



ADA at Historic Sites



Delaware County
Planning Department
July 2025

ADA at Historic Sites

Making historic buildings and programs accessible to all

July 2025

Prepared by:

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delcopa.gov/planning



Acknowledgements

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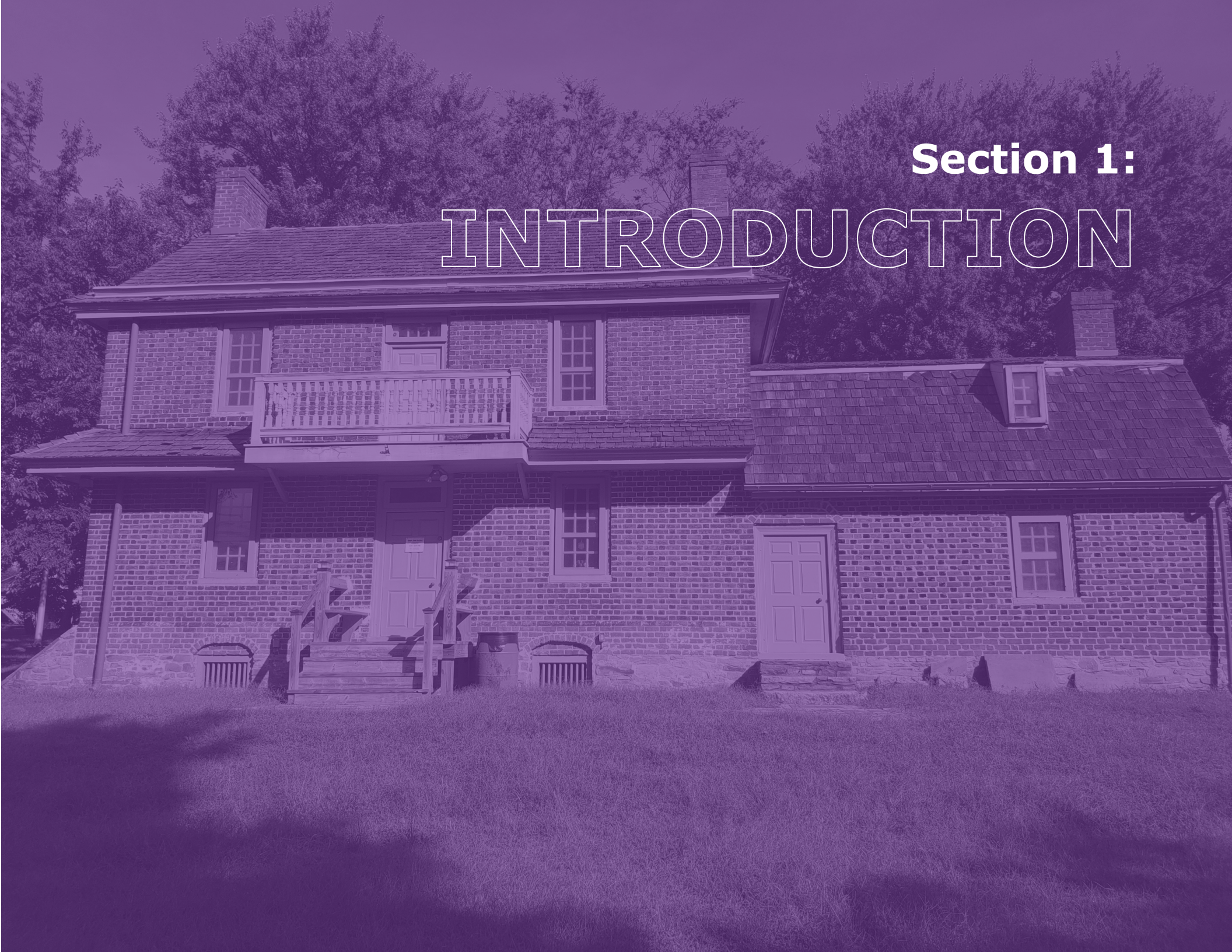
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Section 1:

INTRODUCTION



Introduction

Delaware County is home to over 30 historical sites that are open to the public, representing the County's history from the earliest European settlement to the foundations of the Industrial Revolution. Most of the sites are volunteer-run and all depend on visitors for sustaining the buildings, programs, and organizations at the sites. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was first passed in 1990 and updated in 2010. Despite the age and requirements of the ADA, many historic sites throughout the country are not compliant with the Act. This guide was created to assist the owners and organizations managing publicly accessible historic sites to make the buildings more inclusive and ready to accept visitors, especially to prepare for the upcoming Semiquincentennial in 2026. The guide can be used by tourist attractions, businesses, shops, or any other public use in a historic building.

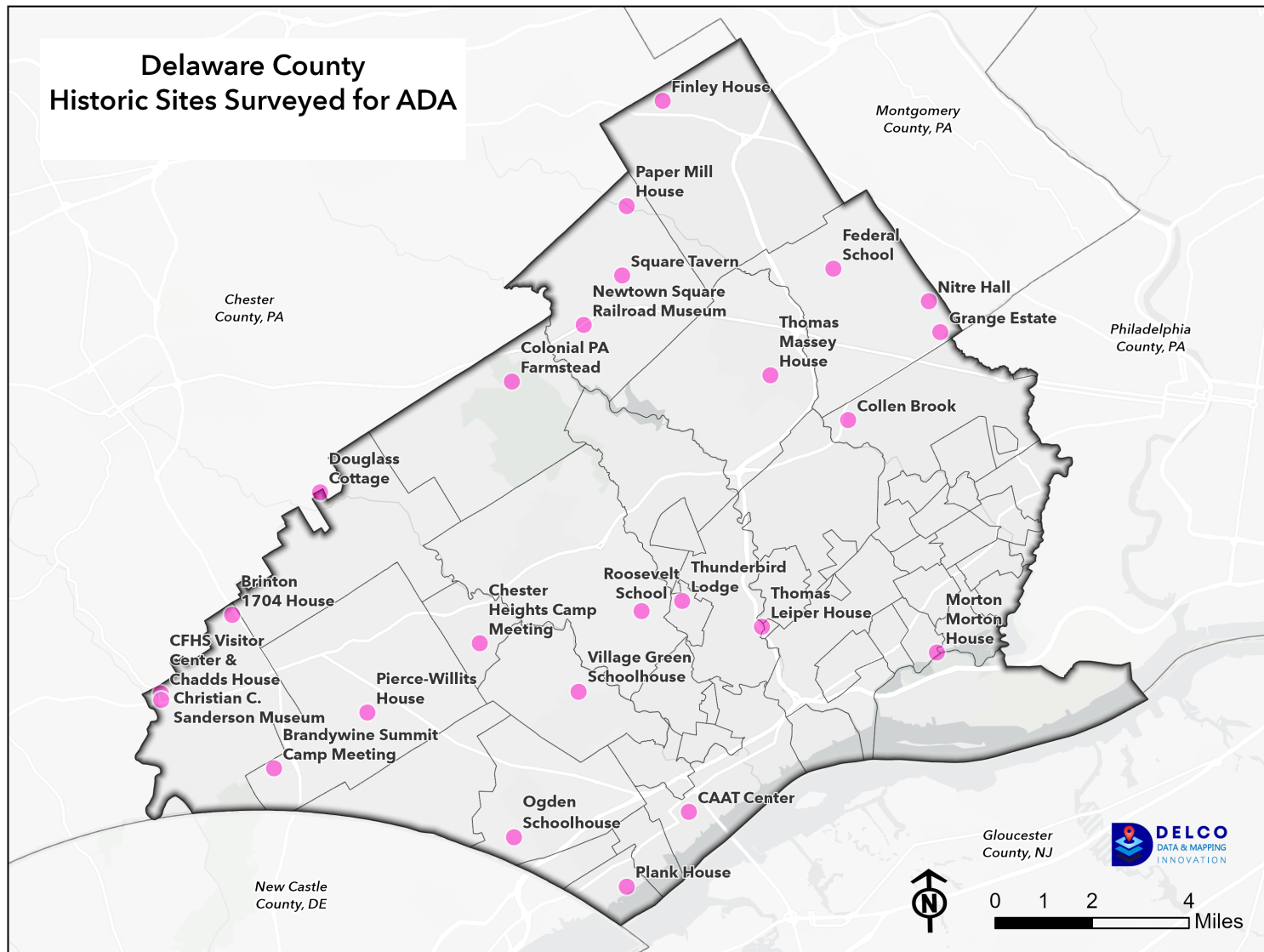
Background

The 2010 *ADA Standards for Accessible Design* (2010 Standards) are used throughout this guide. These are enforceable accessibility standards for newly designed and constructed or altered government facilities, public accommodations, and commercial facilities to ensure that they are usable by individuals with disabilities. While many people believe that historic sites are 'grandfathered' and do not need to comply with modern codes and the ADA, there have been legal cases in which sites have been sued for not being ADA compliant.

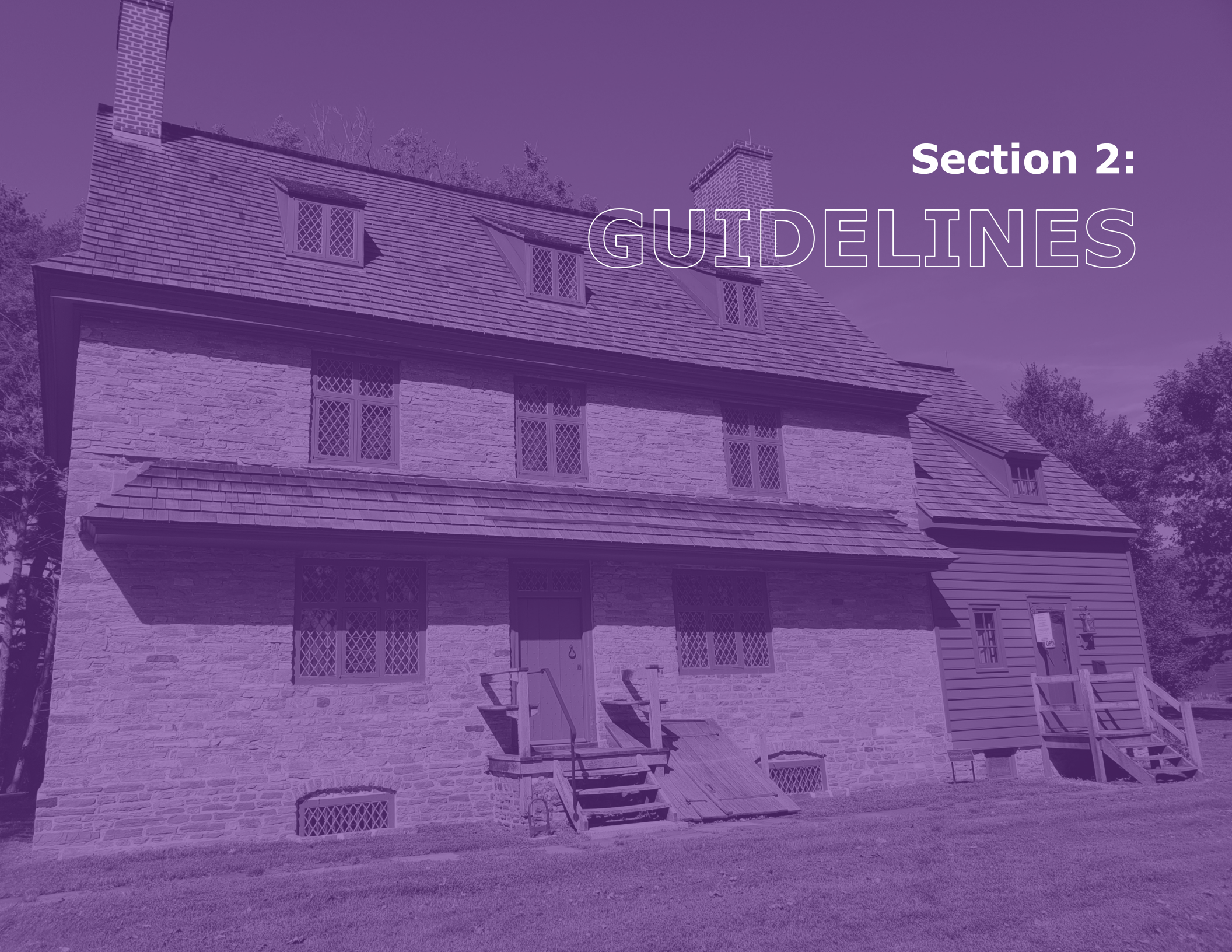
Historic sites are meant to be open to all visitors, and having an accessible site ensures that all are welcome. Many visitors and volunteers at historic sites are getting older and may have limited mobility, sight, hearing, or cognitive ability. Not accommodating people with disabilities limits the number of visitors that may want to visit the site. Reduced visitorship and potential lawsuits could adversely impact the financial viability of the organizations that run historic sites or the municipalities that may own the sites. By creating an Accommodation Plan, these organizations and municipalities can plan for future maintenance and upgrades to the sites that will make them ADA compliant while not adversely affecting their historic character.

