

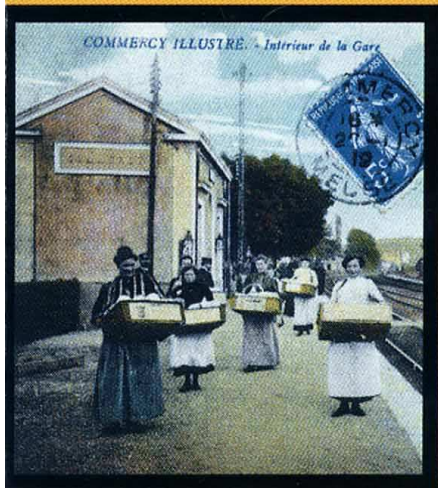
The Stanislaw Walk

Heritage route



PROMENADE
TANISLAS

Ville de Commercy



■ *Madeleine sellers on the railway platform in 1912*

■ *The Good Shepherd Column (Goa artwork)*



The Stanislaw Walk

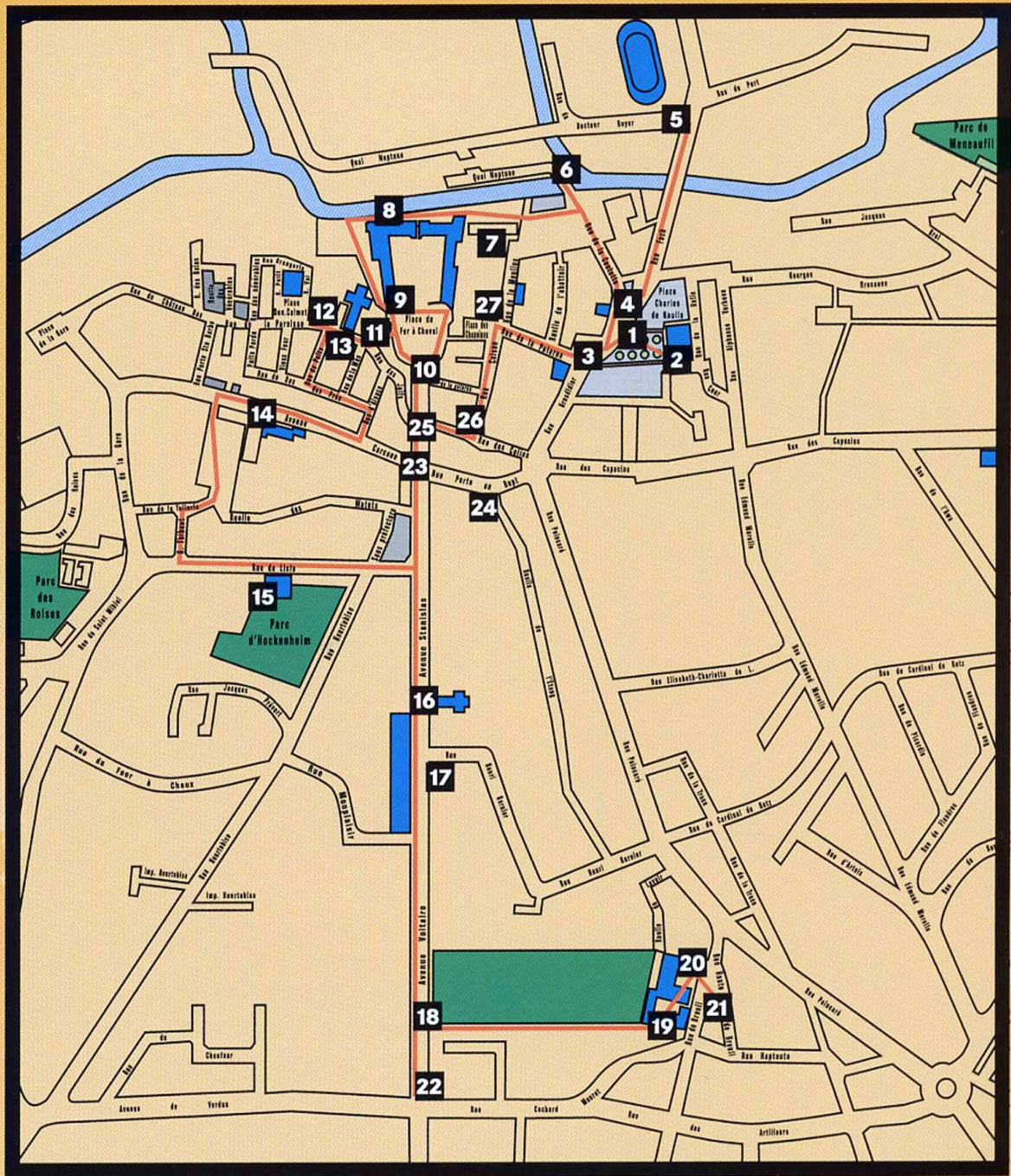
Heritage route

The "Stanislaw Walk" pays homage to the past and builds up "memories for the future", including as it does the historic and architectural heritage of Commercy. Most of the buildings date from the 18th century, the town's "golden age". Once a fortified town and, later, the home of the Princes of Lorraine, Commercy became a truly royal town after the arrival of King Stanislaw. It underwent profound change as a result of urban spread and major architectural redevelopments. This period of building began just at the right time and Commercy has continued to develop ever since. The 20th century was marked by the work of the leaders of the Nancy School and there is a priceless example of this artistic movement in the "Art Nouveau" pharmacy in the town centre. All along the "Stanislaw Walk", there are majestic buildings such as the Stanislaw Palace, the Breuil Priory and the Museum of Ceramics and Ivory. There are also more discreet buildings indicated by their own specific signage.

Information panels and wall plaques are dotted along the route, providing explanations of each particular spot. So why not take a guided tour of our town and our history? This invitation is a continuation of the existing conservation work; it is also an attempt