

Historic Tamaqua 5K Walk

Rated 2 Due to One Hill and One Set of Steps

Historical Significance of Tamaqua Train Station

The Tamaqua Train Station was built in 1874 by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. It fell into disrepair. In 1994, a group called "Tamaqua SOS" for "Save Our Station" put together a program to raise money to restore the station to its former glory. On Sunday August 1st, 2004, the train station was unveiled to the public. Note the bricks that form the walkway in front of the station. These bricks were sold to raise money to assist in the restoration. People who bought the bricks designated the engravings and in return for their donation, their bricks were set into the sidewalk.

Please visit the web site for the Tamaqua Train station:
<http://www.tamaquastation.com/>

The single railroad track that runs through downtown is still active. However, at one time, there were six or seven tracks that ran through the town. Today's tracks are operated by the Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad (RBMN), headquartered in Port Clinton, PA (**Railroad Heritage**). The tracks were formerly run by the Reading Company, which went bankrupt in 1976 and became part of Conrail. The RBMN's principal business is to haul coal and freight. But they also run passenger excursions on special occasions. The railroad owns two vintage steam engines and a fleet of 1920's era passenger cars that they bring up to Tamaqua twice a year, for the Tamaqua Summer Festival and the Tamaqua Heritage Festival in October.

- A. Standing at the door of the train station with the station behind you, turn RIGHT and walk toward Broad St. (US-209). You are walking toward the building that has a sign "Tamaqua" on it. The railroad tracks are on your left.
- B. When you reach Broad St., turn RIGHT and walk to the traffic light. Press the WALK button.
- C. When you get the walk signal, cross Broad St. in the crosswalk.

Tamaqua QA Office

The building ahead of you with the sign that says "Tamaqua Telegraph Office" is the Tamaqua QA Office. When the Reading Company ran the railroad, the QA office was the telegraph office. "QA" was the symbol for Tamaqua.

Texas Lunch Mural

Ahead of you, notice a "Texas Lunch" mural painted on the side of a building. This represents a block of businesses that formerly existed in downtown Tamaqua in the late 1970's. The Texas Lunch was one of the most famous eateries in the area. A diner could enjoy hot wieners and hamburgers very inexpensively. The diner was famous for its chili sauce. Today, you can buy something similar at a tiny restaurant called "Chili Dog" that you'll pass near the end of the walk.

Downtown Tamaqua Business Area

To your right is a row of attractive buildings, including the M&S Hardware store. This store is an old-fashioned family-run hardware store. These buildings form the core of downtown Tamaqua.

- D. After crossing Broad St., turn right and proceed on the left side of W. Broad St. (M&S Hardware store is on the left).
- E. Pass La Dolce Casa restaurant (good Italian food) and other businesses.
- F. Cross Hunter St. at the traffic light and continue on the left side of W. Broad St.
- G. At the intersection of W. Broad and Nescopeck Sts., ~~cross to the right side of W. Broad St.~~ Continue walking west on the sidewalk along W. Broad St.
- H. As you walk along W. Broad St. you will pass many Victorian-style homes, as well as the First Presbyterian Church, St. Jerome's R.C. Church, and Calvary Episcopal Church on the left.
- I. Cross Swatara St. and Lehigh St.

Benjamin Yost

At the corner of W. Broad and Lehigh Streets, notice an historical marker commemorating the spot where Tamaqua Police Officer Benjamin Yost was murdered by a member of the Molly Maguires on July 6, 1875. To this day, Benjamin Yost is the only Tamaqua police officer to die in the line of duty.

- J. ~~Cross W. Broad St.~~ ^{Turn LEFT} at Lehigh St. and proceed on the left side of Lehigh St. (If you are more comfortable on a sidewalk, cross and use the sidewalk on the right side of Lehigh.)
- K. Cross Cottage Ave. and continue up the hill on Lehigh St.
- L. Turn LEFT at the next street, which is not marked. There will be six large rocks on the left after you make this turn. Walk on the left side of the road.
- M. Turn LEFT at the next road, also unmarked (Coal St.) After you turn, there will be a yard surrounded by a silver chain link fence on your right.
- N. Turn RIGHT on Mahanoy St. Walk on the left side of the road. Pass Swatara St. on the right.
- O. After the dog waste sign on the right, notice a platform structure on the right. Cross Mahanoy St. and walk up the platform to view the Jack Kehoe gravesite in Old St. Jerome's Cemetery (**Spirit of Walking Cemetery Stroll**).

Jack Kehoe Gravesite

"Blackjack" Kehoe, noted leader of the Molly McGuires, was tried and hanged in Pottsville for his alleged crimes on December 18, 1878. He was granted a posthumous pardon in 1979 by Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp.

- P. Descend the steps from the platform, turn RIGHT and walk to the stop sign (corner of S. Nescopec and Mahanoy St.). Notice iron steps to the left.
- Q. Turn LEFT at the iron steps, and descend them.

