

## Chester Post Office

400 Edgmont Avenue  
Chester, PA 19013

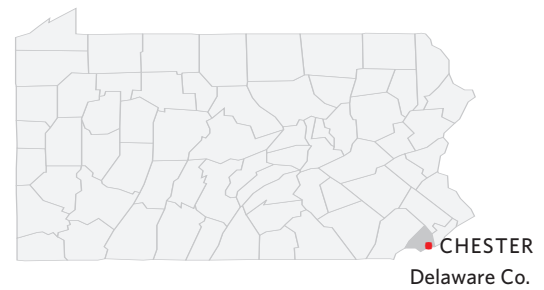
### SCULPTURE

Title: **William Penn**

Artist: Erwin Springweiler

Date: 1938

Medium: Aluminum panel



*Photograph of "William Penn" courtesy of the National Archives.*

Combining images of the past and present was a popular compositional scheme in New Deal art. This aluminum bas relief depicts Williams Penn, Chester's founder, as well as 1930s workers. Penn sailed from England and arrived in Chester, then known as Upland, in 1682. Penn, in his familiar Quaker dress, is placed prominently in the center of the medallion-like panel and faces Welcome, the ship that brought him to the New World. Below Penn are two 20th century machinists and factories. The figure in the right foreground is using a lathe, measuring with calipers.

With its location on the Delaware and proximity to the ocean, Chester became an important center for shipbuilding. During the Civil War, Chester supplied the North. The Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, later Pennsylvania Shipyard & Dry Dock Company, oper-

ated in Chester until 1990. Chester was home to many other industries as well, producing textiles, paper products, and Ford automobiles. From 1927 to 1973 an electric sign proudly announced: "WHAT CHESTER MAKES, MAKES CHESTER."

**About the artist:** Erwin Frederick Springweiler (1896–1968) was born in Germany and studied at the prestigious Munich Academy of Fine Arts. After emigrating to the U.S., he assisted sculptors Paul Manship and Herbert Haseltine. Springweiler received awards from the National Academy, the Architectural League and the National Arts Club. He is known primarily for his animal sculptures which are owned by many zoos including those in Washington D.C. and Detroit.