

Pennsylvania Trails of History

In Pennsylvania, all roads lead to history.

To help find your path, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) has blazed several special-interest trails leading to some of Pennsylvania's most historic sites. We invite you to explore one site at a time, travel an entire trail or create your own road trip to Pennsylvania's past. No matter whether you choose one of our classic trails, a trail based on PHMC's annual themes or blaze your own, we're sure it will lead you to experience and embrace the people, places and events that make Pennsylvania so special.

Begin your journey online at
www.PATrailsofHistory.com

Hours of Operation

'Hours vary seasonally. Please check our website for opening hours, tour times, and events.'

DANIEL BOONE HOMESTEAD

400 Daniel Boone Road
Birdsboro, PA 19508
610-582-4900

www.thedanielboonehomestead.org

This site is owned by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

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8/20

Daniel Boone Homestead

Birdsboro, Berks County



Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

Visitor Guide

Daniel Boone in Pennsylvania

The name Daniel Boone will forever be synonymous with the saga of the American frontier. Born on November 2, 1734, and raised here, Boone was the inveterate wayfarer who achieved lasting fame guiding land-hungry settlers to the Kentucky frontier and fighting to defend them against attack.

Daniel's father, Squire Boone, was an English Quaker born in Devonshire in 1696. While still a youth, Squire, his brother George and sister Sarah embarked for Philadelphia to appraise the possibilities of settlement for their father's family, who immigrated finally in 1717.

Squire settled first in Abington, then moved to Gwynedd, where he met Sarah Morgan, born in 1700 to Welsh Quakers. Married in 1720, they lived first near Gwynedd, then in Chalfont, before purchasing 250 acres here in the Oley Valley in 1730. Squire's father and brothers also lived in the area and became prominent in business, local government and the Friends Meeting.



Daniel was the sixth child, one of eleven, born to Squire and Sarah. As a youth, he undoubtedly helped his father as farmer, weaver and blacksmith, and had the usual experiences of a boy growing up in the back country.

In 1750, Squire and Sarah joined the growing southward movement of Pennsylvanians and concluded their long trek in the Yadkin Valley of North Carolina.

Daniel was then only 15 years old, but ahead was a life filled with the rigors of the American frontier. In 1756, he married Rebecca Bryan and with her raised ten children. In 1773, he failed in his first attempt to settle Kentucky, but in 1775 he succeeded in establishing Boonesborough. Between 1775 and 1783, Daniel Boone was a leader among settlers in opening new parts of Kentucky and in resisting Native American raids. Although Boone lost two sons and a brother in the fighting, he was considered merciful and compassionate toward his native adversaries.

Twice Boone returned to visit his boyhood home—in 1781 and 1788—a hero and legend in his day. Although his legend grew, his finances diminished. Beset by creditors and personal disillusion, Boone finally left Kentucky in 1799 for Missouri, where he served as an official for the controlling Spanish government until 1803. He died near St. Louis on September 26, 1820.



After the Boones

In Pennsylvania, Daniel's boyhood home changed to reflect the growth, prosperity and cultural diversity of the Oley Valley.

Squire Boone moved his family from Pennsylvania in 1750 and sold his house and part of his homestead to his cousin William Maugridge. Maugridge, also born in Devonshire, worked as a shipwright in Philadelphia prior to 1750 and later served as a magistrate and judge for Berks County from 1752 until his death in 1766. The Maugridges were not Quakers but leaders among the local Anglicans.

In 1770, John and Elizabeth DeTurk, who were Pennsylvania Germans, purchased the property and prospered as farmers. John died in 1808, but his family continued to reside here into the 1820s.

The Oley Valley

The Oley Valley comprises a multi-township region in eastern Berks County. It is culturally unique for the amazing diversity of inhabitants, religious groups, and economies which existed here in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Swedes, Dutch, Germans, Swiss, French-Huguenots, English, Welsh, Scots-Irish, African Americans and Lenape all resided here in harmony. Today in the Oley Valley visitors can still see a remarkably preserved rural area in which there are examples of traditional rural landscapes and the architecture from the Colonial era. The Daniel Boone Homestead is a gateway to discovering this rich heritage.

The Daniel Boone Homestead

Since 1938 the Daniel Boone Homestead has been a historic site owned by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Comprising 579 acres of rolling countryside, the site includes restored period buildings, a Visitor Center, miles of trails, picnic areas, a lake and

organized youth group camping facilities.

