

**SELF - GUIDED
WALKING TOUR
OF
MAIN STREET
BOROUGH OF BERNVILLE
PENNSYLVANIA**



**COMPILED IN 2007 BY
BERNVILLE HERITAGE & CULTURAL SOCIETY**

PLAN OF BERNVILLE
Listing Original Lot Owners
1819 - 1834

1975 Owners

1975 Owners

John Balthaser	444
Carl and Esther Wilhelm	438
Warren & Esther	432
Emma Meyer	428
Leroy & Edna Stoltz	425
Flora Sheldy	422
Edna Balthaser	418
Peter & Aurelia Gearing	416
Katie Koenig	408
David Luckenbill	405
David & Carol Saldorf	400

4th St.

Naomi Sheldy	344
Clarence Reber	340
Mark G. DeLong	338
Warren Kline	332
Walter Berger	328
Stanton Clay	318
Paul & Mabel Sheetz	310
Lester Lecher	314
Elna & Stanley Klopp	308

3rd St.

Edith Troutman	230
Jones Luckenbill	228
Anna Kline	222
Ruth Troutman	218
Mrs. Calvin S. Balthaser	212
Irvin & Isabel Kirkhoff	208
Agway	202

2nd St.

Larry & Betty Smith	148
Curtis Schaeffer	138
Warren & Ann Troutman	132
Norman & Jean Kiebach	128
David & Carol Saldorf	122
Sally Oster	118
Geo. & Judy Fisher	112
Fr. & A. Bubbenmoyer	110
A. F. Meyer Beef Co.	100

Philip Kline	62
J. Haeg	58
J. Haeg	56
J. Haeg	54
Jacob Wagner	52
Jacob Wagner	50
Dan. Umbenhauer	48

3rd St.

John Mosse	46
Henry Smith	44
Jacob Gerber	42
Michael Wachmer	40
Adam Kalbach	38
Adam Kalbach	36
Michael Forst	34
Adam Reber	32

2nd St.

Adam Reber	30
Daniel Umbenhauer	28
John Umbenhauer for	26
Sam. & Eltz Umbenhauer	
Samuel Umbenhauer	24
Samuel Umbenhauer	22
Peter Filbert	20

Front St.

Peter Filbert, Jr.	18
Henry Waters	16
John Umbenhauer	14
John Umbenhauer	12
Philip Filbert	10
John Mosse	8
John Geis	6
John Geis	4
John Geis	2

Dan. Umbenhauer	61
Adam Kalbach	59
J. Aulenbach	57
Melchior Fieget	55
Daniel Strause	53
Catherine Stoudt	51
John Heck, Sr.	49
And. Grath	47

John Geiss	45
J. Bright	43
John Heck, Jr.	41
P. Umbenhauer	39
Samuel Philbert	37
Nicholas Haas	35
Joseph Kauffman	33
Simon Seyfert	31

Jos. Seyfert	29
Jn. Umbenhauer	27
Jn. Umbenhauer	25
Jn. Umbenhauer	23
Philip Good	21
Daniel Deppen	19

Peter Spang, Jr.	17
Nathias Stoudt & John Gerhart	15
Daniel Ulrich	13
Peter Bennethum	11
Peter Bennethum	9
Peter Bennethum	7
Peter Bennethum	5
Peter Bennethum	3
Peter Bennethum	1

Mennonite Church	449
Lester Burkholder	445
Claude & Harriet	441
MWor	439
Albert & Elsie Kraatz	435
Margaret Burkey	433
Dennis Renninger	425
Lester Lecher	423
H. L. Menbeck	415
Allen & Verna Zarbo	411
Naomi Sheldy	409
George Spolcher	405
Geo. & Grace Stoudt	401

4th St.

Wenton Shoe Co.	345
Levi & Mary Hoppman	339
Lizzie Bonon	329
Arthur & Doris Klesling	323
Mark & Janice DeLong	319
Walter & Phyllis Krause	313
John & Jean Burkey	309
Benjamin & Pauline Boss	301

3rd St.

Richard Adam	229
George Dunkelberger	223
Harriet Rebman	219
Edith Kirkhoff	217
Fern Shade	211
The First National Bank of Bernville	209

2nd St.

Mabel Moll	149
Donald Kline	147
Catherine Stoudt	145
Geo. & Minnie Roth	141
James Moyer	139
Russell & Kath. Gasser	133
Dale & Ruth Ketner	131
Kathryn Schoener	129
Harold & Marilyn Burkhardt	127
Mildred Balthaser	121
Elmer Balthaser	117
James Barr	115
Leroy & Mabel Stoudt	113
John Schaeffer	103

Front Street

Compiled & Drawn by J. C. DeLong, 1975

The names of the original Main Street lot owners appear vertically in center with lot numbers, 1 - 62. Please note that the names of the original cross streets have changed—What was 3rd Street is now 4th Street, 2nd is 3rd, and Front Street is now 2nd Street. Vertical columns along the edge show the 1975 owners of each lot, with current addresses included. For reference, the lot on which the Eagle Hotel sits is circled on the original plan and the 1975 list of owners.

