



# Interpretation Strategies: Kennett Heritage Center

Due to the size and complexity of the battlefield, the 2013 Plan proposes a series of Gateways, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites, and Viewing Corridors as a means to organize public access and heritage interpretation. It correlates one or more of these categories with strategic landscapes for future study and interpretation. Phase 2 provides further clarification via grouping related landscapes into what this plan terms the southern battlefield, where Crown Forces Northern and Eastern Columns Landscapes form early battle day activity and associated Approach and Encampment Landscapes form pre-battle strategy. All four Landscapes converge at 18<sup>th</sup> century Kennett Square village/today's Kennett Square Borough, forming a logical basis and location for a Heritage Center that features the story of the Crown Forces pre-battle staging, headquarters, strategic positioning, and start of attack on American Forces that took place from approximately the night of September 8, 1777 through the morning of September 11, 1777.



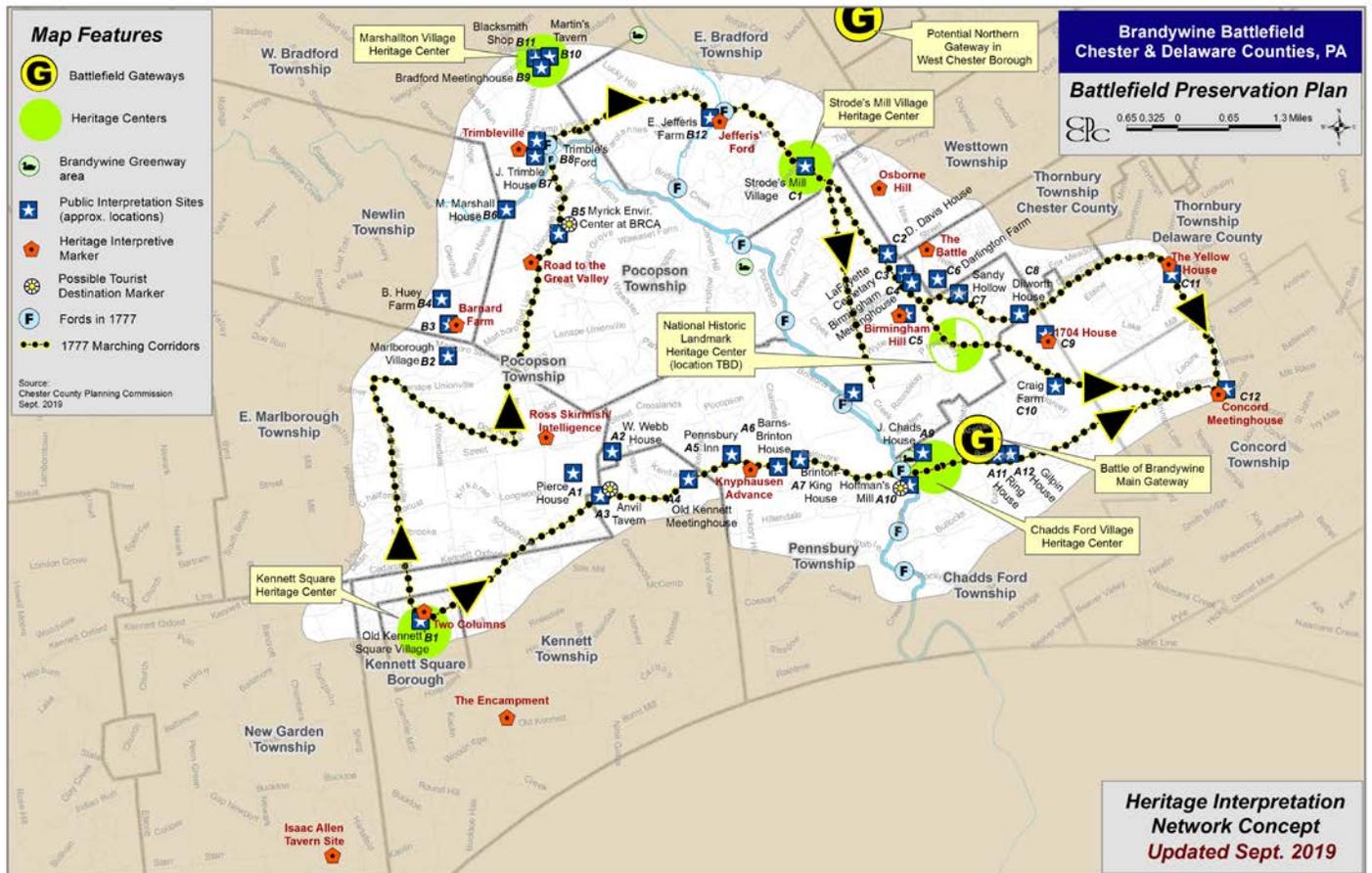
Archaeological site of the former Unicorn Tavern (Gen'l Knyphausen's Headquarters) in today's Kennett Square Borough, and part of the camping line and formation site of Gen'l Howe's and Gen'l Cornwallis' Northern Column flanking march.