Disabilities may take many forms, some of which are not readily visible to other people. According to the 2020 census, Delaware County has a population of 576,830. Of this population, 18% (103,829 people) are over 65 and 8.4% (48,453 people) of people under 65 have a disability. That is over 150,000 people that may have trouble accessing the historic sites or the programming at the site. This guide includes accommodations for mobility disabilities as well as vision, hearing, cognitive and sensory disabilities. It also includes suggestions for making websites and other digital media more accessible.

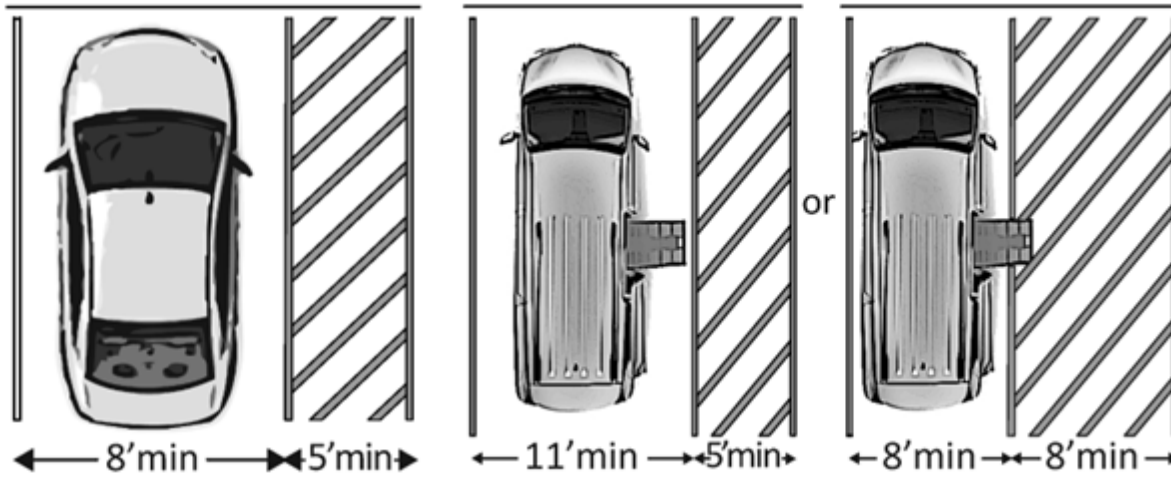
As part of this guide, 27 sites were chosen to receive accessibility audits using the 2010 Standards. The checklist, photos, and a list of recommendations were given to each site so they could incorporate changes into their future maintenance and upgrades. Many of the suggestions could be easily remedied using existing resources. A summary of the audits is included in this guide.



Section 2: GUIDELINES



1. Physical Access

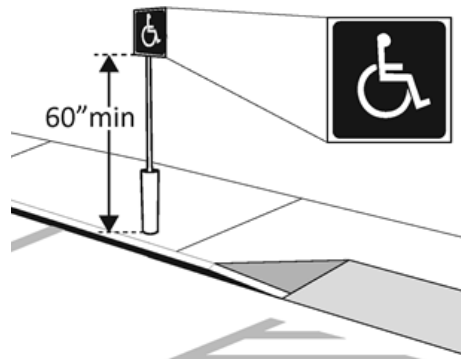


Car accessible space

Van accessible space



Access aisle adjacent to path



Accessible sign requirement



Temporary sign option

a. Site

Access to the site is the most important priority – if visitors cannot approach or enter the building, they do not feel welcomed and the stories and collections of the museums are not accessible to all. The parking spots and paths to the building(s) should be compliant with the ADA Guidelines. Even if access into the building is prohibitively difficult, visitors in need of physical accommodations should still be able to access the site, with the opportunity to view a mobile display or video in an accessible location such as an outbuilding or kiosk.

i. Parking:

- At least one accessible parking space should be provided, preferably van accessible
- Access aisles marked (unless gravel)
- Slope of parking spaces and aisles no steeper than 1:48 (1.19°)
- Access aisles should be connected to accessible route
- Permanent or temporary signs at every accessible space

Site – Parking



Accessible spot at Christian Sanderson Museum in Chadds Ford Township



Gravel lot with accessible spots adjacent to accessible path at the Chadds Ford Historical Society



Accessible spot at the CAAT Center/ Market Place in Chester City

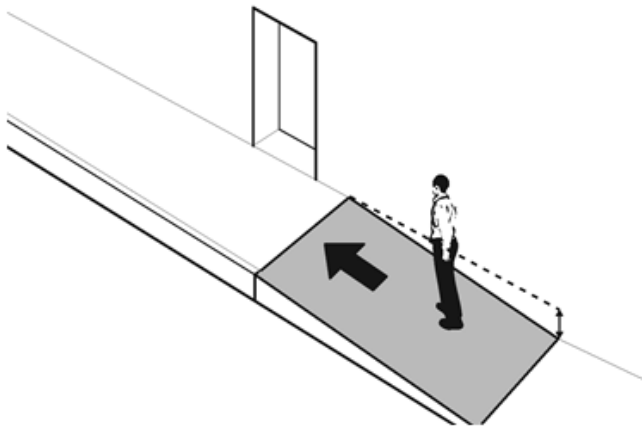


Accessible spot next to path at the Thomas Massey House in Marple Township

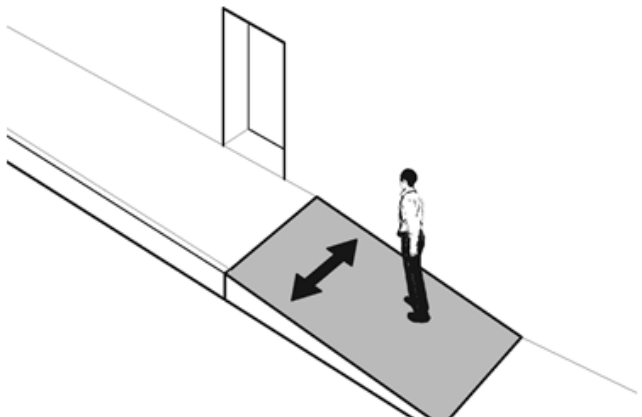
1. Physical Access



Paths should be 36" wide or temporarily narrow to 32" if necessary



Running slope should be no more than 1:20 (2.86°). If it is greater than 1:20, it should be treated as a ramp.



Cross slope should be no more than 1:48 (1.19°) to avoid users losing their balance

ii. Accessible paths

The paths leading to the entrance should be stable, firm and slip-resistant. At many historic sites, asphalt and concrete do not match the historic character. Brick pavers, gravel, and stone are common materials. Flagstone paths, which are often at historic sites, are usually not accessible because they are embedded in grass, narrow, and spaced too far apart for people with limited mobility, and can be slippery when wet. Loose gravel can be spread beyond the path. Brick, if laid correctly, can be ideal for most sites, but loose or uneven bricks should be remedied. Resin bonded or bound gravel in eco grids can be a sustainable and accessible alternative to loose gravel. Stamped concrete to look like brick may also be a viable option.

- Route must be 36" wide
- Running slope no more than 1:20 (2.86°)
- Cross slope no more than 1:48 (1.19°)

Site – Paths



Stone path at the Morton Morton House in Norwood Borough is being replaced with a brick path as part of a fundraising effort



Gravel path and stairs at the Paper Mill House in Newtown Township

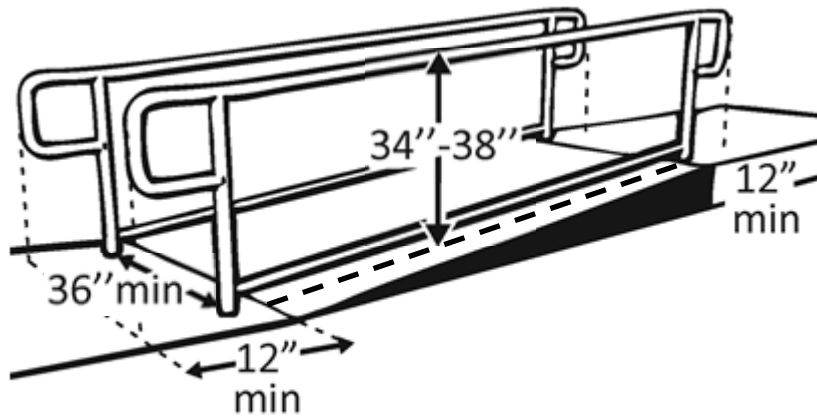


Brick path with tactile pavers at the Chadds Ford Historical Society

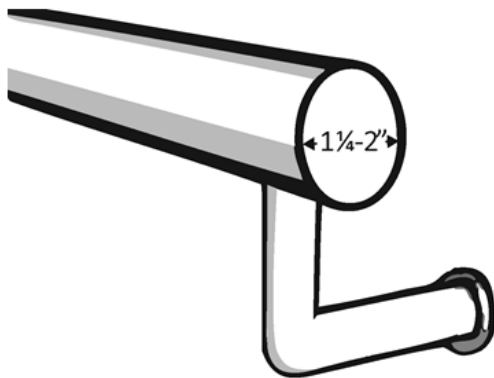


Brick path at Nitre Hall and Lawrence Cabin in Haverford Township

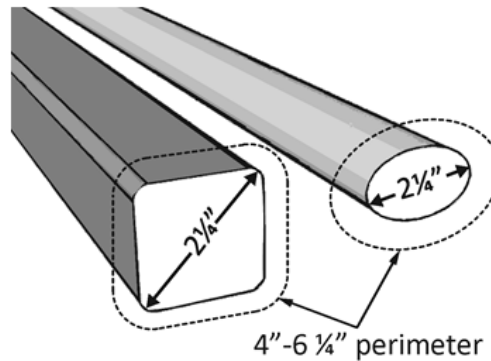
1. Physical Access



Width and height requirements of the ramp and handrails



Circular handrail sizes



Non-circular handrail sizes

iii. Ramps and Railings

If the incline of a path is more than 1:20, it should be treated as a ramp. Ramps can take many forms: along paths to access steep hills, at above-grade entranceways, and at thresholds to help wheelchair users enter the building.

Handrails along both ramps and stairs should meet the criteria in the 2010 Standards so that all users can have additional support when needed.

