



# IRON & STEEL HERITAGE

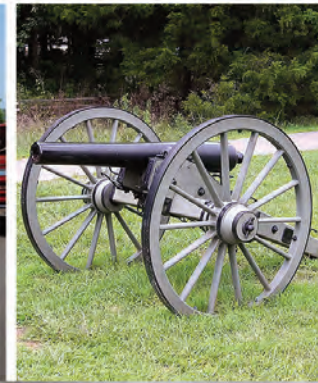
## ADVENTURE AWAITS IN IRON COUNTRY

For more information, visit our website at:  
[IronandSteelHeritage.org](http://IronandSteelHeritage.org)



Links to pages from livingplaces.com include text that has been adapted from copies of original nomination documents of sites appearing on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. Living Places has been deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

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Challenging trails for hiking, pristine streams for water sports and fishing, scenic bicycle routes, historic sites and heritage towns; award winning vineyards and mini-breweries, specialty farms.

You are invited to explore the Iron & Steel Heritage and Recreation region located in and around the Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape and Hopewell Big Woods, the finest natural preserve in our region. We encourage you to select from the many locations depending on your schedule, or a self-guided heritage tour blending history and recreation to discover the Iron & Steel Landscape's many "Faces of Freedom."

Etched into the natural landscape of portions of Pennsylvania's Chester, Berks, Montgomery and Lancaster Counties are sites that celebrate the iron and steel industries that literally forged our nation. Starting in the early 1700's, immigrants came seeking a better life. The region produced cannons and munitions that supported George Washington. It also witnessed the struggle to end slavery and welcomed the nation's first female industrialists. Immigrant labor in iron-county contributed to the Union cause during the Civil War. Immigrants helped make our nation an industrial giant by the start of the 20th Century.

We invite you to enjoy waterways and hiking trails through woodlands, farms and fields; to explore historic towns and villages; and to tour ironmaster mansions and 300 years of industrial sites. From National Parks and outdoor recreation; to specialty farms, mini breweries and vineyards; to quiet villages or urban night life...morning, noon, and night we have it all!

PHOTO CREDIT: JIM MOFFETT

# Forging Freedom Tour

Both literally and figuratively the ironmasters of this region supported their emerging nation by forging freedom. Early ironmasters resented British laws that required them to ship pig iron to England and then buy back the finished product. When war came to North America in 1775, the iron industry forged freedom by supplying munitions to Washington's beleaguered army. The Forging Freedom Tour explores this theme beginning at Hopewell Furnace, which provided war materials for the American Revolution and the Civil War, and experienced every social and political event of the 19th century. It tours neighboring furnaces, that were critical to the war effort and growth of the new country.

- ★(1) **Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site** 2 Mark Bird Lane, Elverson 610-582-8773 • [nps.gov/hofu](http://nps.gov/hofu)
- (2) **French Creek State Park** 843 Park Road, Elverson 610-582-9680 • [dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks) (search: French Creek)
- ★(3) **Joanna Furnace** 1250 Furnace Road, Geigertown 610-286-0388 • [haycreek.org](http://haycreek.org)
- (4) **Morgantown** Heritage Stop at the intersection of Rts 23 and 10. [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Morgantown)
- (5) **Elverson** Heritage Stop at the intersection of Rts 23 and 82. [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Elverson)
- (5a) **Crow's Nest Preserve** 201 Piersol Road, Elverson 610-286-7995 • [natlands.org/Crows\\_Nest](http://natlands.org/Crows_Nest)
- ★(6) **Warwick County Park & Iron Tour** 191 County Park Road, Pottstown 610-469-1916 • [chesco.org/ccparks](http://chesco.org/ccparks)
- Horseshoe Trail at Warwick** Supplying & Powering Freedom Tours [hstrail.org](http://hstrail.org)

**SUGGESTED START:** Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site Visitor's Center

**ALLOW:** 7 hours to tour; 2 days to explore

★ **IRON & STEEL SITES:** Joanna Furnace, Warwick County Park, Warwick Furnace, Coventryville, Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, and Pine Forge

