



MHEP Bus Tour

# Harrisburg, the Capital City and the Capitol Complex

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's capital, stands on the east bank of the Susquehanna River, in Dauphin County. Pioneer John Harris established a port and ferry at this crossroads of Indian and pioneer travel in 1718. Harris' son laid-out the village in 1785, hoping it might become the state's capital. Indeed, Harrisburg was chosen as the third capital of the Commonwealth in 1812. Philadelphia had been the first, Lancaster the second. The MHEP will be offering a tour to our capital city on Thursday, April 10.

Sites to be visited include the Governor's residence, the Capitol complex (Capitol building, William Penn Museum, State Archives) and the Mennonite Training Center for the Youth Evangelism Service program (YES) sponsored by Eastern Mennonite Missions.

Governor's Residence This 28,600 square foot mansion is a two and one-half story brick Georgian style residence located on three beautifully landscaped acres providing a panoramic view of the Susquehanna. Each of the rooms in the residence, which was built in 1968, reflects Pennsylvania's history through antiques, artwork and decorative objects.

William Penn Museum The State Museum, established in 1905, covers all aspects of Pennsylvania history and is therefore a comprehensive professional museum. It is the only museum where one can experience the full expanse of the state's heritage and its connections to the national experience. Its four floors have numerous outstanding exhibits.

State Archives The 18 story Archives building is, next to the capitol dome, the tallest building in the capitol complex. Dr. David Haury, a Mennonite and graduate of Bethel College, has been serving as the State Archivist and Director of Archives and History since December 2004. David will greet us and have on display some early Mennonite related documents from their collection of 210 million documents going back to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. David currently serves on the Board of the Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust.

The Capitol Building President Theodore Roosevelt, speaking at the dedication of the new \$13 million dollar building, on October 4, 1906, called it "the handsomest building I ever saw". Its five story exterior is faced with handsome Vermont granite, and the roof is composed of green glazed terra cotta tile. The capitol's centerpiece is a spectacular 272-foot, 52 million-pound dome inspired by Michelangelo's design for St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The interior reflects Greek, Roman and Victorian influences in its art and ornamentation. The Capitol building includes the chambers of the House of Representatives, the State Senate, as well as the Office of the Governor and the Supreme Court chamber. (NOTE: All visitors to the State Capitol will be processed through metal detectors. All bags and packages will be x-rayed and are subject to hand inspection)

Mennonite Training Center The Lancaster Mennonite Conference through Eastern Mennonite Missions operates a Training Center in Harrisburg for short-term mission workers. This includes those entering the Youth Evangelism Service (YES) as well as Summer Training and Action Teams and other volunteer programs. The tour group will have the opportunity of becoming acquainted with its program which has been in operation since 1996.

The tour fee includes all admission fees, guide services and a gratuity for the bus driver. Lunch will be available in the Capitol cafeteria, however, it is not included in the tour fee. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes as there will be a moderate amount of leisurely walking at each of the sites.

The Hagey Coach will leave the Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, on THURSDAY morning promptly at 7:00 am, boarding at 6:45 am. The tour will return to the same location around 6:30 pm. Your autos may remain parked at the Heritage Center (Mennonite Heritage Center will not accept responsibility for damages done to any automobiles while parked in the parking lot) Deadline for registration is Friday, March 28.

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## Harrisburg, Pa. BusTour Registration Form

Enclosed is a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ persons for the bus tour on Thursday, April 10, 2008.

\_\_\_\_ MHEP Members at \$55.00 per person

\_\_\_\_ Non-members at \$60.00 per person

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Send reservation with check, payable to MHEP, to the Mennonite Heritage Center, PO Box 82, Harleysville, PA 19438. Telephone 215-256-3020; e-mail [info@mhep.org](mailto:info@mhep.org). The fee is not refundable, but it is transferable for a future bus tour.