

Visitors lined the streets with large candles to welcome Lafayette, like they did in 1824. General Lafayette is escorted by Eugene Hough of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry and Bob Quay of the Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead.





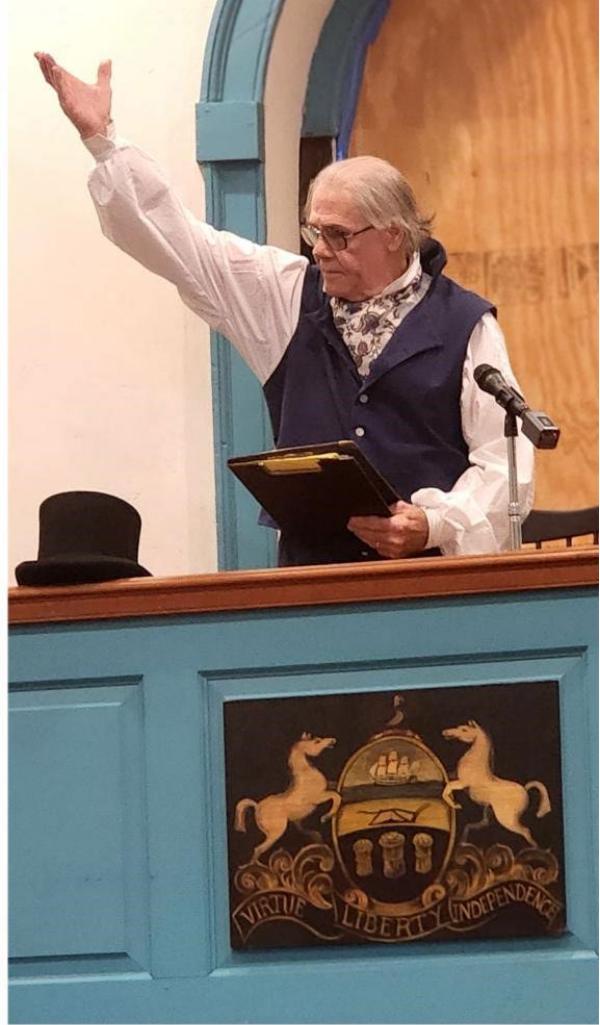
The Delaware County Historical Society brought two plates from the 1824 dinner that was held at 1 am in the Grand Jury Room at the Courthouse. Delaware County Historical Society: <https://www.padelcohistory.org/>



General Lafayette poses with the two plates along with other Courthouse artifacts and memorabilia from DCHS.



