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HERITAGE TRAIL

LEBANON COUNTY



Welcome to historic **Schaefferstown**, one of the oldest settlements in Lebanon County. As you tour the historic buildings of Schaefferstown, imagine what it might have been like in the 1700s.

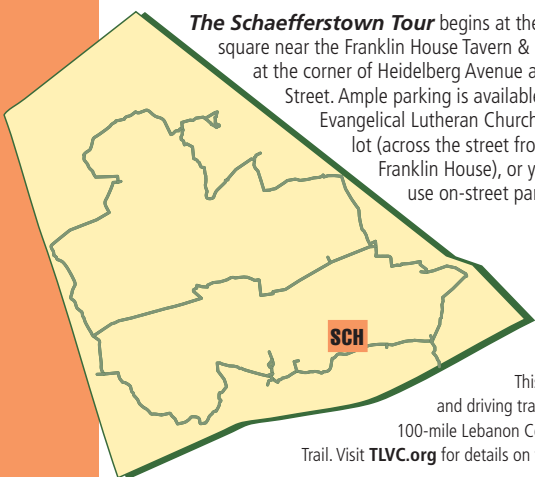
Alexander Schaeffer and his family arrived in Philadelphia from Germany in 1738 and settled here when he was 26 years old. This entrepreneur prospered with his general store and real estate purchases. Within 20 years, he purchased 700 acres. Keeping about 90 acres for a plantation now known as the Alexander Schaeffer Farm, he laid out lots on the remaining land that were each large enough for a house, stable or barn, and a kitchen garden. He sold them for five shillings each, plus a yearly ground rent of between two and three shillings. His lots were based around the town's square, at the intersection of Market Street and Main Street (now Heidelberg Avenue). Schaeffer kept one of the best lots on the square for his large limestone general store and a tavern. It remains a tavern and restaurant today.

Alexander named the town *Heidelberg*, but locals used its eventual name of *Schaeffer's Town*. The town flourished as ironworkers, merchants, farmers, travelers, and area residents frequented its churches, taverns, craftsmen's shops, and stores selling local produce.

Schaeffer installed one of the first gravitational water conveyance systems in the colonies, bringing water from a local spring through 1,300 feet of wooden pipes to his tavern and two large troughs providing water for residents and domestic animals. In 1763, Schaeffer deeded the spring and reservoir (now known as Fountain Park) and the water system itself to the residents of Market Street. Today's homeowners on that street are automatic members of the Schaefferstown Water Company, and they maintain the park and the two troughs or "fountains."

On this walking tour, you will pass many of the 18th and 19th century homes of log, half-timber or limestone. Most are now covered with modern-day siding, but you will be able to identify the homes by their steep roofs and small windows.

The Schaefferstown Tour begins at the old town square near the Franklin House Tavern & Restaurant, at the corner of Heidelberg Avenue and Market Street. Ample parking is available in St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church's parking lot (across the street from the Franklin House), or you may use on-street parking.



This local walking and driving trail is part of the 100-mile Lebanon County Heritage Trail. Visit TLVC.org for details on the entire trail.



ABRAHAM REX STORE (1)

1 Abraham Rex Store

101 S. Market St.

Abraham Rex, who was married to Alexander Schaeffer's daughter, Elizabeth, built a store and residence with native limestone around 1815. This store replaced the previous wooden tavern and store. The building was a general store until 1988, and in recent years has operated as an antique shop with upstairs residence.

2 Frank Zerbe Home

105 S. Market St.

This was the home of Dr. B. Frank Zerbe who practiced medicine along with his brother, Thomas (who lived across the street). In 1883, the brothers began manufacturing cigars with locally-raised tobacco. Men and women were employed to process and roll the tobacco into cigars.

3 John Smith Home

113 S. Market St.

Built in the late 18th century, this home, with its gable roof, was built in two log sections. It was once the home of John Smith, a noted coverlet weaver.

4 Nathan-Simon Store/Mock Home

117-119 S. Market St.

