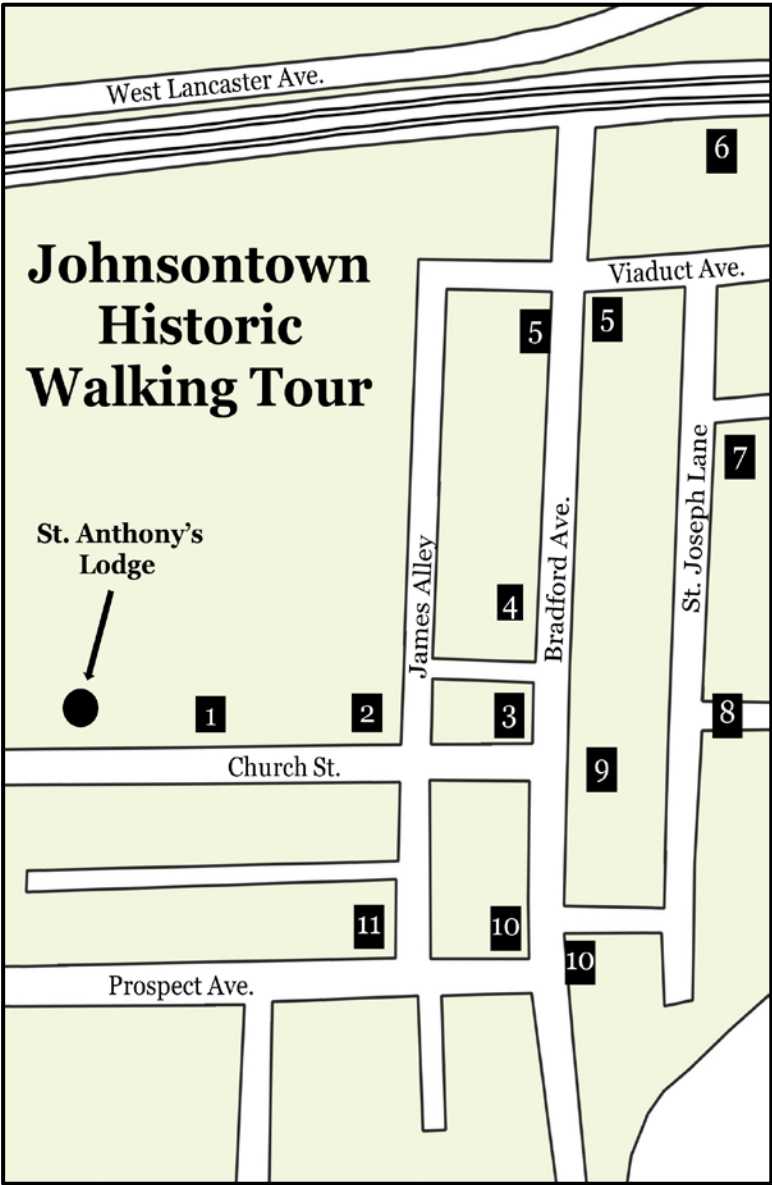


Johnsontown’s Irish community organized the St. Joseph Beneficial Society in 1902, which built the hall and two houses on Bradford Avenue. The first floor had an area for recreation and the second floor was a meeting area.

5. Madrigale’s and Capriotti’s Stores



Nathan Wilson first began a store at the corner of Bradford and Viaduct Avenues in the late 1800s. Joseph Madrigale later operated a meat market there. Capriotti’s was a smaller store across the street.



6. Downingtown Train Station Area



This location has been a continuous train stop since 1834. The most recent Downingtown train station building stood at this spot for 100 years before it burned down in February 1992.

7. Solgram Color Photo Company



The Solgram Color Photo Company on St. Joseph Lane was operated by William South who was an early pioneer in the color photographic process. South also operated a photo studio at this location.

8. East Church Street



In 1904, East Church Street was developed by local contractor G. T. Guthrie. The 20 homes built were to meet the demand for smaller homes in Downingtown. Local residents called this street “tin can alley.”

9. Former St. Joseph Church



Built in 1851, St. Joseph Church was an integral part of the largely Roman Catholic community in Johnsontown. They used this building until 1972 when the church moved to Manor Avenue.

10. Ciarlone’s and Canestra’s Stores, Lou Beverage



The Ciarlone family operated a store and bakery at the corner of Bradford and Prospect Avenues in the early 1900s. Canestra’s store was on the opposite side of Bradford. Lou Beverage got its start in Johnsontown at 210 Bradford Avenue.

11. Bethel A.M.E. Church



Bethel A.M.E. Church on Prospect Avenue has been serving local residents since 1893.