

# Barn Tour

*Saucon Valley Conservancy Barn Tour September 15, 2007*



SAUCON VALLEY  
— conservancy —

Proceeds benefit the Heller Barn Preservation Fund

*"Help us save another treasure."*

## Event overview

The Saucon Valley Conservancy, an all volunteer non-profit organization, founded in 1993, is the host of the first annual barn tour. The barns dotting our landscape each tell a story of life on the farm, a way of life of the early settlers of Saucon Township which later became Lower Saucon Township and Hellertown Borough. Step back in time with us, as we pay tribute to our agricultural past and these magnificent barns. This is a great opportunity for the public to tour a selection of eleven historic barns with a broad diversity of architectural expression, including a unique log bank barn, a stone and frame ground barn, a standard fore-bay barn, an English Lake District style bank barn, a barn ruin that has been converted to a garden, a gambrel roofed bank barn with a rare stone silo, and more.

The day begins with registration at 9:30 am at Lower Saucon Town Hall followed by two lectures at 10 am. Learn about history and unique barn features from barn experts Professor Robert F. Ensminger and Architectural Historian Gregory D. Huber.

Professor Ensminger will talk about the “Early European Origins and Cultural Connections with Various Pennsylvania Barns”. He is well known and the foremost authority on Pennsylvania barn architecture who examined and studied barns in Pennsylvania, along with their origins in Europe, back to the seventeenth century. In addition to the book (two editions), Ensminger has written several articles on the Pennsylvania barn including the much acclaimed – “A Search for the Origin of the Pennsylvania Barn” that appeared in Pennsylvania Folk-life – Winter 1980-1981.

Gregory D. Huber, owner of Past Perspectives, will give the second talk on “Regional Aspects of Greater Lehigh Valley and Saucon Valley Barns”. Since 1975, he has studied and documented more than fifteen hundred barns in Pennsylvania. Over the last thirty-five years, this native of northern New Jersey has also researched all the major barn types seen in the eastern river valleys of New York State, the northern and west central sections of New Jersey and southeast Pennsylvania for nearly thirty-five years. He co-authored and edited the second edition of – “The New World Dutch Barn – The Evolution, Forms and Structure of a Disappearing Icon”. He also co-authored the book – “Stone Houses – Traditional Homes of Pennsylvania’s Bucks County and Brandywine Valley”, has written more than ninety articles on various house and barn architecture of the northeast, and has led many barn tours in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Immediately following the morning lectures there will be a Barn Tour Orientation and Book Signing. The self-guided tour starts at 11:30 am and ends at 5:00 pm. Participants may visit the barns in any order they chose. A guide at each barn will help tell the story while pointing out some historic facts.

Bergy’s Mall located at the corner of Lower Saucon & Wassergass Roads in Wassergass (A on the Tour Map) and Infusion Café located at 1308 Main Street in Hellertown (B on the Tour Map) will offer tour participants a 10% discount off their food order during the tour and will donate 10% of the sales during the tour to help in the preservation and restoration of the Heller Barn.



## 1 - Lower Saucon Town Hall, Northampton County

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3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem PA 18015

- 9:30 a.m. .... Registration
- 10:00 a.m. .... Lectures
- 11:00 a.m. .... Book signing
- 11:30 a.m. .... Barn Tour begins



## 2 - Michael Heller Homestead

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*Eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places*

### **English Lake District bank barn, Original Stone Barn Section, Circa 1790**

Saucon Valley Conservancy

1890-92 Friedensville Road [Water Street], Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County.

Location: Intersection of Creek Road and Friedensville Road [Water Street]



The original section of the Michael Heller homestead stone barn at the Friedensville Road Historic Site was a rare local English Lake District type bank barn. It was likely built circa 1790. This barn with a front wall fully of stone construction and first story front wall protective pent roof is in distinct contrast with the far more common Standard “fore-bay” bank barn. These latter barns are very often seen in Lower Saucon Township and countless other areas in southeast Pennsylvania and beyond. The Heller barn actually had two sections—an earlier two part stone section at north and a much later frame section at south end of barn complex.

The roof of the first built stone barn section was deteriorating to quite a degree in the early 1990s. Ultimately the last existing remnants of the Heller barn were its exterior stone walls that were pulled down by the township in early 1998 for safety reasons. Presently, only remnant timbers are lying about on the former dirt floor of the basement of the barn. Fortunately what was saved of the barn was the very unusual stone arch of the non-original north end addition. However English the barn was on its exterior, especially on its fully stone front wall, its original roof structure was clearly German in expression—a *liegender Stuhl*. Photos of this superb Heller barn early roof survive.