The Daniel Boone Homestead interprets the Boone, Maugridge and DeTurk families, and the history of the Oley Valley region through exhibits, programs, tours and publications.

1. Visitor Center

The Visitor Center introduces the Daniel Boone Homestead to the public through a series of exhibits, and it houses admissions, museum shop, administrative offices and restrooms.

2. Boone House

The Boone House evolved from a one-story log house, built by Squire Boone in 1730, to the present two-story stone house. Daniel



Boone was born in the log dwelling in 1734. Following the family's departure in 1750, William Maugridge lived here until his death in 1766. The Boone and Maugridge families were English, but in 1770, John DeTurk, a Pennsylvania German farmer, purchased the house. By the 1790s, the section of the house fronted by the porch was added to the log house. By the early 1800s, DeTurk replaced the walls of the log house with the stone house to the left of the porch. This house is representative of farmhouses in the Oley Valley that include both English and German architectural influences, and whose growth and change reflect the growing prosperity of the region.

3. Boone House Cellar

This constitutes the original cellar of what was the Boone log house. Along the south wall, the original spring flows through a trough in the floor. The archway supported the Boone log house fireplace. The stone walls are the foundation walls of the log house. This cellar served as a food storage area for the Boones and later residents of the house. The flowing spring helped to cool and preserve the family's provisions.



4. Smokehouse

This structure was probably built by the Boone, Maugridge or the DeTurk family in the eighteenth century. It was used to smoke pork and other meat to preserve them. Meat was hung from joists above while a fire was built

directly on the dirt floor below. Apple and hickory were the woods preferred for the fire. The loft was a meat storage area.

5. Blacksmith Shop

Squire Boone was a blacksmith by trade and would have had a building similar to this on his farm. This structure dates from 1769



and was moved to this site from nearby Amityville. Rural blacksmiths produced and repaired wrought-iron tools and hardware for farm and home and they shod horses and oxen.

6. Homestead Barn

This Pennsylvania German bank barn is the type which the DeTurk family probably owned in the late eighteenth century. Portions of this barn are original; the lower level was a stable for animals, with the shed on the right used for wagon and implement storage. The barn is oriented to the south to take advantage of the low winter sun to warm the stables, and the bank protects it from harsh north winds.



7. Barn Threshing Floor

The upper level of the barn was used for the storage of straw, hay and grain. The central bay was used as a threshing floor or work area. The implements exhibited are of the type and quantity listed in the inventory of John DeTurk's estate in 1808.

8. Bertolet House

The Bertolet House was built in 1737 in the Oley Valley and relocated to the Daniel Boone Homestead in 1968. The Bertolet House is an excellent example of eighteenth-century Pennsylvania German log architecture. In typical Germanic fashion, the fireplace is centrally located and opens into the kitchen, or *kuche*. Behind the fireplace are two rooms. The larger is the parlor, or *stube*, and the smaller is a bedroom, or *kammer*. Medieval architectural influence can be seen in the building's asymmetry, steeply pitched roof, flared eaves and casement windows.



9. Bertolet Bakehouse/Smokehouse

The outbuilding was moved to this site with the Bertolet House in 1968. The building combines a bakehouse and smokehouse under one roof. The clay tiles were a common Germanic roofing material.

10. Bertolet Sawmill

This water-powered, vertical-blade sawmill was originally built nearby in Oley Township by Daniel Bertolet in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth



century and was moved here in 1972. The sawmill remained in service into the 1940s. Sawmills such as this satisfied a local need for sawn lumber, but some local sawmills supplied wood to the Philadelphia building market.

11. DeTurk Cemetery

This cemetery is the burial place of several members of the John and Samuel DeTurk families. Brothers John and Samuel owned adjoining farms. John owned the former Boone House from 1770 to 1808; Samuel's 1812 house stands today near the historic site entrance.