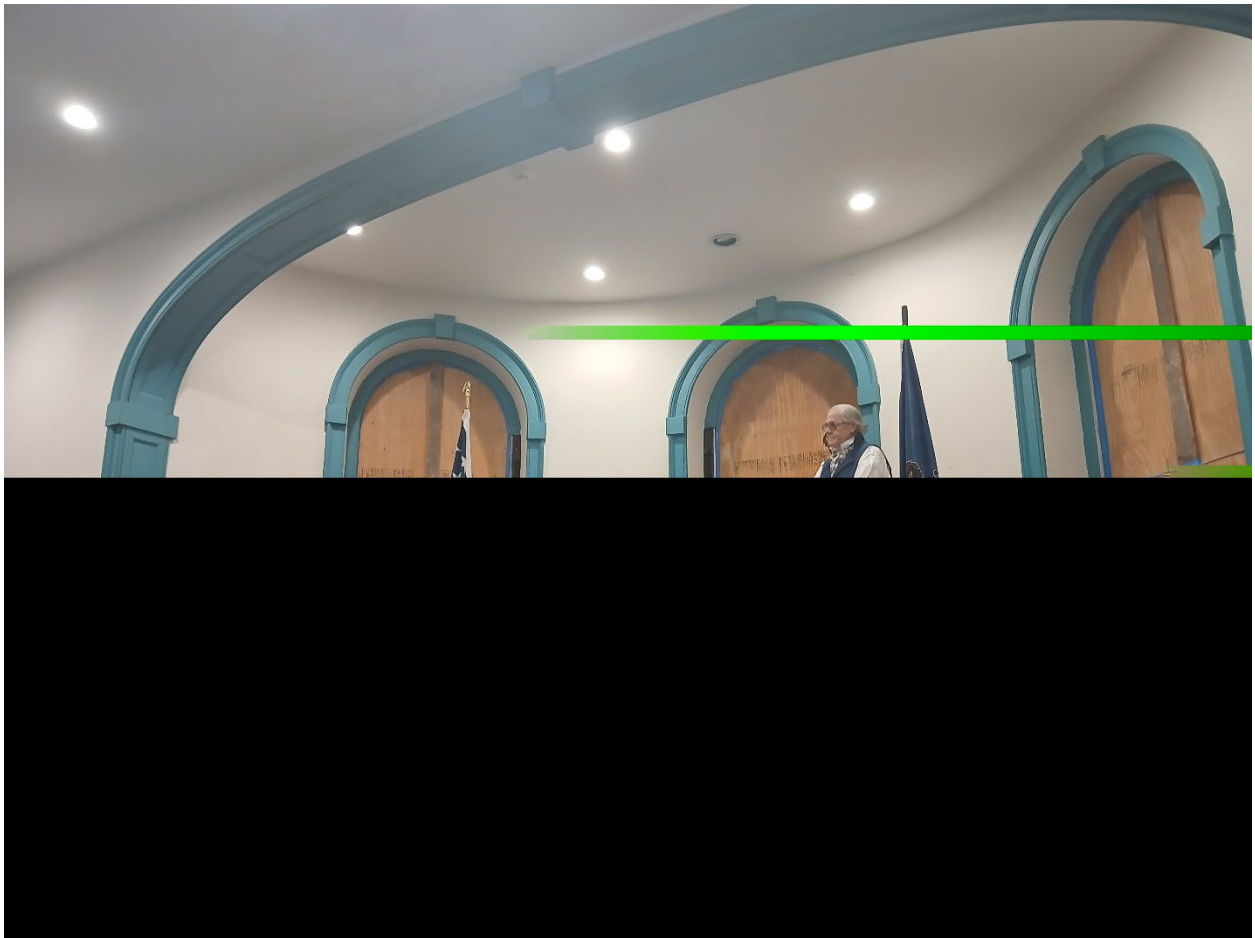
Visitors listened to a number of speeches throughout the day



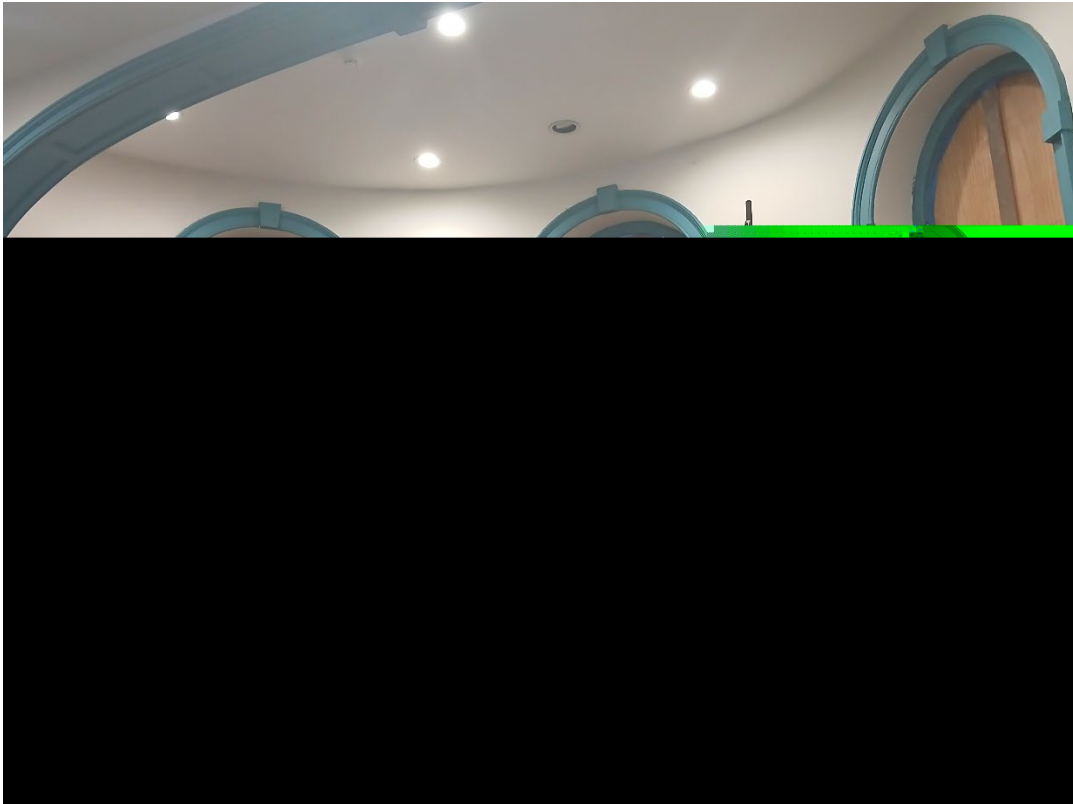
Bob Quay read Ode to Lafayette, by James N. Barker, Esq. Originally published by *The National Gazette And Literary Register*, V. 5, No. 559, Saturday, October 2, 1824.