The Heller barn was included in the classic 1956 book—*Pennsylvania German Barns*—by Charles Dornbusch and John Heyl. Mr. Heyl, a retired area architect, now lives in Maine and is alive and very well at 101 years of age.



### 3 - Haney Farm

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#### **Stone silo and a gambrel roofed frame bank barn, Silo, Circa 1880**

Cheryl and Rod Haney

3489 Drifting Drive, Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County

Location: Between Banko Lane and Bergstresser Road on Drifting Drive

The Rod Haney homestead on Drifting Drive features among other farm outbuildings is an excellent and rare stone silo. Most other silos in southeast Pennsylvania are made of other materials such as poured concrete, metal, ceramic and sometimes even wood slats. Silos are thought to have first appeared on the American landscape in the 1870s in the mid West. The Haney silo was very likely built in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

The silo has a fascinating history. It is actually credited as basically an American invention. Mid nineteenth century farmers apparently borrowed from the design of corn cellars that were constructed by Native Americans since the 1700s. They lined a trench or ditch with stone and ash, filling the resulting enclosure with green crops, and then covered the cellar with beans and thatch. It is very interesting that the basic American silo design came on the cultural landscape when it did. It is thought that some of the very first silos were built as integral units inside of barns and such instances survive on certain farms. As seen on the Haney farm stone was used in the construction of the silo but manufactured materials were used far more often than stone after about 1900. Brick silos date from about the turn of the century and diminished in use by the 1920s. Cast tile and cinder block silos date from this time frame. Then the concrete silo commonly came into being and later metal silos became extremely common in many parts of the United States. In view of the presence of many silos that still can be seen in southeast Pennsylvania, a basically intact stone silo as seen at the Haney farmstead is quite unusual.

At the homestead is likely the latest built barn on the tour—a gambrel roofed frame bank barn. Its roof type reflects a construction date of after 1900. Gambrel roofed barns were very rarely if at all built before about 1880 and there are very few stone gambrel roofed barns originally built as such. The word gambrel refers to two roof slopes per half side of the roof. All other barns at other homesteads on the tour have gable roofs. Gable refers to roofs with only one slope per single side of the roof. Gambrel roofs were often incorporated into structures of barns after 1900 to increase crop storage capacity.



## 4 - Rothrock – Eighmy Homestead

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### Log Barn, Circa 1800

Lawrence and Katherine Eighmy

999 Seidersville Road, City of Bethlehem, Northampton County

Location: At Corner of Creek Road, Williams Creek Road and Seidersville Road

The log bank barn at the Rothrock—Eighmy homestead at the intersection of Creek Road and Seidersville Road just over a mile north of the Michael Heller homestead is unique in all of Pennsylvania. This assertion is no exaggeration. All other known remaining log barns in the state are either one-level ground barns or two-level “fore-bay” type Switzer bank barns. Several other dozen log barns have been identified to date in southeast Pennsylvania but only one other log bank barn of possible English origin (without a “fore-bay” or projecting second floor level barn section beyond the stable wall) has ever been discovered. This barn near Devon in Tredyffrin in Chester County dated 1780 was dismantled in late 2000 and was composed of fully round logs in contrast to the Rothrock barn that consists of logs that have hewn sides. The Rothrock barn is also included in the book—*Pennsylvania German Barns*. It was John Heyl himself who photographed the barn in the mid 1950’s. Many years later in 2001, the author photographed John in front of the barn. The Rothrock—Eighmy barn may be the oldest barn on the tour.

The Rothrock barn that likely dates 1790 to 1800 is small in dimensions—only 40 feet at the front wall by 29 feet at each of the end walls. This diminutive size generally reflects its apparent construction date. The excellent homestead stone house across the street in contrast dates to the second decade of the nineteenth century. The logs of the barn exposed on their exterior faces have very weathered surfaces due to direct exposure to the elements since perhaps the barn was originally built. The exterior logs join at their corners in the very traditional local (Lehigh and Saucon Valley) manner with inverted V notching. Several of the original logs or sections or lengths of particular deteriorated logs were replaced with new timbers in the last number of decades.