This building was built mid-18th



FRANK ZERBE HOME (2)

5 Fountain Park

S. Market St.

Alexander Schaeffer deeded this land in 1763 to the residents of Market Street who have cared for it ever since. The enclosed spring feeds the two "fountains" along Market St. In 1845, the wooden pipes were replaced with cast iron and The Schaefferstown Water Company, Inc., became the first chartered water company in the U.S. Sections of the original pipe are displayed at the Brendle Museum. Baron Stiegel's Tower, built in 1769, once stood just south of the Park on "Tower Hill."

6 Phillip Erpff House

200 S. Market St.

German-born Phillip Erpff and his wife came to America as indentured servants. After paying off their passage, the Erpffs built this gable-roofed limestone house and inn about 1750. It has been a private home since his death in 1801. Many original interior features are still intact. The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.



PHILLIP ERPFF HOUSE (6)



GRANITE BASIN (7)



JOHN SMITH HOME (3)

7 Granite Basin

S. Market St.

In 1936, the granite basin replaced the wooden water trough that was removed from the south side of the square in the early 1800s.

8 George T. Lauser Home

108 S. Market St.

This Victorian-era house was built in the late 1800s and was the home of George Lauser, a prominent justice of the peace, and his wife. Neither of their two daughters ever married and both remained in the house until the mid-1980s. The present resident is only the second owner of this property.

9 Thomas Zerbe Home

104 S. Market St.

The red sandstone for this 1880s home came from quarries owned by Jonathan Zerbe, father of the builder, Thomas Zerbe. Dr. Zerbe practiced medicine along with his brother Frank, who lived across the street. The brothers' cigar business was so successful that they eventually gave up medicine.

10 Lauser's Store Complex

100 S. Market Street

George F. Miller, who owned the



NATHAN-SIMON STORE/MOCK HOME (4)

clapboard house on the north side, built this stone structure on the south side in 1847 for a store. Joseph Lauser, who became a Lebanon County judge, purchased the property for a store in 1850. His son George, ran the store until 1928. The building continued as a store until the 1950s.

11 Jeremiah Ream Home

1451 Heidelberg Ave.

Jeremiah Ream served as the village postmaster in 1885. The post office occupied a small summer house behind the main building.

12 Mrs. Loose Home

1455 Heidelberg Ave.

This 19th century log house, now sided, is typical in size and layout of the early houses in Schaefferstown. The dormer windows and end chimney are modern additions.

13 Early Log Houses

Jeremiah Kohl Home

1460 Heidelberg Ave.

John Hauser Home

1468 Heidelberg Ave.

B. Mays Home

1470 Heidelberg Ave.

The two-story log houses at #1460 and #1470 display typical Pennsylvania German asymmetrical front façades. #1468, built as a one-story structure and later enlarged,



FOUNTAIN PARK (5)

served as the German-language Lutheran school house and teacher's residence until the 1830s. All three originally had central fireplaces and chimneys, another characteristic of Pennsylvania German homes.

14 St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

E. Heidelberg Ave. and Church St.

Built in 1765 of native limestone with sandstone trim, this building was used as a hospital after the Battle of Brandywine during the Revolutionary War. As the congregation's needs grew, the west gable end was extended 16', and the steeple was moved to the east end of the church in 1884. Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, who became the first Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, served as an early assistant pastor of this church. Rev. Muhlenberg stood to the left of President George Washington at Washington's first inauguration.

15 Schaefferstown Cemetery

Church St.

The town's churches have always shared this burial ground. The original sections contain many 18th-century stones with German inscriptions, (Cont'd on back.)



THOMAS ZERBE HOME (9)



LAUSER'S STORE COMPLEX (10)

Schaefferstown

SCH Map

SCH Map

Schaefferstown



JEREMIAH REAM HOME (11)



MRS. LOOSE HOME (12)



EARLY LOG HOUSES (13)

JEREMIAH KOHL HOME #1460



EARLY LOG HOUSES (13)

JOHN HAUSER HOME #1468



EARLY LOG HOUSES (13)

B. MAVS HOME #1470



ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (14)



SCHAEFFERSTOWN CEMETERY (15)



STIEGEL HOUSE (16)



HEIDELBERG HALL (37)

including those of the Schaeffer family. A modern bronze plaque on the right-hand side of the street identifies Alexander Schaeffer's grave. Some early tombstones contain a form of folk art carvings.