**HERITAGE & RECREATION:** French Creek State Park, Coventry Woods Preserve, Welkinweir, Warwick County Park, Monocacy Hill Recreation Area, and Crow's Nest Preserve

**HISTORIC VILLAGES TO SHOP & EAT:** Elverson, Douglassville, Coventryville, Birdsboro, and St. Peters Village

- ★(6a) **Warwick Furnace** Valley Way and Warwick Furnace Road Thomas P. Bentley Preserve 610-933-7577 • [frenchandpickering.org](http://frenchandpickering.org)
- (7) **St. Peters Village** 3471 St. Peters Road, St. Peters [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Saint Peters)
- ★(8) **Coventryville** 1521 Old Ridge Road, Pottstown [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Coventryville)
- (8a) **Welkinweir** 368 Prizer Road, Pughtown 610-469-7543 • [welkinweir.org](http://welkinweir.org)
- (9) **Coventry Woods Preserve** 1954 St. Peters Road, Pottstown 610-323-1694 • [northcoventry.us](http://northcoventry.us)
- (10) **Douglassville** Morlatton Village 31 Old Philadelphia Pike, Douglassville 610-385-4762 • [info@historicpreservationtrust.org](mailto:info@historicpreservationtrust.org)
- ★(11) **Pine Forge Historical Society** Pine Forge Historic Site 361 Pine Forge Road, Pine Forge 610-326-5800 • [rutterfoundation.org](http://rutterfoundation.org)
- (12) **Birdsboro** Heritage Stop at the intersection of Rts 345 and 724. [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Birdsboro)

# Supplying Freedom Tour

This area of Chester County supplied the fight for freedom with iron products, food, medicines, and textiles. Washington's army at Valley Forge would not have survived the winter of 1777-1778 without support from the surrounding countryside. Unfortunately, the area also supplied freedom with the sacrifice of soldiers and the looting of civilian property during the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777. The Supplying Freedom Tour begins at Historic Yellow Springs where Washington set up headquarters after the Battle of the Clouds and the first military hospital in the United States was built. It continues to explore this theme with visits to the Paoli Battlefield and three mills which provided gun powder, flour and cloth.

- (1) **Historic Yellow Springs** 1685 Art School Road, Chester Springs 610-827-7414 • [yellowsprings.org](http://yellowsprings.org)
- (2) **Mill at Anselma** 1730 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs 610-827-1906 • [anselmamill.org](http://anselmamill.org)
- (3) **Ludwig's Corner** 2904 Conestoga Road, Glenmoore [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: West Vincent)
- (4) **Birchrunville** 1403 Hollow Road, Birchrunville [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Birchrunville)
- (5) **Sheeder-Hall Covered Bridge** Heritage Stop at the intersection of Sheeder Road and Birchrun Roads, Chester Springs.
- (6) **Kimberton Village** 2105 Kimberton Road, Kimberton [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Kimberton)

**SUGGESTED START:** Historic Yellow Springs

**ALLOW:** 4 hours to tour; 1 day to explore

**HERITAGE & RECREATION:** The Woolen Mill of Charlestown, Mill at Anselma, Continental Powder Works and Rapps Dam Covered Bridge, Historic Sugartown, Historic Yellow Springs, Birchrunville, Sheeder-Hall Covered Bridge, and French Creek Trail

**HISTORIC VILLAGES TO SHOP & EAT:** Ludwigs Corner, Kimberton Village, Historic Sugartown, and Paoli Battlefield Historic Park

- (7) **Continental Powder Works and Rapps Dam Covered Bridge Road** 1158 Rapps Dam Road, Phoenixville [eastpikeland.org](http://eastpikeland.org)
- (8) **The Woolen Mill of Charlestown** 2405 Charlestown Road, Malvern [charlestown.pa.us/historical\\_mill.asp](http://charlestown.pa.us/historical_mill.asp)
- (9) **Historic Sugartown** 90 Sugartown Road, Malvern 610-640-2667 • [historicsugartown.org](http://historicsugartown.org)
- (10) **Paoli Battlefield Historical Park** Heritage Stop at the intersection of 1st Avenue and Wayne Avenue, Malvern. 484-320-7173 • [pbpfinc.org](http://pbpfinc.org)

