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A HERITAGE CONSERVANCY SELF-GUIDED DRIVING  
BARN TOUR OF THE CENTRAL BUCKS REGION



Heritage Conservancy  
85 Old Dublin Pike, Doylestown, PA 18901  
215-345-7020 | [HeritageConservancy.org](http://HeritageConservancy.org)

*To preserve and protect our natural  
and historic heritage*

Heritage Conservancy is committed to being the region's premier, nationally accredited conservator. We are a community-based organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of significant open spaces, natural resources, and our historic heritage. A champion of conservation best practices, Heritage Conservancy believes that everyone is responsible for stewardship and seeks to enlighten, engage, and empower others to help achieve this mutual vision.

**JEFFREY MARSHALL: Barn Expert**



Past President of Heritage Conservancy, Jeff Marshall is an expert on historic properties. He is the President of the Historic Barn & Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania and the Vice President of the National Barn Alliance, and he is the author of *Barns of Bucks County* and *Bucks County Farmhouses*. Jeff presents public educational programs and serves as a preservation advocate throughout the community.

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# Barn Voyage!



# Unwind as you drive down the picturesque back roads of Bucks County..



...and take notice of the beauty around you. Bucks County's history and heritage is deeply rooted in its landscape, and we are fortunate to have much of it still intact.

This barn tour will help you to explore our truly unique countryside while learning about its history along the way. Many of our "castles in the fields" stood witness to the American Revolution and the founding of this country.

Whether they are still being used on working farms or adaptively reused as houses or offices, barns remain relevant fixtures and guardians of the history of Bucks County. This brochure will give you a closer look at the heritage of our community. Please remember: most barns featured on this tour are privately owned, so enjoy them from a distance!

# Why a BARN TOUR?

Barns are the story of America. From pioneer, pre-industrial America to the heartland of modern rural America, barns have stood witness to our tale. From tiny log pens cut into wildness to ornate castles in the middle of vast fields, they tell the story of hard work, dedication, aspiration, and creativity.

The barn is one of the most familiar features of the American rural landscape. Functionally, a barn is just a farm building, but there is an emotional connection to barns that transcends their function. By representing tangible links to our past, they are a part of the American consciousness.

When we preserve a barn, we join a parade of people: those who have gone before, and those who are yet to take their first breath. Barns possess intrinsic value that makes their preservation essential to the tapestry of a community. They impart identity and a sense of place and pride. We are fortunate that barns are recognized as an important part of the heritage of Bucks County. The barns that you will see on this tour still stand because their value has been understood. Unfortunately, many of our historic buildings are still threatened with extinction.

As a not-for-profit land conservation and historic property preservation organization, Heritage Conservancy works to save the barns in the field and the fields around the barn. Learning about our rich and colorful heritage can help to protect these cultural sites from being destroyed by neglect or overwhelmed by development. Our organization was motivated to create this barn tour for that very reason. We aim to educate while generating a connection to barns and the history that they represent. Awareness will lead to an appreciation, which will in turn ensure that our history stays on the land and is not confined to museums.

We hope that by learning about and recognizing the beauty of these barns, you will be inspired to help protect them. Please enjoy discovering the story of Bucks County through these iconic structures. Barn voyage!

Barns stand for the hard work that built our country



# Barns 101

Welcome to your first class in Barns 101! We begin our lesson on the types of barns that are native to Bucks County.

You might notice that most of the barns you see along the tour were constructed mainly of stone with some timber. Many 18th century barns were undoubtedly constructed of log, but none have survived in this area. Upper Makefield is the only central Bucks County municipality that has an 18th century tax list that includes construction material. In 1795, there were 79 barns in Upper Makefield. 35 were described as frame barns; 29 barns were log; and just 12 barns were noted as stone barns. There was also one frame and stone barn and two barns with no material noted.