Tamaqua's Iron Steps

Tamaqua has many sets of iron steps, which were constructed to allow people to more easily go from the lower-elevation business districts to the upper-level residential districts.

- R. At the bottom of the steps, walk to the left of the railing ahead of you, cross the road and continue down the hill on the left side of Nescopec St. to the traffic light at W. Broad St.
- S. Cross W. Broad St. and continue on Nescopec St. Cross Rowe St. and continue to the end of the street. Straight ahead is Hegarty's Blacksmith Shop.

Hegarty's Blacksmith Shop

This Blacksmith Shop was built in 1848 by Thomas Hegarty, and was owned and operated by three generations of the Hegarty family from 1846 until 1973. It was donated to the Tamaqua Historical Society by the Hegarty family in 1974. Blacksmith demonstrations are given during Tamaqua's Summer Festival in June and Heritage Festival in October.

- T. Turn right in front of Hegarty's Blacksmith Shop, and walk on the left side of the road. Walk between the light brown metal structure and the brick Wachovia building to the back of the Train Station.
- U. Walk through the gate in the metal fence, and turn LEFT to the CHECKPOINT.
- V. After the CHECKPOINT at the Station, turn LEFT to proceed North with the railroad tracks on your right. Walk between the caboose and the trapezoid-shaped brown and white Watchman's shack, and continue on the footpath.
- W. The footpath leads to a small street with houses on your left and a railing and the railroad tracks on your right. This small street is called Pleasant Row.
- X. Continue on Pleasant Row (note the Italian Bakery sign on the left) to the first intersection. (large brick industrial building on the near-left corner).
- Y. Turn right onto Elm St. (no sign yet) and walk on the right side of the road.
- Z. Cross railroad tracks, Railroad St. (traffic light), Rolling Mill Ave., and Pine St. (traffic light). Cross a bridge over the Little Schuylkill River (**Riverwalk America**).
- AA. After crossing over the bridge, turn RIGHT onto Schuylkill Ave. (no sign). The New Life Assembly of God Church is on the far left corner.

- BB. Walk along Schuylkill Ave., with the river on the right. (You make the call: There is a sidewalk on the left side of Schuylkill Ave., but you can catch glimpses of the river better on the right. I prefer walking on the right side of the road, but the cars do come from behind you here.)

- CC. Notice the garage with the mural on the left side of Schuylkill Ave. Continue straight ahead on Schuylkill Ave. at the Do Not Enter signs.

- DD. At the intersection, turn LEFT onto Mauch Chunk St. (no sign, but the Italian Club is on the left corner). Walk on the sidewalk on the left side of Mauch Chunk.

- EE. Turn RIGHT to cross Mauch Chunk St. at the first intersection, Greenwood St. (Zion Lutheran Church will be on the far left corner.)

Concrete Barrier

Notice a concrete barrier in front of the house on the corner of Mauch Chunk and Greenwood Sts. This was erected long ago, by a previous owner of this house to stop runaway carriages and vehicles from running down the hill, jumping the curb, and hitting the house.

- FF. After looking at the concrete barrier, cross Greenwood St. and turn RIGHT to walk downhill on the sidewalk of the left side of Greenwood.
- GG. Cross E. Broad St. at the traffic light and continue on Greenwood St.
- HH. Pass Cedar St. to the right, and cross a bridge over the Panther Creek.
- II. After Rottet Motors, turn LEFT onto Hazel St. (no sign). You will cross the railroad tracks immediately after turning. Walk on the sidewalk on the left side of the road.
- JJ. Cross an unmarked street (Patterson St. / Market St.)
- KK. Turn LEFT onto Elizabeth St. Walk on the left side of the road.
- LL. Carefully cross Broad St. in the crosswalk (be careful – it's a busy road!) and turn LEFT.
- MM. Cross the railroad tracks. Notice the sign for the Jno. F. McGinty Brewery.
- NN. Pass the Turkey Hill store on the left (restroom). Cross a bridge over the Panther Creek on the left, and Market St. on the right. Pass the Burkhardt Moser Log Home on the right.

Burkhardt Moser Log Home

The Burkhardt Moser Log Home was the first home built in Tamaqua. Across the US-209 at Greenwood St., portions of Rafferty's Bar were formerly Burkhardt Moser's sawmill, which was the first structure built in Tamaqua.

- OO. Cross Greenwood St. (traffic light). Cross a bridge over the Little Schuylkill River. Cross Pine St. (traffic light). Just after Pine St., notice a little restaurant called "Chili Dog" on the left. They have great hot dogs for 75¢ each – a hot dog with onions, mustard and special homemade chili sauce! Chili Dog is closed on Sundays. ☺

turn RIGHT
to the train station.

M&T Bank

As you cross Mauch Chunk St. (PA-309)
unusual shape of the brick building. The
look like a coal breaker because of Tam
heritage.

QQ. Thank you for supporting The York
Wanderers! We hope you have en
walk in Tamaqua!



Tamaqua 5K Walk Route