16 Stiegel House

200 N. Market St.

This 1½ story house was once owned by Anthony Stiegel, younger brother of the famous colonial ironmaster, Henry William Stiegel, who was a frequent visitor to Schaefferstown. The south side of the structure is half-timbered construction with a carved corner post bearing the date 1757; the north side is a log addition put on before 1800. While there were a number of half-timbered homes built in Schaefferstown in the 18th century, this is one of only a few that have survived; it is awaiting restoration.



SCHAEFFER FARM SMOKEHOUSE (36)



ALEXANDER SCHAEFFER HOUSE (35)

17 Gemberling-Rex House
106 N. Market St.
Built circa 1758 by tavern keeper Paul Gemberling, it operated until 1802 when storekeepers Samuel and Mary Rex made it their home. It remained in the Rex family until 1974. Many original tavern features remain, including part of a bar cage used to secure liquor, a Franklin fireplace, wall stenciling, and a unique hand-carved handrail. The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and is open for tours during the summer.



SCHAEFFER FARM SPRINGHOUSE (34)



SCHAEFFER FARM PIG STY (33)

18 Thomas R. Brendle Museum
111 N. Market St.
Built in 1909 for the Patriotic Order Sons of America, the main floor has been used for community concerts, silent movies, plays, fairs, dances, and



SCHAEFFER FARM BARN (32)

high-school graduations. In 1947, the building housed a small tobacco processing plant. Now a museum, it contains work of local craftsmen, as well as local cultural artifacts. It is named for native Rev. Thomas Royce Brendle who compiled a large Pennsylvania German folklore collection. It is open for tours during the summer.

19 First National Bank of Schaefferstown

103 N. Market St.

Built of sandstone in 1910, it belonged to the Lebanon Valley National Bank of Schaefferstown before it closed as a commercial building. It is now a private residence.

20 Granite Fountain

A trough north of the square was replaced in 1910 with a granite fountain, donated by Matilda Zimmerman in memory of Mary Rex Zimmerman, her mother and great-granddaughter of Alexander Schaeffer.

21 Franklin House Tavern & Restaurant

101 N. Market St.

Alexander Schaeffer built this limestone structure, once known as the King George, as a store and tavern in the mid-1700s. It has operated almost continuously as a bar and restaurant since then. Legend says that early settlers hid in the large, arched Germanic-style cellar when fearing Indian raids. The mansard roof was added in 1884 when a third story was added for use by overnight guests and as a meeting room.

22 C.M. Krall Store

1354 Heidelberg Ave.

Built for a store circa 1840, it was a cigar factory by 1900, and by the mid-20th century it had been converted to

apartments. The building was badly damaged by fire in 2004 but was rebuilt.

23 First Evangelical Church

1340 Heidelberg Ave.

Built 1847. The congregation was active until 1919 when remaining members sold the building to Schaefferstown Volunteer Fire Company who installed large doors in front and used it to house fire apparatus.

24 Iba House

200 N. Carpenter St.

Two-story log house, built in the mid-18th century. The stone addition in rear was used as a craftsman's shop or sales space and dates from the early 19th century. The small frame building to the north was a tinsmith's workshop.

25 Schaefferstown Academy

201 N. Carpenter St.

Local residents seeking a better education for children than was offered by public schools established the Schaefferstown Academy. Built in 1857, this structure was used as a school for only three years when it closed because of financial difficulties.

26 Old Schaefferstown School

Church Parking Lot on N. Carpenter St.

Built in 1883 with a 1904 addition for the high school classes, this building was Schaefferstown's School for 55 years. The high school was a two-year school until 1911 when a third year was added.

27 St. Paul's United Church of Christ

1304 Heidelberg Ave.

The original structure was built of logs in the 1730s. Alexander Schaeffer's family was active in

the German Reformed Church (now United Church of Christ). The log church was replaced in 1795 with a stone building. This third building replaced the structurally failing second church in 1858.

