

Willow Valley Driving Tour of One-Room Schoolhouses

Some of the best examples of former one-room schoolhouses are found in the Lampeter-Strasburg area of Lancaster County. This tour will take you through quaint villages and picturesque farmland passing twelve former one-room schoolhouses and two Amish parochial schools.

Approximate Driving Time: 1 ½ hours

Travel south on Peach Bottom Rd., turn left on Penn Grant Rd. (1.1 mi. from Lakes Manor)



Fairview School (117 Penn Grant Rd.)

The neighborhood grew around this schoolhouse. The owners made changes and additions throughout the years consequently the iconic look has disappeared although there still is a semblance of the former school.

Continue on Penn Grant Rd. to light (1.2 mi.)



Maple Croft School (Beaver Valley Pike & Penn Grant Rd.)

Built in 1906 Maple Croft School was located near the trolley stop on Beaver Valley Pike and Penn Grant Road. After consolidation, this school served as a bar before it became Flower's Restaurant in the mid-1960's. The present owners operated a gift shop for many years. Currently the building houses a law firm and a nail salon.

Continue on Penn Grant Rd., bend left onto Lampeter Rd. (1.4 mi.)



Lampeter School (1711 Lampeter Rd.)

This building, built in 1849, was built as a Reformed Mennonite Church in the Old Mennonite meeting house style. It was bought by the West Lampeter School District in 1940 and used as a one-room school until consolidation in 1957. Subsequently the township bought the building and used it as a municipal building and police station. In 1984 it was converted to a private residence.

Continue to stop light, turn right on Village Rd. (Rt.741), take first right (Bridge Rd.) and go to stop sign, turn left on Penn Grant Rd and cross covered bridge. Proceed on Penn Grant Rd. to Pequea School. (2.2 mi.)



Pequea School (1353 Penn Grant Rd.)

As evidenced by the change in the original windows this school has now become a two-story residence. The high ceilings in one-room schools enabled many schoolhouse owners to add another story or loft to the building.

Continue on Penn Grant Rd. and make a left turn at the cemetery. At stop sign turn right onto Rt. 741, after Strasburg Mennonite Church bear left around bend and turn left on Clearview Rd., after a few sharp bends it becomes Prospect Rd., continue to end. (1.5 mi.)



North Prospect School (North Prospect Rd. & Strasburg Pk.)

Built in 1883 this private residence still looks like a former one-room school. Additions have been added onto the back of the school. The owners change the front porch "occupants" seasonally.

Turn left on Strasburg Pike, then take first right onto Edisonville Rd.. At stop sign turn right. This becomes North Jackson St. (1.3 mi.)



North Jackson Street School (102 North Jackson St.)

Built as a subscription or pay school this building served as a meeting place for Strasburg men who favored free education. In 1831 they urged the Pennsylvania Assembly to legislate for free schools. In 1834 the Common School Law was passed and this school became one of Pennsylvania's first free schools.

Continue to stop sign, turn left on W. Main St (Rt.741) and go to light, turn left on Decatur St. (Rt. 896). After first stop light turn right on North Star Rd. (1.4 mi.)



North Star School (North Star Rd.)

Closing in 1983 as a public school in the Lampeter-Strasburg School District, North Star School was bought by the Amish and now serves as a parochial school. The school is located next to one of the oldest graveyards in Lancaster County.

Continue to stop sign, turn right and continue to next stop sign , turn left on Historic Dr. Continue straight through light onto Rt. 896 and take next right on Bishop Rd. (2.8 mi.)



Amish Parochial School (1 Bishop Rd.)

When consolidation took place the Amish began building their own parochial schools. Transportation and consolidation were in conflict with the small community atmosphere in the one-room school located near the student's home. Before 1936 the Amish were quite happy educating their children with the neighboring "English" children in the local school.

Continue a few hundred feet



Beaver Valley School (Bishop Rd. & Little Beaver Rd.)

The original red brick has been covered with faux white brick and the windows have been changed.

Follow the bend to the right on Little Beaver Rd.(unmarked) to stop sign, turn right on May Post Office Rd. (unmarked) and take next left on Shaub Rd. to Bunker Hill Rd. (1.3 mi.)



Bunker Hill School (400 Bunker Hill Rd.)

Bunker Hill School is typical of a second-generation school built in the latter half of the 19th century. It is built in the classical "temple of learning" style with raised-brick pediments and pilasters. The 1988 addition tastefully incorporates the schoolhouse architecture and is set back allowing the original school to predominate the landscape. The schoolhouse serves as the meeting room for the Strasburg Township Municipal Building.

Continue on Bunker Hill Rd., after several bends you will come to a left turn (.8 mi.) and continue to "T", turn left on Weaver Rd. (unmarked) (1.5 mi.), bend to the right passing an Amish Parochial School, at stop sign turn right on Winter Hill Rd., continue to next stop sign and turn left on Stively Rd., take next right on unmarked road. (3.3mi.)



Winter Hill School (820 Winter Hill Rd.)

Built in 1882 this school replaced an earlier frame school. Most schoolhouses became private residences when they were auctioned off by the school district. The owner of this schoolhouse has left the outside of the building completely unaltered, leaving intact the initials the students carved into the bricks. The school is located on

a little-travelled road and the surrounding countryside is basically unchanged from the 19th century.

Continue on Winter Hill Rd. to stop sign at church, turn right on North Old Rd.(unmarked), take next right on Sandstone Rd., continue around sharp bend to stop sign. (1.9 mi.)



Sandstone School (Sandstone Rd. & Bunker Hill Rd.)

Built in 1815 as a subscription or pay school, this school became part of the Common School Movement in 1834 and operated until 1956. At the time of its closing this historic school was the oldest school building in continuous use in Pennsylvania. The original sandstone has been covered by stucco and dormers have been added.

Turn left on Bunker Hill Rd.(unmarked), turn right at stop sign onto Rt. 222, take next right on Walnut Run Rd. and continue to end. (2.1 mi.)



Walnut Run School (Walnut Run Rd. and Lime Valley Rd.)

Operating until 1993 Walnut Run School was the last one-room school to close in Pennsylvania. It is still owned by the Lampeter-Strasburg School District and has been restored for use as a typical nineteenth century classroom.

Turn left on Lime Valley Rd. (unmarked) making several turns until you reach Beaver Valley Pike (Rt. 222), turn right and proceed north back to Willow Valley.

For more information on Lancaster County one-room schoolhouses consult *Lancaster County's One-Room Schoolhouses and the History of the Common School Movement* by Mary Virginia Shelley. Available at LancasterHistory.org.