to promote our architectural and other heritage. We should like to make it more easily understandable by everybody, including the local people who have an on-going responsibility for the future of the town famous for its madeleine cakes. We hope that this walk with us will arouse your curiosity, make you want to find out more and give you some insight into the history of the people and town of Commercy.

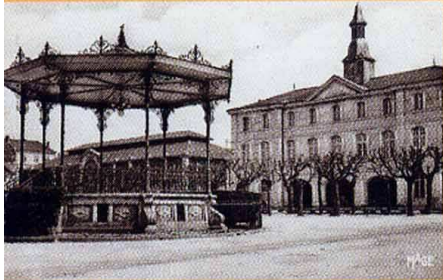
Ville de Commercy





1 **Place Charles De Gaulle**

Laid out beyond the town walls in the 14th century, this district was the centre of economic life and administration for many years. Early in the 20th century, it was still the main attraction in Commercy thanks to the covered market and bandstand where local people would come to do their shopping, have a chat and attend meetings.



■ *Place de l'Hôtel de Ville : the Town Hall square just after the Second World War*

2 **Maison de la musique (1759)**

Place Charles De Gaulle

The "Music House" is one of the main buildings on Place Charles de Gaulle. Once the Town Hall, it was commissioned by King Stanislaw in 1759 to replace the old court house in Rue Colson. It now houses the municipal music school. It became a listed building in 1983.

3 **Caisse d'Epargne (1903)**

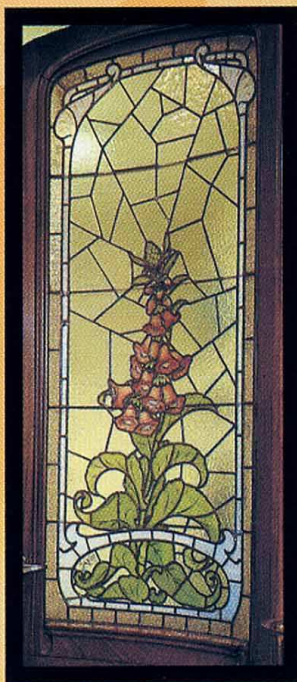
Place Charles De Gaulle

On the ceiling of the board room in the Savings Bank, there is a superb painting by Victor Prouvé, one of the Nancy School's leading artists, extolling the virtues of agriculture and stone working.