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of this twenty-first century, Bernville's Main Street is mostly residential, having gradually acquired this unassuming nature primarily during the latter half of the twentieth century. Yet, in its younger days, Main Street had a more dynamic character because many of the people who built their homes on Main Street also made their livelihoods here. Not long after those first homes were built, the Union Canal opened in 1828. The Union Canal's Lock #36 was just south of Main Street. The canal was a tremendous benefit to those here on Main Street and to local farmers because everyone had convenient access to a larger market. The canal activity enabled several hotels and numerous businesses to take shape along Main Street. This walking tour describes these hotels and some of the businesses and personal dwellings, as well as their owners and their trades. Architectural details are not referenced, so examine the buildings, if you like, for unique features that make the exteriors attractive or distinctive.

Main Street is a long street with a very long history. In light of this, the walking tour—in order to be manageable for those who will walk its length—offers a brief insight into some of the people who originally lived on Main Street, and it profiles their better-known successors up to (roughly) the middle of the twentieth century. Please keep in mind as you walk along that the homes you see here have people living within them who are part of Main Street's on-going history, and many individuals who live on Main Street (or who had lived here in recent years) have made contributions to Bernville. Their presence and efforts link them to those early Main Street residents whose lives and labors are retold here.

HOW TO USE THIS SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR BOOKLET

This walking tour begins at the entrance to Umbenhauer Park, under the brass sign, where Umbenhauer Drive begins, across from Garfield Road. (If you would like to begin your tour in the vicinity of the churches, you may turn to the last page and work your way to the front of this booklet. In this manner, you will end your tour at Umbenhauer Park.)

On the inside cover, there is a map of the original owners of Bernville lots, and those who owned the lots in 1975. Whenever you cannot discern the address of a building, refer to the address on the 1975 list that matches its location.

Pictures and other items of interest have been included. The letter after a building's address corresponds to the letter near the item(s).

HISTORY OF THE FOUNDING OF MAIN STREET

Two brothers, Stephanus and Edwin Umbenhauer, arrived in this country in 1737 from the canton of Berne, Switzerland. Stephanus purchased 220 acres from Thomas Penn; on this land he built his home. Stephanus passed the entirety of his original estate to his son, Balthaser, who in turn handed it onto his son, Thomas. It was Thomas who, in 1819, set aside forty-six acres to be divided into 62 building lots. (These lots comprise the majority of today's Main Street.) On August 24th of that year, Peter Bennethum bought the first six lots. In January of 1820, this new town received its name, Bernville, for Berne, Switzerland, the land of Thomas' grandfather. Two months after Bernville received its name, twenty-three more lots were sold along Main Street. To be fair, Thomas Umbenhauer awarded the lots by drawing numbered tickets that sold for \$30.00 each, subject to a ground rent of \$16.33, and on a certain day drawings were held. Most lots measured 60' x 260'. In 1851, the Borough of Bernville was incorporated, yet it still included only the original 62 lots.

In 1950, Bernville Borough annexed property from Penn Township which included both ends of Main Street. (A small portion of Main Street near the elementary school remains in Penn Township.) Today, Main Street spans the length of the borough and is its longest thoroughfare. It has hosted the annual Memorial Day Parade for decades, and now it is your host. As you look around Main Street, allow it to tell you its story—a story of its hard-working residents, its talented individuals, and its civic-minded citizens.

**Walking Tour of Main Street
Borough of Bernville
Berks County, Pennsylvania**

This walking tour begins on South Main Street, which is now in the Borough of Bernville. These buildings were originally part of Penn Township, annexed in 1950 (Ordinance #102).

20 S. Main Street, Corner of Garfield Road and S. Main (2 story red brick) A

The original owner of this lot was Philip Filbert who built a hotel known as Filbert's Tavern. Philip Filbert was the first postmaster in 1832 and his office was located here. At the turn of the century, the tavern was a 2 ½ story pebbledash coated log structure. As a hotel, it had several owners over the years, including James D. Reeser, manager of Bernville's baseball team (which was known as The Baseball Nine). Mr. Reeser tore down the old building and built a three-story structure about 1905 using bricks and other materials from the razed Northkill Church (which sat behind the present-day Friedens Lutheran Church). Under his ownership, it was known as "Reeser's Hotel," and the 1907 Old Home Week Souvenir booklet advertised it as "Bernville's New Hotel." Cattle auctions were held by Milton Kline on the rear lot of the hotel in the early 1900s. (An early deed of the property lists a 2 ½ story tavern, a 2 ½ story house, and a Sweitzer, or Swiss, barn.) Because of the continual change of ownership in subsequent years, the hotel became known as "The Lower Hotel," indicating its location in the lower part of town. A fire on December 27, 1980 destroyed the top floor of this three-story building. Harry Lebo bought the building in 1982 and remodeled it into a two-story structure with his cabinet shop on the bottom and apartments above.