The interior of the log barn is almost as spectacular as the exterior. The basic construction of the barn is of three bays—two end bays and a middle wagon or threshing bay. Each end bay is somewhat over 12 feet wide while the middle bay is about 14 feet in width. Bays are the areas between an adjacent end log wall and the log wall that flanks the middle bay or the area between adjacent log walls that flank the middle bay. The floor of the middle bay retains much of its original planking. The barn features an unusual early style English based Principal Rafter System where much larger principal rafters co-mingle with considerably smaller common rafters. The log barn has four principal rafter trusses. The overall visual effect of the roof along with the log walls is almost mediaeval in appearance.

In the basement are seen two barn length (end wall to end wall) summer beams or timbers at the ceiling level. The summer to the north is supported by posts two of which are original with absolutely unique gun stock aspects along the top two feet or so of the posts. The gun stock areas that flare out join both the summers themselves and also the overhead transverse ceiling joists. All other original supporting basement posts in other bank barns in Pennsylvania have straight sided non gun-stocked sides. It is easy to see that the builder of this barn had the full intention of rendering the barn with the greatest level of structural stability that he could.

This unique Rothrock barn is a structure that the community should be very proud to have in its midst and very fortunately the current owner is aware of its extreme rarity and is taking the necessary steps to safeguard its continued existence well into this century. Other English based bank barns may have existed in the Saucon and general Lehigh Valleys but the Rothrock—Eighmy barn is the only one of its type that remains—anywhere in the state. This is one barn that belongs in the Barns of Pennsylvania Hall of Fame.



## **5 - Jacob Funk House and Barn - Spears Homestead**

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*Listed on the National Register of Historic Places 02/07/2007*

**English Lake District all stone bank barn, Circa 1830**

Drew Spears, Brent Spears

3609 Route 212

Springfield Township, Bucks County

Location: South of Springtown

At the intersection of Routes 412 and 212, less than a mile east of the Village of Springtown, Bucks County, is the excellent and very large Funk-Spears English Lake District all stone bank barn. The very large outside dimensions—about 80 feet at the front and rear walls and 39 feet at each end or gable wall reflect a farm that must have been extensive in size. The barn appears to date from about 1830 to 1840. Two features seen on the exterior of the barn bespeak an English origin. The first is the all stone—from top of second floor to the ground of the front wall. Second—the basement level pent roof or short protective projecting roof that extends across the full length of the front wall of the barn. The first feature is always seen and the second feature (not original in the Spears barn) is almost always seen in English based bank barns in Pennsylvania. Seven stable doors appear below the pent roof in the Spears barn although none of them are original.

The interior of four-bay construction is cavernous and is of very similar size seen in the Oberly (see below) barn. Enormous amounts of farm crops could be stored in the Funk barn. The barn also features an English type Principal Rafter system where five principal rafter trusses are present. Two tiers of barn length purlin plates appear at each roof slope. These plates support the roof covering and extend from one end wall to the opposite end wall. Three built-in ladders one per bent or main transverse timber framed unit are seen.

In the basement are two summer beams—the front one is spliced—that is—made of two timbers that meet in end-to-end fashion. The one section is about 55 feet in length. One can only imagine the tree that was the source of this timber. The rear summer is spliced at two points, thus there are three lengths of timbers that constitute the rear summer. As in all barns, summers support the floor above the basement level.



## 6 - John Wagner – Holum Homestead

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### Stone Standard barn, Dated 1849

Joanne and Gerald Holum

1789 Meadows Road, Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County

Nearest intersection: Meadows Road and Route 412

This dated 1849 Stone Standard barn located on Meadows Road a little west of Saucon Creek rivals the Funk and Oberly barns for sheer size. This is the only dated barn on the entire tour. Standard barns are two level banked barns that have symmetrical roofs—that is—each roof slope of half of the total roof are equal in lengths. In addition, Standard barns have recessed stable walls such that the overhead basement ceiling joists or beams cantilever over and beyond the sill at the top of the stable wall. The great or perhaps even the vast majority of barns in Northampton County are Standard barns.

Stone appears to the peak at each end wall in the Wagner barn. This is a very well constructed barn. The front or “fore-bay” wall basically faces the southeast quadrant as the majority of bank barns in southeast Pennsylvania do. Much or most of the one threshing floor door retains its originality. Excellent and rare Moravian like wrought metal hinges appear on the human doors that are contained within each main threshing floor door. At the near end wall (closer to the brick house) are two side by side doors with original overhead door hoods. One was a feed entry door (*foodergong*) and one was an entry for horses. At the front stable stone wall are seven double Dutch doors most of which are original.