4 **Pharmacie Ecole de Nancy (1907)**

Place Charles De Gaulle

The Nancy School pharmacy is the region's only example of a pharmacy built in the Art Nouveau style. Its naturalist décor was created jointly by Eugène Vallin, Charles Fridrich and Joseph Janin.



■ *A stained-glass window in the "Nancy School" pharmacy, by Joseph Janin (1907)*

5 **Vélodrome (1946)**

Rue Foch

This cycle racing track was laid out by the Véloce Club Commerzien in 1895, on the former marketplace. The "Pink Ring", which was rebuilt in 1946 to Olympic size, is one of the finest tracks in France and it plays host to great champions during national and international competitions.

6 **Pont des Moulins**

Quai Neptune

The "Mill Bridge" spans an arm of the Canal de l'Est. Its banks were once lined with tanneries and corn mills, as well as the slaughterhouse, a wash-house and a smithy, five major features of working life in Commercy.

7 **Quartier des Moulins**

Place de l'Abattoir

This square was built on the site of a section of the mediaeval town walls (Porte-à-Meuse). Note the remains of the old wall and the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, founded in 1186 and destroyed in 1799.

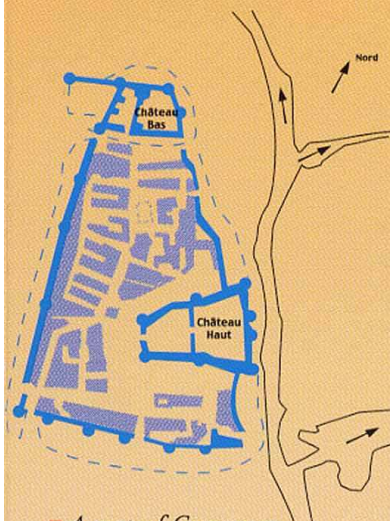
The Cycle Track ■



La Locomotive d'Orléans
à - 51/100000 - La Gare de Nancy - 1900



■ *Commercy during the reign of Stanislaw*



■ *A map of Commercy in the 15th – 16th centuries*



■ *The Good Shepherd Column (Goa artwork)*

8 **Château Stanislas (north-east wall)**

These are the impressive remains of the 14th-century "Upper Castle" which was turned into a comfortable palace in the 18th century. The palace used to look out onto Stanislaw's magnificent gardens but they were destroyed in 1766.

9 **Château Stanislas (south-west wall, 18th century)**

This is a masterpiece by Boffrand and Héré, an architectural gem dating from the days of Stanislaw's Lorraine (like the palaces in Nancy and Lunéville). It was destroyed by fire in 1944 and rebuilt as an exact replica of the original palace. It has been the Town Hall since 1972 and a listed building since 1960.

10 **Place du Fer à Cheval (1717)**

This square was once the bailey of the "Upper Castle" but was redesigned for Prince de Vaudémont and King Stanislaw to provide a long straight vista stretching as far as Commercy Forest.

11 **Eglise Saint-Pantaléon**

Rue de la Paroisse

This church, which contains a number of extremely interesting statues and paintings, was built in three stages (16th, 18th and 19th centuries). The organ (18th-19th centuries) became a historic monument in 1988. Note the superb vicarage (busts of St. Peter and St. Paul).

12 **Place Dom Calmet (1779)**

Laid out between the "Upper Castle" and the old "Lower Castle", this square was the site of the paupers' graveyard until 1765. The square was named in honour of Dom Calmet, a historian of Lorraine who was born in Menil La Horgne and who founded the college in the Breuil Priory in 1757. His statue was removed in 1942. The present statue dates from 1994.

13 **Rue de la Paroisse**

Outstanding houses: Rue de la Paroisse (Nos. 7 and 15), Rue du Puits Robinot (Nos. 11 and 13), Rue du Bas-des-Prés (country cottages), Rue de la Mas (No. 4) and Rue d'Alsace (No. 9).

