

AMISH and MENNONITE FARMLAND

Lebanon Valley farmland not only includes modern farms that utilize the latest technologies, but there are many small farms that are cultivated by Amish and more conservative Mennonite sects. This cycling route will pass by farms where you will see horses and mules, buggies and wagons, tractors with metal wheels, scooters, products for sale *except on Sunday* and one room school houses.



Amish farm, Horst Road Two clues that you are viewing an Amish farm are narrow silos and windmills.



Amish Schoolhouse

On Saturdays, many will be traveling to markets, and on Sundays, they'll be on the road to attend church services and socialize at Amish homes. The clip clop of horses' hooves may be the only sound that you will hear on the back roads. When farm production is underway, farmers will be working their fields with teams of mules and horses, but not on Sunday. Sometimes you need to be patient and wait for the Amish teams to move off the roadway; you don't want to spook the mules!

Just past three miles into the route, you will begin to notice the Amish presence. However, the country roads where Amish farms are most prevalent are Gibble Road, Cherry Lane, Horst Road, Albright Road



and Stricklertown Road.

In addition to the farmland scenery, you will view the massive, sprawling U.S. Veterans Administration Medical Center which was built after W.W.II and the much, much older Heinrich Zeller House which served as a fortress for families against Indian raids during the French and Indian War. The house - fortress was built in 1745 and has Germanic features. While the Zeller House is a remnant of Pennsylvania's very early martial history, the Veterans Hospital continues to serve our former servicemen.

Fort Zeller



Albright Chapel



Religious history is found at Albright Chapel as you arrive in Kleinfeltersville. This 1860 chapel was built in honor of Jacob Albright (1758-1808) who served as a drummer boy during the Revolutionary War. While prospering as a farmer, he utilized a deposit of clay to bake roof tiles which still cover some area homes and barns. Due to family tragedies, he turned to the Methodist and United Brethren faith and became an itinerant preacher. His constant traveling caused him to be in poor health, and he died at the nearby Becker farm where in 1807 the Evangelical Association was formed. Consequently, he was buried in the Becker graveyard, and the Chapel was erected to honor his missionary efforts.

Kleinfeltersville was founded in 1848 by Rev. John Kleinfelter, a circuit minister of the Evangelical Association. He and his wife Catherine had a farm, purchased more land, and divided the land into lots which were sold to his seven children. Their homes became the nucleus of the village where pottery, wagon wheels, cigars and bricks were manufactured.

You may want to make a short detour into Newmanstown to visit the United Church of Christ and cemetery which holds many unique monuments. In 1741 Walter Newman, an Irish immigrant, purchased 234 acres from the Penns; he laid out building lots along the "great road from Reading" for his town.



Newmanstown cemetery

When you cross an intersection at Sheridan Road (milepost 19) you will be passing through an arch of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad bridge and alongside Mill Creek. The bucolic setting belies the reality of the village of Missimer's Station which was renamed Sheridan after the Civil War in honor of the Union General. From 1862 until the 1960s, massive furnaces were in operation. During the 1940s, these furnaces were the world's leading producers of manganese iron.

You'll cycle a few miles in Berks County in order to visit Stouchsburg, a small 18th century village or you can shorten the route by turning left on Sheridan Road and staying in Lebanon County.

AMISH AND MENNONITE FARMLAND CRUISE

Descriptive Cue Sheet

This ride starts from the Klein Avenue side of South Lebanon Township's South Hills Park. You can park in the Klein Avenue side lot or cycle through the park to the starting point from the Lincoln Avenue side lot. There are seasonal bathroom facilities available.

- (0.0) (0.0) Northeast exit of Klein Avenue parking lot
- (0.1) (0.1) Right turn onto Pine Avenue
- (0.2) (0.3) Turn right onto State Drive

The Veterans' Medical Center will be on your right.