Ramps should have:

- Minimum 36" width
- Stable, firm, slip resistant material
- Running slope no more than 1:12 (4.76°)
- Level landing at the top, bottom and at a turn
- Handrails on both sides if more than 6" high

Handrails should have:

- Height of 34"-38"
- Continuous gripping surface
- Reasonable diameter for gripping
- Length extending beyond the length of the ramp

Site – Ramps and Railings



Ramp at Douglass Cottage, Thornbury Historical Society



Ramp at Freight Station, Newtown Square Railroad Museum



Ramp at Ogden School in Upper Chichester with level landing at top and bottom

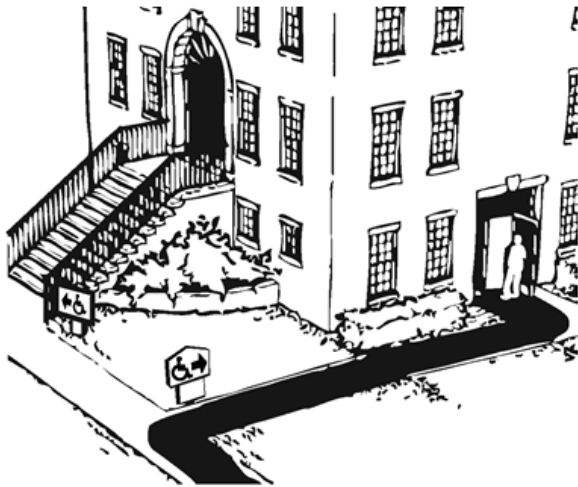


Ramp at Food Court at CAAT Center and Market Place in Chester City

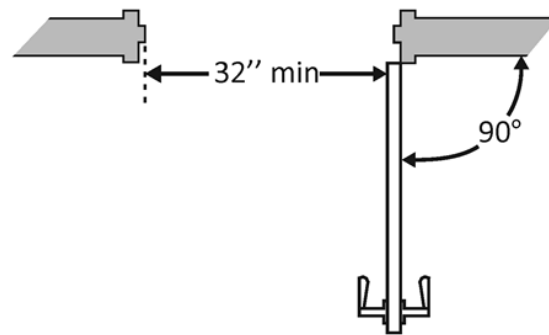


Handrail at Brinton 1704 House in Chadds Ford Twp. has historic appearance

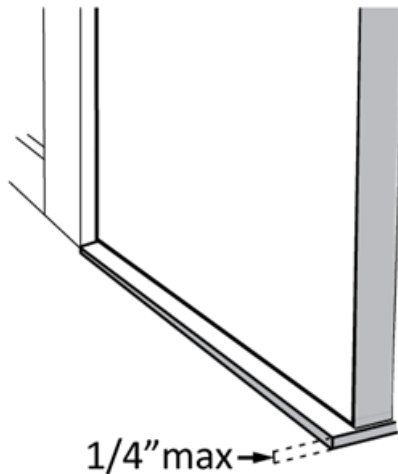
1. Physical Access



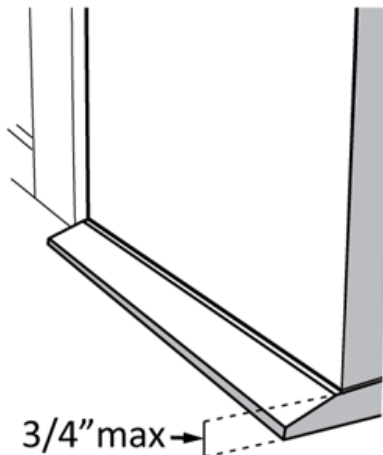
Alternative entrances should be on the rear or sides and have signs directing visitors



Doorways should have a minimum opening width of 32" at 90° opening



Vertical thresholds



Beveled thresholds– note the vertical portion should be no more than 1/4" high

b. Entrances

If there is a ramp or other level access to the building, the main doorway should be able to accommodate wheelchairs. If it is not feasible to make the front door accessible, another entrance should be identified as an accessible entrance. The front façade of the building is the most important to maintain the integrity and historic appearance, so the rear and sides of the building are often chosen for ramps and alternative entrances. Signs should direct visitors to the accessible entrance.

Doorways

- Clear opening width of 32"

Thresholds

- Vertical– 1/4" max
- Beveled– 3/4" max with 1:2 bevel

Hardware

- 34"-48" off the ground
- Does not require twisting of the wrist

Carpets/rugs

- No higher than 1/2" thick
- Securely attached to avoid tripping

Entrances



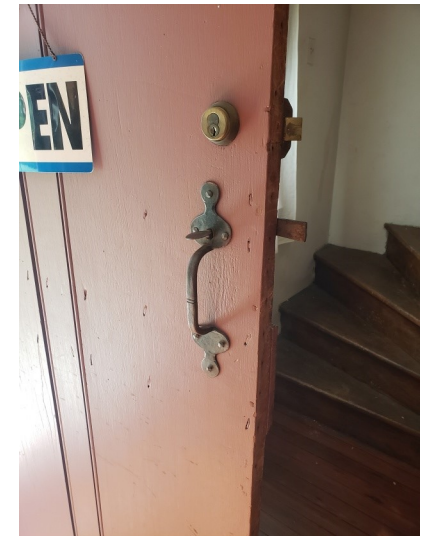
Nitre Hall in Haverford Twp. has a paved path to access the rear first and second floors leaving the front façade with stairs



Thomas Massey House in Marple Township has a brick path from the accessible parking space to the two rear entrances



The Grange Estate in Haverford Township has an additional threshold to make the kitchen accessible

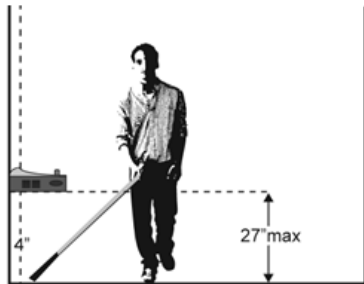


The Brinton 1704 House in Chadds Ford Township has a lever handle on the screen door (left) and a thumb latch on the main door (right)

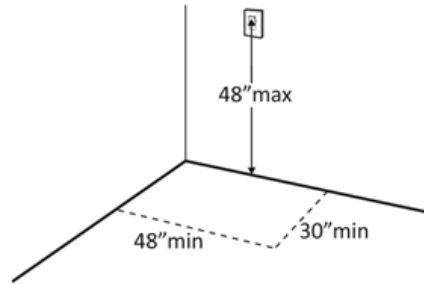
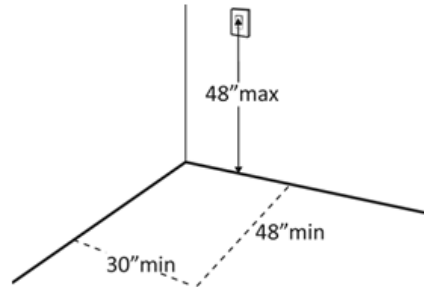
1. Physical Access



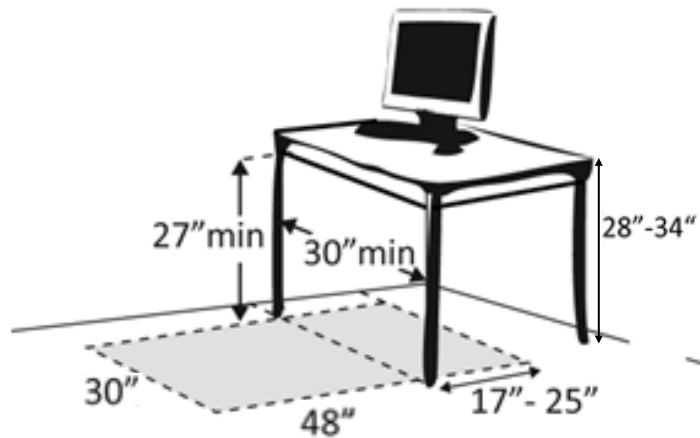
Or



Objects in circulation paths should be along walls



Light switches should have a clear approach and 48" maximum height



Tables and desks should be able to accommodate wheelchair users

c. Interiors

Once inside the building, visitors should be able to move about freely and enter all the rooms on the main floor. Given the irregularity of historic building practices, upper floors may not be accessible on many sites, so photographs and mobile displays can be brought to a lower level for those who cannot make it up stairs.

Interior doorways, ramps, thresholds, and hardware should meet the same criteria as the approach and entrance to the building.

Circulation paths should be:

- Stable, firm, slip resistant, and level
- 36" wide
- Clear of obstacles

Light switches should be:

- 48" high max with a clear approach

Seating should:

- Provide at least one wheelchair-accessible space
- Wheelchairs should be able to fit under table without issue
- Be provided for those who cannot stand for long

Interiors



The Middletown Township Historical Society Museum has wide circulation paths around the displays and obstructions like fire extinguishers along the hallway walls



The Ogden Schoolhouse in Upper Chichester has light switches with clear approaches and correct heights

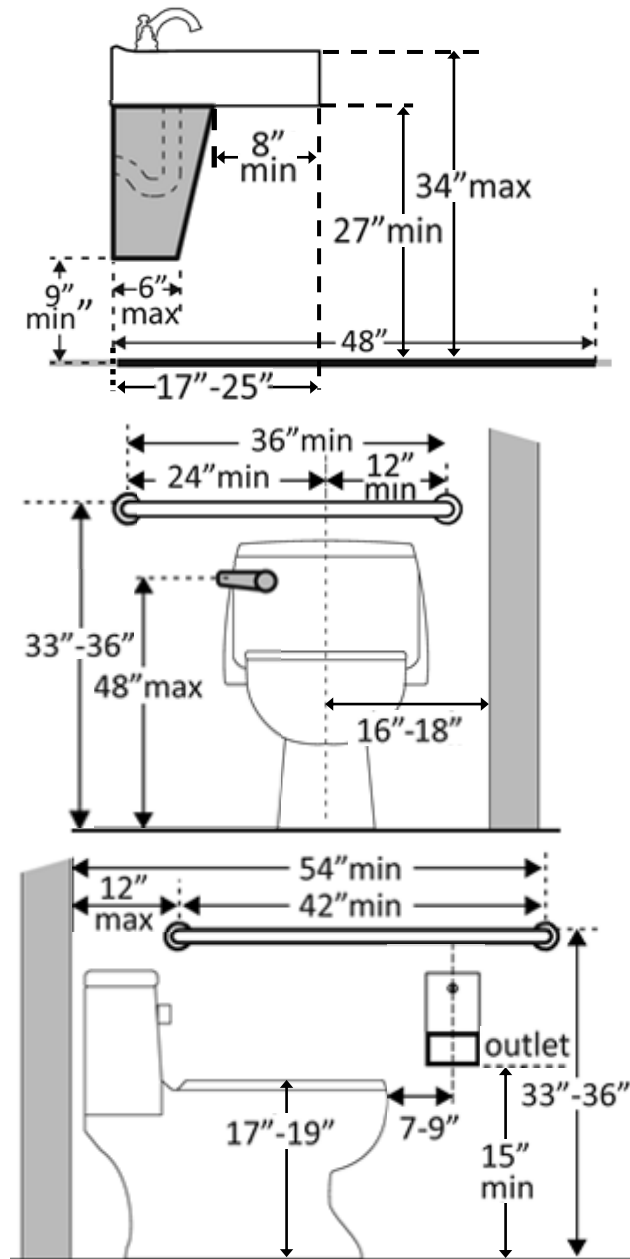


Assembly seating at the tabernacle at Brandywine Summit Camp Meeting in Concord Township consists of movable benches and a flat area to accommodate wheelchairs



Researchers in the library at the Chadds Ford Historical Society can use movable seating and compliant tables

1. Physical Access



Sinks should have:

- Correct height to allow for leg and toe room
- Clear approach of 48"
- Covered pipes to avoid scalding

Toilets should have:

- Appropriate distance from side wall
- Handle at reasonable height
- Rear grab bar (1 1/2" diameter) at correct length and height

Toilets should have:

- Appropriate seat height
- Side grab bar (1 1/2" diameter) at correct length and height
- Toilet paper dispenser at reasonable distance from toilet and floor

d. Restrooms

If restrooms are available to the public, they should be on the main floor and able to accommodate a wheelchair. If no wheelchair-accessible restroom is feasible, an accessible porta potty should be provided for large events, and constructing an accessible outbuilding should be considered in the long-term.

Even if the restroom is not wheelchair-accessible, the facilities should otherwise meet the criteria as there are other disabilities to consider.

- Doorway, hardware, and light switches should meet the criteria previously mentioned
- Mirrors and coat hooks should be usable by someone in a seated position
- Sinks should be able to accommodate a wheelchair- i.e. no vanity. Faucets should be able to be used by people with gripping issues (lever type preferable)
- Toilets should be the right height, have grab bars, and have toilet paper dispensed at the right height – see images on left

Restrooms



Sinks at the Newtown Square Railroad Museum (left) and Douglass Cottage in Thornbury Twp (right) have lever faucets and low mirrors



Sinks at Nitre Hall (left) and the Grange (right) in Haverford Twp. have covered pipes and a historic-looking lever faucet

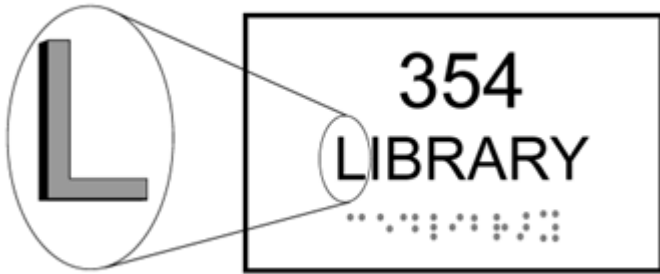


The accessible restroom at the Brandywine Summit Camp Meeting has a portable grab bar; while not ideal, it is a reasonable alternative, especially for historic buildings

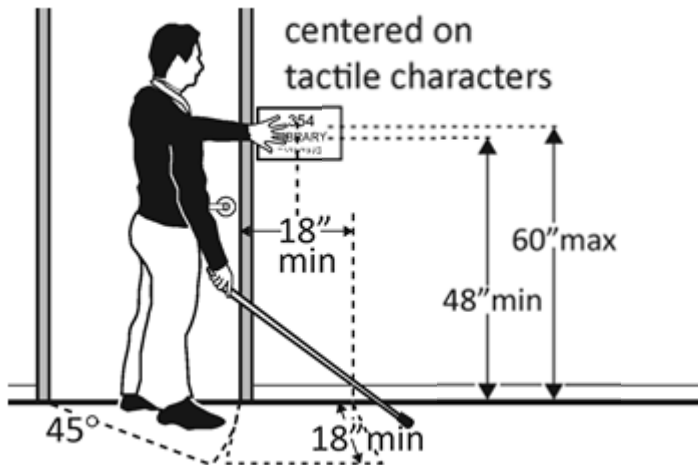


The accessible restroom at the Grange has correct placement of facilities, lever faucet handles, and covered pipes

2. Non-mobility disabilities



Signs for rooms that don't change over time should have tactile letters and braille. All signs, regardless of location, should have contrasting text colors



Signs for rooms should be located next to the open side of the door

a. Blind/ Low-vision

Some people who are blind use Braille to read, but like American Sign Language, it is a language in and of itself and doesn't always directly translate to English. Not all blind people can read Braille. People who have lost their vision over time or have low vision are more likely to request large print versions of text. Be aware of what individuals request and what their needs are. Alternative Text and Screen Readers for websites are used by both groups, and both appreciate ease of moving around spaces without tripping hazards.