28 Beamesderfer Tinsmith

1282 Heidelberg Ave.

John Beamesderfer began his stove and tinsmith business here in 1875 and sold it to his brother Solomon in 1897. Beamesderfer sold potbellied and kitchen wood stoves, pans and tin ware, and did tin roofing and spouting. The large window displayed merchandise to passersby and brightened the inside for workers.

29 Wittle/Smith Home & Bakery

1278 Heidelberg Ave.

This 2-door stone farmhouse with end chimneys was built circa 1830. To the left of the private residence stands a wood-frame bakery built circa 1890 by baker Samuel Wittle. The bakery is an example of a 19th century commercial building and still contains the original double-access bake oven said to hold 100 loaves of bread. Baker William Smith bought and enlarged the property in 1908, operating the bakery into the 1930s. Much of the exterior woodwork and roof was replaced in early 2000s, and the building was used as a retail folkart gallery.

30 Zion United Methodist Church

1279 Heidelberg Ave.

The Zion United Methodist Church, formerly the Zion United Brethren Church in Christ Church, was rebuilt using the same exterior stone walls after a fire in 1919.

31 Alexander Schaeffer Farm

213 S. Carpenter St.

This farm, once known as *Brendle Farms*, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. Archaeological research from 2004 to 2007, and in 2010, revealed evidence about colonial German farm life. The thousands of artifacts collected gave clues to periods of farmhouse renovation, the diet of early settlers, elements of dress, hygiene and health as well as Schaeffer family purchases from local shopkeepers.

Since the 1960s, this 90-acre farm has become a center of revived folk-life activities, including an annual Cherry Fair & Early American Craft Show in June and Harvest Fair in September. In 2014, Rt. 501 bypass development reduced total acreage to 85 acres.

32 Schaeffer Farm Barn

This bank barn, built in 1890, replaced an 18th century log barn that was destroyed by a fire caused by a steam-powered thrasher. According to a long-time local resident, the decorations over the south windows represent doves of peace and symbolize the angels who sang to the shepherds on the first Christmas.

33 Schaeffer Farm Pig Sty

The 18th-century pig sty was located in close proximity to the farmhouse making it convenient to feed household and distilling waste to the swine. The enclosed structure allowed for controlled breeding, a rarity at the time.

34 Schaeffer Farm Springhouse

Located over the Schaeffer Farm spring, this log springhouse was

relocated from a nearby farm in 1980.

35 Alexander Schaeffer House

A combination distillery and residence, the building was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2011. Schaeffer built this house of native limestone circa 1750. His tavern on the town square was supplied apple whiskey by local men hired to distill his farm's apples in a copper still in the basement. In 1775, Alexander's son Henry remodeled and enlarged the existing farmhouse and added a second still. The foundations of two brick and tile fireboxes that would have held the 50 to 100 gallon copper stills were uncovered during archaeological digs. The house is open for tours during the annual Cherry Fair, Harvest Fair, or by appointment.

36 Schaeffer Farm Smokehouse

This was used to preserve and smoke hams and other meats for the winter months.

37 Heidelberg Hall

1373 Heidelberg Ave.

Prosperous businessman William M. Weigley was a public-spirited man, starting the first Sunday school in town, and establishing Schaefferstown Academy. He built this brown sandstone mansion, previously referred to as Weigley Mansion, with mansard roof in 1883 for \$30,000, using stone from his own quarry. *Godey's Ladies Book*, a popular 19th-century fashion magazine, published the mansion's floor plan of 22 rooms and a ballroom on the third floor.



GEMBERLING-REX HOUSE (17)



THOMAS R. BRENDLE MUSEUM (18)



FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SCHAEFFERSTOWN (19)



GRANITE FOUNTAIN (20)



FRANKLIN HOUSE TAVERN & RESTAURANT (21)



C.M. KRALL STORE (22)



FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH (23)



ALEXANDER SCHAEFFER FARM / BRENDLE FARMS (31)



ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (30)



WITTE/SMITH HOME AND BAKERY (29)



BEAMESDERFER TINSMITH (28)



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (27)



OLD SCHAEFFERSTOWN SCHOOL (26)



SCHAEFFERSTOWN ACADEMY (25)



IBA HOUSE (24)