

Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust's Fifth Annual House Tour

September 19, 2009

Pattye Benson

Old houses tell wonderful stories, and the houses of Tredyffrin Township have many tales to tell. On September 19, 2009, the Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust's 5th Annual Historic House Tour opened doors to Tredyffrin's past. This year's tour spotlighted Tredyffrin's neighborhoods by opening the doors to eight private homes.

To mark the Trust's fifth year of their Historic House Tour, two additional historic properties were featured stops on this year's tour. Open for guests to tour was the Antoinette Day Spa in Paoli. The first spa on the Main Line, this beautiful Queen Anne Victorian had its beginnings in 1889 as the home and office of a local physician. This home continued the styling of Queen Anne details allowing for complete individualistic features including towers, gables and a wraparound porch in random fashion.

Tredyffrin Township is fortunate to have its own hidden jewel: the Wharton Esherick Museum. Begun in 1926 as a sculpting studio, the stone portion was modeled after the local stone barns, the large north window replacing the doors for the hay wagon. An excellent example of organic Arts and Crafts Movement architecture, this studio of Wharton Esherick (1887-1970) was a popular stop for tour visitors this year.

The annual house tour provides an opportunity for our historic community to showcase its neighborhood architectural heritage and demonstrate how historic homes can be a perfect fit for our modern lives. Old houses tell wonderful stories, and this year's featured homes did not disappoint. Under the vibrant blue sky and perfect summer-like temperatures, these generous homeowners opened their doors to Tredyffrin's past to over 150 guests. As one of the Trust's most anticipated annual events, the Trust is extremely grateful to local historic home owners who by sharing their extraordinary homes allow us to better understand Tredyffrin Township's significant and unique history.

It is wonderful to live in a community where people cherish their historic properties and allow others the opportunity to enjoy them! Following the house tour, Trust President Pattye Benson received many emails and calls, but she thinks the following excerpt from a guest's email probably best sums up the house tour for her and other visitors:

"... The Historic House Tour was superb, a beautiful day for touring with friends, and each house unique in its history and presentation. From small cozy rooms to a vast master suite, from springhouse to media room to his and hers'pub space, all of it was fascinating. The grounds of each house were manicured and lovely and it was nice to find chums along the way. . ."

Proceeds from the 5th Annual Historic House Tour benefit the Trust's ongoing mission to preserve and protect historic and cultural resources in Tredyffrin Township and to educate the public about the preservation and protection of historic and cultural settings. A current project of the Trust is the rebuilding of the historic Jones Log Barn as a living history center at the DuPortail quarters in Chesterbrook. For additional information, con-

sult the Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust website: www.tredyffrinhistory.org, or call Pattye Benson, Trust President at 610.644.6759. You can also email questions to info@tredyffrinhistory.org.



Antoinette Day Spa, Paoli (c.1885). *All photos by Allen Barol.*



Apple Jack Farm, Malvern (c.1927).



Nathan Pawlings homestead, Malvern (c. 1780).



Upper Stream Farm, Berwyn (c. 1760).