14 **Musée de la Céramique et de l'Ivoire (1933)**

Avenue Carcano

The building now housing the museum of ceramics and ivory was the municipal bath house until 1974 but it has been used as an Arts Centre since 1989. It is reminiscent of the luxurious water tower in the Stanislaw Gardens which were destroyed in 1766.

15 Château De Gaucourt (pre - 1766)

Rue de Lisle

Built for a descendant of an officer in Joan of Arc's army. Superb interior staircase. Now used as private housing and a crèche.



■ Elisabeth Charlotte de Lorraine, patroness of the St. Charles Hospital

16 Hôpital Saint-Charles (1713)

Avenue Stanislas

The buildings include a chapel, an apothecary's shop, a former school and a former convent. Note the decorative lintel above the entrance. Inside: portraits, valuable furniture and apothecary's utensils. It became a listed building in 1998.

17 Avenue Voltaire

Located close to the old Margueritte District (1890) named after a General from Meuse, the fodder stores (1777) serve as a reminder of the French presence here following the death of Stanislaw.

18 Jardins du Prieuré de Breuil

The Breuil stream runs through the gardens which were extended as far as the Avenue des Tilleuls in 1722. The gardens were taken over by the horticultural college (Ecole Normale pour l'enseignement de l'horticulture) in 1854. They became a historic monument in 1995.

19 Prieuré de Breuil : les annexes

A large number of buildings used to flank the cloister and 17th-century church e.g. stables, a byre, a barn and a dovecote. The wing leading into the gardens is all that remains of the first period of reconstruction of the priory in the early 18th century by Prince de Vaudémont.



■ "Commercy, Boys' School, former Breuil Priory" (1854 - 1962)

20 Prieuré bénédictin de Breuil (depuis 1096)

Intense foyer intellectuel et religieux au XVII^e s. Reconstitué en 1754. Rare exemple d'édifice monastique occupé de façon continue depuis la Révolution. Classé Monument Historique en 1984.

21 Faubourg de Breuil

Once a separate village. Thanks to the priory, it has retained its rural feel to the present day. Streets worth a particular visit include: Rue de Breuil, Rue Haute-de-Breuil, Rue Haptouté (house at No. 26) and Rue Poincaré (formerly Rue Levée de Breuil).



■ "Commercy and the Surrounding Area (early 18th century)".

Credits: D.Bastien, inventaire général ADAGP and the Musée Lorrain, Nancy.



■ *"Charles Henry of Lorraine, Prince de Vaudémont."*

22 Avenue des Tilleuls

The majestic avenue of lime trees was laid out in 1714 by Prince de Vaudémont and replanted in 1994. The avenue leads to the forest, once one of Commercy's main sources of income and a popular spot for recreation and relaxation with princes and commoners alike (see Stanislaw's "Royal Fountain").

23 Rue de la Porte au Rupt

This street follows the line of the old town walls and was upgraded in the 19th century to cater for cartloads of stone from Euville. Note the houses at No. 2 and No. 6.

24 n°6 rue de la Porte au Rupt

The home of Charles Emmanuel Dumont, a magistrate and local historian.

25 Rue des Juifs

Literally, "Jews' Street", an allusion to the shopkeepers who settled here in the 13th century.

Note the superb 17th-century house at No. 1 and the 16th-century

26 Rue des Colins/Rue Colson

Rue des Colins : note Nos. 2-4 (18th-century house), No. 9 (mediaeval law court) and No. 12 (18th-century house).

Rue Colson : note Nos. 9-11 (17th-century house), No. 24 (Commercy's old newspaper offices).

27 Place des Chanoines

Formerly known as Place Denis. The square is flanked by the collegiate church dedicated to St. Nicholas. In the centre is the Amilcar Zannoni fountain paying homage to blacksmiths and wiremakers (1997). Note: Rue des Moulins (Nos. 6-8: thought to have been the home of Cardinal de Retz, built in 1596) and the middle section of Rue de la Poterne (the line of the old town walls is marked out on the ground).

■ *"A shop in Rue Colson at the beginning of the 20th century"*