The 2013 Plan indicates Kennett Square Borough has a good potential for heritage interpretation due to its historic/modern location at the crossroads (Union St/State St) from which the Crowned Forces advanced on to battle, walkable sidewalk infrastructure, and many public amenities, such as restaurants and shops. This chapter provides an outline of possibilities for heritage interpretation and, along with the related conceptual Heritage Interpretive Tour (Appendix C), is intended to be a guide for use and implementation by local entities. As a framework, this chapter recaps key concepts that are detailed in the rest of the plan so prose may be somewhat repetitive herein, and when interpreting this part of the battlefield, other plan components should still be consulted for detailed and clarifying information.

Visiting historic sites is one of the most popular forms of recreation in Pennsylvania, and an important aspect of such historic resource-based recreation is authenticity. Authenticity of historic sites and places is what makes them so critical and attractive to visitors and local residents and for battlefield interpretation. - For example, there is only one Old Kennett Meetinghouse behind whose cemetery walls American troops positioned themselves, taking cover the morning of September 11, 1777, while trying to hold back Gen'l Knyphausen's eastern advancing column. - Local heritage tourism visitation encompasses roughly 65% local residents and 35% other visitors, and the combination of natural features and historic resources that exist in the southern battlefield is the optimal way to deliver a meaningful and authentic experience for audiences. While interpretation provides important heritage recreation and education benefits to the community via a better understanding of what is literally 'in their back yards' and possible economic assistance, the strategies in this Chapter respect that the battlefield spans existing local communities where people live and work today just as they did in 1777.

# Setting the Stage for Interpretation

Strategic landscapes heritage interpretive planning builds from the 2013 Plan's Interpretation Network Preliminary Concept for the entire battlefield. This plan updates the 2013 Plan concept via a 2019 Heritage Interpretation Concept Map. The update concept still employs a series of Gateways, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites, and Viewing Corridors, but refines their locations and adds the Battlefield Signage Program. Relevant for this plan are Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites, and Viewing Corridors.

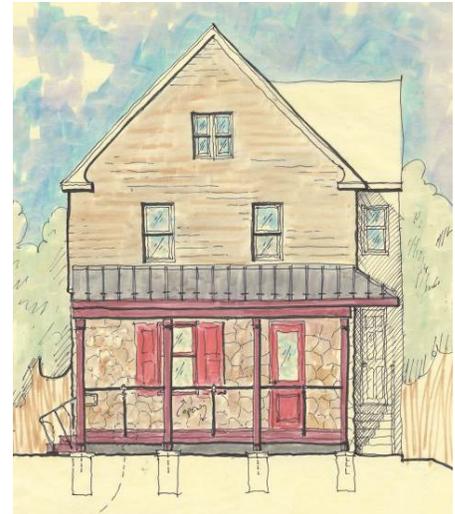


While the 2013 Plan recommends three Gateways, including one in Kennett Square Borough, through this planning process it was found that a Heritage Center is better suited for the Borough. Heritage Centers are places in a strategic landscape with nearby historic resources, where visitors can stop for around 15-30 minutes, or longer, to learn about particular elements of the battle. Visitors are then directed to nearby Interpretive Sites and Viewing Corridors that further tell the battle story. Heritage Centers, Viewing Corridors, and Interpretive Sites work in concert with one another to show and tell particular elements of the battle, and importantly, at/near their actual 18<sup>th</sup> century locations via related heritage interpretive tours, themes, displays, apps, kiosk, interactive media, and/or signage. Heritage Centers vary in their configuration depending on the site, and may include outdoor areas (e.g. proposed future Strobe's Mill Village Heritage Center), indoor areas (e.g. Kennett Heritage Center), both outdoor and indoor areas (e.g. Marshallton Heritage Center), kiosks, or signage. Possible volunteer staffing could be available as well. The first Heritage Center has been designed and opened in Marshallton Village. The second Heritage Center, Kennett Heritage Center, is in Kennett Square Borough and is being implemented. The third Heritage Center at Strobe's Mill is in preliminary design.

