**Mount Carmel**  
PA  
17851

The Borough of Mount Carmel covers a total area of 448 acres in the peaceful anthracite region of East-Central PA. It is spread across quiet hills topping magnificent valleys.

 The region was settled in the late 1700’s by hardy pioneers – industrious, practical people who made life, in what was then a rugged forest land, livable and lively by being plain, friendly good neighbors.

 Mount Carmel was named by Albert Bradford who owned and operated a steam saw mill in Mount Carmel, which was then mostly a logging town. Because of its elevation and beautiful setting in the mountains, he so named it after the [holy mountain in Palestine](http://www.bibleplaces.com/mtcarmel.htm" \t "_blank). Coal was discovered in 1790 by Isaac Tomlinson, but it was not until twenty-four years later that the first [anthracite coal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthracite" \t "_blank) was shipped to market from Mount Carmel.

    During the 1800’s the Mount Carmel area grew as new townships, boroughs and communities sprang up. Settlers from foreign lands poured in – Polish, Italian, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, German, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, Slovak, English, Russian – all seeking the opportunities for work and wealth that the area offered. Railroads were laid out; homes, schools and churches were built; businesses were established; service clubs, and cultural and sports activities were organized; and Mount Carmel became a growing, thriving region of energetic, industrious citizens whose lives revolved mainly around home, family, church, work and community.

In fact, the Borough of Mount Carmel has been considered one of the most progressive in the country, for it was one of the world’s first towns to have its streets illuminated by electricity. Here, [Thomas Edison](http://edison.rutgers.edu/biogrphy.htm" \t "_blank) erected one of his first generating plants.

 Today, the spirit of friendliness is still outstanding among the people of Mount Carmel. You find it in the stores or along the streets; you feel it even in the casual greeting on the people you meet; you see it in the smiling eyes of children in school or playing in the park. It is part of a "something-wonderful" that many places in a modern world have lost.

