

## A Town and Its People

1. New Castle was founded as Fort Casimir by the Dutch in 1651. Peter Stuyvesant, the early governor of New Netherlands is said to have laid out the town's Green in the 1650s.
2. Stop in at the New Castle Court House Museum, one of the oldest, active courthouses in the nation. Learn about famous and infamous people and trials, including the trial of abolitionist, Thomas Garrett.
3. New Castle's story as an English colony begins with William Penn, a statue of whom stands watch over the Market Square behind the Old Town Hall. In 1682, Penn first landed in New Castle to take possession of his Pennsylvania colony. Delaware constituted the lower three counties of this colony.
4. Follow Penn's gaze to the Old Town Hall, the historic seat of New Castle's municipal government. Stroll through the archway of Old Town Hall. This was once the gateway through which wagonloads of produce and goods would enter the enclosed market that once stood between the cobblestone streets.
5. Turning left on Delaware Street, a short walk will take you to Battery Park, where you can enjoy an afternoon in the sun, a run by the water, or quiet reflection as the ships power by on their way up the Delaware or out to sea. This area's long importance to the town is hinted at by the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad Ticket Office, an unassuming white structure on the edge of the park, commemorating New Castle's place on one of the earliest railroads in America.
6. Walk back up Delaware Street and turn right on The Strand, location of some of New Castle's most fantastic homes. Notice the mirrors, called "busy bodies," mid-way up the walls – these allow residents to see who's at the door without peeking a head out their upstairs window.
7. Don't miss Packet Alley, which you'll see on your right about a half-block up The Strand. Check out the historical marker in the alley – you're standing on a path trudged along by such luminaries as Oseola, Louis Napoleon, Sam Houston and countless others!
8. A little further along, you'll see the majestic Read House and Gardens. Stop in for a tour, and learn about the overreaching George Read II, whose ambition to build the largest house in New Castle succeeded while it bankrupted him. Along the wall a historical marker indicates the site of the home of George Read I, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.
9. Make your way back towards The Green, but do yourself a favor, and walk down some of New Castle's other picturesque streets. Notice the cobblestones on The Strand and Market Street. On Harmony Street, check out the Rising Sun Tavern. Now a private residence, the tavern reminds us that New Castle was once home to a boisterous port.

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*(continued from the previous page)*

10. Turning left on Market Street, you'll pass the Immanuel Church. In its cemetery, you can find the gravestone of Jehu Curtis, with an epitaph written by Benjamin Franklin. Other graves of interest include George Read, three governors, four of Delaware's chief justices, and two U.S. senators.

11. Across 3rd Street from the cemetery is The Dutch House, a museum commemorating the lives of the Dutch artisans who first peopled New Castle.

*Feel free to lose yourself in the neighborhood streets, where you can't help but realize that New Castle's current residents owe a debt to their predecessors, who left them a gorgeous town to call home.*