- (0.8) (1.1) Turn left onto Linden Road
- (0.4) (1.5) Turn right onto Fonderwhite Road

As you depart from suburbia, you'll immediately be cycling by farms, several participating in the agricultural preservation program. Watch for the trailer chicken coop on your right at about 3.2 milepost!

- (2.4) (3.9) Turn left onto Flintville Road
- (1.2) (5.1) Turn right onto SR 897
- (1.2) (6.3) Turn left onto Gibble Road

This lovely back road passes by Amish farms and an Amish cemetery.

- (1.3) (7.6) Turn right onto Cherry Lane

Amish farms are on both sides of this road and an Amish school is located near the corner of Cherry Lane and SR501. On a school day, you'll view the children's common conveyance – scooters.

- (0.5) (8.1) Turn left onto SR 501
- (0.5) (8.6) Turn right onto Horst Road

Amish farmland

- (1.3) (9.9) Turn left onto SR 419

Be careful: there can be considerable traffic on this road; in places the berm has been destroyed due to horses & buggies.

- (0.8) (10.7) Turn right onto Albright Road. Stay on Albright; do NOT bear right on Gravel Hill Road.
- (2.2) (12.9) Turn left onto SR 897
- (0.2) (13.1) Turn left onto Mountain Road ***Amish home on your left at the turn.***
- (0.7) (13.8) Turn right onto Chapel Road
- (0.0) (13.8) Turn left onto Hackman Road
- (0.6) (14.4) Turn left onto Stricklertown Road ***Amish farmland***
- (3.2) (17.6) Turn left onto Fort Zellers Road

At the crossroads with SR 419, you can cycle off route to visit the United Church of Christ and cemetery; turn right & go to the traffic light, turn left on Sheridan. The church and cemetery are on your left. After visiting, cycle the alley alongside the cemetery back to the route. Turn Right; Fort Zeller's is within a short distance on your right.

Enjoy the stream on your left as you cycle this quiet back road.

*****To shorten the route & stay in Lebanon County, turn left on Sheridan. You will not follow the next five cues.**

- (1.4) (19.0) Straight onto Furnace Road (unnamed under railroad track)
- (0.2) (19.2) Turn left onto Stouchsburg Road (becomes Scharff Road)
- (1.6) (20.8) Turn left onto Main Street, Stouchsburg
- (0.4) (21.2) Turn left onto Richland Road (becomes Race Street)

(0.8) (22.6) Turn left onto Sonnen Road **NOTE: This is not signed; it has a very rough surface. To the right the road is Hickory Rd.**

(1.0) (23.6) Turn right onto Sheridan Road (becomes Linden Street)

At 18 W. Linden Street is the Abram Zug home built in 1813.

(1.5) (25.1) Turn right onto Royers Road

(1.3) (26.3) Turn right onto Weavertown Road

(0.1) (26.4) Turn left onto Lengle Road

(1.1) (27.5) Turn left onto SR 501 **NOTE: Exercise care; this road bears much traffic.**

(0.2) (27.7) Turn right onto Krall Road

An Amish school will be on your left at the intersection with Hergelrode Dr.

As you approach the intersection with Prescott Road, if you look left on Prescott you will view a lovely Victorian home and barn.

(1.4) (29.1) Turn left onto Ramona Road

There is a farmstead with a charming summer house on your left just as you turn on Birch.

(0.2) (29.3) Turn right onto Birch Road

(2.7) (32.0) Turn left onto South 14th street **Note the Veterans' Center on the horizon as you cycle back.**

(1.1) (33.1) Crossover SR 897, name changes to Fonderwhite Road

(0.7) (33.8) Turn right onto Linden Road

(0.4) (34.2) Turn right onto State Drive

If you have parked your vehicle in the Lincoln Avenue side of the Park, you may want to turn left into the Veterans' Medical Center and cycle through the Center's grounds to Lincoln and turn right on Lincoln to return to your vehicle.

(0.8) (35.0) Turn left onto Pine Avenue

(0.2) (35.2) Turn left onto Klein Avenue

(0.1) (35.3) Finish