

2016 Historic House Tour

The 12th Annual Historic House Tour was held on Saturday 27 September 2016 by the Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust (THPT), with the proceeds benefitting their fundraising campaign to complete the restoration of the Jones Log Barn alongside the existing 18th-century Federal Barn on the Duportail House property in Chesterbrook, creating an historic enclave for the community to be called the “Living History Center at Duportail.” The illustrated guidebook provided historic background for the buildings on the the tour. For more information, visit the THPT website at: www.tredyffrinhistory.org

Fortunately, as in past years, the late summer weather was pleasant and hundreds participated in the tour, which included nine distinctive and diverse properties. The Tredyffrin Public Library (celebrating its 50th anniversary) and Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens (celebrating their 40th anniversary) were the two most familiar locations on the circuit this year, which also included seven other rarely-accessible private properties. Each site visit was rewarding, and all locations were staffed with knowledgeable volunteers with interesting stories to tell. Particular highlights included the two beautiful carriage homes sharing the recently renovated “Westthorpe Farm Barn” structure (c. 1915), each with striking interiors reflecting the very different and distinctive tastes and styles of the owners, and “Sunekrest” (c. 1839), the home of the prominent artist Wharton Esherick and his family from 1913–40, now once again accessible and in the care of the Wharton Esherick Museum organization. — JOS



ABOVE: (LEFT) “Stonyhurst” (c. 1887), built by Robert Hare, and (RIGHT) the adjacent carriage house.
BELOW: The “Westthorpe Farm Barn” (c. 1915), recently converted into two elegant carriage homes.

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ABOVE: The "Sunekrest" farmhouse, home to Wharton Esherick and his family from 1913-40.

LEFT: The adjacent barn, converted by Esherick into a studio, and renovated by later owners into a residence.

BELOW: Esherick's original hand-carved door latch, still in place on the studio entrance door.

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ABOVE: “Diamond Rock Farm” (c. 1750), just uphill from the iconic Diamond Rock School. BELOW: “Sunnycroft” (c. 1931), built in the colonial style by Homer Reed, Jr. and featuring extensive formal gardens on the property. *Photos courtesy of John O. Senior © 2016*