As recommended in the 2013 Plan, the main and ‘flagship’ battlefield Gateway remains Brandywine Battlefield Park in Chadds Ford, with a possible secondary Gateway in West Chester Borough near/at Chester County History Center, which is installing a new permanent exhibit about the American Revolution and Philadelphia Campaign locally. As central locations able and wanting to accommodate larger scale visitor-ship, such as tour buses, Gateways serve as primary battlefield information centers including battle history and publicly accessible sites, as well as businesses and amenities. Brandywine Battlefield Park as the main Gateway is intended to be where all primary interpretive and educational programming for the entire battlefield begins. West Chester Borough as a secondary Gateway is intended to be where supplemental interpretive information occurs. Heritage Centers anchor each main battlefield area (northern, southern, and eastern) and build on the information the visitor receives at Gateways.

In addition to the many amenities and southern battlefield-related sites, Kennett Square Borough’s National Register Historic District anchors and provides a good context for the Kennett Heritage Center. Although no battle-era buildings remain, the Borough has a strong relationship with Quaker history from the colonial-era to its active involvement in the Underground Railroad in the early- and mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The Kennett Heritage Center will showcase themes of how Quakers reacted to both Revolutionary and Civil Wars and the Crown Forces encampment and strategic “pre-dawn” (September 9-10, 1777) and “post-dawn” (September 11, 1777) military advance and start of attack.

The concept of a Heritage Center in the Borough is also consistent with Borough policy in their Economic Development Plan to encourage heritage tourism and to support existing local businesses and amenities. Historic Kennett Square business association and the new regional Library are recommended as possible stakeholders in undertaking and ongoing maintenance and activities related to Kennett Heritage Center.



Kennett Heritage Center in the historic Dr. Isaac Johnson House, 120 N. Union St. in Kennett Square Borough.



## Kennett Square Borough:

### Overview for Interpretive Purposes

As described in Chapter 4 and Appendix B, Kennett Square village in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was important during the battle as the crossroads of southern battlefield landscapes. It was here that Peter Bell’s Unicorn Tavern was situated at the intersection of the 1743 Great Nottingham Road (today’s Baltimore Pike) and the 1720 Road (today’s Union St.), and the route took form for Gen’l Howe’s strategy to outflank and attack American Forces sited near Chadds Ford. It was in this small 18<sup>th</sup> century village on September 10, 1777 that Gen’l Howe’s northern movement division and Gen’l Knyphausen’s northwestern movement division rejoined after their march from Delaware into Pennsylvania. New research through this project suggests that two north-south defensive lines were then created by the two divisions by around 3pm on September 10, 1777. While Gen’l Cornwallis’s Division was stationed on Union St./Unionville Rd. within and just north and south of the village, Gen’l Knyphausen’s Division occupied McFarland Rd. just east of the Borough in Kennett Township.

Kennett Heritage Center will represent the southern battlefield landscape where the Crown Forces spent September 9-10 preparing their strategy to attack American Forces and where Gen'l Howe's strategy for the battle was implemented the early morning on September 11, 1777. It was in/near Kennett Square that Gen'l Knyphausen's Division moved east along the Great Nottingham Road where they would create the illusion of the full Crown Force army heading directly towards Chadds Ford where American Forces were stationed in defense on the eastern bank of Brandywine, while simultaneously Gen'l Howe's and Cornwallis' Division headed north to complete a flanking maneuver<sup>1</sup> to outskirt American Forces. The Heritage Center in today's Kennett Square Borough will direct visitors to explore historic themes related to these significant events and the colonial landscape they took place within.

## Interpretive Themes

Chapter 5 of the 2013 Plan recommends establishing unifying interpretive themes for the battlefield. This plan takes that step and identifies themes for the southern battlefield based on the area's significance, which speaks to several overarching themes broadly categorized as 'military events', '18<sup>th</sup> century landscape', and 'local community'. Aspects of these themes are interlaced. Under (one or more) broad categories fall specific themes for this area that directly reflect reasons for the area's significance:

### Military events theme:

- Army Logistics of moving, camping, and feeding Crown Forces as the invading force including Crown Force Baggage Supply Train
- "Pre-Dawn"<sup>2</sup> Sept. 9 - 10, 1777 and "Post-Dawn" Sept. 11, 1777 Crown Force positions/locations
- Gen'l Howe's tactic of twice dividing into two lines/columns of troops for the Approach into Pennsylvania and on the morning of the battle, a tactic that he was known to use
- American Forces, including the Continental Army and local militia, positions/locations and defensive 'fight and retreat' intended strategy
- Battle skirmishes

### Military events and local community themes:

- American reconnaissance
- Battle impact on local civilians/community
- Civilian involvement in the battle
- Local support of the war effort

### 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape theme:

- Areas of still readable battlefield landscape
- Brandywine Valley settlement patterns

### Local community and 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape themes:

- Brandywine Valley in the colonial era through 1800, including role of taverns, roads, and villages/population centers in colonial Chester County
- Civilians at-large
- Enduring Quaker roots and Peace Testimony

**Chester County history related themes:** Landscapes' history also mirrors major themes in the overall history of Chester County including multi-generational rural agricultural tradition, Brandywine Valley Quaker settlement, enduring historic landscapes, prosperous commerce/industry foundations, and the Philadelphia Campaign of the American Revolution that in totality traversed a significant area of Chester County.

