

DOWNTOWN LANCASTER WALK

Saturday, November 13, 2004

8:30 AM – Noon

Meet around south entrance to Central Market

The downtown walk that I announced about three weeks ago is definitely on. In fact, I have 17 people who have given me a definite that they plan to take the entire walk and a few more who expressed interest but I'm not sure that they were confirming that they would be walking. If you'd like to join the walk, send a quick reply to let me know.

If at all possible, do plan to stay with the group for lunch. Aroma Borealis will be expecting us. I have their menu, and we'll call in a sandwich order around 10 AM so that we won't overwhelm them when we arrive. I'd like to have a discussion during lunch about what direction our group should take in the future.

Here are the final plans:

After meeting at Central Market (8:30 AM) and sharing a fresh loaf of Ric's cinnamon bread with coffee or tea, we'll walk north on Queen, then turn east on Grant, pass the newly opened Character's Pub and see some examples of old warehouses that have been converted to office and residential space. There's an empty four story building en route that already has three lovely sun porches. Could a good architect and a half million (well, maybe a million) and some imagination make this into assisted living units for those of us who will live long enough to require such amenities?

Grant Street T's on Shippen, and right around the corner, we'll make our first house visit at the home of Mimi Shapiro and Paul Engleheart. A block north, we'll stop to see the Hooper Peifers, then walk around Musser Park to the home of John and Theresa Herr at 209 East Chestnut Street. This is a clean up day in the park, so we'll each pick up a couple pieces of token trash.

Back to Shippen, then one-half block north (great condos in a renovated warehouse) and a turn west on the alley (Fulton Street?) to walk past Rosenwald Court (formerly the Farmers' Supply building). There's a little surprise just before you get to Rosenwald. At the end of the alley, we'll turn right on Lime, then make a left on Walnut. 2 ½ blocks later, a right onto North Market will take us past the former Lancaster Storage Building. We can muse about development potential of this structure.

Turn left on Lemon, walk a short distance, then enter the Linear Park (former Conrail line) to take us up to James Street. Watch for some warehouses along the part that may have potential. Around the corner on Mulberry Street we'll make a quick stop at Pemberly Tea Shop that opened this past January (another great warehouse just south of the tea shop). We'll be welcomed there for tea or just for a minute to look around. Back to James Street and a walk to 418, the home of the Nissley's. They won't be home, but they've welcomed us to walk to the back of their house to see some ramps that they have built for wheelchair accessibility. They've extended a standing invitation for a visit inside the house to see a chair lift that they recently installed.

Back to Lemon Street on Lancaster Avenue and a quick detour to Mandros International Foods on the corner of Charlotte and Lemon. The Mandros' will be waiting for us with a tray of cheeses to sample and an imported Italian orange drink as

accompaniment. We re-trace our steps back to Lancaster Avenue and then head south to the 300 block to the home of the Gehman-Deans. Theirs is a relatively small town house, and with two young children they are feeling the need for more space. (Who knows, they may accept an offer!) The homes in the 200 block of Lancaster are larger and grander. Del and Mary Friesen Seitz will welcome us for a visit in their house.

Two blocks east on Chestnut will bring us back to Mulberry. David and Carmen Garcia Hommel have welcomed us to see their great backyard patio.

If time permits and there is interest, we can take a side trip off Mulberry on West Grant Street and walk the block between Charlotte and Mary. There are some old warehouses on the north side of this block that could have development potential.

We can return to the heart of downtown by going east on Grant, Orange or King.

We'll have lunch at Aroma Borealis in the Central Market Mall (?)

It should be about a 2 ½ mile walk.

I will collect a small fee to cover the costs of the food we eat along the way. Lunch will be on your own but I hope that all who take the walk will be able stay together for lunch.