

# Wharton Esherick Historic Marker Dedication and Diamond Rock Schoolhouse Update

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In a special ceremony held during the Wharton Esherick Museum (WEM) Annual Member's Party on 9 September 2018, State Senator Andrew Dinniman, on behalf of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), dedicated a new Historical Marker to recognize the important contributions and legacy of renowned local artist Wharton Esherick. The marker was installed at the top of Diamond Rock Road where it intersects with Country Club Road and Horse Shoe Trail, just a short distance from the Museum, in Malvern.

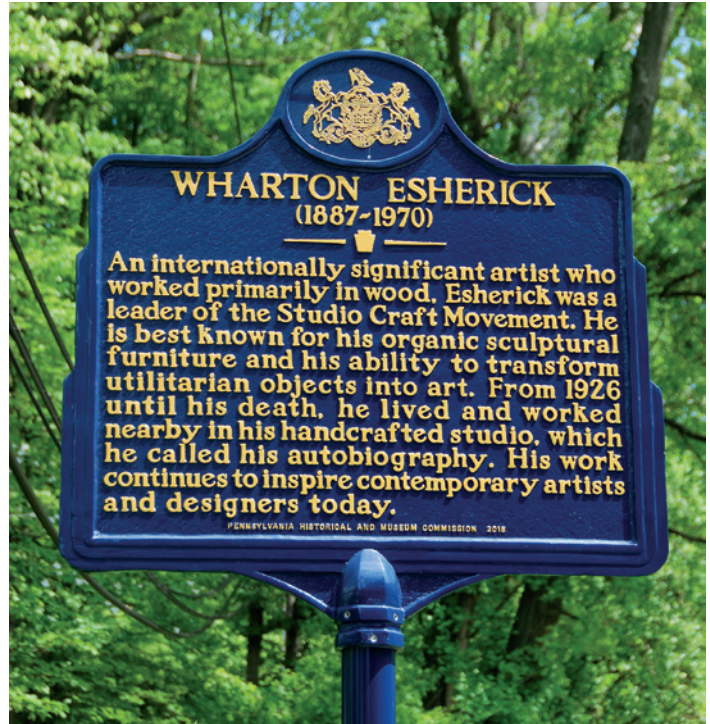
As reported in the *History Quarterly* Vol. 53 No. 3 (March 2017), an adjacent property on Valley Forge Mountain that includes *Sunekrest*, the 19th-century farmhouse where the Eshericks lived when they first moved to the Paoli area in 1913, was reacquired by the Museum in 2014. This acquisition provides an important direct connection to Esherick's early history, and the buildings he used before construction of his studio and residence built later and a little further up the hill.

As announced in May 2019, and coinciding with its 200th anniversary, the iconic Diamond Rock Schoolhouse, a Chester County landmark located at the intersection of Diamond Rock and Yellow Springs Roads in Tredyffrin Township, has become part of the Wharton Esherick Museum. Since Wharton briefly used the nearby schoolhouse as a painting studio after moving to *Sunekrest*, it is a particularly fitting addition. Esherick's contributions to the restoration of the schoolhouse can be seen in the carved diamond motif shutters, the sunrise pattern cement floor, and iron work on the front door and shutters. For more information on the history of the schoolhouse, please refer to "The Diamond Rock Octagonal Schoolhouse" by Susanna Baum in *History Quarterly* Vol. 50, No. 4 (December 2013). Ms. Baum led a group of volunteers operating as the Diamond Rock Schoolhouse Preservation Association in maintaining the schoolhouse for many years. [www.diamondrockschool.org](http://www.diamondrockschool.org)

The Museum is currently in the early stages of a campus planning process to explore how the farmhouse and the schoolhouse can be incorporated into the Museum experience.

For information about visiting the schoolhouse, as well as the museum, please visit the WEM website at [whartonesherickmuseum.org](http://whartonesherickmuseum.org)

TOP: Historical marker erected just west of the museum, near the intersection of Horsehoe Trail and Diamond Rock Hill Road; MIDDLE: Wooden directional sign located close to the marker at the same intersection; BOTTOM: Diamond Rock Octagonal Schoolhouse. 2019 photos courtesy of © John O. Senior







Wharton Esherick  
Museum

The Wharton Esherick Museum is experienced through guided tours that must be reserved in advance. More information on visiting the Museum may be found on the website at [whartonesherickmuseum.org](http://whartonesherickmuseum.org).



*Wharton Esherick Studio, photo by Charles Uniatowski*



*Wharton Esherick*

The Wharton Esherick Museum, located just outside of Valley Forge Park in Malvern, Pa. is the handcrafted home and studio of Wharton Esherick (1887-1970), an internationally significant artist and leader of the Studio Furniture Movement. Esherick worked primarily in wood and extended his unique forms to furniture, furnishings, interiors, buildings, and more.

Since the Museum's founding in 1972, Esherick's studio, which is the centerpiece of the Museum, has been recognized on the National Register of Historic Places and as a National Historic Landmark for Architecture. We are thrilled now to recognize not just the building, but Wharton Esherick himself, and the groundbreaking effect he had on the world of art and craft. Esherick was an internationally significant figure in the landscape of art history and American modern design. Now recognized as a leader of the Studio Furniture Movement, Esherick's work is celebrated by new generations of artists and woodworkers.

*Wharton Esherick Studio, Dining Room*

As an artist, Esherick worked primarily in wood and extended his unique forms to furniture, furnishings, interiors, buildings, and more. His motto, "If it isn't fun, it isn't worth doing," is evident in the joyful expression of his work and can be seen throughout the Museum that, with more than 300 of his works on exhibition, has been preserved much as it was when the artist lived and worked there.

*Text and images on this page courtesy of  
Wharton Esherick Museum.*