<sup>1</sup> See Breaching the Fords and the British Advance Northern Battlefield Strategic Landscapes Plan for more information.

<sup>2</sup> "Pre-Dawn" and "Post-Dawn" are references to a key firsthand account that stated "The army march'd at day break in two columns."

**Museum of the American Revolution (MAR) related themes:** Landscape interpretive themes can also be categorized under the broad MAR themes. Landscape themes of American Forces military tactics including the defensive ‘fight and retreat’ intended strategy, American reconnaissance, local militia as part of American Forces, Civilian involvement in the battle, and Local support of the war effort could fall under ‘Citizens turned Revolutionaries’; Battle impact on local civilians and the community and Civilians at-large under ‘Radical Nature of the Revolution’; Battle skirmishes, Crown Force army logistics including Baggage Supply Train, and Crown Force military tactics leading up to and at the start of battle including twice dividing into two lines/columns under ‘Surviving the Darkest Hours’; and Brandywine Valley in the colonial era through 1800, still readable battlefield landscapes areas, and Quaker roots/Peace Testimony under ‘Lasting Meanings’. The overarching theme for the entire Brandywine Battlefield as a pivotal moment in the American Revolution, discussed in the 2013 Plan, speaks to all MAR’s themes.



The intact 18<sup>th</sup> century Old Kennett Meetinghouse on the route of the Eastern Column and where a skirmish between Crown Forces and Americans Forces occurred. Soldiers who fought in the battle were laid to rest in the meetinghouse’s cemetery.

## Thematic Narrations

Specific themes for the area can be organized into thematic narrations or stories for public consumption, which can be conveyed through the Kennett Heritage Center and related Heritage Tours, Viewing Corridors, and Interpretive Sites for the area:

### Role of the southern battlefield in the overall battle Thematic Narration:

This would tell the story of the battle in the southern battlefield and as such would incorporate information from this plan, as well as from the 2013 Plan as needed. This narrative would also include the Crown Force march into Chester County and the encampment on September 9 and 10, 1777.

### Crown Force Advance into Pennsylvania and Division of troops into Two Columns Thematic Narration:

The story highlights the heart of Gen’l Howe’s strategy, including the successful British military tactic under Gen’l. Howe and the bold eastern advance executed by Gen’l Knyphausen to appear as the full of the Crown Forces were marching for combat with American Forces.

### Terrain, Physical Geography, and Natural Resources in the Southern Battlefield Thematic Narration:

This narration would largely rely on information in Chapter 3 that discusses terrain obstacles and lack of direct northern roads for effectively moving an army due to the Red Clay Creek and its banks and the difficult landscape of southern Kennett Township.

### Roads, fords, taverns, meetings, and hamlets in colonial Chester County Thematic Narration:

This narration would partly rely on information in Chapter 4 that discusses settlement patterns including 18<sup>th</sup> century roads, properties, and key structures (meetinghouse, mills, residences, blacksmith shops, taverns, and the like) that are still present in the modern landscape, along with the stories of local civilians.

### Techniques that were used to clarify the British Advance into PA Thematic Narration:

This narration would partly rely on Chapter 3 information that discusses the analysis used (primary documents and field study) to ground truth and determine troop movement locations in today's landscape on September 9 and 10 and requirements for further research. Information and sources used to create battle-era roads and properties mapping and types of documented accounts that still exist could also be discussed.

### Impact of two invading armies on the local community Thematic Narration:

Effectively, the battle brought an invasion of two armies into the community. Primary accounts giving a sense of conflict and cooperation between both armies and the local community could be featured. Reported property losses (in the form of plunder claims, depredation claims, and Quaker sufferings), diary entries, letters, field reports and other others could provide the basis for this narration, which would need to be supplemented by additional interpretation to fill-in gaps.

### Local support or lack thereof for the war effort Thematic Narration:

One of the unique aspects of the battlefield that sets it apart is the pacifist Quaker community that largely made up the Brandywine Valley community at the time of the battle. Quakerism is an intriguing story that has become more of a recent focus, particularly in light of the increased interest in the Underground Railroad in the region with the creation of the First State National Historical Park and its related sites. This narrative could include information about Quaker settlement in the Brandywine Valley, their philosophy including Testimony of Peace and Quaker 'sufferings', and the enduring Quaker presence in the area.