Museums should be aware of the needs of people with vision difficulties and provide the appropriate materials and accommodations for visitors.

These may include:

- Large print or braille versions of text
- Audio and/or tactile tours
- Signs on walls– see guidelines to left
- Clear circulation space without obstacles
- Text-to-speech option on websites
- Planting a scent garden

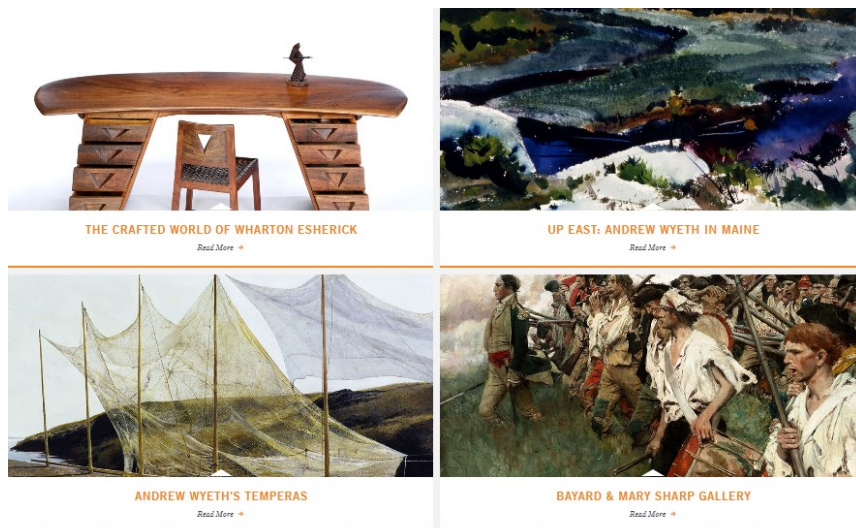
Blind/ Low-vision



The restrooms at the Roosevelt Community Center in Middletown Township have tactile restroom signs



The gift shop sign at the Paper Mill House in Newtown Township is in large print and contrasting colors



The Brandywine River Museum of Art in Chadds Ford Township provides Large Print Guides of some of their exhibits on their website

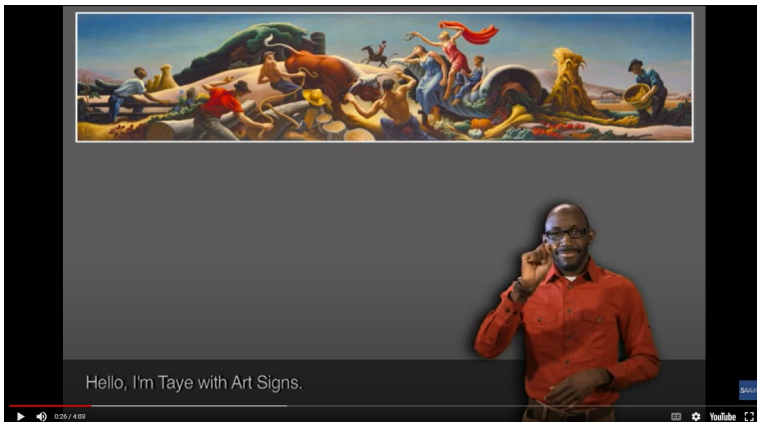


The Fragrant Garden at Tyler Arboretum in Middletown has culinary and fragrant herbs and plants so that low-vision visitors can enjoy the gardens through their other senses

2. Non-mobility disabilities



Fire alarms should have sound as well as flashing lights to alert d/Deaf visitors



Art Signs, the Smithsonian American Art Museum's monthly program, features 30-minute gallery talks presented by deaf gallery guides in American Sign Language (ASL). ASL interpreters voice information and observations allowing hearing and deaf audiences to discover art together under the leadership of a deaf volunteer guide. Link in Resources

b. d/Deaf

Deaf, with an uppercase "D" is used by people who are culturally deaf (typically born Deaf) and whose native language is American Sign Language (ASL); deaf, with a lowercase "d", is the medical condition of hearing loss, so ASL may not be their native language. d/Deaf allows for greater inclusion of both communities.

Museums should be aware of the needs of people with hearing difficulties and provide the appropriate materials and accommodations for visitors. All museums should consult with their local ADA Center and COSA to see how to improve their site and programming and consider recruiting staff and/or volunteers with disabilities.

These may include:

- Written tour materials
- Labels on displays
- Open or closed captioning on videos/ webinars/ virtual programming
- ASL tours or video (using a local ASL translator or having staff trained in ASL)

d/Deaf



Fire alarms at the Roosevelt Community Center in Middletown Township have flashing lights as well as sound



Displays at the Pierce Willits House in Concord Township have interpretive panels and objects

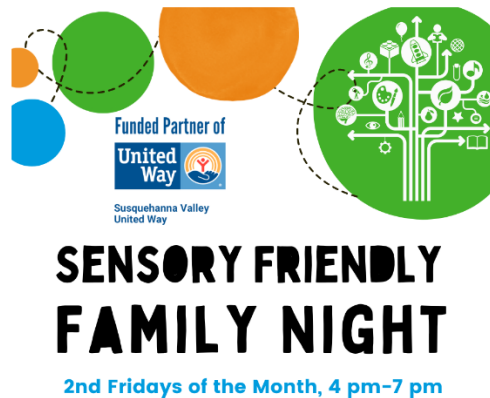


The entrance hall at Nitre Hall in Haverford Township has a brief description of the history of the building as well as object descriptions



Display cabinets at the Brinton 1704 House in Chadds Ford Township include detailed descriptions of the objects

2. Non-mobility disabilities



The Lewisburg Children's Museum in Lewisburg, PA provides a Sensory Friendly Family Night, a special Museum event for children with autism spectrum or sensory processing disorders. The Museum will limit capacity, turn down sounds and lights, and provide adaptive equipment to offer a safe and fun experience for all! These programs are sponsored by the Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way and are free for participants. This event is recommended for all ages and registration is required.



The New York Transit Museum has multiple Access Programs for those with disabilities such as Subway Sleuths, an after-school program that builds on a shared interest in trains and public transit among 2nd through 5th grade students on the autism spectrum to support social interaction between peers.

c. Autism/ Sensory

Visitors with sensory issues may not present as obviously as those with mobility, hearing, or vision issues. Visitors want to know what to expect when visiting the site to plan accordingly. Providing sensory-friendly programs or special hours may open up the site to a new audience that might not have otherwise visited.

Museums should be aware of the needs of people with sensory issues and provide the appropriate materials and accommodations for visitors.

These may include:

- Sensory-friendly programs—early access, social narrative, sensory map, noise-cancelling headphones, quiet area
- Virtual sensory-friendly programs, especially if includes an individual with autism presenting
- Take-home kits (activity kits)
- Autism friendly early morning hours
- Provide a Social Narrative, Sensory Guide, and Accessibility Guide on websites so visitors know what to expect

Autism/ Sensory



Visitors with sensory processing disorders may use free packs during visits to the Brandywine River Museum of Art in Chadds Ford Township

GALLERY DECK / FO'C'SLE SENSORY GUIDE						
There are no restrooms on this level.						
PHOTO	AREA	HIGHLIGHTS	SOUND LEVEL	TOUCH	SNACK BREAK	WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
	Combat Information Center	Squadron ready room Air operations Radar Cryptology	MEDIUM			
	Berthing (bedrooms)	Berthing for junior officers Triple Stix Berthing for marines Oral history kiosk	QUIET TO MEDIUM			
	Anchor Chain Room	Anchor chains Mooring lines Sailor art Oral history kiosk	MEDIUM (sound effects)			
	Gun Tub	Historic anti-aircraft guns	QUIET			

The Intrepid Museum in New York provides a Sensory Guide on their website for various parts of the museum

Brandywine Museum of Art - Social Story

ARRIVING AT THE MUSEUM



I am going to visit the Brandywine Museum of Art. When I arrive, my family and I will park and walk up to the museum together. We will enter through a big courtyard, and I can pick whether I want to use the steps or ramp to go inside.

The Brandywine Museum of Art provides a step by step guide to visiting the museum and what to expect on a visit



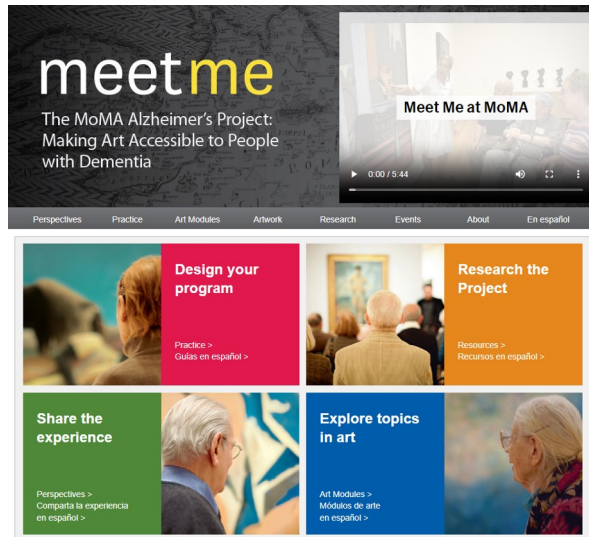
Aviation



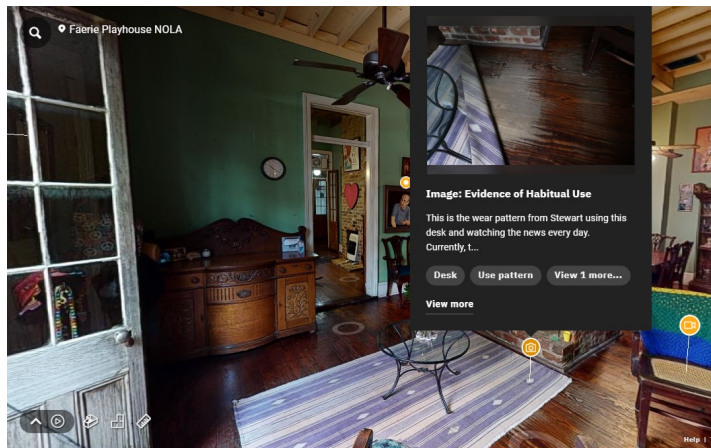
Transportation

The Intrepid Museum provides Visual Vocabularies to give visitors a sense of what to expect, and introduce new words

2. Non-mobility disabilities



The MoMA (New York) Alzheimer's Project: Making Art Accessible to People with Dementia was an initiative from 2007-2014 although the resources are still available and useful for arts and health professionals and caregivers



The LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana produced a 3D Tour of the Faerie Playhouse NOLA using Matterport

d. Dementia/ Alzheimer's

Like those with sensory issues, visitors with memory issues may not present as obviously as those with mobility, hearing, or vision issues, although they may also have physical issues due to their age. However, like many historic site visitors, they appreciate programs that invoke memories and may be able to contribute to the collective memory through oral histories, scrapbooks, and artifacts. Consider a mix of in-person and virtual programs to cater to a variety of mobility and travel needs.