# Building Freedom Tour

At the end of the American Revolution, a new nation offered some, but not all, of its citizens unprecedented advantages both politically and economically. To build freedom, however, the citizens of Chester County fought to end slavery and accepted an unprecedented role for women. Rebecca Lukens took over her family's company in 1825 and saved it from bankruptcy to become Lukens Steel, the longest continuously operating firm in the American iron and steel industry. Beginning at the Lukens National Historic District, the Building Freedom Tour explores the evolution from the 18th and 19th century ironmasters to the steel masters of the 20th century.

- ★(1) **Coatesville and the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum** 50 South 1st Avenue, Coatesville 610-384-9282 • [steelmuseum.org](http://steelmuseum.org)
- (1a) **Ercildoun Village** 803 Doe Run Road, East Fallowfield Twp  
Rebecca Lukens burial site at Ercildoun Church of Christ Cemetery 756 Doe Run Road, East Fallowfield Twp [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Ercildoun)
- (1b) **Mortonville/Laurel Iron Works** 2098 Strasburg Road, Coatesville [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Newlin)
- ★(2) **Hibernia County Park/Chambers Lake** 1 Park Road, Coatesville 610-383-3812 • [chesco.org/ccparks](http://chesco.org/ccparks)
- Hibernia Mansion & Heritage Trail** 11 Lions Head Drive, Coatesville
- (2a) **Hibernia United Methodist Church** 220 Hibernia Road, Coatesville [gbgm-umc.org/hibernia/history.htm](http://gbgm-umc.org/hibernia/history.htm)
- ★(3) **Langoma Mansion** St. Mary of Providence Center 227 Isabella Road, Elverson 610-942-4166 • [stmaryofprov-pa.org](http://stmaryofprov-pa.org)
- (4) **Springton Manor Farm** 860 Springton Road, Glenmoore, PA 19343 610-942-2450 [chesco.org/1746/Springton-Manor-Farm](http://chesco.org/1746/Springton-Manor-Farm)
- (5) **Marsh Creek State Park** 675 Park Road, Downingtown [dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks)
- ★(6) **Dowlin (Mary Ann) Forge** 1599 Dowlin Forge Road, Downingtown [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Dowlin)
- (7) **Downingtown Historic District** 107 East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown [downingtown.org/History.html](http://downingtown.org/History.html)
- (7a) **Struble Trail** 80 Norwood Road, Downingtown [chesco.org/ccparks](http://chesco.org/ccparks)
- (8) **Marshallton Village** 1316 W Strasburg Road, West Chester [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Marshallton Historic)

**SUGGESTED START:** National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum and Lukens National Historic District

**ALLOW:** 3 hours to tour; ½-1 day to explore

★ **IRON & STEEL SITES:** National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, Hibernia Mansion, Langoma Mansion (Isabella Furnace), Dowlin Forge Park, and Wyebrook Farm Iron Tour

**HERITAGE & RECREATION:** Struble Trail, Hibernia County Park, Springton Manor Farm, and Marsh Creek State Park

**HISTORIC VILLAGES TO SHOP & EAT:** Ercildoun Village, Downingtown Historic District and Marshallton Village

# Powering Freedom Tour

Winning independence from Great Britain established the United States of America. Many European countries wanted the new country to fail. However, in the late 18th and 19th centuries industrial development in this region helped guarantee that the new country would thrive and remain independent. The Powering Freedom Tour follows part of the Schuylkill River Trail. The Schuylkill River Heritage Center, located in the historic Foundry Building, adjacent to a portion of the Schuylkill River Trail in Phoenixville, showcases the industrial legacy of Phoenixville and the Schuylkill River. Interactive exhibits and videos tell the story of the industries that grew up all along the river because of the transportation routes provided by the Schuylkill Canal, and later, the expansion of the railroads throughout the region.