### Celebration of committed and ongoing local efforts and stewardship in land conservation and historic resource protection Thematic Narration:

This narrative would stress that the persevering incredible stewardship by property owners and local entities in the area is what has enabled the battlefield landscape, including historic buildings, roads, agriculture, and open lands, to endure to this day. This has occurred through an ethos of commitment to ongoing preservation efforts. Examples of historic resource preservation, sensitive building reuse, and land conservation efforts, and recognition of parties who have been involved would be cited. Important to this narrative is the battlefield's NHL information that states: "The significance of the Battlefield...is increased as a consequence of the degree to which the area has remained unchanged."

## Thematic Narration Treatment Example for this Area

A thematic treatment is needed for each of the interpretive themes and related thematic narrations identified in this plan. This thematic treatment supplements Heritage Tours, Viewing Corridors, Interpretive Sites, and the Heritage Center concepts by developing the specific means by which to inform viewers about themes. These means would form the basis for future educational material, outreach, signage, etc. As thematic treatments would need to be vetted and developed once thematic narrations are decided upon, this section only provides an example of how this could work using one of the thematic narrations addressed above.

### Interaction and conflict between the invading British army, local militia, and the Quaker community.

The introduction of around 30,000 soldiers into the Brandywine Valley impacted the largely Quaker community. Because of their religious belief of pacifism, they were confronted with two invading armies – British and American – and hostility and mistrust of both compounded by the direct impact of seizure of property in lieu of service in the Chester County Militia or through looting. But even so, following the battle, Quakers provided much of the medical care to the wounded of both armies.

### Concepts/Topics to be provided as part of interpretation:

- Troops seizing goods and property, both formally as an army and informally individually.
- Crown Force's impact on property, business, and the longer lasting effects on agriculture and industry.
- Impact of the battle and flanking march on local people following the battle, numerous claims of damages were made by New Garden, Pennsbury and Kennett residents. The lack of claims in East Marlborough may be the result of lost paperwork or to the strong Quaker sentiment in the Township.
- Quaker pacifist situation in the field of battle, from a religion and economic viewpoint, (e.g. due to their pacifist stance and Peace Testimony, they were affected economically before, during, and after the battle).
- While Quakers as a community did not support the war effort and therefore neither side, many individual Quakers did take up arms, which resulted in having to leave their Meetings.
- Quakers today still do not want to honor warfare including the battle.

### Locations:

- Kennett Heritage Center: As an anchor and starting point for further information and in an area that includes amenities of shops, restaurants, and sidewalks.
- Heritage Tour into the surrounding countryside: Appendix C's proposed themed heritage tour features Gen'l Knyphausen Division's eastern advance on the 18<sup>th</sup> century Great Nottingham Road, involving a column of troops and a sub-column of the baggage/supply train. The tour also provides destinations in the associated Approach and Encampment Landscapes where visitors can learn more about Crown Force activity on September 9-10. Details on the sites related to founding Quaker families in the area are included in the tour and further told at the Heritage Center.

### Outreach and communication:

- Audience: Local and Regional Visitors; Heritage Visitors, Residents, School Children.
- Brochure on the 'Advance with the Gen'l Knyphausen Heritage Tour (Appendix C) and/or on one or more thematic narrations suggested in this plan.
- Webpage on the same as the bullet point above with the additional audience of Virtual Visitors.
- In-person or virtual visitation of designated locations in the tour via developing a smart phone app along with, or incorporating information from the brochure and/or webpage, to provide visitors with the experience of the site.
- Interpretive signage placed at designated locations under the Brandywine Battlefield Interpretive Signage Project in this chapter.
- Interpretive signage that explores the lesser-known story of the inherent impact of battle on the local community, particularly the pacifist Quaker community.

## Heritage Centers, Interpretive Tours, & Interpretive Signage

Interpretive themes are explored through Kennett Heritage Center displays, Viewing Corridors, and Interpretive Sites in the surrounding area as featured/viewed on Heritage Tours.

- **Viewing Corridors** are roadway segments with low to moderate traffic volumes that provide views of landscapes, buildings, and natural features relevant to the battle and reflective of the battle-era landscape.
- **Interpretive Sites** are battle-era structures, roads, properties, and natural and land areas that still exist in the contemporary landscape. They are chosen based on their relevance to tell the story of one or more interpretive themes *and* their potential for public viewing. Sites include both those that are publically accessible and private properties that are viewed solely from a public right of way.
- **Heritage Interpretive Tours** link Interpretive Sites and Viewing Corridors for contained and directed public viewing, awareness, education, and interpretation. At this point, tours are designed to be done via automobiles; however there may be sections of tours that could be undertaken by foot or bicycle.