General Lafayette gives thanks to Bob Quay



Delaware County Planning Director Gina Burritt reads a County Council Resolution declaring October 5 as Lafayette Day



Local author and historian Bruce Mowday talks about the importance of Lafayette and his impact on the nation. Buce is the chair of the Lafayette Bicentennial Brandywine Committee and with the American Friends of Lafayette, both of which helped to organize events in Delaware and Chester Counties (Chadds Ford and Chester County events will be in July 2025). He has written several books on Lafayette- www.mowday.com



Delaware County Preservation Planner and event organizer Kate Clifford read County Council remarks and thanks as members were unavailable. She also gave two tours of the Courthouse and explained the ongoing construction.



General Washington, Portrayed by Frederick Magner, reads the letter to Congress that was written the night of the Battle of Brandywine, in which Lafayette was wounded.





From left, Eugene Hough (First City Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry), Bruce Mowday (American Friends of Lafayette), Kate Clifford (DCPD), Barbara Marinelli (Delaware County Heritage Commission), Andrea Silva (America250PADElco), Stefan Roots (Mayor of Chester), Michael Halbert (General Lafayette), Frederick Magner (General Washington), Bob Quay, Gina Burrirt (DCPD), Shelley Ashfield (CHPC), Carol Fireng (CHPC), ???



The 1724 Chester Courthouse on the Avenue of the States with historical groups



Bruce Mowday sells his books <https://mowday.com/>



Carol Fireng of the Chester Historical Preservation Committee (CHPC) talks to visitors



Delaware County Planning Department (DCPD) <https://www.delcopa.gov/planning/index.html> and the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force <https://www.chaddsfordhistory.org/history/brandywine-battlefield-task-force/>



Project sign regarding the ongoing rehabilitation project

History of 1724 Chester Courthouse

1723—The Pennsylvania Assembly agrees to pay £300 to build a new courthouse in Chester

1724-25— New courthouse built

1725— Supreme Court of Pennsylvania meets in Courthouse for 1724-1725 session

1729— Bell cast in London by Whitechapel

1776— Bell rung out on July 8 to announce reading of the Declaration of Independence

1789— Delaware County splits from Chester County; Courthouse becomes Delaware County Courthouse

1800— Bay window created

1824— General Lafayette hosted at Courthouse during his tour

1851— Delaware County seat moves to Media; Courthouse becomes Chester (Borough) Hall, later City Hall

1917— Courthouse in danger of demolition; Gov. Sproul pays for restoration of Courthouse by Clarence Brazer

1922— Courthouse rededicated; DCHS and DAR use offices upstairs

1926— Bell goes on tour with other Liberty Bells during Sesquicentennial

1969— Building in disrepair; Call for PHMC/State to take ownership

1977— Ownership of building transfers to PHMC following several years of renovations