- ★(1) **Valley Forge National Historical Park** 1400 North Outer Line Drive, King of Prussia 610-783-1077 • [nps.gov/vafa](http://nps.gov/vafa)
- ★(2) **Schuylkill River Heritage Center** 2 North Main Street, Phoenixville 610-935-2181 • [phoenixvillefoundry.org](http://phoenixvillefoundry.org)
- (2a) **Phoenixville Historic District** 227 Bridge Street, Phoenixville [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Phoenixville)
- (2b) **Historical Society Phoenixville Area** 204 Church Street, Phoenixville 610-935-7646 • [hs-pa.org](http://hs-pa.org)
- (2c) **Lock 60** Lock 60 on the Schuylkill Canal 400 Towpath Road, Mont Clare 610-917-0021 • [schuylkillcanal.org](http://schuylkillcanal.org)
- (2d) **Black Rock Sanctuary** 953 Black Rock Road, on Rte 113 in Phoenixville 610-469-1916 • [chesco.org/ccparks](http://chesco.org/ccparks) [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Schuylkill Canal)
- (3) **Schuylkill River Trail** Cromby Access: 829 Township Line Road, Phoenixville Gay Street Access: 98 Gay Street, Spring City [schuylkillrivertrail.com](http://schuylkillrivertrail.com)
- (4) **Spring City Main Street** 6 S. Church Street, Spring City [springcitypa.net/home](http://springcitypa.net/home)
- (4a) **Spring-Ford Area Historical Society** 526 Main Street, Royersford 610-948-7127 • [springcitypa.net/sfahs](http://springcitypa.net/sfahs)
- (5) **Fricks Lock Village and Trailhead** Fricks Lock Road, Pottstown 610-495-5443 • [eastcoventry-pa.gov](http://eastcoventry-pa.gov)
- (6) **Tow Path Park** 1675 New Schuylkill Road, Pottstown 610-495-5443 • [eastcoventry-pa.gov](http://eastcoventry-pa.gov)
- (7) **Historic Pottstown** 100 East High Street, Pottstown [livingplaces.com](http://livingplaces.com) (search: Pottstown)
- ★(7a) **Pottsgrove Manor** 100 West King Street, Pottstown 610-326-4014 [historicsites.montcopa.org/historicsites](http://historicsites.montcopa.org/historicsites)
- (7b) **Riverfront Park Trailhead** River of Revolutions Interpretive Center 140 College Drive, Pottstown 610-495-5443 • [schuylkillriver.org](http://schuylkillriver.org)
- ★(7c) **Colebrookdale Railroad** 64 S. Washington Street, Boyertown 610-367-0200 • [colebrookdale railroad.com](http://colebrookdale railroad.com)

**SUGGESTED START:** Visitor Center and Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge National Historical Park

**ALLOW:** 4 hours to tour; 1 day to explore

★ **IRON & STEEL SITES:** Schuylkill River Heritage Center at Phoenixville, Pottsgrove Manor, Valley Forge National Historical Park, and Colebrookdale Railroad