## Kennett Heritage Center

The viewer's experience is intended to begin in the Borough at the Heritage Center where they would be provided historic and logistical viewing information and guided to Interpretive Sites and Viewing Corridors via Heritage Tours, as well as to other area amenities, e.g. restaurants, shops, bed-and-breakfasts, trails, parks, preserves, and other practical and recreational activities.

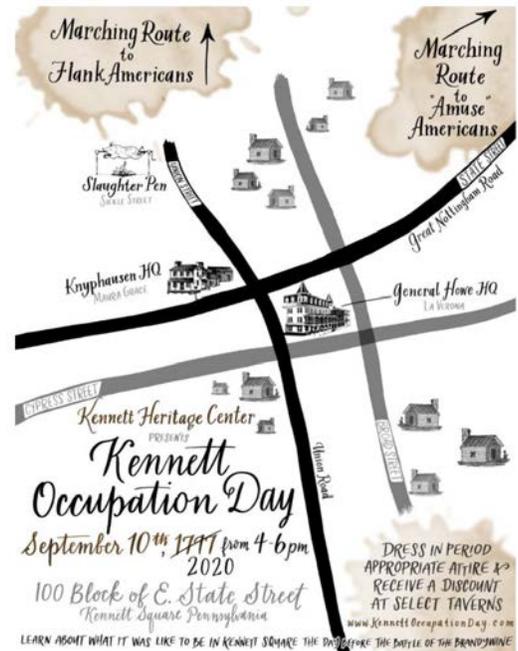
The new Kennett Heritage Center is in the historic Dr. Isaac Johnson House located just north of State St. (part of the 18th century Great Nottingham Road) and Union St. from where Gen'l Howe and Gen'l Cornwallis marched with their troops the morning of September 11, 1777. Like Marshallton Heritage Center, this Heritage Center will provide information about the entire battlefield, but will focus on southern battlefield landscapes. Development of this Heritage Center is already underway and programming has begun including developing a website. While above-ground Interpretive Sites of buildings within the Borough do not speak directly to battlefield themes, Interpretive Sites as places can be experienced today; most notably Crown Forces positions at historic Kennett Square Village's/modern State St./Union St. intersection.

One of the most important considerations for the new Heritage Center is that Historic Kennett Square, the Borough Historic Architectural and Review Board, and Kennett Underground Railroad Center (KURC) work collaboratively to preserve and promote the history in/near the Borough. KURC's new Education Center will also be located in the Kennett Heritage Center. It is also anticipated the Heritage Center would play a key role in Borough plans for an annual "Occupation Day" program that recognizes the Crown Forces presence in the area the eve of battle, September 10, 1777, when the community was overrun with approximately 15,800 Crown Forces during their encampment.

The Borough is a full-service destination, which bustles with visitors and residents enjoying casual and fine dining, a selection of shops and services, and a strong merging of the Borough's historic core with modern amenities. There is a farmer's market, ongoing special events, a First Friday art stroll, and large successful events such as the Mushroom Festival and Kennett Run.

## 'Advance with Gen'l Knyphausen' Heritage Interpretive Tour including Interpretive Sites and Viewing Corridors

In 2017, Pennsbury Historical Commission, Chadds Ford History Center, and Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates presented a bus tour for the annual Chester County Town Tours and Village Walks of Gen'l Knyphausen's eastern column advance route. The bus tour was adapted as a driving tour (See Appendix C) for this plan, linking Kennett Heritage Center with the Brandywine Battlefield Park Gateway. This tour is the fourth in the series<sup>1</sup> being developed as part of strategic landscapes planning, and as such it is also referenced as "tour #4". While strategic landscape planning includes proposed Heritage Tour concepts as a starting point for local interpretation, additional Heritage Tours ideas, such as exploring the Crown Force approach from Delaware into Pennsylvania, Crown Force encampment, or Baggage/Supply Train could be considered. Kennett Heritage Center will provide the beginning or ending point for tour #4 and is also thematically linked with Marshallton Heritage Center and northern battlefield tours.



<sup>1</sup> The other three tours were developed as part of northern battlefield strategic landscapes planning in Behind the Lines Plan, Breaching the Fords and British Advance Plan, and Preparing for Battle Plan.

## Heritage Interpretive Signage Project

The Heritage Interpretive Signage project is a joint endeavor between BBTF and its Historic Resources and Interpretation Subcommittee, the 15 battlefield municipalities, CCPC, DCPD, Battlefield Park Associates, and Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and Its Color Guard (Sons). The project is truly collaborative and a regional planning and implementation effort. It is administered by CCPC and BBTF, vetted for military history by the Park Associates, coordinated through the BBTF Subcommittee, approved and signs installed by battlefield municipalities, and sign construction funded with a \$45,000 grant from the Sons resulting in \$3,000 per municipality.