2021— Delaware County enters into 99-year lease agreement with PHMC

2023— Delaware County awarded National Park Service Semiquincentennial Grant



1918



1971



1724 Chester Courthouse Rehabilitation for 2026



PHMC Work

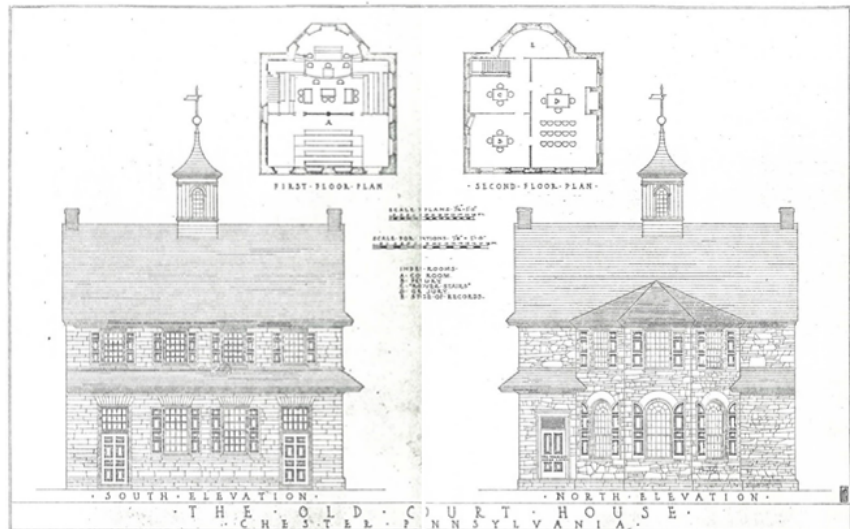
- First floor shutters **Done**
- First floor windows/doors **In progress**
- First floor HVAC **In progress**
- First floor lighting **Done**
- Roof cleaning/coating **In progress**

Delaware County Work

through National Park Service Grant

- Second floor windows/shutters/wood repair/repaint
- Cupola repairs/repainting
- Stone repointing/cleaning/repair
- Gutter/downspout repairs
- Interior 2nd floor rehabilitation
- Plumbing/Electrical/Fire upgrades

All work will be finished in time for America's
Semiquincentennial Celebration in 2026



DCPD display on the history and progression of the Courthouse Rehabilitation project



Lisa from the Lafayette Shoppe sells her wares to Eugene Hough and visitors. <https://lafayetteshoppe.com/>





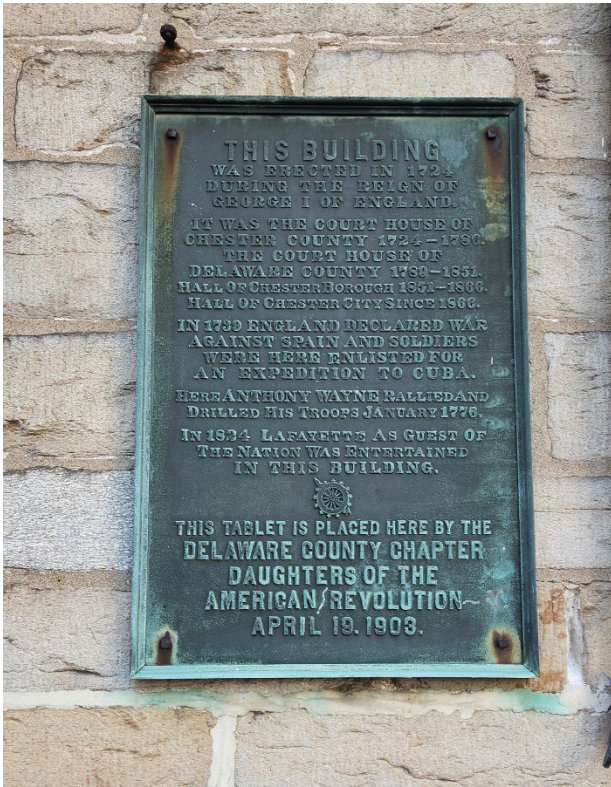
The 1724 Chester Courthouse at the end of the day