**Timeline**

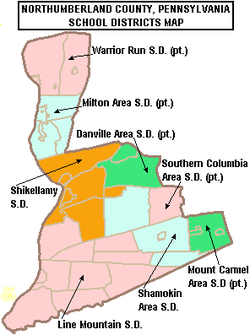
* 1681 March 4 - [Charles II of England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_II_of_England) grants a land charter to [William Penn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Penn) to repay a debt of £20,000 owed to his father, creating the [Province of Pennsylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Province_of_Pennsylvania)
* 1682 August 24 - Penn divided the Province into three counties, Philadelphia, Bucks and Chester; The last comprised all lands west and south of the Delaware and the Schuylkill; therefore the site of Mount Carmel was originally in an area claimed by [Chester County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chester_County,_Pennsylvania)
* 1729 May 10 - [Lancaster County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lancaster_County,_Pennsylvania) created out of part of Chester County
* 1749 August 22 - Land comprising Mount Carmel part of a tract purchased from the [Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iroquois)
* 1752 March 11 - [Berks County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berks_County,_Pennsylvania) created out of part of Lancaster County
* before 1770 - Area inhabited by [Native Americans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) (possibly [Lenape](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenape), [Iroquois](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iroquois), and/or [Saponi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saponi))
* 1770 - Europeans first settled in the area
* 1772 March 21 - Northumberland County formed, area that would become Mt. Carmel located in what was then [Augusta Township](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augusta_Township,_Northumberland_County,_Pennsylvania)
* 1783 September 3 - [Treaty of Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_%281783%29) signed, formally recognizing Pennsylvania's independence from the [Kingdom of Great Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain)
* 1785 - [Catawissa Township](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catawissa_Township,_Columbia_County,_Pennsylvania) formed from part of Augusta township
* 1788 - [Ralpho Township](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralpho_Township,_Pennsylvania) formed from part of Catawissa township
* 1789 - Ralpho township renamed to [Shamokin township](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamokin_Township,_Pennsylvania)
* 1790 - Anthracite coal discovered by [Isaac Tomlinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_Tomlinson) on nearby Broad Mountain
* 1805 March 25 - [Centre Turnpike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre_Turnpike) Company incorporated
* 1808 - Centre Turnpike opens
* ~1811 - Centre Turnpike completed
* 1812 - Mt. Carmel Inn opens, located on the Centre Turnpike in (then) Shamokin township
* ~1830s - [coal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthracite_coal) mining begins
* 1837 - [Coal Township](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coal_Township,_Pennsylvania) formed from parts of [Little Mahanoy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Mahanoy_Township,_Pennsylvania) and Shamokin townships
* 1846 - first [Post Office](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post_Office) opens
* 1847 - land now comprising Mount Carmel Borough purchased by speculators
* 1853 - town plot finalized
* 1854 November 14 - [Mount Carmel Township](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel_Township,_Pennsylvania) incorporated, from part of Coal Township
* 1855 - Evangelical Grace Church, the town's first church, opens at Third & Market Streets
* 1855 - Centre Turnpike decommissioned
* 1862 November 3 - Mount Carmel Borough incorporated
* 1869 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church is built
* 1877 December - *Mt. Carmel Progress*, the pioneer newspaper, was established
* 1883 November 17 - [Edison Electric Illuminating Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edison_Illuminating_Company) of Mount Carmel founded
* 1888 - St. Matthew's Lutheran Church is built
* 1894 November - Shamokin-Mount Carmel Electric Railway ([trolley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tram) line) connecting [Shamokin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamokin,_Pennsylvania) with Mount Carmel completed
* 1896 - Reliance Colliery is started by Thomas Baumgardner
* 1897 - Anthracite Brewing Company, later Mt. Carmel Brewery, founded
* 1900 - Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church is Built
* 1906 - Divine Redeemer Church is built
* 1906 April - 'Miners Dispute' striking miners are shot by 21 troopers of the State Constabulary - ten men were injured, but all survived
* 1914 - Sts. Peter and Paul Byzantine-Ukrainian Catholic Church is built (it later burned in a fire and was rededicated in 1994)
* 1930 - The first viaduct was constructed to eliminate crossing two railroad tracks to enter town
* 1931 - Mount Carmel High School football stadium or "Silver Bowl" is opened being one of the first high school stadiums to have lighting for night games
* 1934 - Mattucci's Willow Cafe' opens
* 1948 June 17 - [United Airlines Flight 624](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Airlines_Flight_624) crashes near Midvalley Colliery No. 2; killing all 4 crew members and 39 passengers on board
* 1950 - the coal mining 'boom' begins its decline
* 1951 - Mt. Carmel Brewery closes
* 2003 - Original viaduct is removed and a reconstructed version is built by the Department of Transportation even though the railroads are no longer there
* Mount Carmel is located at [40°47′47″N 76°24′44″W](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania&params=40_47_47_N_76_24_44_W_type:city) (40.796447, -76.412231)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-GR1-4) in the [ridge-and-valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ridge-and-valley_Appalachians) zone of the central [Appalachian Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appalachian_Mountains). It is drained by the [Shamokin Creek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamokin_Creek) and is part of the Lower [Susquehanna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susquehanna_River) watershed.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-5) According to the [United States Census Bureau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau), the borough has a total area of 0.7 square miles (1.7 km2), all of it land.
* Mount Carmel's terrain is mostly flat. The borough's land is mostly [urban](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_area). Mount Carmel is served by [Pennsylvania Route 61](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania_Route_61).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-6)

## Demographics

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Historical population | | | |
| Census | Pop. |  | %± |
| [1870](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1870_United_States_Census) | 1,289 |  | — |
| [1880](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1880_United_States_Census) | 2,378 |  | 84.5% |
| [1890](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1890_United_States_Census) | 8,254 |  | 247.1% |
| [1900](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1900_United_States_Census) | 13,179 |  | 59.7% |
| [1910](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1910_United_States_Census) | 17,532 |  | 33.0% |
| [1920](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1920_United_States_Census) | 17,469 |  | −0.4% |
| [1930](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1930_United_States_Census) | 17,967 |  | 2.9% |
| [1940](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1940_United_States_Census) | 17,780 |  | −1.0% |
| [1950](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1950_United_States_Census) | 14,222 |  | −20.0% |
| [1960](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1960_United_States_Census) | 10,760 |  | −24.3% |
| [1970](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_United_States_Census) | 9,317 |  | −13.4% |
| [1980](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980_United_States_Census) | 8,190 |  | −12.1% |
| [1990](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1990_United_States_Census) | 7,196 |  | −12.1% |
| [2000](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_United_States_Census) | 6,390 |  | −11.2% |
| [2010](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_United_States_Census) | 5,893 |  | −7.8% |
| Est. 2016 | 5,677 | [[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-USCensusEst2016-2) | −3.7% |
| Sources:[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-USDecennialCensus-7)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-GR2-8)[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-CensusPopEst-9) | | | |