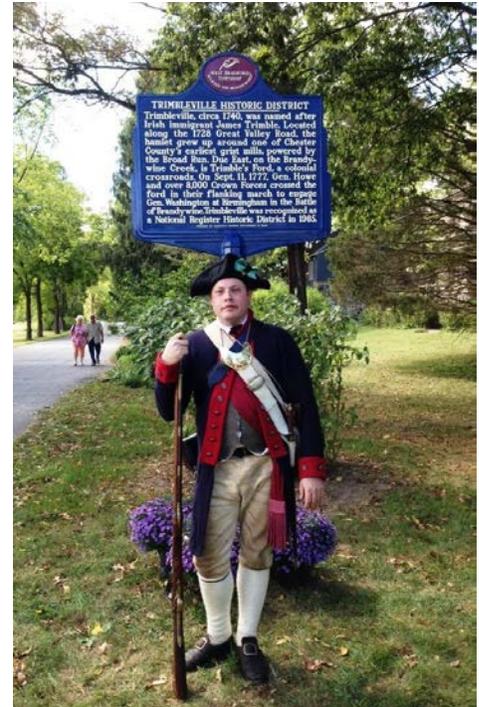
### Setting the Stage

Battle of Brandywine was a complicated, multi-phase battle in the American Revolution involving nearly 30,000 troops and lasting from sunup to sundown on September 11, 1777. It was a defining battle and specifically for the British Campaign in 1777 to overtake and occupy Philadelphia, the colonial capital. The battle was significant as it involved the highest ranked officers of both the American Army and British Army, Gen'l Washington and Gen'l Howe, and was one of the few times they faced off. It represents one of the earliest and largest battles of the American Revolution in terms of number of troops actively engaged in combat and total battlefield land area involved (including troop movement, camp, skirmish, and combat areas), and was the largest single day land battle. To that end, the battlefield extends through 15 municipalities in two counties, covering approximately 35,000 acres of land. As a testament to its importance, a portion of the battlefield is a National Historic Landmark, the highest level of historic resource designation in the nation. Chester County in coordination with BBTF has been studying the battlefield via projects funded through grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program, and like the battle itself, has been doing this using a multi-phased approach.

The above reasons are why it is critical to raise community and public awareness of the local presence of the battlefield through heritage interpretation efforts as exemplified through this regional collaborative signage project. The updated Heritage Interpretation Concept map (shown earlier in this chapter) displays the most current interpretation network concept for the entire battlefield. The concept provides a thematically connected plan of action to highlight as the focus for battlefield interpretation authentic battle-era historic sites and places that have been preserved for nearly 250 years and still exist today.

### Project Background

The signage project ties together Gateways, Heritage Centers, Interpretive Sites, and Viewing Corridors, and is proposed to serve as the foundation for a battlefield-wide heritage tour to be developed as part of Phase 3 eastern battlefield planning. BBTF as the regional planning body for the battlefield 15 municipalities developed this initiative, one to two historic markers in each municipality at key battlefield sites for visitors to the battlefield who are following the recommended driving tours or just exploring independently. The Heritage Interpretation Concept Map displays recommended sites.



Each municipality determines, in working with BBTF's Historic Resources and Interpretation Subcommittee and specifically Chester County's Heritage Preservation Coordinator who manages the project, an appropriate location for their sign and appropriate battle history wording for the location. A goal is for signs to be located near/in publicly accessible places so as to be readily visible as part of Heritage Tours, Interpretative Sites, and/or Viewing Corridors. Historical Commissions from each of the 15 battlefield municipalities form the most of the BBTF Subcommittee, which meets periodically each year and one of their primary 2019-2021 work projects is the Interpretive Signage project.

## Signage Prototype

The project sign prototype, both design and level of wording, was installed in 2018 in historic Trimbleville near the battle-era J. Trimble House in the northern battlefield. The sign template follows the size and shape of a PA Historical and Museum Commission historic marker, but is designed with slight differences to acknowledge it as such of a cream color typeface, logo for the sponsoring municipality featured in the red circle at the top of the sign, and the name of the funding entity of Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and It's Color Guard.

## Signage Project in Southern Battlefield

For southern battlefield landscapes, there will be five interpretive signs. East Marlborough Township is the second battlefield municipality, and the first southern battlefield community, to complete their sign, which was installed in summer 2020 at Galer Winery. When signs are located on privately held property, such as this case, a project suggestion is for the municipality to receive a letter granting permission and access, as needed, which was done for this sign. Kennett Square Borough's sign is underway. It is planned to be placed opposite the Kennett Heritage Center and its wording is in process. New Garden Township has draft sign language in place and is speaking with the property owner where the site is planned to be located. Kennett Township has not yet begun their sign. Pennsbury Township has completed draft wording and the sign will be located at the 18th century Barnes Brinton House property owned by Chadds Ford Historical Society, which will take care of the sign's upkeep.