The standard Pennsylvania barn is a blend of English and German barn-building traditions. As a general rule, German-influenced barns and English Lake District barns were built as two-level structures. In order to reach the upper level, they were built into a hillside; otherwise, a ramp was constructed to reach the upper level. This process resulted in the adoption of the term "Pennsylvania Bank Barn." Unlike the German barn, many barns in Central Bucks County have a closed forebay, which is a recessed stable wall under the barn superstructure rather than a projecting upper level over the barnyard.

There is little standardization of barn typology terminology. The following terms are often used, and in some cases, are used interchangeably.



## 18. ROLLING GREEN FARM, 2725 Aquetong Road, New Hope, PA 18938

This English three-bay stone barn is highlighted by narrow ventilation slits. According to several date stones, Enoch Pearson built the original section of the house in 1748. The original stone section of the barn was probably built around the same time, making it one of the oldest barns in Bucks County. The current owners renovated the barn for adaptive reuse as an event venue. During the Revolutionary War, the property was an encampment site for General Charles Lee's army. This army preceded George Washington's march from Valley Forge to Monmouth. A Continental soldier from a southern state grew ill and was nursed here by the Paxson family, a distinguished family residing in Bucks County from its earliest settlement. The soldier died and was buried on the property.



## 19. NEW HOPE WINERY 6123 Lower York Road, New Hope, PA 18938

This mid-19th century frame-over-stone bank barn has been converted for retail use as a winery. Unlike most barns, the bank is on the southerly side of this barn. Generally, the bank was located on the back of the barn. Most barns had ground-level stable doors on the south or southeasterly side so that the animals could benefit from the morning sun. This winery is part of the Bucks County Wine Trail. Visit [www.visitbuckscounty.com/listings/Bucks-County-Wine-Trail](http://www.visitbuckscounty.com/listings/Bucks-County-Wine-Trail) for a list of wineries.

We couldn't fit it all! Just like many barns were added upon as space was needed for storage, we've expanded upon these barns on our website. Visit [HeritageConservancy.org](http://HeritageConservancy.org) for bonus barns and further reading.

## OTHER PLACES TO VISIT:

### A. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, 1635 River Road, New Hope, PA 18938

Located down the road from the Thompson-Neely barn, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve showcases an extraordinary diversity of plants native to Pennsylvania and the Delaware Valley region. Of the approximately 2000 species native to Pennsylvania, the Preserve is home to nearly 800 of them. The goal of the Preserve is to encourage the public to visit, enjoy, and learn about the richness of Pennsylvania's natural heritage.

### B. Bucks County Wine Trail--

Experience the rich heritage behind the wines expertly crafted by the family wineries of Bucks County. The gentle rolling hills, deep well-drained soils, and moderate climate combine to make Bucks County one of the premier grape-growing regions of the East Coast. See how wine is produced. Talk with the people who make it happen. Tour the cool wine cellars. Experience history in the making. For the list of wineries, visit [www.visitbuckscounty.com/listings/Bucks-County-Wine-Trail](http://www.visitbuckscounty.com/listings/Bucks-County-Wine-Trail)

### C. Covered Bridge Tour—

This tour of Bucks County's 12 remaining covered bridges starts at the Memorial Building in Washington Crossing Historic Park on the Delaware River. The Tour makes a large circle through Bucks County and is planned so the traveler can start at any one of the bridges. For directions, visit [www.visitbuckscounty.com/about-bucks-county/maps/covered-bridge-tour-directions](http://www.visitbuckscounty.com/about-bucks-county/maps/covered-bridge-tour-directions)

### D. New Hope & Ivyland Railroad,

32 West Bridge Street, New Hope, PA 18938

Climb aboard the New Hope & Ivyland passenger train and travel into a scene from the past. Relax and leave your cares behind as you journey into history, learning what rail travel was like for your parents, grandparents or great-grandparents.