The interior of the barn on the second floor afforded tremendous storage capacity. The roof system again is an English based Principal Rafter type. As seen in the Funk barn there are five principal rafter trusses. Very large trees supplied the timbers that formed the principal rafters. This is a very late dated barn for the inclusion of a Principal Rafter system. Most often, this rafter type is seen in barns dating before 1830 or so. There are also double tiered purlin plates in the Wagner barn. The timber frame bents that flank both wagon bays consist of very well formed timbers and reflect a high level of craftsmanship. Mow-stead walls or boarded walls that appear at the lower parts of the bents consist mostly of original boards. These walls contained farm crops in the end bays or mows. Much of the interior surfaces of the stone walls are finished with plaster—a not unusual treatment.

In the basement, the overhead ceiling joists are of good size. Two summer beams appear and both are spliced. Original supporting posts appear below the summers. The basement retains in general a good level of originality that includes evidence of an original staked manger and manger trough. Not all barns retain this last feature. There are other interesting elements of construction and fabric to be seen in the barn. Current owner Gerald Holum is rightfully very proud of his barn.



## **7 - Windsong Farm**

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### **Standard bank barn, Circa 1830**

Culver - Robertson Homestead

Michael and Kim Culver Robertson

3570 Lower Saucon Road, Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County

Location: Between Wassergass Road and Silver Creek Road on Lower Saucon Road

This beautiful picture post card barn located on Lower Saucon Road less than a half mile below the four corners of Wassergass is the smallest barn on the tour at only about 33 feet at the front wall and about 27 feet at each end wall. The barn, however, is in excellent condition and is very well maintained. This barn of three-bay construction likely dates to circa 1830. It is a stone to the peak (originally) Standard bank barn. There are four stable wall door openings. The doors are not original but the door frames are original and are very likely chestnut. As is typically found, there is a feed alley door entry at the end wall closer to the house. In the great majority of Pennsylvania bank barns the horse stabling area in the basement was closer to the house end. This may have been due to the fact that the farm lane was closer to the house and there was a greater need of accessibility for horses to be stabled toward the house end of the barn. Cows were most often stabled away from the house end. This was very likely the case in the Robertson barn in most of the nineteenth century and likely into the next century.

The Robertson barn is another example of a barn on the tour that has an English Principal Rafter System. In this case there are only two principal rafter trusses due to its diminutive size. The common rafters seen among the principal rafters are hewn. In contrast, the homestead stone house that is likely of the same general construction date as the barn, has a common rafter system. Parts of each bent that flank the wagon bay were taken out and there is a remnant built-in ladder in at least one of the bents. A single summer beam appears in the basement and is of a single length of timber and it is of good size.

## 8 - Grist Mill Site - Hellertown Historical Society

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### Ground Barn, Circa 1800

150 West Walnut Street [Skibo Road]

Borough of Hellertown, Northampton County

Location: West of Route 412 on Walnut Street

At the Wagner Grist Mill site on Walnut Street (Skibo Road) in the Borough of Hellertown is an early style ground barn. In German, this barn style is referred to as a *grundscheier*. It is actually of combination stone and frame construction. It is difficult to determine when the barn was constructed but it may be circa 1800. The stone section is definitely original but the frame section may not be. Nowhere else in southeast Pennsylvania is there known an original condition stone and frame ground barn such as that seen at the grist mill site. The dimensions of the entire barn is—end walls are each 22½ feet long and the side walls are each 55 feet long. For a ground barn, this is a good sized building. Ground barns were un-banked structures of basically one level. They were most often of three-bay construction where one end bay stabled horses and the other bay stabled cows. Above each of the stabling areas were mows for crop storage. Between the end bays was the middle or threshing bay.

The stone end section at the railroad end of the barn is 23 feet long. The remaining 32 feet length of the barn is the frame construction end. At the stone barn section stone appears to the roof peak. At the stone side wall closer to the main road there is a stable door opening that leads into the horse stabling area. At the opposite stone side wall there were originally two stable door openings, one of which was filled with stone at an indeterminate time. The existent door opening is original but the door itself is not likely original while the door frame is.