South elevation



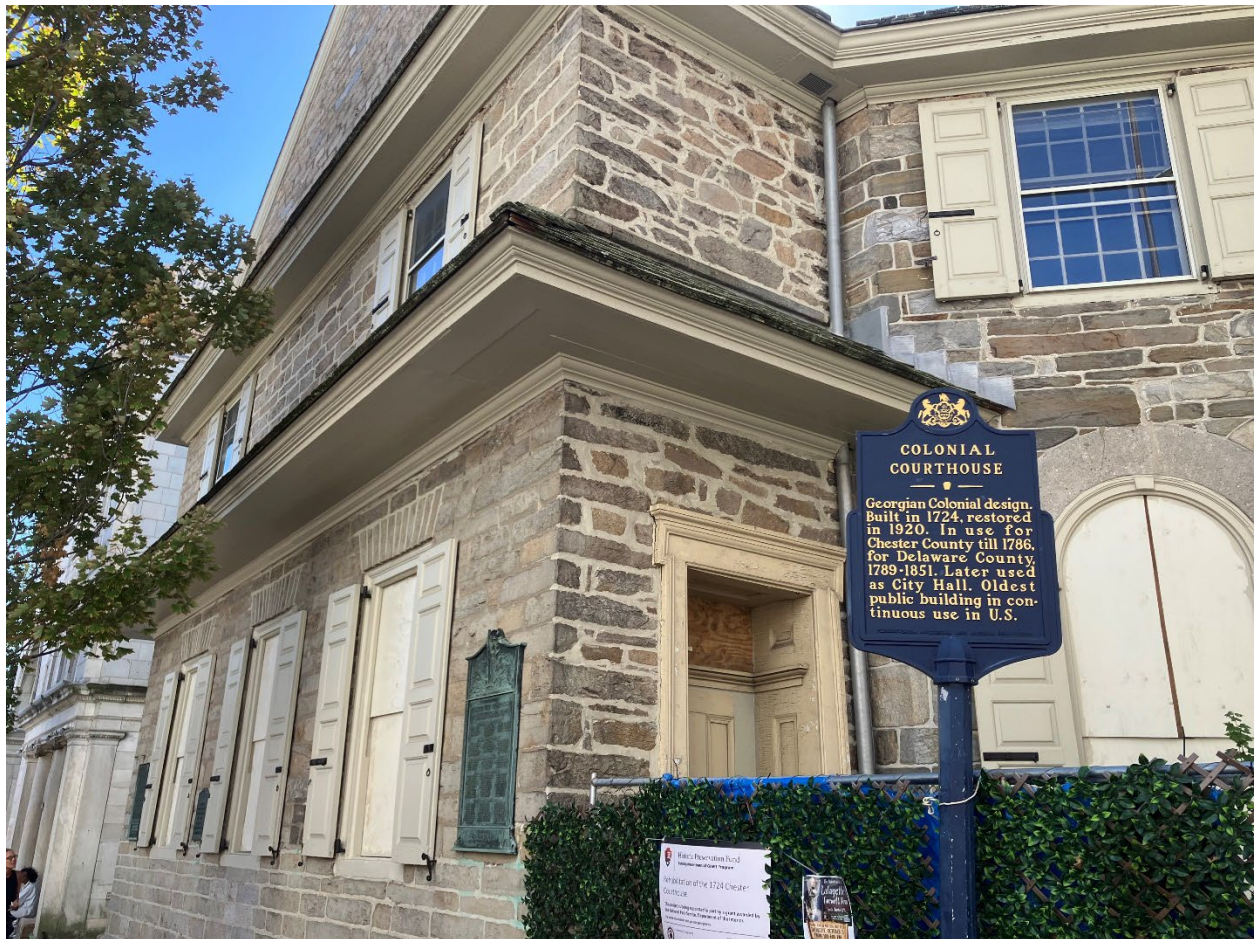
General Lafayette in front of the Courthouse