Programming ideas:

- Partner with Alzheimer's Association or hospital
- Virtual tours of a building or town– Using Matterport, local realtors (360° photos), or media/film students
- Show and Tell programs/ Memorabilia Night
- Oral History projects about the town/ neighborhood
- Tactile and art experiences for visitors with sensory, vision, and dementia issues

Dementia/ Alzheimer's



Haverford Township Free Library hosted a temporary display about WWI in 2018

[These questions were provided by Chichester Historical Society, so substitute UCT or other references to Upper Chichester with your own area]

BASIC QUESTIONS

What is your full name?
 Where did your family live when you were born?
 When did you move to UCT? Why?
 What was your schooling like? How did you get to school? Which schools did you attend?
 Did/do you attend any of the churches in UCT?
 When and where did you get married?
 Who were your earliest family members that lived in UCT?
 When and where did they live?
 Do you remember hearing them describe their lives? What did they say?
 How is UCT different now from when you were a child?
 Who was your family doctor? Where was the office located?
 Do you remember the construction of the B&O Railroad bridge on Chi Ave? I-95? Rt. 322?

NEIGHBORHOOD

How did you identify your neighborhood?

The Chichester Historical Society created an Oral History Questionnaire that is available on the DCHPN website



In conjunction with the library's exhibit, Haverford Township Historical Society hosted a WWI memorabilia night



ARTZ Philadelphia provides arts and culture programs for people living with dementia and their care partners at local museums, art centers and other locations

3. Other Considerations

	Color	Hex	White	Black
	Red	#991B1E	8.3	2.52
	Green	#079147	4.07	5.15
	Yellow	#FBB040	1.84	11.38
	Purple	#662D91	8.93	2.34
	Blue	#262262	14.11	1.48

Using a Color Contrast Checker, the colors of the DCPD logo were checked against white and black text to find the best contrasts to use for this document (White on Blue and Black on Yellow)

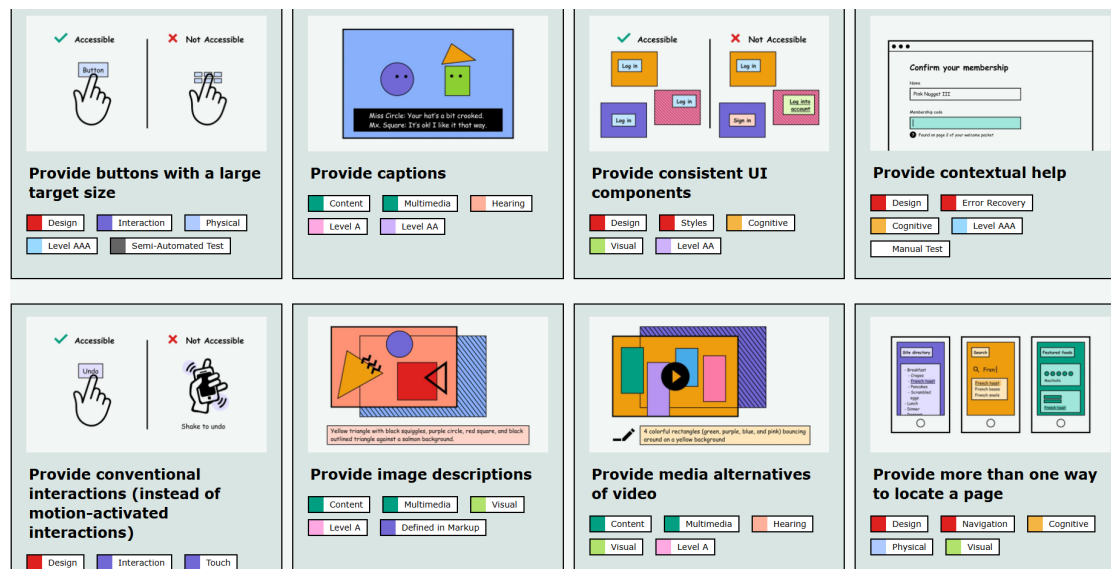
See Section 4 for links to all resources, organizations, and sites mentioned in this guide

a. Websites

Websites for historic sites and societies are often the first stop for visitors to find out more about the site, the society, and what to expect when visiting. If the website addresses accessibility, then potential visitors are more likely to become actual visitors, volunteers, and/or members.

Considerations for website design:

- Font size, font type, colors, contrasts
- Alternative text for pictures
- Text doesn't have typos that would confuse screen readers
- Audio descriptions are in a normal human voice
- Websites should be logical and predictable and easily navigated for all users
- Use multiple types of media to reach a wider audience
- Include 'Accessibility' tab to explain what visitors should expect on a visit
- Recruit an Accessibility Tester with Disabilities to test your website
- Ensure Google Map info is updated



The Access Guide provides a visual checklist for website and digital accessibility along with different disabilities and parts of website coding to consider

Websites



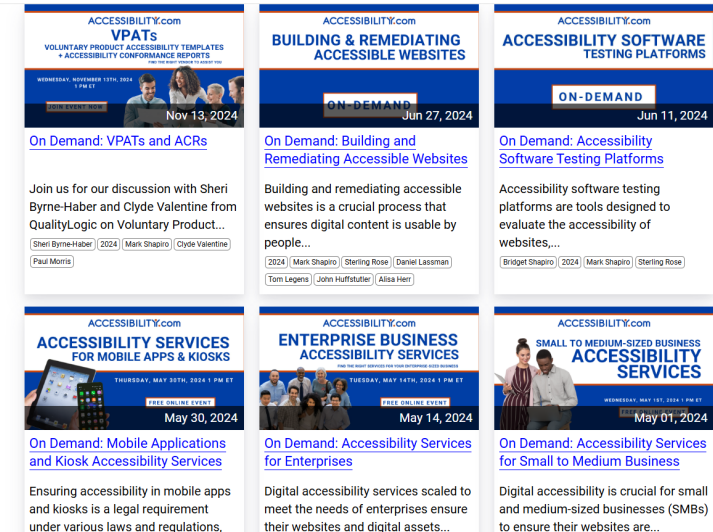
Web usability made easy.

Large or small businesses, nonprofits, educational institutions, state and local government agencies: use our accessibility expertise and our network of test participants with disabilities to test your website!

Companies like Access Works connect businesses and nonprofits to website testers with disabilities

VISIT	ACCESSIBILITY
Hours & Admission	The entire Museum is wheelchair accessible, including bathrooms, water fountains and the Millstone Café.
Directions	Accessible parking for vehicles displaying the appropriate disability permits is located in the central section of the parking lot, closest to the Museum's courtyard entrance, available on a first-come, first-served basis. The courtyard now provides a designated barrier-free entrance into the Museum.
Tours & Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Museum has several standard-sized, non-motorized wheelchairs available at no cost for visitor convenience. Service animals are welcome in the Museum. Please check in at the Admissions desk in the Visitor Entrance upon arrival. The personal care attendants of visitors with disabilities receive general admission to the Museum free of charge (limit one attendant per visitor). Advance notice is recommended for special tours or accommodations. Call 610.388.8326 for information and group reservations.
Millstone Café	Studio Tours
Museum Shop	The N. C. Wyeth House & Studio Tour, the Andrew Wyeth Studio Tour, and their shuttle transportation are wheelchair accessible. The shuttle transportation to the studios can accommodate one wheelchair per tour.
Visiting with Children	At both the N. C. Wyeth House & Studio, all wheelchair accessible entrances are 35" wide (please note that the second floor of the house is not wheelchair accessible). At the Andrew Wyeth Studio, the wheelchair accessible entrance is 38.5" wide and a portion of the tour, including Andrew Wyeth's painting room, requires passing through a 27.5" internal doorway (the painting room can be partially viewed from the doorway). Visitors are permitted to take the tour without entering the smaller spaces.
Entertaining	The Kuerner Farm tour is not wheelchair accessible.
Accessibility →	
Large Print Guides	
Sensory-friendly programs	
Social Story	
Digital Guide	

The Brandywine River Museum of Art in Chadds Ford Township has a tab on their website for accessibility



A series of webinars on digital accessibility is available at Accessibility.com

Choose Accessible Fonts

Highly recommended

Other accessible fonts

Verdana (used here)

Calibri

Tahoma

Century Gothic

Arial

Trebuchet MS

Georgia

Times New Roman

Palatino

Garamond

Lucida Sans

Bookman Old Style

Good font accessibility should have readability, legibility, and availability. Sans-serif fonts have higher readability.

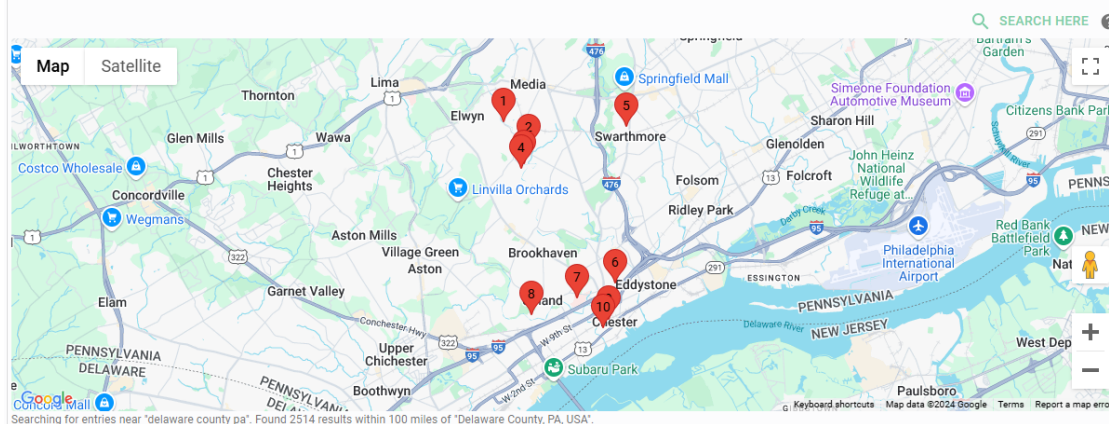
3. Other Considerations



The Christian Sanderson Museum in Chadds Ford Twp has two locations for watching videos on the first floor of the museum, and a DVD for watching elsewhere



Individual Entries



The Clio website and app have multiple cultural and historical sites that can be combined to create walking or driving tours– regional or thematic. Sites can upload videos and/or audio, and text can be read out loud.

b. Videos/ Virtual Tours

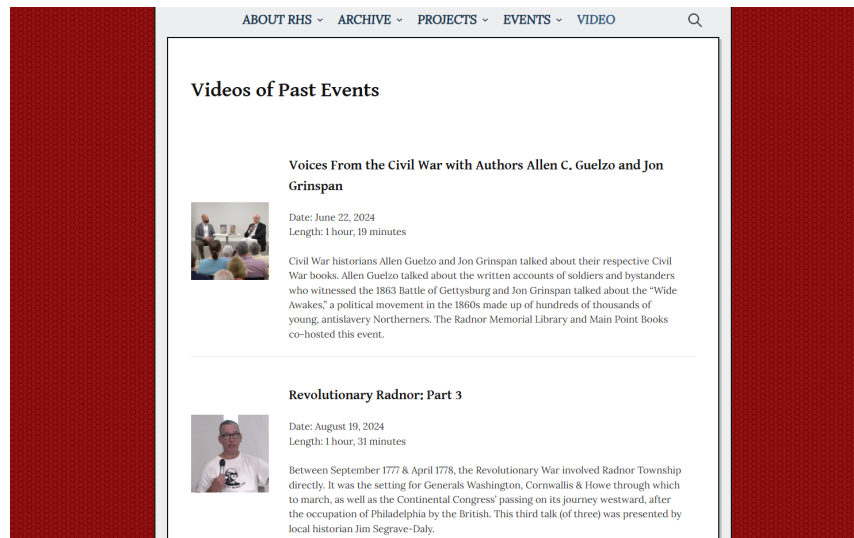
Virtual Tours are a good way to show your site and your collections and entice visitors to see it in person, or to show things that are on inaccessible floors to make the site available to people who can't make it to the site or to upper floors.

Videos of programs are also a good way of documenting your events and sharing with a wider audience.

