



About the project

discoverlansdale.org/freight-house.html



What is the Freight House? It's a **120-year-old stone structure** that was key to the industrial growth of Lansdale. Raw materials arrived and finished products shipped through its loading doors and docks, via the Reading Railroad, around the region and across the country. It was built by local stonemasons in 1902, and has sat abandoned since the 1980s.

Where is it? It's at **111 South Broad Street**, strategically situated in the heart of the borough — highly visible on a major traffic artery, a short walk from Lansdale's SEPTA commuter station, steps from several modern apartments and housing developments, adjacent to a new Lansdale Parking Authority lot, and alongside the new, multimodal, multi-county Liberty Bell Trail.

Who owns it? Civic nonprofit **Discover Lansdale purchased the iconic building** from the Lansdale Parking Authority in 2016 to rescue it from the wrecking ball. Discover Lansdale also leases the land beneath from the Lansdale Parking Authority for \$1 a year for 99 years.

What is Discover Lansdale? We are a 12-year-old **501(c)(3) civic nonprofit** whose mission is to make Lansdale a great place to live, work, play and experience. We receive an annual stipend from the Borough for our promotional efforts, which include First Fridays, a Founders Day celebration each August, a holiday Mardi Gras Parade in November, and various other efforts with Main Street businesses and borough departments.

What's the plan? To rehabilitate the historic Lansdale Freight House — which structurally remains in very good condition — as a **community resource and economic driver for the Borough**. We plan to renovate the original shipping office area as a Welcome Center for visitors to town by train, by car, by biking or hiking the Trail. The rest of the 30-foot-by 130-foot area will be restored to period-appropriate, industrial-age condition as a unique venue for events public and private, from business meetings to showers and weddings. The income should more than cover its operation. **Construction is scheduled to take place from Fall 2024 through Summer 2025.**

How are we doing so far? We have received several grants, including from the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, the state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP), and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, totaling just over \$1 million. But **because of inflation, we are falling short of our needs**. To get the property to occupancy stage will cost a total of \$1.6 million; finishing the restoration work to its best use and condition currently increases that total cost to \$2.2 million. **It will take \$600,000 to \$1.2 million beyond our current funding to complete this work.**

What is the ask? We are reaching out to community partners, friends and neighbors in Discover Lansdale's first-ever fundraising campaign, **with a starting goal of \$600,000**. Contributions are at the following levels:

- **\$1,000 and up:** Two tickets to the invitation-only opening gala, acknowledgement on commemorative plaque displayed in Welcome Center. (Applies to all the following levels as well.)
- **\$5,000:** One free Freight House event, subject to scheduling.
- **\$15,000:** Fund one of 12 freight doors (name on plaque inside freight door).
- **\$50,000:** Outdoor property signage during construction, table for 8 at opening gala.
- **\$100,000 and up (Founders):** Room naming rights for 10 years (limited availability), plus table for 8.

Donations of ANY AMOUNT are gratefully appreciated and will be appropriately acknowledged. *Thank you for your attention, consideration and support!*