* As of the [census](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Census)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-GR2-8) of 2000, there were 6,390 people, 3,035 households, and 1,678 families residing in the borough. The [population density](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_density) was 9,655.6 people per square mile (3,738.2/km2). There were 3,629 housing units at an average density of 5,483.6 per square mile (2,123.0/km2). The racial makeup of the borough was 98.56% [White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_%28U.S._Census%29), 0.06% [African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American_%28U.S._Census%29), 0.16% [Native American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_%28U.S._Census%29), 0.28% [Asian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_%28U.S._Census%29), 0.02% [Pacific Islander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Islander_%28U.S._Census%29), 0.25% from [other races](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_%28United_States_Census%29), and 0.67% from two or more races. [Hispanic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispanic_%28U.S._Census%29) or [Latino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latino_%28U.S._Census%29) of any race were 0.89% of the population.
* There were 3,035 households, out of which 21.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 38.8% were [married couples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage) living together, 12.1% had a female householder with no husband present, and 44.7% were non-families. 41.2% of all households were made up of individuals, and 24.7% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.10 and the average family size was 2.86.
* In the borough the population was spread out, with 19.7% under the age of 18, 7.0% from 18 to 24, 23.8% from 25 to 44, 23.6% from 45 to 64, and 25.9% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 45 years. For every 100 females there were 87.9 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 82.6 males.
* The median income for a household in the borough was $22,168, and the median income for a family was $35,217. Males had a median income of $28,168 versus $20,595 for females. The [per capita income](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Per_capita_income) for the borough was $14,858. About 14.2% of families and 18.2% of the population were below the [poverty line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty_line), including 29.1% of those under age 18 and 15.1% of those age 65 or over.

## Education

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Northumberland_County_Pennsylvania_School_Districts.png)

Map of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania School Districts

### Public schools

Residents of Mount Carmel may attend the local, public schools operated by [Mount Carmel Area School District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel_Area_School_District) which provides taxpayer funded preschool and full day kindergarten through 12th grade. In 2014, the District's enrollment declined to 1,583 students. In 2014, Mount Carmel Area School District ranked 380th out of 496 public schools for academic achievement of its pupils, by the [Pittsburgh Business Times](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pittsburgh_Business_Times). In 2013, the District ranked 323rd.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-10)

Mount Carmel Area School District operates three schools: Mount Carmel Area Elementary School Grades Pre-K through 6th, Mount Carmel Area Junior High School and [Mount Carmel Area High School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel_Area_High_School). The district spends just $8,600 per student per year on school operations, the lowest figure in the state.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-11)

Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program In April 2014, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) released a report identifying one Mount Carmel Area School District school as among the lowest achieving schools for reading and mathematics in 2013.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-12) Mount Carmel Area High School was among the 15% lowest achieving schools in the Commonwealth. Parents and students may be eligible for scholarships to transfer to another public or nonpublic school through the state's Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program passed in June 2012.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-13)[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-14) The scholarships are limited to those students whose family's income is less than $60,000 annually, with another $12,000 allowed per dependent. Maximum scholarship award is $8,500, with special education students receiving up to $15,000 for a year's tuition. Parents pay any difference between the scholarship amount and the receiving school's tuition rate. Students may seek admission to neighboring public school districts. Each year the PDE publishes the tuition rate for each individual public school district.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-15) Fifty-three public schools in Allegheny County are among the lowest-achieving schools in 2011. According to the report, parents in 414 public schools (74 school districts) were offered access to these scholarships. For the 2012-13 school year, eight public school districts in Pennsylvania had all of their schools placed on the list including: [Sto-Rox School District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sto-Rox_School_District), [Chester Upland School District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chester_Upland_School_District), [Clairton City School District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clairton_City_School_District), [Duquesne City School District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duquesne_City_School_District), [Farrell Area School District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farrell_Area_School_District), [Wilkinsburg Borough School District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilkinsburg_School_District), [William Penn School District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Penn_School_District) and [Steelton-Highspire School District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steelton-Highspire_School_District).[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-16) Funding for the scholarships comes from donations by businesses which receive a state tax credit for donating.