At the end wall of the frame section appears a 7 ½ foot high stone wall section from the ground up that might well indicate that this end of the barn was also originally entirely of stone construction. Large quoins or corner stones can still be seen at this end wall.

The interior of the barn still retains a fair amount of its original timbering especially the roof timbers that includes the hewn rafters. This is the first barn that apparently had an original Common Rafter system where rafters are of the same basic size. Still, much of the interior of the barn has been sacrificed through the years. One specific area that retains a great deal of its original fabric is the area at the rear stone side wall where the door opening has evidence of a horizontal sprigge bar that was placed across the stable door opening to contain horses at night. To the right of the door opening is a curry box set into the stone wall that contained items incidental to the maintenance of farm horses. Close to the box is a beam also set into the stone wall that held wood pegs or hooks for placement of harnesses.



## 9 - Seifert Homestead

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### Stone Standard barn, Circa 1820

David Seifert and Laura Ray

3357 Lower Saucon Road, Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County

Location: Intersection of Polk Valley and Lower Saucon Road

The Seifert homestead at the intersection of Polk Valley Road and Lower Saucon Road is home to another Stone Standard barn that is considerably smaller in size than the Oberly, Wagner and Funk barns. It is of three-bay construction. The barn was likely built in either the 1810s or 1820s. This is the first barn on the tour that has the familiar vertical slits or splayed loopholes (*balistratus*) on both end walls and rear wall. Characteristic of a number of barns in the northern half of Bucks County and to a small extent in southern Northampton County, stone on the end walls appears to within about five feet of the roof peak. The exterior stone wall construction is of superb construction quality. A partially submerged (covered with dirt) end wall feed alley door appears toward the rear corner of the barn. A few of the stable wall doors at the barn front are original. The door opening closest to the house end of the barn has the familiar spriggle bar arrangement.

This barn displays a Principal Rafter system and two principal rafter trusses appear. Only one tier of purlin plates are seen on each roof slope. The wagon bay has most of its original threshing floor planks intact. It appears that there is the very rare condition of a granary at the front or fore-bay wall in each end bay. The appearance of a double granary is especially unusual in view of the fact that the barn is a rather small structure. Occasionally very large barns are in need of great storage areas because of great farm acreage under tillage. Both original mow-stead walls are mostly intact and boards of the wall appear to be secured with early type nails. Both bents that flank the wagon bay have built-in ladders. Perhaps because of its relatively small size just one summer beam appears in the basement.



## 10 - Solliday - Casilio Homestead

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### Stone Standard barn, Circa 1830

Four Winds LLC

John, Joseph, Brian, and Christopher Casilio

2143 Leithsville Road, Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County

Location: Route 412 south of Hellertown

The Casilio homestead barn on Route 412 (Leithsville Road), one-half mile from the Bucks County line, is yet another Stone Standard barn. It too is of three-bay construction. The barn is of medium size seen in its exterior dimensions of 60 feet at each of the front and rear walls and 37 ½ feet at each end wall. The barn was likely built in the late 1820s or so. It appears that construction of the barn took place under the homestead ownership of

Samuel Solliday after the death of his father Jacob Solliday in 1827. The near end wall (closer to the main road) has circular brick lined loopholes. Very strangely the opposite end wall and far section of the rear wall has none of these loopholes. The appearance of loopholes is almost exclusively confined to the eastern Lehigh Valley and a bit in northern Bucks County and also in extreme west-central New Jersey. The near end wall has two door openings—one a *foodergong* and another is an animal entry. The one has an overhead door hood that appears to be original with a very faded imprint of a barn star (hex sign) on the front.

Almost dramatically the barn has a distinctive Principal Rafter system and it has four principal rafter trusses. Two tiers of full barn length purlin plates appear on each roof slope. Each bent that delimits the wagon bay has a very much off-centered built-in ladder which is quite an unusual feature. Both original mow-stead walls are mostly intact and one of the walls has a non-original door with very distinctive carvings with the name of J. A. Solliday—Bingen PA and date of May 1st 1909. Other carvings appear. The Solliday family or extended family occupied the homestead from about 1805 to 1941. The earliest private land purchase of nearly 170 acres from the Penn family was made by Adam Failor (Fehler) around the year 1760. The original land survey made in December 1737 entailed 607 acres from which the Failor land originated. This land was warranted in January 1734/35. Most of the original second floor or loft level timbering of the Solliday barn remains while almost all of the authentic wagon floor with its original planks also remains.

