

## **Consolidated Themes for Northern Delaware Heritage Network**

Sources: Brandywine Heritage Partnership (1), DE Coastal Heritage Resource Study (2), and Northern DE Heritage Coalition (3). Themes are ranked according to how many sources are represented.

### **ECOLOGY / BIRDING / CONSERVATION (1,2,3)**

Conservation and planning were traditions espoused by Penn and are highly valued today. New Castle County (or DE?) has greatest variety of native plants of any area of comparable size in US – Cypress Swamp, natural areas, birding areas (including Delaware City’s ecotourism initiative). Coastal environment – natural resources of DE provide resource-based recreational opportunities and economic support (crabbing, fishing, swimming, boating).

### **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (1,2,3)**

A Cradle of American Industry---Oliver Evans and the du Pont/Quaker Legacy. The Brandywine and Red Clay as sources of power and drinking water make them irreplaceable resources. The industrious, entrepreneurial spirit of the early settlers later joined by the du Pont family created a significant American industrial legacy making northern DE one of the cradles of the industrial revolution in this country. Diversity of mills in the piedmont and how they contributed to DE’s industrial development and cultural diversity. Relates to religion and cultural diversity themes as well as Underground RR, transportation, and military history (mills & industries that fed the Rev War soldiers and supplied the Civil War troops).

### **MILITARY HISTORY (1,2,3)**

Each source identified a different aspect of military history. SRS has identified the coastal defense system, documenting the collection of fortifications spread along the Delaware River and Bay from Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island to Fort DuPont at Delaware City to Fort Miles near Lewes. Brandywine project has identified the Revolutionary War resources as important: **“An Undefeated Spirit - The Battle of Battle of the Brandywine – the Campaign of 1777.”** Washington’s first major tactical campaign in defense of the young nation included a series of key battles in the Revolutionary War’s Campaign of 1777. General Howe and General Washington fought for control of Philadelphia and the rich industrial and agricultural resources of the Brandywine area. Cooch’s Bridge, W3R sites. The tension between the Quakers and other of their countrymen who did not support a war was balanced by the common quest for freedom of expression. Other key elements of military history include the fortifications of the Swedish and Dutch settlers – Fort Christina.

### **UNDERGROUND RAILROAD (1 – indirectly as part of Quaker heritage, 2, 3)**

Ties into religion theme – Quakers. Also ties into military history (Civil War) and cultural diversity themes. Delaware as last stop to freedom, playing an important role in history of Underground Railroad network. The tension between the northern, industrialized part of the state and the southern, agricultural part of the state and what this meant for the laborers, slave and free (also ties into industrial theme).

### **RELIGION (1,3)**

Quakers: Penn’s Holy Experiment and its overlap with the industrial theme; Presbyterians; Methodists; AME Church & Big Quarterly (ties in with Underground RR and cultural diversity themes); Freemasons (Grand Opera House), Nur Temple, Lombardy Hall

### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY (2,3)**

The multi-cultural appeal of Delaware to a variety of nationalities, including the history of indigenous peoples, which would explore the history of Delaware tribes –Nanticokes and Lenapes. Colonization and

establishment of the frontier, which chronicles the first European settlers in the DE Valley who built fortifications for the protection of settlers, such as at Fort Christina. David Hackett Fisher – Where did the colonials come from? How did the distinct cultures of New England, the Mid-Atlantic and the South evolve?

### **TRANSPORTATION (2, 3)**

Explores how water served as the main transportation link, connecting colonial DE with England, Europe and other colonies. Shipbuilding. Later, during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the railroads (Frenchtown RR). Wilmington as the birthplace of iron ships and Pullman RR car production. Key point – Visitors just “passing through” New Castle County. Conestoga wagons and the Wild West. Lancaster to Wilmington route – transportation was easier via the pikes and water. Aviation (Bellanca). C&D Canal is the NATIONAL waterway.

### **HORTICULTURE / AGRICULTURE (1,3)**

Garden Days, Longwood as the terminus (DE Tourism Office). Horticulture Magazine recognizes Brandywine Valley as nationally significant for its gardens. Horse farms, country estates, granges (Corner Ketch, Concord Pike), “plantations” (Blue Ball property). The unique qualities of the art, architectural and agricultural traditions of the Brandywine Valley are internationally recognized. Agriculture and horticulture remain highly valued for their economic and cultural contributions in both DE and PA. The soils in Chester County (Brandywine) are recognized as some of the best non-irrigated soils in the entire world.

### **SCHOOLS of ART (1, 3)**

Related to the themes of ecology, horticulture and agriculture, as well as landscape architecture – e.g., the Brandywine Valley as a “landscape of inspiration.” Several generations of Wyeths, and Howard Pyle, Felix Darley as important illustrators. Tradition is continued through Charles Parks, Edward Loper. Delaware Art Museum as renowned repository for Bancroft collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings.

### **ARCHITECTURE / LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (1,3)**

There is quite a bit of overlap with the agriculture and horticulture theme, and also with ecology/conservation and industrial development. Estates turned into parklands and preserves. History of suburbanization, including “new urbanism.” Models for the organization of labor as part of industrial “communities.” The development of utopian communities as a backlash against industrialization (e.g., the Ardens).

### **GEOGRAPHY / CLIMATE / TOPOGRAPHY (3 – 2 indirectly through coastal environment)**

Overlaps with many themes, provides overview context. Establishment of Mason-Dixon Line. Piedmont vs. the coastal plain and what that topographic division meant in terms of the development of culture and industry. Relates to harnessing of water power and natural resource use and extraction.

### **EDUCATION (3 – in 2 indirectly related to Founding of the Nation)**

Early days - Academies in Newark and Wilmington. Brown vs. Board of Education landmark Supreme Court decision.

### **FOUNDING OF A NATION (2 only)**

Contributions of Delaware to the development of our Constitutional Republic.