AYP history

In 2012, Mount Carmel Area School District declined to Warning Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status due to lagging student achievement.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-17) In 2011, Mount Carmel Area School District achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

In 2014, Mount Carmel Area School District's graduation rate was 88%.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-18) In 2013, Mount Carmel Area School District's graduation rate was 87.93%.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-19) Mount Carmel high school aged students may choose to attend [Northumberland County Career Technology Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northumberland_County_Career_Technology_Center) for training in the trades.

Mount Carmel residents may also apply to attend any of the Commonwealth's 14 public cyber charter schools (in 2013) at no additional cost to the parents. Locally, [SusQ Cyber Charter School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SusQ_Cyber_Charter_School) operates in Bloomsburg. The resident’s public school district is required to pay the charter school and cyber charter school tuition for residents who attend these public schools.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-20)[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-21) By Commonwealth law, if the District provides transportation for its own students, then the District must provide transportation to any school that lies within 10 miles of its borders. Residents may also seek admission for their school aged child to any other public school district. When accepted for admission, the student's parents are responsible for paying an annual tuition fee set by the [Pennsylvania Department of Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania_Department_of_Education). In 2012, the tuition fees for Mount Carmel Area School District were: Elementary School - $6,811, High School - $8,189.[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-22)

Central Susquehanna [Intermediate Unit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intermediate_Unit) #16 provides a wide variety of services to children living in its region which includes Mount Carmel Area School District. Early screening, special educations services, speech and hearing therapy and many other services like driver education are available. Services for children during the preschool years are provided without cost to their families when the child is determined to meet eligibility requirements.

## Transportation

### Highways

* [Pennsylvania Route 61](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania_Route_61), designated from 1963 to the present, previously:
  + 1770 - 1808: King's Highway
  + 1808 - 1911: [Centre Turnpike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre_Turnpike)
  + 1911 - 1926: PA State Highway No. 161
  + 1926 - 1935: [U.S. Route 120](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania_Route_120)
  + 1935 - 1963: [U.S. Route 122](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania_Route_61)
* [Pennsylvania Route 54](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania_Route_54)
  + before 1929: Ashland Road
  + 1929 - 1961: PA 54 via Ashland Road
  + 1961 - 1966: designated as PA 45 via Ashland Road
  + 1966 - 1999: reassigned concurrent with PA 61 east of Mount Carmel
  + 1999–present: route changed to follow SR 2035, PA 901, SR 2042, SR 3002, and SR 4028 to rejoin its former route along PA 61.
* [Pennsylvania Route 901](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania_Route_901)
  + Routed through Mount Carmel Township by 1996

### Railroads

* Danville and Pottsville Railroad → Philadelphia and Sunbury RR →  
  Shamokin Valley and Pottsville Railroad → [Northern Central Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Central_Railway)
* Quakake Railroad → [Lehigh and Mahanoy Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lehigh_and_Mahanoy_Railroad) → [Lehigh Valley Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lehigh_Valley_Railroad)
* Philadelphia and Reading Railroad → [Reading Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reading_Company)
* [Pennsylvania Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania_Railroad)
* [Shamokin Valley Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamokin_Valley_Railroad)
* Shamokin-Mount Carmel Electric Railway (trolley line)

### Public transportation

The [Lower Anthracite Transportation System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_Anthracite_Transportation_System) offers a two-route transit system weekdays and Saturdays from Mount Carmel with buses meeting in Coal Township to Mount Carmel and surrounding communities. A third route, operated seasonally, operates to [Knoebel's Amusement Resort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knoebel%27s_Amusement_Resort).

## Notable residents

* [Ellen Dow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen_Dow), actress[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Carmel,_Pennsylvania#cite_note-23)
* [Henry Hynoski, Sr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Hynoski,_Sr.), football player
* [Marie Powers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie_Powers), opera singer
* James Gavin, Army General, Ambassador to France