Attached to the front of the barn is a much later built straw shed. It demonstrates mortise and tenon joinery. The frame building at the front of the combination main barn-front straw shed is of much later twentieth-century construction.



## 11 - Ehrhart's Mill Historic District

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*Listed on the National Register of Historic Places 04/30/1997*

### **Barn ruin garden, Circa 1850 or later**

Dan Fehlig and Ian Humphries

1876 Old Mill Road, Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County

Location: Off Bingen Road at end of Old Mill Road

At the very end of Old Mill Road and very close to Saucon Creek is a barn ruin that has been converted to a garden. Only the stone basement walls of the barn remain and within the confines of the basement area many wonderful flowering plants can be seen. The garden almost appears like a well arranged forest as the plants are so densely arranged. This is an excellent example of adaptive re-use. This homestead is part of the Ehrhart's Mill Historic District.

The structure was a two-story Standard banked barn and very likely it was of frame construction above the basement level. A late 1980s historic report states that the barn was of three-bay construction. The barn that collapsed down to the foundation in the 1970s very likely dated to post 1850 or even after the Civil War. It measures about 34 feet long and 27 feet wide. A few original remnant wall openings can still be seen. Vestiges of the stone stable wall can also be seen. The house on the property is brick and there is a good stone bake oven in the rear yard that may be seen from the garden area.



## 12 - Oberly - Fahs Farm

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*Eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places*

### **Stone two-level bank Standard barn and silo, Circa 1840**

David Fahs, Michael and Martha Kush

2729 Redington Road, Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County

Location: 1st lane on right off of Lower Saucon Road on Redington Road

Of all the historic sites on the barn tour, the Oberly homestead that overlooks Route 78 on Redington Road retains the greatest number of outbuildings that includes the massive sized stone barn. But the earliest building on the site is likely the circa 1815 stone house that retains many of its original interior features. It is difficult to determine a fairly specific age of construction of the barn as it was completely gutted of its original timbering by a raging fire that occurred in 1912. The following year the barn was completely re-built. This stone two-level bank Standard barn was likely originally built circa 1840 or perhaps even later. As visitors to the site will see its interior is absolutely cavernous.

The barn was used to stable farm animals and store crops harvested at the site until the summer of 1964. Before the farm became exclusively a dairying operation, sheep, pigs, chickens and horses were kept at the farm. The father of the present day owner Martha Kush originally used horses to plow the fields. A tractor was thereafter used.

On the homestead is a quite large gambrel roofed combination corn crib and wagon shed. Despite the presence of mortise and tenon joinery, it was very likely built after 1900. A stone spring house is seen on the property. To the rear of the stone house is a later built brick wing. Other interesting outbuildings all of frame construction appear at the homestead.

In one real sense, the rebuilding of the main barn after the fire with its intricate timbering offers great insight into the fact that a stone vernacular building, although it may experience extensive destruction, may still be re-constructed and continue its life as a very useful building. A direct application of this concept may be seen in the germinating thoughts and efforts of the Saucon Valley Conservancy to restore and bring to full life the Heller homestead barn. The extensive remaking of the Oberly barn is a testimonial to the fact that miracles can happen if the necessary resources and persistence of purpose and dedication can be sustained so that the Michael Heller barn can achieve full status of the barn it once was.

## Preservation of the Heller Barn

The money raised today will be earmarked for the preservation and restoration of the Michael Heller Barn. Until February of 1998, all four sides of the original stone barn stood erect. In the aftermath of a severe storm, a portion of the barn collapsed. Deeming it a danger, township officials decided to bring down all but a small section of the stone walls of the barn, preserving its very unusual arch.

*This is the original early 1940s photo of the Heller homestead barn complex that consisted of two end to end sections. A circa 1790 English Lake District barn with a stone addition with an unusual front wall stone arch appeared at the north end and a large Civil War era frame section was at the south end.*



With your help, we can preserve a part of the agricultural heritage of the Saucon Valley and restore a former vernacular barn treasure before it is too late.

The Saucon Valley Conservancy encourages historic preservation in our area and teaches people of all ages about our rich heritage. If you cherish history and want to preserve the character of Saucon Valley, please join the Saucon Valley Conservancy.

For a glimpse back in time, please stop by and visit the eighteenth century farmstead, the Michael Heller Homestead, eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, located at 1890-92 Friedensville Road (Water Street) in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County.