### E. New Hope, PA—

Nestled along the banks of the Delaware River, the village of New Hope and its surrounding area offers visitors scenic countryside, romantic hideaways, and family fun. This sophisticated yet country-casual town provides a much-needed break from today's hectic lifestyle and offers something for everyone.

### F. Peddler's Village,

Routes 202 & 263, Lahaska, PA 18931

Discover a historic village with charming colonial-style buildings, award-winning gardens, and distinctive shopping, dining, and lodging. For more than 50 years, visitors have followed the winding brick pathways to experience exceptional dining, explore the best of Bucks County shopping, enjoy family fun at Gigglesberry Fair, escape from the everyday to a getaway at the Golden Plough Inn, and celebrate favorite traditions at seasonal festivals and annual events.

### G. Washington Crossing Historic Park,

1112 River Road, Washington Crossing, PA 18977

From this site, General George Washington and men of the Continental Army and militia crossed the Delaware River on Christmas night 1776 and marched to Trenton, NJ. There, they attacked and defeated Hessian troops quartered in and around the village. This surprise attack and victory set the stage for Washington's subsequent victories at the Second Battle of Trenton and Princeton.

scalloped bottom. Traditionally, these doors led into feed aisles or individual stalls.



**11. 3171 Ash Mill Road,  
Doylestown, PA 18902**

This barn appears to date from the early-19th century with many later additions. The main barn is a three-bay bank barn that no longer has a bank. The central bay of the barn on the visible northerly side is of frame construction above the stable level. This suggests that the barn originally had an earthen bank leading up to the barn doors.



**12. 3447-3451 Street Road,  
Doylestown, PA 18902**

The largest building on this property is a stone barn with a 1796 date stone in the gable. This barn is highlighted by keystone lintels above the windows in the gable end. The window openings are protected with wooden louvers rather than narrow ventilation slits seen on other stone barns. The barn has several stone and frame additions. John Holcombe, a local Quaker who served as Lieutenant in the American Revolution and whose grandfather owned a large part of present-day Lambertville, NJ, owned the then 200-acre property when the barn was constructed.



**13. 6066 Sawmill Road,  
Doylestown, PA 18902**

Like many Bucks County farms, this 19th century barn is now separated from the house by a public road. Many think this was done because early roads were extensions of farm lanes. The core of this barn is a full-stone structure that was supplemented by frame-over-stone shed wings.



**14. 3465 Aquetong Road,  
Doylestown, PA 18902**

This barn is a single-level barn, which is often referred to as an English or ground barn. The central bay on the north elevation is of frame construction while the end bays are stone. The south elevation is stone with double-wagon doors in the central bay. The need for large doors on the north side to accommodate loaded hay wagons influenced this design. The unloaded wagons could then proceed out the smaller doors on the opposite elevation.



**15. 6370 Greenhill Road,  
New Hope, PA 18938**

This is an outstanding collection of 19th century vernacular farm buildings. This property remained in the Balderston family from 1766 until 1927, when 128 acres were sold. There are three barns on the property, one of which is a stone barn with a frame threshing area. There is an unusually long stone barn with a slightly projecting frame forebay and several large wall dormers for access to granaries; this type is without precedent in Bucks County. 19th century advertisements suggest that this was a “cow house” rather than a typical grain and stabling barn. The third barn is a frame bank barn that was moved to the site and placed on the foundations of another barn.



**16. 3361 N. Sugaan Road,  
New Hope, PA 18938**

This English barn features two doors in the east gable end with a wider one providing access to a horse stable. In the interior of the east gable, there is a 1786 date stone. The unusual location of the date stone most likely is due to the fact that someone added a large window in the gable where the original date stone was located, so the stone was relocated.