## Signage Project in Northern & Eastern Battlefield

As of fall 2020, the third sign was installed at Jefferis' Ford in East Bradford Township, for which the Township is also designing a mini-park with a pull off. Many of the remaining 11 interpretive signs are underway.

# Recommendations

Using the analysis undertaken in this chapter, the following recommendations were developed. Parties that may carry out a recommendation are noted after the related recommendation.

**Overarching Recommendations:** This plan recommends building on successful heritage tourism and interpretation efforts in the area to provide outreach and education, raise awareness of the role of the battle in the nation's founding and of its location in the local community's "back yard", and provide economic development through heritage visitation in appropriate public areas. BBTF's Historic Resources and Interpretation Subcommittee meets several times throughout the year and includes members from municipal historical commissions, historic architectural review boards, and local historic sites within the battlefield; and as such would be a leader in undertaking plan recommendations.

Important to successful implementation of interpretation is for the Subcommittee to continue to develop grassroots support for the interpretation of the entire battlefield. For the southern battlefield, the key to successful ongoing implementation is the creation and then ongoing maintenance of Kennett Heritage Center. This can be accomplished through establishing a collaborative relationship between the Heritage Center volunteers,

Borough, Borough Historical Architectural Review Board, southern battlefield municipal Historical Commissions, Historic Kennett Square, residents, and businesses, as well as the new regional Kennett Library and KURC. The following are ideas for such a collaboration to consider in developing a cohesive interpretation program for a southern Battlefield Heritage Center in Kennett Square.

- 6-1. Create and maintain the Kennett Heritage Center in Kennett Square Borough. (BBTF, CCPC, Heritage Center volunteers, Kennett Square Borough, KURC, Collaborative group)
- 6-2. Build historic themes for the Heritage Center into public events in the Kennett Square area. (BBTF, CCPC, KURC, Heritage Center volunteers, Collaborative group)
- 6-3. Build Heritage Center themes into the menus of local restaurants, and promotions and products of other businesses. (Heritage Center volunteers, Collaborative group)
- 6-4. Identify Interpretive Sites and undertake heritage interpretation with emphasis on interpretation from public corridors and places. (BBTF, CCPC, Collaborative group)
- 6-5. Implement the Heritage Interpretive Signage project in the southern Battlefield (BBTF, CCPC)
- 6-6. Use the Heritage Interpretive Signage project as the foundation for a battlefield-wide heritage tour that would be developed in Phase 3 eastern battlefield planning. (BBTF, CCPC)
- 6-7. Create thematic brochures and information for a Heritage Center webpage and to be available at the Heritage Center and Interpretive Sites. This could include developing a historic walking, bicycling, and/or driving tour of the Landscapes that focuses on the battlefield Colonial landscape as well as the Underground Railroad history. (BBTF, CCPC, KURC, Heritage Center volunteers, Collaborative group)
- 6-8. Consider additional Heritage Interpretive Tours ideas, such as exploring the Crown Force approach from Delaware into Pennsylvania, Crown Force encampment, or Baggage/Supply Train. (BBTF, CCPC, Heritage Center volunteers)
- 6-9. Work with Longwood Gardens and other major sites to include on-site battle interpretation. (BBTF, CCPC, Heritage Center volunteers)
- 6-10. Coordinate with The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County and like organizations to investigate options for establishing programs that protect historic and natural features as key battlefield elements. Programs can be explored that enhance, restore, and maintain the battlefield's natural features and take into account the importance of these features in battle strategy and its outcome. For example, Brandywine Creek is a critical natural feature as an obstacle for battle troop maneuvering as well as key terrain as part of the British flank and Washington's defense. (BBTF, CCPC, Battlefield Municipalities)
- 6-11. Publicize and celebrate land conservation efforts at the Heritage Center and Interpretive Sites to publicly recognize the inherent relation between battlefield protection and land conservation. (BBTF, CCPC, KURC, Heritage Center volunteers, Collaborative group, Interpretive Sites)
- 6-12. Coordinate with agencies in the State of Delaware and in Delaware County, Pennsylvania to recognize and interpret battle-related sites and locations. (BBTF, KURC, Heritage Center volunteers, First State National Historical Park, Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, New Castle County Planning)
- 6-13. Work with School Districts within the battlefield to incorporate local battle history and preservation topics into the curriculum. (BBTF, Chester County History Center)