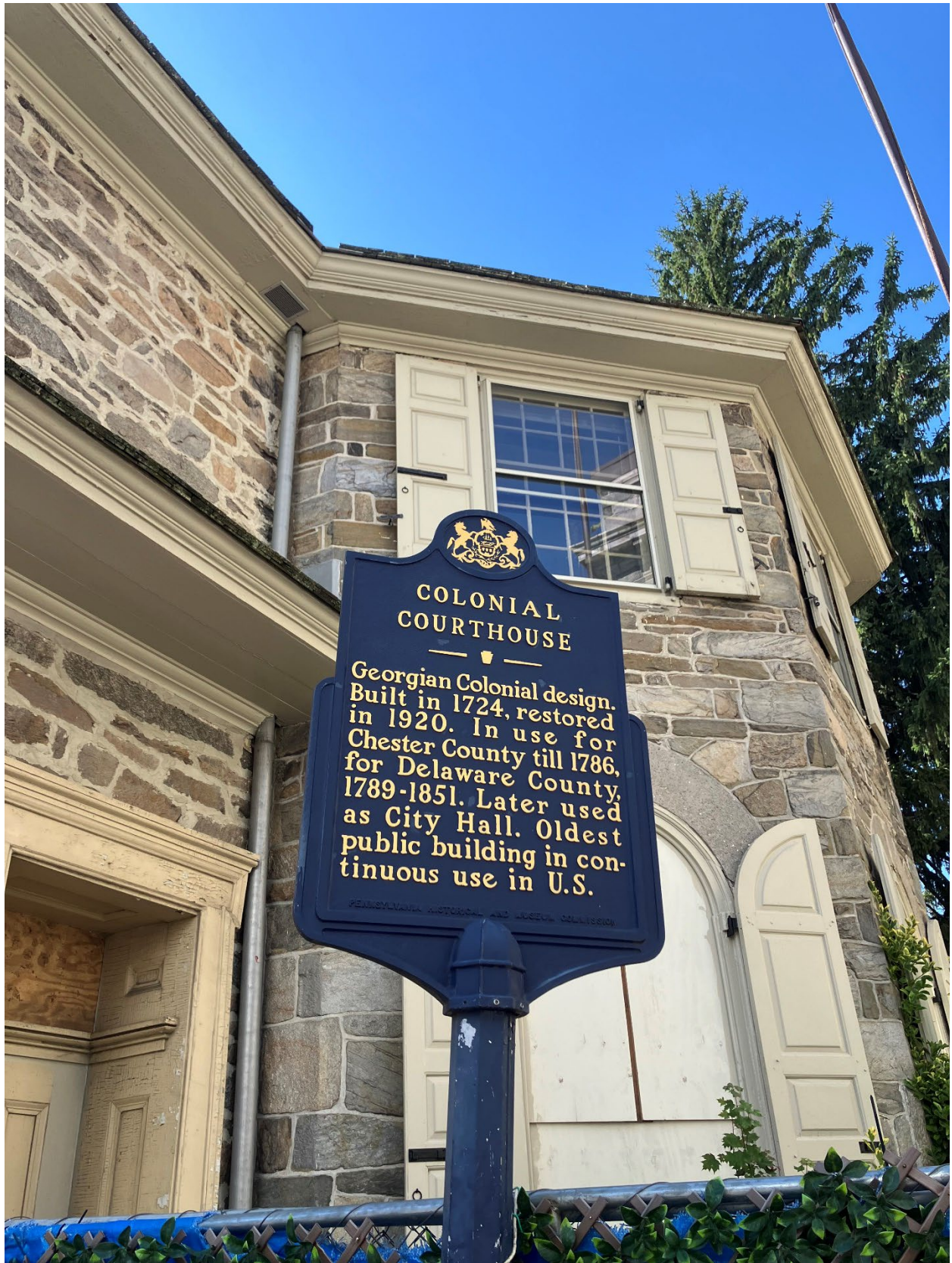


Plaque that was installed in 1903 by the Daughters of the American Revolution



Vietnam memorial Plaque on the Courthouse





Pennsylvania State Historical Marker in front of the courthouse



Pennsylvania Historical Marker for Washington House, formerly the Pennsylvania Arms, where Washington wrote his letter to Congress on the night of the Battle of Brandywine.



Frederick Magner (General Washington), Michael Halbert (General Lafayette), County Council Member Richard Womack, and Eugene Hough in front of the Courthouse



Washington Crossing the Industrial Highway (Rte 291/ 3rd Street)



Eugene Hough, First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, stands in front of the John Morton Monument with Generals Washington and Lafayette. John Morton was the only Delaware County resident who signed the Declaration of Independence. His vote swung Pennsylvania to vote in favor of independence. He is buried in the Old Swedes' / Old St. Paul's Burial Ground in Chester, which is being restored thanks to the Pennsylvania State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution <https://www.pssdar.org/serviceproject.php> and Eugene Hough (Legacy Marker Program- <https://legacymarkerprogram.org/>) Eugene will be recreating the walk from Philadelphia to Cambridge, Massachusetts, like the First City Troop Philadelphia Cavalry did in 1775 when they escorted General Washington.



Eugene Hough and Mayor Roots speak on the upcoming walk and Chester's importance in history





From left, back row- Shelley Ashfield (CHPC), Marcy & Mayor Stefan Roots, ???, Frederick Magner (General Washington),
Michael Halbert (General Lafayette)

Front row- Andrea Silva (America250PADELco) and son, Carol Fireng (CHPC), Eugene Hough (First Troop Philadelphia City
Cavalry)



From left, Shelley Ashfield (CHPC), Carol Fireng (CHPC), Mayor Stefan Roots, Michael Halbert (General Lafayette), Frederick Magner (General Washington), Eugene Hough (First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry), ???





Plaques in front of the John Morton Monument