**17. BUCKS COUNTY AUDUBON  
SOCIETY AT HONEY HOLLOW  
VISITOR CENTER  
2877 Creamery Road,  
New Hope, PA 18938**

Renowned architect R. Brognard Okie, who was known for his colonial restorations that include the Betsy Ross House and Pennsbury Manor, designed this barn. Built in 1934, it provided cool, dry storage for grain, straw, and hay as well as horse stalls. Preserving the barn's original characteristics, which include four out sheds, oversized doors, the “people” doors, and the interior space, the Bucks County Audubon Society (BCAS) converted it to house its nature shop and an environmental education classroom. The property is located on land that is protected by a conservation easement administered by Heritage Conservancy. \*\*BCAS often holds public events; this is not a private residence.



Beautiful Bucks County farmland.

### ENGLISH BARNs

Central Bucks County has one of the largest collections of stone, English-influenced, single-level barns. The interior of the average English barn was divided into three bays. Solebury Township is the epicenter of the majority of these early barns. It's considered the grandfather of the American barn due to its construction dating back to the 1770s.

### PENNSYLVANIA BANK BARN OR FOREBAY BANK BARN

Defining characteristics of this barn are a ramp leading to the upper level of the barn and a forebay, or projecting upper level over the barnyard, on the opposite side from the ramp. In early Pennsylvania German examples, the presence of an extended forebay gives the barn a saltbox appearance from the side. The Pennsylvania Germans often referred to these as Sweitzer (Swiss) barns.

### STONE BARNs

Stone barns were the barns of choice for wealthier farmers. In the 1795 tax list of Upper Makefield, seven of the 12 stone barns were on properties of over 200 acres in size.

### FRAME BARNs

Most early frame barns were not built completely of wood. “Frame barn, stone stable high” is how most 19th century barns are described. These are barns built with a stone first floor and a frame superstructure above.

### GAMBREL ROOF BARNs

Engineering research led to the development of framing for gambrel roofs in the late 19th century. The shape of the gambrel roof allowed a larger loft space to store hay.

### GOTHIC ROOF BARNs

By the 1930s, barn roof technology entered the last phase of its evolution. Improved materials allowed builders to construct barns with curved rafters. The rafters came to a point at the top, which was reminiscent of a Gothic arch.

As you embark on this barn expedition, here are a few architectural features that you might encounter in your travels.

**BAY**—A bay is a section or compartment within a barn. A common type of barn is the three-bay barn, which has three separate rooms within the barn.

**GABLE**—A gable is the triangular portion of a wall beneath the edges of a pitched roof. They are often called A-shaped roofs.

**GAMBREL**—A gambrel roof is usually a symmetrical two-sided roof with two slopes on each side. The shape is reminiscent of an arch created using four lines.

**HAYMOW**—The haymow is a part of a barn where hay is stored. Imagine that!

**LINTELS**—A lintel is a piece of stone or wood that can be a load-bearing building component or a decorative architectural element. It is often found over portals, doors, windows, and fireplaces.

**LOUVER**—A louver is a framed opening, such as a window, that is fitted with movable horizontal slats that admit air and light and shed rain.

**QUOINS**—A quoin is made of stone, brick, cement, or sometimes even timber. Quoins are blocks at the corner of a wall. They exist in some cases to provide actual strength for a wall and in other cases just for aesthetics.

**SALTBOX CONFIGURATION**—A saltbox structure has just one story in the back and two stories in the front. It takes its name from its resemblance to a wooden lidded box in which salt was once kept.

# Barn Voyage!



**1. Thompson-Neely Barn**  
Across from Bowman's Hill  
Wildflower Preserve at  
1635 River Road,  
New Hope, PA 18938

Built in the early 1700s, this barn is quite unique. Unlike most barns, it was built with two stories on the rear elevation but only one story on the barnyard side. This gives the barn a saltbox configuration. The Thompson-Neely House was used as a hospital for sick and wounded soldiers during the Revolutionary War just prior to George Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night. It is believed that James Monroe was brought here after the first Battle of Trenton.



