



Betsy Ross House Fact Sheet

The American Flag House & Betsy Ross Memorial

Where is it?

The Betsy Ross House, home of America's most famous flagmaker, is located at 239 Arch Street ... just around the corner from Independence National Historical Park and steps away from other popular attractions like Elfreth's Alley and Christ Church.

What will I see?

A two and a half story, eight room brick rowhouse, originally built in 1740. The house is restored to the period from 1773 to 1785, when Betsy Ross, as the story tells it, is said to have created the first American flag. The house is furnished with period antiques and some reproduction furniture. Highlights include several objects known to have belonged to Betsy Ross. Self-guided tour lasts about 25 minutes.

How much?

Suggested donation is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children 12 and under.

Are guided tours available?

A new 25-minute audio tour gives visitors the chance to take a guided tour at their own pace. The tour includes optional "family stops" and an in-depth version off-season. Price is \$5.

Can I buy souvenirs of my visit?

The attached gift shop offers a wide selection of souvenirs in all price ranges.

Is it a "must see" attraction?

The Betsy Ross House is one of the most popular historic attractions in Philadelphia ... behind only the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall ... with nearly 300,000 visitors each year.

OK, did she really do it?

Well, she certainly could have. Betsy Ross was a prominent Quaker seamstress, upholsterer and, of course, flagmaker in 18th century Philadelphia. The story of Betsy sewing the country's first flag was brought to public attention in the late 1800s by her family. Although no official records exist to either confirm or deny the story, this patriotic tale has become an enduring and colorful piece of history's complicated puzzle.

Anything else I should know?

During the summer months, the Betsy Ross House is alive with the sights and sounds of the 18th century, as costumed performers, crafters and musicians bring history to life. All summer performances are free.