



**Cressona History Walk
 Girl Scout Troop 31088
 Gold Award Project**

#1. Cressona Baseball Field

Cressona's minor league team, the Tigers, played games at the Island Park in Schuylkill Haven until 1920 when they decided to build their own ballpark at Connors Crossing, becoming the first in the area to have heated showers for both teams. It fit up to 1,300 people in the stands. The Tigers at the time had the lowest annual salary of any regional baseball team at \$8,000 a year yet won the championship for the area. The team would later challenge the champions of all thirteen Pennsylvania regional baseball teams and won every one, with nine shutout victories.

#2. Bethany Christian Fellowship Church

The church started with the preachings of Jacob Albright. The group had their first very-own church in 1852 from a lot on Front and Maple Street, and changed names from *West Haven Evangelical Church* to *Saint Paul's Evangelical Church*. In 1870 the group upgraded to a new larger church at 2nd and Maple Street, but lost it in 1894 due to a split within the larger Evangelical association. They built a new church at 2nd and Maple Street, but it was destroyed by a fire in 1920. The new church, which stands here today, was finished in 1921.

#3. Cressona Fire Company

Before this was a fire company, this building was occupied by the United Brethren Church in Christ. After they moved, plans were made to turn this into Cressona's very first fire company. After getting approval from the Schuylkill County Court, the fire house was officially dedicated on September 8, 1899.

The company still stands over one hundred twenty-five years later and is one of two Cressona fire houses.

#4. Cressona Cemetery

The cemetery was formally started with the burial of Professor Theodore Plexis Classen, a Finnish man who died in 1855. The people saw this as the start of a much-needed cemetery, who had gone without one since the founding of the town. Today, hundreds lay to rest in the cemetery, including veterans from battles dating all the way back to the Civil War.

#5. Scout Lodge

In Cressona history, the first official Boy Scout troop was formed in 1920, and the first Girl Scout troop formed in 1938. Several troops began to appear after this time, and the Scout Lodge here was built in 1945. A monument was constructed in 1983 on the American Legion Plot in Cressona, honoring the generations of scouts in the town.

#6. Cressona High School

This building was built and dedicated as Cressona High School in 1929. In 1954, the school combined with the Blue Mountain School district and became the Blue Mountain

High School until a new high school was constructed in 1961. It became an elementary school and stands today as a separate alternative school, River Rock Academy.

#7. Good Will Hose Company

The Good Will Hose Company started when the house of a young doctor burnt down. Cressona only had one

fire company at the time, so plans started to come along to build a second one. Gordon Nagle, a young contractor at the time, started the building August 28, 1911, and finished it December 15 of that year. The building became home to the Good Will Hose Company, but also hosted movies and band practices. Today, it holds quite a similar purpose, doubling as a fire company and a place where community can come together.

#8. St. Marks United Church

The Church was founded in 1876 as *Grace Reformed Church*. In 1882, Reverend J. Alvin Reber called for a new church on Pottsville Street to account for the church's growing numbers. Under this new charter, the name St. Marks was born, and the church was formally completed in 1886. Through the years, the church added a basement, pipe organ, and kitchen.

#9. Hydro

The plant was built by the Alcoa corporation during World War II to extrude aluminum for the war effort. Alcoa continued to operate the plant post-war until it shut down in 1977. The newfound Cressona Aluminum Company took over in 1979 and stayed for forty years until it returned to Alcoa. The plant was then joined in 2007 with Sapa AB, who soon got full ownership. This was then transferred to Norsk Hydro, the Norwegian company who runs it today.

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