

Travel back into the past with a stroll down Main Street in Berlin, Maryland. The path you walk is the same as that taken by the Assateague and Pocomoke Indians well before the colonial period. Later, the path became the Philadelphia Post Road, the main route connecting the centers of commerce to the north and west. This area was part of the Burley Plantation, a 300-acre land grant dating back to 1677.

At the corner of the Philadelphia Post Road and Sinepuxent Road, now South Main Street and Tripoli Street, colonial travelers stopped at the Burley Inn. Here at the present day town center, memories linger of the tavern that probably gave its name to the village. "Berlin" is said to have come from a contraction of the words "Burley" and "Inn".

Although the village began in the 1790's, it was not incorporated until 1868, after the Civil War. The town grew and became a popular spot for tourists who enjoyed hunting and fishing on the Eastern Shore or were on their way to the small coastal town of Ocean City.

Berlin is noted as the birthplace of Stephen Decatur, the 19th century naval hero.

Historic Points of Interest

Homes are private residences - not open to public

1. Thompson House; 217 North Main; two-story gable-front dwelling. Historically known as the William Nelson house. A shed roofed porch with saw-tooth decorated arches shelters the original front door that incorporates an arched fanlight. When erected, the house was the principal residence on a 100-acre farm.

2. Presbyterian Manse; 215 North Main; an early 20th century bungalow. You will see many examples of Queen Anne and bungalow style houses as you walk through town.

3. Stevenson-Chandler House; 125 N. Main St. - 1790's; This Federal home featuring a gambrel roof may possibly be the oldest remaining structure in town.

4. Taylor House Museum; 208 N. Main St. - c. 1832; Designed with a gable or temple-front, the house displays a mixture of conventional and curious Federal style woodwork. The front door displays a diverse array of Federal style decoration including fluted columns and a modillion block cornice under the porch roof. Almost every surface of this entrance is filled with hand carved scallops, fan, or sunburst patterns favored at this time. Open seasonally.



Taylor House Museum



Whaley House
Photo by
Michael Harrison Day
(Courtesy of MD
Historical Trust)



Burley Cottage
(Courtesy of MD Historical Trust)

Burley Manor
(Courtesy of MD Historical Trust)

Stephen Decatur Birthplace
Collection of Edward P. Phillips Family
(Courtesy of MD Historical Trust)



Berlin's past



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Stevenson United
Methodist Church
(Courtesy of MD
Historical Trust)



Thompson House
(Courtesy of MD Historical Trust)



3

Stevenson-Chandler House
(Courtesy of MD Historical Trust)



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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
(Courtesy of MD Historical Trust)



Buckingham
Presbyterian Church
(Courtesy of
MD Historical
Trust)



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St. Paul's United
Methodist Church
(Courtesy of
MD Historical
Trust)

5. Stevenson United Methodist Church; 123 N. Main St. - c. 1912; This granite church built in the Gothic Revival style has large, arched, stained glass windows and a three-story square tower with an open belfry.

6. Whaley House; 100 West St. - c. 1805; Known as "Robin's Nest" the two-story main block is one of the oldest structures in town. Designed in what is known as Federal style. Berlin merchant Jacob White financed construction of this distinctive house around 1805, and it survives with many of its original features as well as an important collection of 19th century outbuildings including a dairy, a privy, a smokehouse, and a granary.

7. Buckingham Presbyterian Church; 20 S. Main Street. This church was erected after the 1904 fire that destroyed the original frame church. Built of Holmsburg granite, the cross-shaped church is accented with a two-story entrance and bell tower and pointed arch windows filled with colored glass.

8. St. Paul's Episcopal Church; 3 Church Street. Originally built in 1825, St. Paul's has experienced many architectural changes over the years. The church you see today, however, is the result of a major redesign of the original building, which followed another devastating town fire in the fall of 1904. Known as the Romanesque Revival, the distinguishing features of the style include the round arched front entrance and the long, round arched sanctuary windows.

9. Pitts-Bounds House; 23 S. Main St. - c. 1890's; This house features wrap-around verandah, cross gables and decorative shingles

10. Kenwood; 101 S. Main St. - c. 1833; The cornice is marked by a series of modillion blocks and drilled decoration. The front wall of the house features a two-story porch that partially obscures the front door, with its arched fanlight framed by a pediment. The fluted columns and carved decoration is very similar to the woodwork of the Taylor house, indicating that the same master craftsman executed both dwellings.

11. Keas House; 200 S. Main St. - c. 1880; A large frame Victorian dwelling perched on a slight knoll. The blockish frame structure features steeply pitched roofs, fishscale shingles, and a wrap-around porch.

12. Scott House; 204 S. Main St. - c. 1820's; Another Federal house featuring side lights in the doorway and a four flue chimney

13. Cantwell House; 206 S. Main St.-c.1830; The side hall/double-pile frame dwelling exhibits Federal and Greek revival woodwork similar to the Burley Manor and Taylor house. The house was restyled to an early twentieth century design.

14. Burley Cottage; 205 S. Main St. - c. 1834; This distinctive brick dwelling is architecturally unique in Berlin, the house is distinguished by four slender brick chimneys that dramatically rise above the steeply pitched gable roof. The base of the roof is trimmed with a block cornice, and a center gable is pierced by a beautiful round window. The columned front porch features saw-tooth edged arches, a type of porch decoration found on several other dwellings in Berlin.

15. Burley Manor; 313 S. Main St. - c. 1835; One of the most significant dwellings in town. The two-story side hall/double pile brick house erected around 1835 has a south wing dating back to the early 19th century. A significant feature is the original columned front porch with sawtooth decorated arches and impressed fluted medallions.

16. Stephen Decatur Park; Tripoli Street and Rt. 113; Tripoli Street was named after the famous Mediterranean battle. The street was so named in an effort to honor the United States naval hero, Stephen Decatur, who figured in the battle. In 1779 he was born in a house nearby. Part of the farm where the house formerly stood has been converted to the Stephen Decatur Park.

17. St. Paul's United Methodist Church; 405 Flower St. Established 1877; Originally located at 200 Flower Street, the church moved to its current location around 1910.

18. Dr. William E. Henry Park; Flower St. Picnic area, playground equipment, basketball courts

19. John Howard Burbage Park; William St. Dedicated in honor of Berlin's longest-serving Mayor.