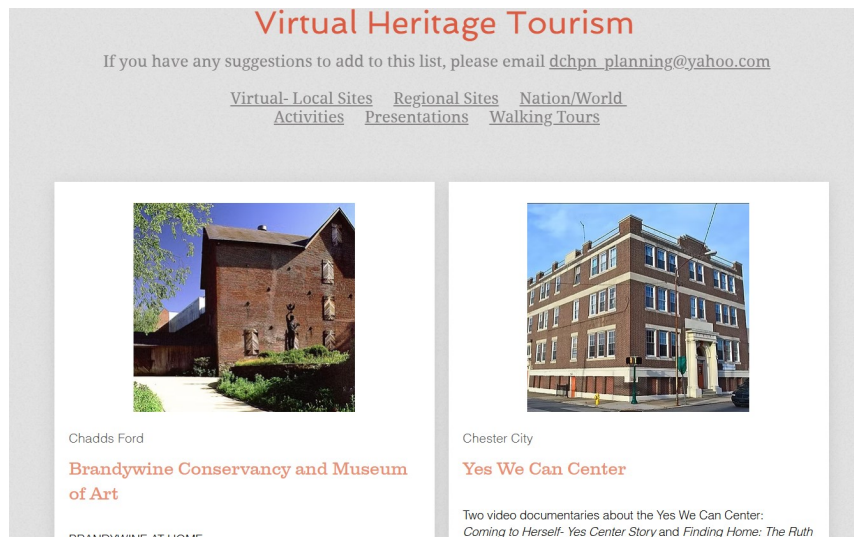
Considerations for videos

- Show video in an accessible location on a main floor
- Virtual tours of a building or town– Matterport, local realtors (360° photos), media/film students
- Record your virtual and in-person talks and post online
- Text doesn't have typos that would confuse screen readers
- Audio descriptions are in a normal human voice
- Video closed captions are correct
- Use multiple types of media to reach a wider audience
- Recruit an Accessibility Tester with Disabilities to test your videos

Videos/ Virtual Tours



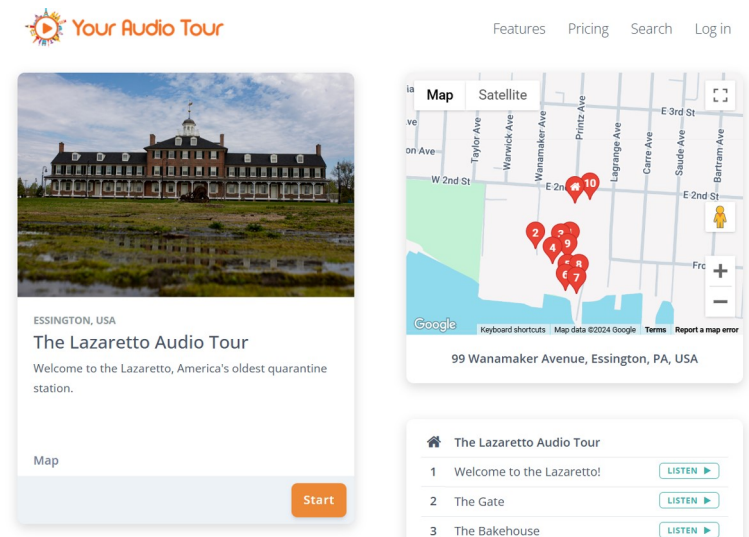
Radnor Historical Society posts all of their videos of past events on their website



The Delaware County Historic & Preservation Network (DCHPN) website has a 'Virtual Heritage Tourism' page

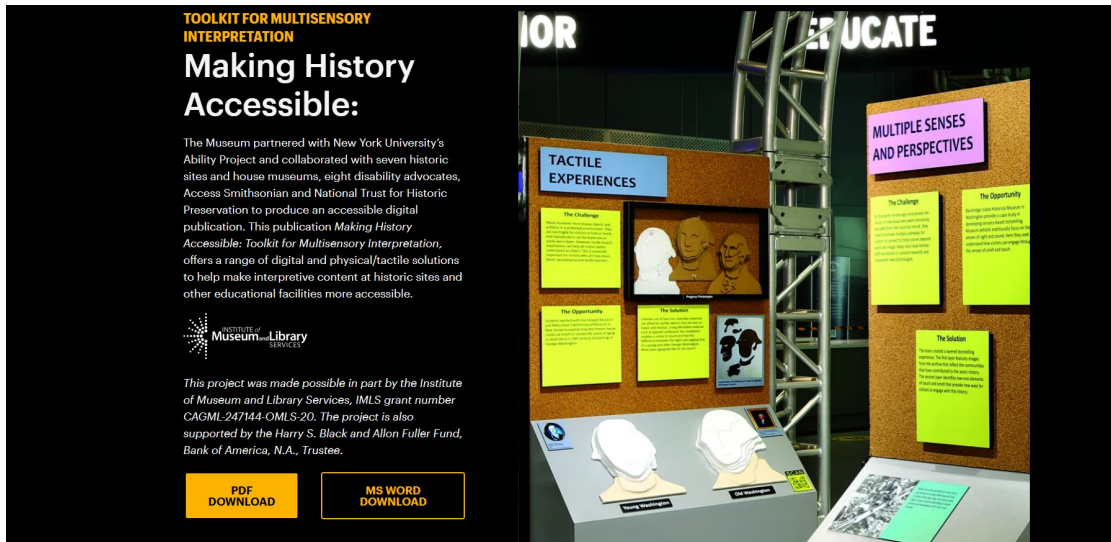


Haverford Township Historical Society has a video introduction to their buildings and collection on their website



The Lazaretto in Tinicum Township has a self-guided audio tour that is available on their website that can be used off-site or while visiting

3. Other Considerations



The Intrepid Museum in New York created *Making History Accessible: Toolkit for Multisensory Interpretation*, which has detailed examples of on and offsite multisensory experiences



The Paper Mill House & Museum in Newtown Square has a display in their parking lot with information about the historical society and museum

c. Portable Exhibits

Some historic sites have physically inaccessible upper (or main) floors. Providing the programming in an accessible location, whether on or off site, can be a way to get more people interested in what the organization has to offer. Having a tactile display box can also be useful for visitors with vision or sensory issues.

Considerations for portable exhibits

- Create a display to bring to schools or other organizations that are not able to visit
- Use photographs of artifacts in the inaccessible location, and/or bring examples of artifacts
- If the actual artifact is fragile (feathers, fur, etc.), then find a non-artifact sample for people to touch instead (craft feathers, fake fur)
- Make 3D models of fragile or heavy artifacts like bowls or furniture
- Have a way for visitors to request the portable display at the parking lot or on an accessible floor
- Create a take-home kit that can be borrowed

Portable Exhibits



A TacTile kit from the Art Institute of Chicago is a reproduction of art, making it legible through the fingertips



The Brick Store Museum in Maine created a Mobile Exhibits Program to put exhibits at various locations in the city



Technician using Infrared 3D scanner to create a 3D printed version of artwork at the Cincinnati Art Museum



Fake fur and feathers from craft stores can be used for touchable alternatives to artifacts



Section 3:

ACCESSIBILITY AUDITS

Introduction

Twenty-seven historic sites in Delaware County were surveyed using the ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities based on the 2010 ADA Standards. DCPD staff visited the sites and met at least one member of the organization that runs the site that was familiar with the visitors and needs of the sites. The checklist was completed using measuring tape, a push-pull door pressure gauge, and a digital angle measurer (Bubble Level phone app). A kit was available for sites to perform their own checklist but only one site chose this option. Digital photos were taken throughout the site visit. Following the visit, the information was compiled into a spreadsheet for this report and recommendations were created based on the ADA Checklist and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (Secretary of the Interior's Standards). While the ADA Checklist only covers mobility-related standards, the historic sites were also given recommendations regarding providing accommodations for visitors with non-mobility disabilities as appropriate.



Door pressure push-pull gauge



Bubble Level, Spirit Level app

Approach and Entrance (Exteriors)

The majority of the sites (25) have an accessible route from the parking area to the exterior of the building and have the correct number of accessible parking spaces. However, only four have a sign marking accessible parking spaces and only two had painted markings on the parking lot. Most parking lots at the historic sites are gravel, and it is difficult to paint markings on unpaved lots. It was suggested to all sites to post a sign marking accessible space(s), especially if their lots were not paved. Many sites have overflow parking on grass, but those were not considered as accessible parking spaces due to the instability of grassed areas.

The majority (25) of paths from parking areas were stable, firm & slip-resistant. They generally consist of stone, brick, and gravel. Only a few had grass between parking and the site; however, some of the paths required re-laying of the stone or brick to make them more level as the ground has shifted over time. The majority (21) also had a route 36" or wider, but a few, especially the stone



Accessible parking signs at Chadds Ford Historical Society



Accessible brick path made of fundraising bricks at the Morton Morton House in Norwood

paths, were narrower and more uneven. In these cases, it was recommended to make the paths wider when re-laying the stones or bricks. There are other options for paths such as compacted gravel, geogrids with bound gravel or bricks that were offered as alternatives to grass, loose gravel or uneven stones. One group is successfully adapting their stone path by converting it to a wide brick path, and selling bricks as a fundraiser. Concrete and asphalt are not generally considered appropriate to the historic character, so a balance between historic materials, appearance, and accessibility needs to be made by the sites as to what is appropriate. Stamped concrete that looks like brick might be acceptable in certain sites.

Thirteen sites have ramps to the historic building or within the site (one site consisted of eight surveyed buildings and had a variety of ramps). When they did have ramps, five were not the correct width, one was not slip-resistant, and 10 were not the correct

slope (1:12). Many of the ramps were temporary and so were better than having no ramp at all, but they required additional assistance in getting wheelchairs into the buildings. Only one ramp had handrails on both sides; many did not have any handrails, especially the temporary ones.

Persons with limited mobility, even if they are not wheelchair users, depend on handrails to go up and down stairs, so this is one of the most important elements to make the sites accessible to more people. Even when there were no ramps, stairs generally had handrails so they were assessed in terms of the appropriateness. Many sites had wooden steps and railings, which have the benefit of being easy to construct and looking more historic; however, the top rail of the handrail is often constructed of a 2x4 or 1x4 board, which is too large for anyone to grip properly. Only two sites had circular handrails; both met the requirements. Twelve sites had non-circular handrails, and only two had appropriate handrails. It was suggested to the rest to add an ADA handrail to the inside of the wooden handrail and/or replace the handrail in their regular maintenance cycle. In addition, when there were handrails, they generally did not extend past the end of the stairs, especially if they were wooden, as they ended in wood posts. If ADA handrails are added to these stairs, they should wrap around the posts at the top and bottom of the stairs.

Doors and Entranceways

Historic buildings were constructed before ADA or any other regulations were created, and thus were made to meet the requirements of the building's site and owner or occupants rather than any national code or regulation. Seventeen sites do not have an accessible main entrance, and nine of those do not have an accessible alternative entrance. It was suggested to them to consider installing a ramp (temporary or permanent), or provide programming in an alternative format such as a mobile display, video, or separate building. Two sites are planning on constructing an accessible visitors' center, including restrooms; one already has an accessible visitors' center. These buildings can provide programming and displays in an accessible location.

Of the sites that do not have an accessible main entrance, some of them had secondary entrances that could be made accessible, so the interiors were still assessed on appropriateness for wheelchair accessibility. ADA includes other disabilities as well, so even if the sites were not and likely could not be made wheelchair accessible, they were assessed on other aspects of the checklist.

Most (23) doorways of the historic sites were larger than 32", but the thresholds of these doorways were generally not ADA compliant. If the entrances were to be made accessible through the use of ramps or other options, the thresholds would need to be taken into account as well. One site is a one-story building but uses temporary ramps at a low angle to get wheelchairs over the threshold. Depending on the space inside and outside of the building and the angle of the ramp, this is a viable alternative to a permanent alteration to the threshold. Otherwise, the Secretary of Interior Standards recommends adding to thresholds to create less of a vertical height difference rather than permanently altering original historic fabric to create the correct angle.

The door hardware of historic sites varies greatly, and hardware contributes to the historic character of the buildings. Especially where the hardware is original, it is not recommended to replace them, but there are alternatives. Many of the buildings are only open occasionally for events or open houses. If the doors remain open, then the hardware type, height, and door opening space are not relevant. If it is not feasible for doors to remain open, staff or volunteers can be on hand to open doors for visitors. A more permanent solution would be to install electronic door openers. The most common type of hardware that is not ADA compliant is a knob,



Temporary ramps over the threshold at the Village Green Schoolhouse in Aston

but a few have a lever or latch type of hardware, which are compliant. The locks on the doors, which are primarily for staff or volunteers, were not found to be ADA compliant.

Access to Goods and Services (Interiors)

Directly inside the entrances, many sites had rugs or mats to prevent outside dirt from spreading through the building. For the most part, these were the correct height (less than ½" thick), but many were not secured at the edges and created tripping hazards. These were noted in the recommendations to secure them better or replace them with appropriate rugs.

On the interior, even if at least one entrance could be made accessible, sometimes different levels inside the building made the whole of the main floor inaccessible. In addition, about half (16) of the buildings were on more than one floor, so the upper levels, with one exception, were not accessible. On these occasions, it was also recommended that displays of the second floors were provided to visitors at an accessible location, either on the first floor or visitors' center, or via a video. One site is a former school which had internal lifts to be fully accessible on different levels.