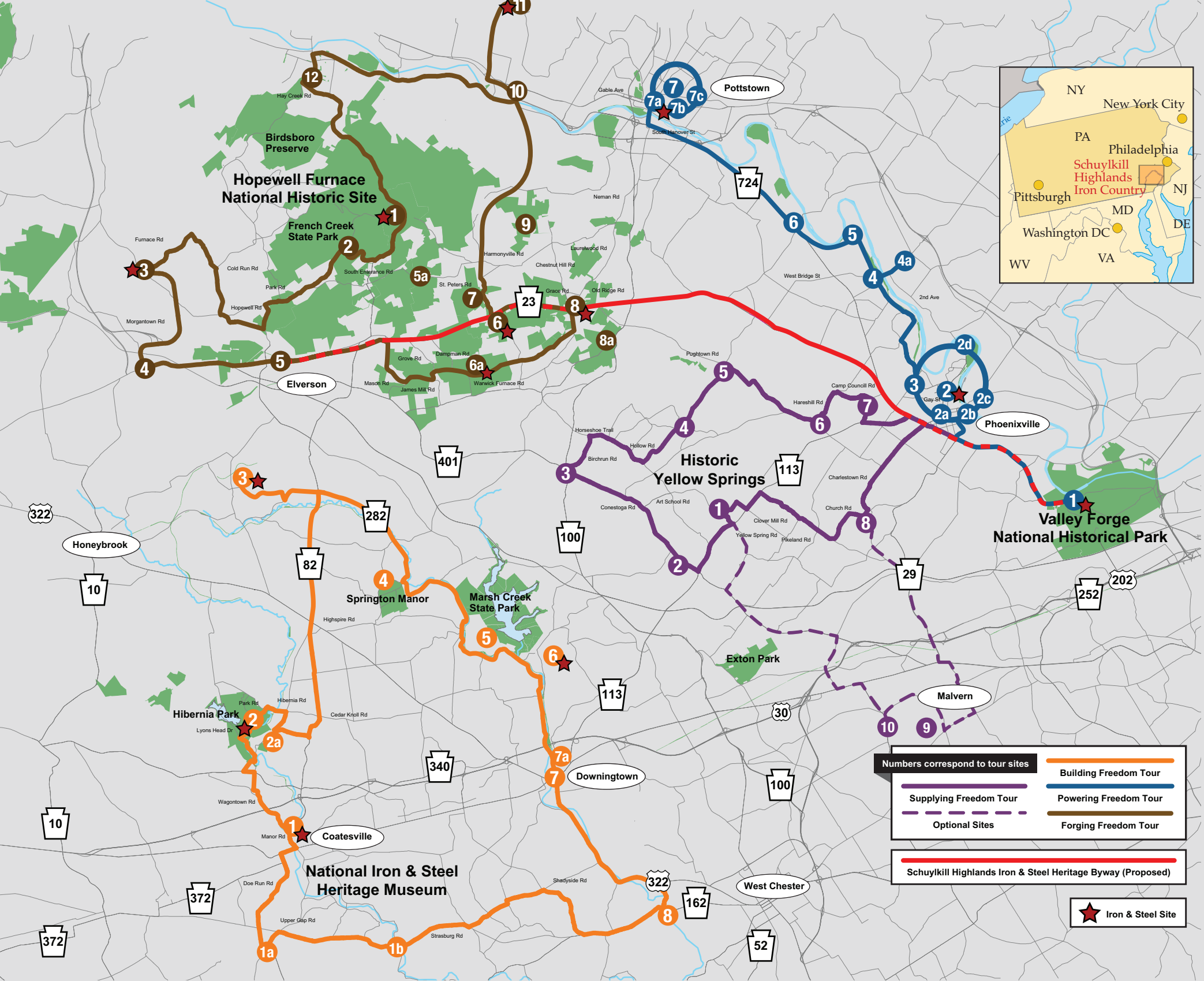
**HERITAGE & RECREATION:** Black Rock Sanctuary, Lock 60, Fricks Lock Village Trailhead, Schuylkill River Trail, Riverfront Park Trailhead, Spring-Ford Area Historical Society, and Tow Path Park

**HISTORIC VILLAGES TO SHOP & EAT:** Phoenixville Historic District, Royersford, Spring City, and Historic Pottstown

**SYMBOL KEY**

- Interpretive Center & Visitor Services
- Interpretive Signage/Trail
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Food
- Picknicking
- Hiking
- Biking
- Equestrian
- Camping
- Fishing
- Paddling
- Playground
- Historic Site

# IRON AND STEEL HERITAGE TOURS



Numbers correspond to tour sites

	Building Freedom Tour
	Supplying Freedom Tour
	Powering Freedom Tour
	Forging Freedom Tour
	Optional Sites

Schuylkill Highlands Iron & Steel Heritage Byway (Proposed)

Iron & Steel Site