12. Daniel Boone Lake

This manmade lake was created in the 1940s by damming the Owatin Creek. The lake serves as a nesting place for numerous varieties of waterfowl. (*No swimming allowed.*)

13. North Picnic Area

14. Picnic Grove

15. Craft Shed

16. South Picnic Area



17. Wayside Lodge

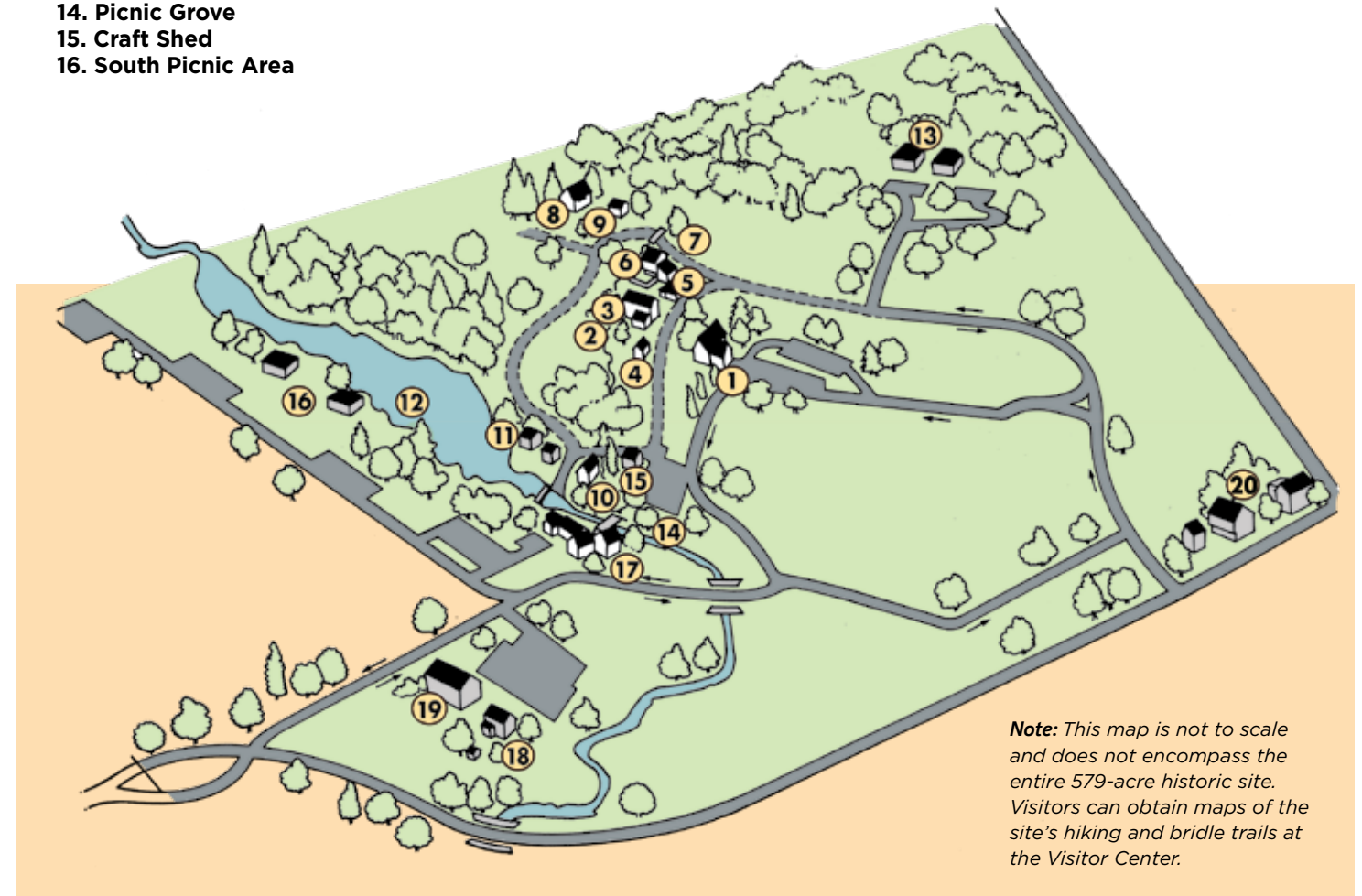
Built in 1940, this structure is available for overnight lodging for organized youth groups. Programs, meetings and seminars are also held here.

18. DeTurk Educational Center

This structure was built in 1812 by Samuel DeTurk, brother of John DeTurk. Samuel is buried in the DeTurk Cemetery. This building is now used for educational and public programs.

19. Maintenance Barn (*Not open to the public.*)

20. Residences (*Not open to the public.*)



Note: This map is not to scale and does not encompass the entire 579-acre historic site. Visitors can obtain maps of the site's hiking and bridle trails at the Visitor Center.