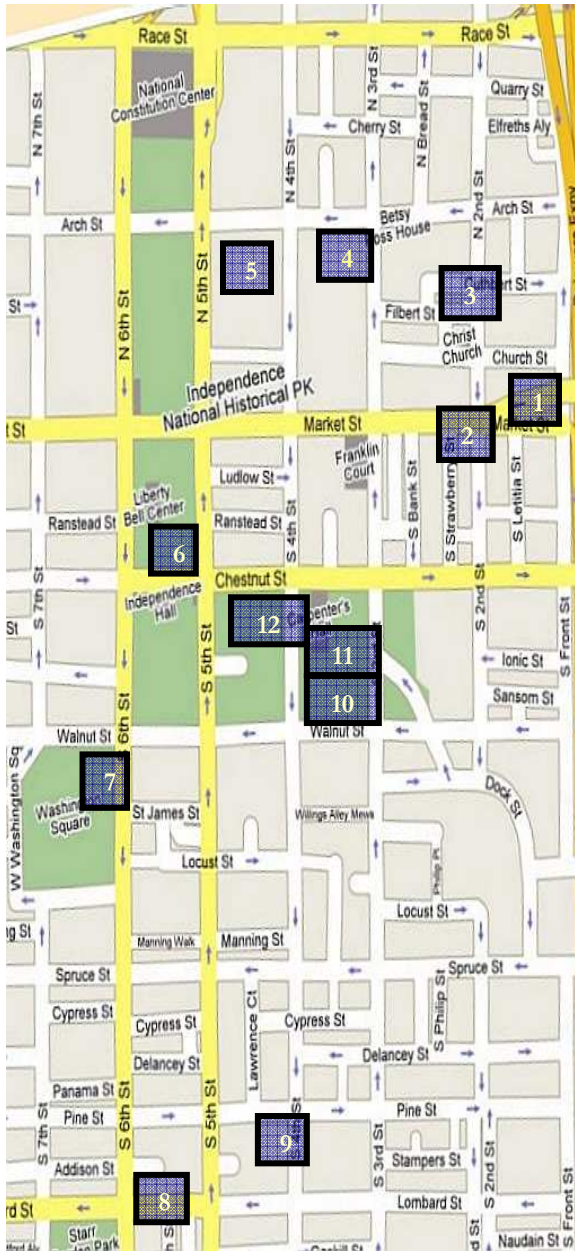


Navigating the Web



10) BENJAMIN RUSH HOUSE

(WALNUT & 3RD)

Benjamin Rush, known to many as the “father of American Psychiatry” is the most celebrated physician of this era in American history. He is the only Philadelphia doctor among the signers of the Declaration of Independence. During the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793, Rush distinguished himself by his severe method of treatment (which involved bleeding and purging) for Philadelphians of all walks of life.



11) THE BACKYARD GARDEN

(INDEPENDENCE PARK)

Healing in the 18th century often took place entirely within the

home. Women, who were typically the primary overseers of their family’s health, often maintained medicinal herb gardens. On the occasions when a condition was deemed serious enough to call in a doctor, his prescriptions often entailed the herbs grown commonly in women’s backyard gardens.



12) AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, LIBRARY HALL

(LIBRARY AND 5TH)

In the 18th century “science” was known as “natural philosophy.” Modeled after similar learned societies in Europe, prominent Philadelphians founded the American Philosophical Society (APS) as a site for the celebration and collection of scientific knowledge. It exists today as an archive for scholarly research focusing on materials relating to the history of science, medicine and technology. APS is among a number of unparalleled archival resources for historical research in Philadelphia.

In Search of Health

A WALKING TOUR THROUGH 18th-CENTURY PHILADELPHIA



WELCOME to 18th-Century Philadelphia and our Web of Healing Walking Tour!

This pamphlet is meant to guide you through the web of health and healing that characterized the landscape of early Philadelphia. **THIS** will introduce you to Philadelphia’s rich medical heritage as you learn about how a diverse group of Philadelphians — elite doctors, quacks, apothecaries, African Americans, Native Americans, women, midwives, and religious healers — dealt with health and illness.