Tours of the historic Heller Homestead are available by appointment.

For more information, please call 610-216-0566.

<http://sauconvalleyconservancy.org>

*The mission of the Saucon Valley Conservancy is to preserve the historic and natural environment of the Saucon Valley as an educational and recreational resource for area citizens and visitors. The major stewardship of the Conservancy is the Michael Heller Homestead and the Saucon Creek corridor.*

## **Sponsors and Volunteers**

*On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to extend our deepest appreciation to all who contributed to make the Barn Tour a successful event: our Sponsors, the barn owners who graciously opened their barns for the tour, pre-tour Speakers, members of the Advisory Board and Barn Preservation Committee. We gratefully acknowledge the volunteers who donated their time and expertise to make this event possible to raise awareness and funding for the preservation and restoration of the Heller Barn.*

Priscilla deLeon, President, Saucon Valley Conservancy

### **Barn Preservation Sponsors**

**Conectiv Energy**

**Flat Iron Partners**

### **Tour Sponsors**

Bergy's Mall

Infusion Café

### **Keynote Speakers**

Professor Robert Ensminger

Architectural Historian Gregory D. Huber

### **Barn Owners**

Lawrence and Katherine Eighmy

Hellertown Historical Society and Hellertown Borough

Joanne and Gerald Holum

Dan Fehlig and Ian Humphries

Four Winds, LLC – John, Joseph, Brian and Christopher Casilio

David Seifert and Laura Ray

Mike and Kim Culver Robertson

David Fahs and Michael & Martha Kush

Cheryl and Rod Haney

Drew Spears and Brent Spears

Saucon Valley Conservancy and Lower Saucon Township.

### **Barn Histories**

Descriptions of eleven barns on tour - Gregory Huber of Past Perspectives

## **Committees**

### **Advertising and Marketing:**

Priscilla deLeon and Margie Segaline

### **Graphic Design:**

Scott Fritzingler

### **Lower Saucon Township:**

Tour Map design, use of lecture facilities, ticket sales, park grounds

### **Photography:**

Priscilla deLeon and Laura Ray

### **Publishing:**

Debra Mellish, Conectiv Energy

### **Saucon Valley Farmers' Market:**

Shelley Goldberg

### **Ticket Promotions:**

Donna and Russ Rice

### **Volunteer Coordinator:**

Ginnie Blocker

### **Barn Tour Committee:**

Ginnie Blocker, Priscilla deLeon, Bob Ensminger, Scott Fritzingler, Greg Huber, Debra Mellish, Sheila O'Connell, Laura Ray, Donna Rice, Russ Rice, Barbara Ryan, Margie Segaline, Vanessa Segaline, Jim Sturm, and Lee Weidner.

### **Advisory Board:**

Anne Baum, Marcus Brandt, Ian Cramb, Kyle Datesman, Bob Ensminger, Greg Huber, John MacFarland.

### **Board of Directors:**

Priscilla deLeon, President; Ginnie Blocker, Vice President; Jim Sturm, Secretary; Laura Ray, Treasurer; Mary Ann Chegezy; Scott Fritzingler; H. Ralph Koch; Sheila O'Connell; Ken Ranieri; Russ Rice; Barbara Ryan; Lee Weidner.