Very few sites had signs for permanent rooms or spaces and none had braille or raised letters although most had contrasting text and backgrounds when they did have signs. It was more often that the displays had signs rather than the rooms, and those could be provided in an alternative format such as an audio tour, braille, or tour guide.



Interior stair lift at the Roosevelt Community Center, home of Middletown Township Historical Society

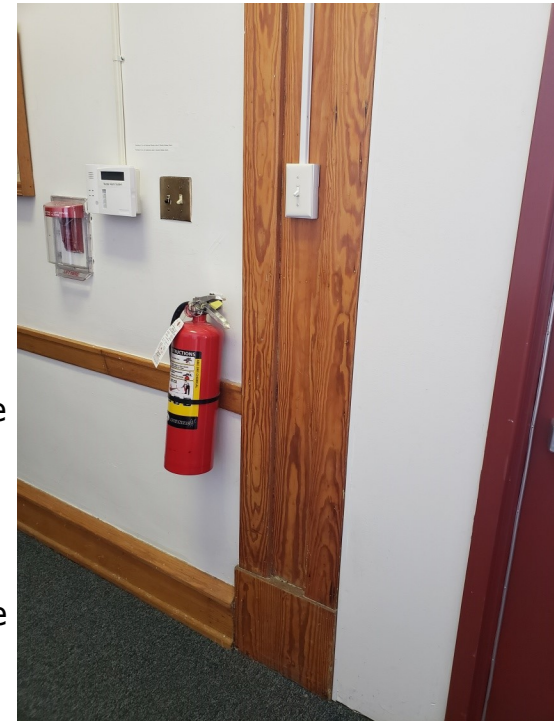
Inside the historic buildings, the doors were usually kept open, which reduced the issues regarding door hardware, opening swing and maneuvering clearance, but four did not meet the 32" minimum for the doorways for wheelchairs. Several buildings were one-room buildings, so it was not applicable, but for the rest, it was recommended to keep the doors open and assist the wheelchair users, or make the artifacts inside the room available elsewhere. It was not recommended to widen doorways, which would be a costly and complicated project and adversely affect the historic integrity of the building. The other issue besides doorway width was thresholds between rooms. Mostly there were little or no thresholds, but occasionally there were some original wooden

thresholds that were not ADA compliant. Rugs were sometimes used as a temporary solution to create a slight ramp, but otherwise they were left plain.

Light switches were typically only used by staff and volunteers, and only in the restrooms were they used by the general public. The location of the switches varied – most were non compliant (generally too high), but some buildings with multiple switches had them at inconsistent levels. The historic buildings were often retrofitted with electric and other systems in a time prior to the Americans with Disabilities Act, so they were often placed without consideration for accessibility. In addition, even if the light switch was at the correct height, furniture and other items blocked the access to the switch. The majority of the switches were able to be operated without tight grasping, as they were just typical light switches. It was recommended for the sites that were not compliant to move the switches the next time the building would be rewired. Some wires and switches were in conduit tubes, which would be easier to move, but most were internal to the walls, which would require more extensive alteration.

Occasionally the historic sites, especially if they were used by a historical society, had tables and seating for visitors to do research or attend meetings. Generally, they had at least one seat that could be used for a wheelchair, and recommendations were given to the rest – these usually involved replacing tables or moving furniture to allow for wheelchair users to access a different part of the table. Two sites had auditorium seating, usually with benches rather than individual seats. Accessible seating could be provided at either the top or the bottom of the slope by moving benches. Neither had a designated spot, but the benches were movable, so wheelchairs could be accommodated easily.

Some of the sites had gift shops or other site-specific features regarding access to goods and services. The gift shops were often put into extra spaces in the historic buildings, as part of other exhibits, and not in a purpose-built space. Recommendations were provided to make these spaces compliant, or to have a mobile gift shop which could be brought to accessible locations.



Light switches and fire extinguisher at appropriate heights at the Roosevelt Community Center in Middletown

Restrooms

With regards to restrooms, four sites did not have a public restroom; the rest were split 50/50 regarding accessibility, with regards to whether they were on the first floor. Some were on the second floor or in a basement without exterior access. For the purposes of this audit, it was assumed that access to the building would be addressed first, and then access to the restroom, so the ones on the first floor 'could' be accessible if the building's needs were met.

Only one restroom was fully compliant with the ADA standards, but seven were only lacking in one feature. Many questions on the checklist that related to specific types of restrooms such as stalls, were not relevant to most sites. The vast majority of sites only had one unisex powder room available to the public, if they had one at all. For the sites that did not have any restroom or had an inaccessible restroom (on a different floor or one that could not be changed), it was recommended to create an accessible restroom in a different building, or in an addition, or at the very least have an accessible porta potty during public events.



Accessible stall in an accessible restroom at the CAAT Center and Market Place in Chester, a former factory, later an adult day care center

Even if restrooms were not wheelchair accessible, the restrooms were surveyed for compliance, with the caveat that most of the checklist was in relation to wheelchair accessibility and were not applicable. Only two sites had a sign at an inaccessible restroom (most only had one restroom in total, so it was not relevant). All of the buildings with accessible restrooms had accessible routes to the restrooms, and all of those also had doorways at least 32" wide. Many of the restrooms had doors that swung in, and recommendations were given to have them swing out, to allow for greater movement inside the restroom, regardless of whether it was wheelchair accessible. Guests with walkers or canes might require greater maneuverability and not be able to squeeze in a space between the door and the fixtures.

The majority of door hardware to restrooms were knob-types, so it was recommended to change the hardware, if possible, to a lever type. Door locks were another matter- none of the restrooms had accessible locks. A few doors were not easy to open, requiring more than 5lb of force, measured using a door pressure gauge. It was recommended to adjust the hinges on them or

add automatic door openers (all newer doors on non-historic restrooms). These were restrooms that were otherwise mostly ADA compliant, so the ability to enter into the restroom in a wheelchair is especially important.

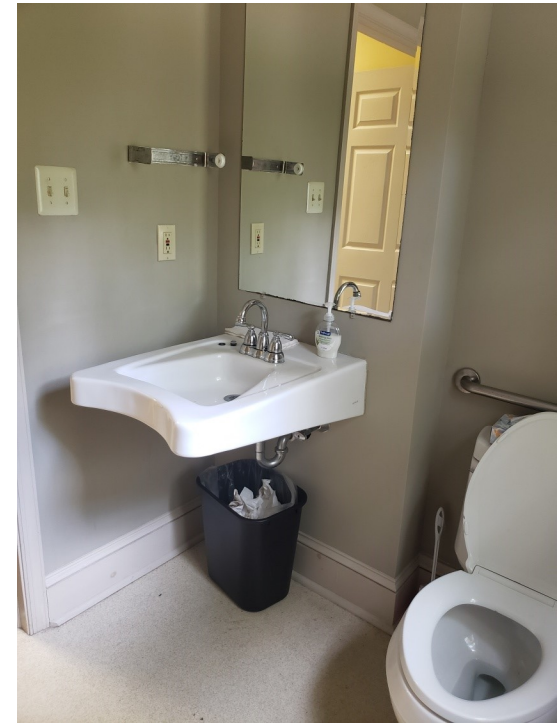
About half of the restrooms did not have a clear path to each fixture, but of the ones that were considered 'accessible' and had both a clear path to the entrance and a wide enough doorway, all but one had a wide enough path internally in the restroom.

With regards to the fixtures, it was acknowledged that the restrooms that were not wheelchair accessible did not necessarily need all of the requirements for the sinks and toilets as indicated to allow for clearance for wheelchairs. Therefore, about half did have the required clear floor space for a wheelchair; three of the 'accessible' ones did not have the required floor space. The heights of sinks varied, as did the depths. Many sinks were on vanities, which did not allow any leg room underneath, but therefore had the pipes covered to prevent contact. The rest allowed for leg room but were mostly not insulated or covered to prevent contact. In all cases, recommendations were made to replace or change what was lacking.

Regardless of the wheelchair accessibility, the faucets were measured for the amount of pressure required to activate it and for the type of faucet. Many were knob-type, which require tight grasping and twisting to turn it on. Of all of the restrooms, half had a type of faucet that was ADA compliant. The rest might just need adjustment to make it easier to turn, or a replacement of the faucet.

Soap and paper towel dispensers varied greatly; most were on the back of the sink or toilet, but were therefore the right height for wheelchair users even if the restroom was not otherwise accessible. Only the few restrooms that were more modern had hand dryers; most of the rest had paper or cloth towels.

Regarding the toilet, half were not the correct height (which is important for wheelchair users as well as people with other mobility issues that have trouble bending), and more than half were not positioned well in relation to the side wall, either too close or too far away. Of the 'accessible' restrooms, two were not the right height and six were not in the right position. The majority of toilets did not have grab bars, or if they did, they were not always compliant, but could be easily adjusted. One site had a temporary/portable grab bar that hooked behind



Accessible men's restroom at Douglass Cottage, home of the Thornbury Historical Society

the toilet seat, so that could be an option for those restrooms without an appropriate wall, or where it is not desired to install bars on a historic wall. While not completely compliant, it is better than nothing.

The location and style of the toilet paper dispenser varied greatly. Several were just located on the back of the toilet, which could be awkward for people who have trouble twisting their back or arms. Others were on dispensers that were not securely attached to the wall or floor. While this allows for flexibility in location, it does not usually allow for continuous paper flow and can be easily knocked over out of reach. This was the easiest aspect to change as they are inherently temporary and adjustable and was something the building users could change without requiring professional assistance or funds.

While it was not technically part of the checklist, the height of the light switches were measured in the restrooms, as that is the switch that most members of the public would be using (usually volunteers or staff would turn on display room switches). Many light switches were not placed at the correct height, so it was recommended to change that when rewiring or doing other renovations, especially if the restroom was otherwise wheelchair accessible.



Emergency lights at Nitre Hall, home of the Haverford Township Historical Society

Most of the sites did not have drinking fountains (one did), none had public telephones, but almost all had some kind of fire alarm system. However, only 5 had both flashing lights and audible signals. Most were just simple smoke alarms, if they had any alarm at all. Sometimes the flashing lights were required by the Township's insurance, as most buildings were municipally-owned. It is recognized that if there was a fire, that (especially deaf) guests would be located and escorted out by the volunteers or staff, but it is always a good idea to have smoke alarms linked to an alarm company to save these historic buildings.

Summary

All of the buildings had room for improvement, some of which were easier to accomplish than others. Most recommendations were given in the form of 'when replacing ____, replace it with an ADA compliant one' so that they would factor it into their future budgets. Some were given as more immediate, easier to rectify, recommendations, such as toilet paper holders, securing rugs, portable ADA parking signs, and creating a mobile display case.

A photograph of a small, white, single-story building with a bell tower, decorated for autumn with corn stalks and American flags. The building has a gabled roof and a small bell tower on top. The entrance is covered by a small porch with a triangular pediment. There are two windows on either side of the entrance, each with wooden shutters. The building is surrounded by trees and a lawn. A car is parked on the right side. The text "Section 4: RESOURCES" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Section 4: RESOURCES

Introduction

Accessibility at historic sites is important to ensure that all visitors feel welcomed and are able to experience the site and understand the stories that are being told. Historic buildings have unique challenges with physical access compared to modern buildings, so they require unique solutions. Each site is also unique and what might work for a house museum might not work for a historic farmstead. Historical societies and groups that manage the sites are encouraged to review their available resources (staff/volunteers, funding, capacity, etc.) and decide what works best for their site. It is not expected that every site become 100% accessible; however, reasonable accommodations should be made by all sites. The following pages provide resources for achieving the recommendations provided in the accessibility audits and guidelines.

For assistance in utilizing these resources and making ADA Accessibility improvements to historic sites, please contact the Planning Department at 610-891-5200 or Planning_Department@co.delaware.pa.us.

Partnerships (local organizations)

Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA) — www.delcosa.org/home Provides information and support for older adults and people with disabilities. It also includes an organization search to find local organizations on a variety of topics.

Delaware County Department of Human Services — delcohsa.org Provides services to children, youth, adults, and families with special needs.

Mid-Atlantic ADA Center — www.adainfo.org Provides information, guidance, and training on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), tailored to meet the needs of businesses, government entities, organizations, and individuals in the Mid-Atlantic Region (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, and WV).