JUST as a historical view of medicine is often one-dimensional, healing today is often seen as strictly the providence of biomedicine. A social history of healing in the 18th century challenges the accuracy of this perspective . . . both historically and for today.

RECONSIDER what it meant to be in search of health in the 18th century and what voices demand to be heard in telling this history. Enjoy the experience!



Sketch of *Cornus florida*, by Benjamin Smith Barton, courtesy of the American Philosophical Society.

In Search of Health: A Walking Tour Guide

To learn more about healing in 18th-century Philadelphia, visit the web at: www.pachs.net/exhibits/web_of_healing



1) INTERSECTION OF FRONT & MARKET STREETS

This intersection was a center for Philadelphia commerce and trade. Ships in the port located at Front Street traveled between Europe and the Caribbean to exchange goods (like coffee) and to transport people (both free and slave). In the process it helped to bring ideas to Philadelphia from all over the world. On the site now stands a statue of a Lenape chief to commemorate the relatively friendly relations between the Quaker settlers and the Native Americans.



2) LOWER MARKET ST.* (BETWEEN FRONT & 2ND)

Until 1854 Market Street was known as High Street but as its current name suggests, the blocks surrounding it were the center of commercial activity in Philadelphia. Here Philadelphians could find services ranging from those of their local apothecary to elite doctors to the latest colorful nostrum peddler.



3) CHRIST CHURCH (N.W. CORNER OF 2ND & MARKET)

Founded in 1695, by 1726 it had over 800 parishioners. The building that stands today was built in 1727. Many important Philadelphians worshipped here, from Benjamin Franklin to Absalom Jones.



4) QUAKER MEETING HOUSE (4TH & ARCH)

Quakers were among the most prominent physicians in 18th-century America and Europe. Since involvement in politics and war was against Quaker doctrine, however, this served as a point of contention between the orthodox and more civic-minded Quakers during the Revolutionary period. Until 1804, when the current meeting house was built, Quakers worshiped at 2nd & Market Street.



5) CHRIST CHURCH BURIAL GROUND (5TH & ARCH)

Franklin, along with several other prominent Philadelphia physicians such as Philip Syng Physick, Benjamin Rush, and Thomas Bond, is buried here. There are believed to be upwards of 4,000 Philadelphians buried here, the names of whom only 1,400 are known.



6) INDEPENDENCE HALL (5TH & CHESTNUT)

Aside from housing America's first government, Independence Hall was also home to some of Philadelphia's earliest public medical lectures. In 1793, during the infamous yellow fever epidemic, President Washington and the Congress fled the city, along with thousands of other Philadelphians. Across the street, the present site of the Liberty Bell was used as a holding area for slaves before slavery was banned.



7) WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK* (WALNUT & 6TH)

Originally known as South-east Square, this spot was initially used as a Potter's field and burial ground for the poor. It later served as a mass gravesite for American soldiers who died during the Revolutionary War. At the end of the 18th century it was once again opened up for mass graves during a devastating yellow fever epidemic. Many of the most prominent medical publishing houses were located along the Park.



8) MOTHER BETHEL CHURCH (ADDISON & 6TH)

This site is the oldest piece of land owned by African Americans in the U.S. It was originally purchased by Bishop Richard Allen, a freed slave who bought his own freedom in 1786. Allen, along with many of Philadelphia's African Americans, played an important role in helping to deal with the sick during the 1793 yellow fever epidemic.



9) "OLD PINE" PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PINE BETWEEN 4TH & 5TH)

The original church built on this site was erected in 1768, but has been rebuilt several times. The version that stands today was built in 1857. During the Revolutionary War in which the American colonies fought against Britain for their independence, British soldiers occupied this church – using it first to stable their horses and later, as a hospital.

* This view of Philadelphia was created by Thomas Birch, an 18th-century Philadelphia artist. Image courtesy of the American Philosophical Society