## **Area Historic organizations preserving your sense of place**

*Antique Barn Coalition of Upper Saucon Township*

G. Ruppert, Coordinator, 610-797-4379

*Hellertown Historical Society*

P. O. Box 124, Hellertown PA 18055, 610-838-1770

*Historic Barn and Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania*

Sheila Miller, 610-589-1946

*Lehigh Valley Heritage Center and Museum*

432 W. Walnut St., Allentown PA 18102, 610-435-1074

*Lower Saucon Township Historical Society*

PO Box 176, Hellertown PA 18055, 610-625-8771

*Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society*

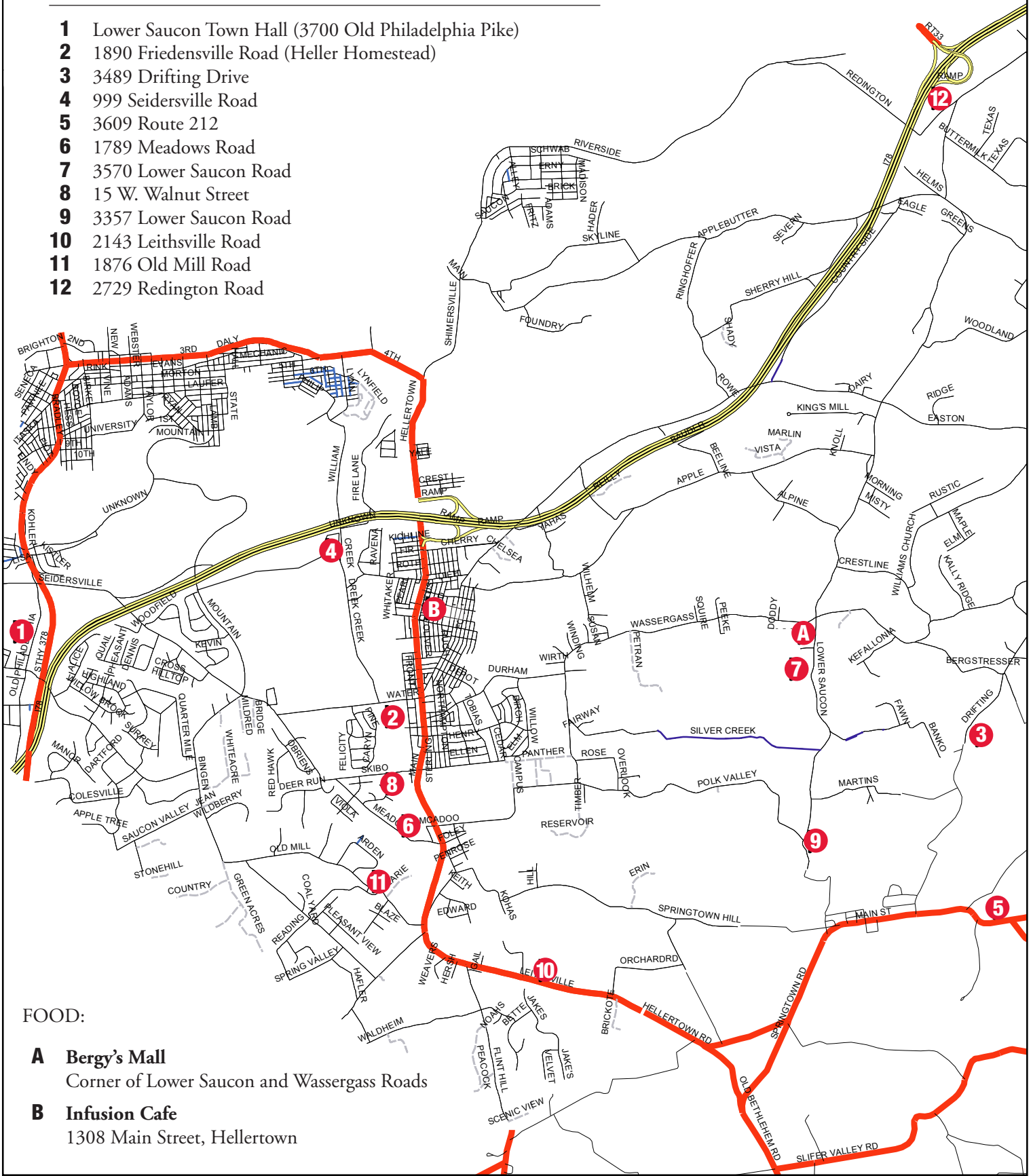
107 South Fourth Street, Easton PA 18042, 610-253-1222

*Saucon Valley Conservancy*

1890-92 Friedensville Road, P. O. Box 3, Hellertown PA 18055, 610-216-0566

KEY:

- 1 Lower Saucon Town Hall (3700 Old Philadelphia Pike)
- 2 1890 Friedensville Road (Heller Homestead)
- 3 3489 Drifting Drive
- 4 999 Seidersville Road
- 5 3609 Route 212
- 6 1789 Meadows Road
- 7 3570 Lower Saucon Road
- 8 15 W. Walnut Street
- 9 3357 Lower Saucon Road
- 10 2143 Leithsville Road
- 11 1876 Old Mill Road
- 12 2729 Redington Road



FOOD:

- A** Bergy's Mall  
Corner of Lower Saucon and Wassergass Roads
- B** Infusion Cafe  
1308 Main Street, Hellertown



# BARN TOUR 2007 MAP

Prepared by the Zoning Department  
August 29, 2006