Liberty Resources - Allentown — libertyresources.org Center for Independent Living in Philadelphia, which advocates for and works with Persons with Disabilities to ensure their civil rights and equal access to all aspects of life in the community. Has resources for ASL interpretation and instruction, advocacy and other services.

Deaf Hearing Communication Center (DHCC) — dhcc.org Advocates for and promotes equal communication access, educational service, cultural awareness and economic development to the Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing populations in the greater Philadelphia region and surrounding areas.

Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired — cbvi.net Helps individuals to prevent, prepare for and adapt to vision loss in order to achieve independence.

PAAutism/ASERT — paautism.org/community-members Resources for community members regarding autism

Philly Autism Project — www.phillyautismproject.org Supports and connects autistic individuals and their families in Philadelphia using resources and through innovative programs.

Art-Reach/ Access Cards — www.art-reach.org Art-Reach is a non-profit organization that creates connections between the disability community and the cultural arts through advocacy, trainings, consulting, community partnerships, and programming.

Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter — www.alz.org/delval Through its network of staff and volunteers, the Chapter offers a broad range of free programs and services, funding for Alzheimer's and dementia research, and advocacy efforts on behalf of those across the region.

Also contact your local nursing home or retirement community. They may have staff or residents that can provide feedback on accessibility and organize trips to visit your site.

Funding

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) — delcopa.gov/hcd/cdbg.html Apply as a non-profit or through municipality. Funding is available for historic preservation and ADA improvements to public buildings.

HistoricFunding.com — historicfunding.com Organizations would need a paid subscription to view/ apply. The funding database includes money and financial resources for restoring old homes, historic commercial buildings, theaters, schools, government buildings and other structures.

Inspire! Grants for Small Museums — www.imls.gov/grants/available/inspire-grants-small-museums A special initiative of the Museums for America program. It is designed to support small museums of all disciplines in project-based efforts to serve the public through exhibitions, educational/interpretive programs, digital learning resources, policy development and institutional planning, technology enhancements, professional development, community outreach, audience development, and/or collections management, curation, care, and conservation.

Keystone Historic Preservation Construction Grants — www.pa.gov/services/phmc/apply-for-keystone-historic-preservation-construction-grants.html Funding for non-profits and municipalities on National Register Listed or Eligible buildings, 50/50 match.

Museums for America — www.imls.gov/grants/available/museums-america Supports museums of all sizes and disciplines in strategic, project-based efforts to serve the public through exhibitions, educational/interpretive programs, digital learning resources, professional development, community debate and dialogue, audience-focused studies, and/or collections management, curation, care, and conservation.

Pennsylvania GrantWatch — pennsylvania.grantwatch.com/cat/7/disabilities-grants.html Organizations would need a paid subscription to view/ apply, but includes grants not typically known to historical groups

Save America's Treasures — www.imls.gov/grants/available/save-americas-treasures Includes Preservation ("bricks and mortar") projects for National Register Listed sites or National Historic Landmarks and Collections projects.

Wells Fargo Trust Philanthropic Services Private Foundations — www.wellsfargo.com/private-foundations Walter J. Miller; Leo Niessen, Jr.; Caroline J.S. Sanders (1&2); Anna B. Glauser; Howell Lockhart Seiple; Mary Gourlay Trusts; & Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund.

*Note– Preservation grant (Keystone, SAT, etc.) applications are more likely to succeed if part of a larger preservation/rehabilitation project, not just for ADA improvements

Training

Many of the organizations listed as potential partners also provide training in the form of webinars, support groups or other in-person training. The ones listed below are out of the area but still provide good resources to learn more about specific subjects.

Great Lakes ADA Center webinars — www.accessibilityonline.org/ao Accessibility Online- Multiple webinars, both archived and future, on a variety of ADA topics including historic buildings.

Accessibility.com — www.accessibility.com/events Webinar Series about multiple topics, especially digital accessibility.

References

ADA Law

ADA Title III Technical Assistance Manual

www.ada.gov/resources/title-iii-manual

ADA Compliance legal examples

www.karlinlaw.com/ada-accessibility-law

Disability Justice

MASS Action (American Alliance of Museums) — Participating museums will act and build on commitments to equity and social change, creating more inclusive practices in their own institutions and the field at large. This site will act as a central point for resources, learning, and communication between institutions engaging in this important work.

www.aam-us.org/2021/07/01/accessibility-resources/

Disability Justice: An audit tool

www.northwesthealth.org/djaudittool

General Accessibility

Southwest ADA — The Southwest's leading resource on ADA and disability rights laws. It includes a huge section of national disability resources and lots of webinars and publications on a variety of topics related to disability. While it is focused on the Southwest US, it does include information relevant to all states.

www.southwestada.org/index.html

Hospitality & Disability — Film about serving customers with disabilities.

www.adainfo.org/hospitality/at-your-service

ADA at Museums

Tips for Creating Accessible Museums: Universal Design and Universal Design for Learning- The implementation of universal design (UD) and universal design for learning (UDL) allows museums to acknowledge and embrace diverse audiences with a variety of ability levels.

www.aam-us.org/2023/11/27/tips-for-creating-accessible-museums-universal-design-and-universal-design-for-learning

The Art of Access: A Practical Guide for Museum Accessibility by Heather Pressman and Danielle Schulz acts as a helpful starting point for museums to integrate accessibility initiatives.

www.bloomsbury.com/us/art-of-access-9781538130513/

IMLS — Accessibility Resources for Museums and Libraries

www.imls.gov/issues/national-issues-priorities/accessibility-resources-museums-and-libraries

Museum Assessment Program (MAP) — MAP offers museums an opportunity to strengthen operations and plan for the future through year-long process of self-assessment and consultative peer review.

www.imls.gov/grants/available/museum-assessment-program-map

Accessible Exhibition Design

www.sifacilities.si.edu/sites/default/files/Files/Accessibility/accessible-exhibition-design1.pdf

Ingenium Accessibility Standards for Exhibitions

accessibilitycanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Accessibility-Standards-for-Exhibitions.pdf

Prime Access Consulting — Accessibility consultant for museum exhibitions and websites

pac.bz

Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator's Handbook

www.arts.gov/about/publications/design-accessibility-cultural-administrators-handbook

ADA at Historic Sites

An Accessible Past: Making Historic Sites Accessible edited by Heather Pressman helps historic sites overcome barriers to accessibility by clarifying what historic sites must do in order to be legally compliant. DCPD has a copy available for Delaware County historic sites to borrow.

www.bloomsbury.com/us/accessible-past-9781538168264/

“What Historic Sites Have Learned After 25 Years With ADA”

engagingplaces.net/2015/07/28/what-historic-sites-have-learned-after-25-years-with-ada

National Park Service Brief 32: Making Historic Properties Accessible

www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/preservation-brief-32-accessibility.pdf

Accommodation of Disabled Visitors at Historic Sites in the National Park System. Ballantyne, Duncan S. and Harold Russell Associates, Inc. Washington, D.C.: Park Historic Architecture Division, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1983.

www.google.com/books/edition/Accommodation_of_Disabled_Visitors_at_Hi/dDBVPwJ8TfcC?hl=en&gbpv=0

Provide Accessibility For Historic Buildings. Whole Building Design Guide. WBDG Historic Preservation Subcommittee. Updated May 8, 2023.

www.wbdg.org/do/preservation/provide-accessibility

Design Guidelines for the Visual Environment. National Institute of Building Sciences. May 11, 2015.

nibs.org/design-guidelines-for-the-visual-environment/

Materials (Companies are provided as examples, not necessarily recommendations)

Ramps

Ramp Calculator — Calculate how long a ramp must be to comply with ADA requirements

www.omnicalculator.com/construction/ramp-slope

Degrees to Slope ratio — (use with phone app Bubble Level or other degree measuring device)

www.1728.org/gradient.htm

Portable and threshold ramps —

vivamobilityusa.com/collections/wheelchair-ramps

ezaccess.com/collections/portable-ramps

accessibleconstruction.com/pages/ramps

Threshold ramps — temporary rubber/metal

expressramps.com/threshold-ramps

Flex Step (steps to vertical platform lift)

www.101mobility.com/products/flexstep-by-liftup/

Stair Trac Wheelchair Lift (purchase or rent)

accessibleconstruction.com/products/stair-trac-wheelchair-lift

Paths

Accessible Brick Pavements

www.gobrick.com/media/file/14e-accessible-clay-brick-pavements.pdf

Resin Bound/ Resin Bonded pavements

www.coregravel.ca/core-foundations/solepave

Principles of Accessibility Design for Landscape Architecture

www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Practice/Research_Reports/ASLA_Research_Accessibility_2022.pdf

Doors and doorways

Offset door hinges

travelwheelchair.net/collections/accessories/products/swing-clear-door-hinge

Self closing hinges (and detailed information about ADA requirements for doors)

watersonusa.com/solutions/adadoor

Historic appearance door hardware– levers

www.historichouseparts.com/hardware/door-hardware/door-knobs-and-levers/levers

www.build.com/product/s505525?uid=1793620

Thresholds– 1/2” high maximum

www.hartfordbuildingproducts.com/collections/ada-thresholds-aluminum-and-solid-wood

Restrooms

Sink Faucets (choose lever type, not knobs)

www.historichouseparts.com/bathroom/faucets/sink-faucets/centreset-faucets

Toilets (choose chair height)

www.historichouseparts.com/bathroom/toilets-urinals-parts/traditional-toilets

Non-mobility disabilities

Blind/ Low-vision

Products and technology to assist people who are blind and low vision

www.aph.org/accessibility-solutions

Accessibility Programs for People with Vision Impairments at the Art Institute of Chicago

www.arts.gov/stories/magazine/2015/1/challenging-notions-accessibility-and-arts/touch-and-see

The Accessible Expressions Ohio exhibit featured 3D replicas of sculptures

www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org/about/blog/making-3d-prints-part-of-the-museum-experience

d/Deaf

How 5 Leading Museums Approach Accessibility and ASL Year-round

www.aam-us.org/2024/05/17/celebrating-deaf-culture-how-5-leading-museums-approach-accessibility-and-asl-year-round

Accessible Communications Guidelines

www.aam-us.org/2021/07/01/accessible-communications-guidelines

American Art Talks with ASL at the Smithsonian American Art Museum

americanart.si.edu/videos/art-signs-american-art-talks-asl-154402

Autism/sensory

Brandywine River Museum of Art's Sensory Friendly Programs

www.brandywine.org/museum/accessibility/sensory-friendly-programs

Intrepid Museum's Accessibility Tools & Making History Accessible: Toolkit for Multisensory Interpretation

intrepidmuseum.org/resources/accessibility-tools

List of Autism Friendly Activities

www.belikebuddy.com/pennsylvania

Lewisburg Children's Museum's Sensory Friendly Family Night

www.lewisburgchildrensmuseum.org/module/class/465788/sensory-friendly-family-night

NY Transit Museum's Access Programs

www.nytransitmuseum.org/learn/accessprograms

Dementia/ Alzheimer's

Museum of Modern Art– Exhibit about Veterans and art

www.moma.org/explore/inside_out/2011/11/11/inked-identity-moma-honors-veterans

Museum of Modern Art's Alzheimer's Project

www.moma.org/visit/accessibility/meetme

ARTZ Philly

www.artzphilly.org

Dementia Friendly PA– resources and dementia-friendly events

www.dementiafriendlypa.org

Other Considerations

Websites

AccessWorks- Connects businesses with users to test websites for accessibility

access-works.com/index.php

Recruiting Accessibility Testers with Disabilities

www.accessibility.com/blog/recruiting-accessibility-testers-with-disabilities

Accessibility Checklist

romeo.elsevier.com/accessibility_checklist

Access Guide- Visual version of checklist

www.accessguide.io

Contrast Ratio tester for colors in digital and print media

www.siegemedia.com/contrast-ratio

Making Design Elements Accessible– Fonts, Colors, Alt Text

accessibility.uncg.edu/make-content-accessible/design-elements

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, an international set of standards for website accessibility

www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag

Use axe and WebAIM to test for problems

www.deque.com/axe

webaim.org

Alternative (Alt) Text guide

webaim.org/techniques/alttext

Videos/ Virtual Tours

Matterport- The National Park Service and other museums use Matterport to create 3D tours

matterport.com/discover

Virtual Tour of the Faerie Playhouse

lgbtarchiveslouisiana.org/virtual-tour-of-the-faerie-playhouse

Portable Exhibits

Brick Store Museum Mobile Exhibits

www.brickstoremuseum.org/mobileexhibitprogram

Portable showcase with locks

www.specialtystoreservices.com/product.aspx?category=5650