*The "a-bridged" version of the tour takes you through one of Bucks County's historic covered bridges!*

**VAN SANT COVERED BRIDGE—**  
266-298 Covered Bridge Road, New Hope, PA 18938

Located in Solebury Township, the Van Sant Covered Bridge was built in 1875 and crosses the Pidcock Creek. It is 86 feet long and 15 feet wide. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 1980. For more information about the 10 Bucks County covered bridges that you can still drive through, go to [www.visitbuckscounty.com/things-to-do/driving-tours/covered-bridge](http://www.visitbuckscounty.com/things-to-do/driving-tours/covered-bridge)



**2. 250 Lurgan Road,**  
New Hope, PA 18938

While the original date of construction is unknown, according to family accounts, this barn's roof was raised and converted to a gambrel roof in 1917. Two wings were added to the barn in the 1950s & 60s, and a concrete stave silo was built in 1955 to add more space than the earlier wooden silo.



**Please Remember:**  
These barns are private property and are not open to the public.  
Enjoy them from a distance.



**3. 390 Pineville Road,**  
Newtown, PA 18940

This early-19th century structure is a traditional bank barn. It's made of stone with frame gables. There are several frame additions, including bankside sheds, giving the barn a saltbox appearance.



**4. 359 Pineville Road,**  
Newtown, PA 18940

This stone bank barn was built in two sections. The original westerly section of the barn was constructed in 1807. It is a double-decker (interestingly, this means a three-level structure) stone bank barn with pronounced red sandstone quoins on all four corners. Upon construction of the larger addition in 1835, stonework was added to the first section, and the barn was raised to allow for a unified ridgeline for both barns.



**5. 1085 Durham Road,**  
Newtown, PA 18940

This is a frame ground barn with small shed additions. Following a fire in 1914, George L. Eastburn had contractor John K. LaRue build the barn that you see today. Along with the original barn, George lost his hay houses, wagon house, and corncrib in the fire. The barn contained 30 tons of baled hay, 15 tons of loose hay, 800 bushels of oats, a loaded hay wagon, thresher and cleaner and other machinery, and ten tons of fertilizer. With the wagon house went a market wagon and an automobile, and with the cribs, 175 bushels or more of corn were destroyed, resulting in a loss estimated at \$6,000. The newspaper reported that as many as a thousand people were at the scene during the afternoon and evening, many of whom assisted in every way they could in checking the flames and removing articles from burning or threatened buildings.



**6. 5801 Ridge Road,**  
New Hope, PA 18938

Ridge Road represents one of the largest collections of preserved farms in Bucks County; therefore, many of the barns are still in use as agricultural facilities. Of particular note is the barn at 5801 Ridge Rd. This yellow and green barn with its red roof is one of the most dramatic barns on the tour. It has a symmetrical frame superstructure that projects over the stable doors, forming a sheltered area.



**7. 1301 Street Road,**  
New Hope, PA 18938

You will pass barns on both sides of the road. The barn at 1301 Street Road is a residential conversion of an English barn. It's similar to several others on the tour in that it is a solid stone, three-bay single-level barn. The presence of several on the tour belies how rare this style of barn is in Pennsylvania.



**8. 5453 York Road,**  
Holicong, PA 18928

This barn was constructed with a double-sloped gambrel roof to accommodate additional hay storage. It appears to be the third barn constructed on the site. In October 1901, it was reported that Judge Edward M. Paxson, owner of the property, was having a new barn constructed. The barn apparently burned thereafter, and in 1904, local newspapers reported the building of a new barn. The newspaper reported that the barn was "to take the place of the one destroyed by fire last spring, but is of larger dimensions."



**9. 5441 Ash Road,**  
Doylestown, PA 18902

The core of this structure is a large, full-stone bank barn. The west end of the barn clearly shows the scar of a former addition that may have been an open animal or equipment shed. This barn appears to date from the early-19th century.



**10. 2855 Ash Mill Road,**  
Doylestown, PA 18902

This barn has been converted to a residence. The most interesting feature of it is the trio of stable-level doors on the gable end that faces the road. Each has a gable hood with a