28 S. Main Street

Charles C. Reeser purchased this lot and dwelling at a public sale in December, 1908 from Wilhelmina Rhine. C. C. Reeser built his bakery here (circa 1910) from bricks, lumber, and logs taken from the razed Salem Church which was located on 5th Street near Stevens Ave. His bakery was on the first floor; the second floor was used for meetings, and later Minnig's silk glove factory. An early C. C. Reeser Bakery ad promoted their products and services as "Bread, Cakes, Pretzels & c./Catering to Weddings, Banquets and Funerals."

25 S. Main Street (2 story white stucco structure)

Reeser's Garage was operated on this property circa 1919; Snyder Brothers (Charles and John) of Reading bought this garage at a later date. Their garage became a showroom for Oakland, Durant, and Star cars. Charles Snyder converted it into a nightclub, known as the Park Manor Dance Hall in the 1930s. Harms Hosiery Mill located here in 1946. In 1976, they made lingerie and hosiery in the shop using 16 full fashioned knitting machines and 25 regular sewing machines.

The original sixty-two lots of Bernville, as laid out by Thomas Umbenhauer, started here. Technically, this is all North Main Street now, commonly referred to as Main Street.

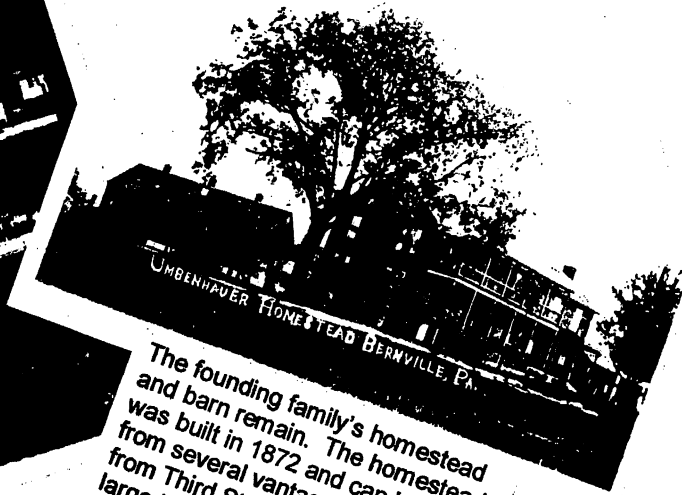
103 Main Street, Corner of Main and Front Street

Peter Bennethum purchased the first six lots. He, and a number of other owners after him, operated the tannery that was at this site, and it was in operation until the early 1900s. The plant was capable of handling up to 2000 hides per year. Lime and ground up bark were put into vats to cure the various animal hides. Wagons of bark were weighed on an outdoor scale located near the Lower Hotel. The Hide House, located on the rear lot, is the only tannery building still standing. It has a brick base, weathered boards, and a tin roof.

looking north on Main St. Bernville



Photo taken near vicinity of current-day Umberhauer Park entrance.



The founding family's homestead and barn remain. The homestead was built in 1872 and can be seen from several vantage points. A view from Third Street, at the family's large barn, (now Mario's Pizzeria), is easily accessible.

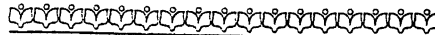
Photos above are for general information and reference purposes; they are not related to a specific address.

James (Jim) Reeser, seen in photo as manager of the team. He is the gentleman standing in the center of the back row.



FINEST WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS

BOARDING AND STABLING AT REASONABLE RATES



A

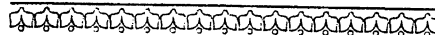
HOTEL REESER

JAMES D. REESER
PROPRIETOR

"Bernville's New Hotel"



BEST ACCOMMODATIONS FOR TRAVELERS
AND SUMMER BOARDERS



BATHS, STEAM HEAT AND ALL CONVENIENCES

BERNVILLE, PA.

100 Main Street (1 story white block structure) B

Neff's Coal and Lumber Yard replaced William Umbenhauer's old log house on this site. R. H. Marberger had a warehouse here after the coal and lumber yard (see 334-338 Main Street). In 1951, Clarence Bubbenmoyer built a grocery store and butcher shop, Bubbenmoyer's I.G.A. Supermarket. (Neff's building—Marberger's warehouse—was moved to the rear of the lot and used as a garage.) Later, the property became the A. F. Moyer Beef Company plant.

112 Main Street

Shoemaker Ephraim Bentz owned this frame home in 1868. An Atlas of 1876 advertised his business as "A shoemaker dealer in all kinds of boots, shoes, acc., repairing, promptly and properly attended to." (On the 1860 census, Levi Speicher was listed as living with the Bentz family as a shoemaker apprentice, and Levi's son, Jerome, was also a shoemaker.)

130 Main Street

Morris Kershner lived here at the turn of the twentieth century. Mr. Kershner owned a well-known ice cream parlor in Reading. During Old Home Week, he supplied this sweet treat for residents and visitors. His ad in the Old Home Week Souvenir Booklet read, "A. Morris Kerschner/Manufacturer of the/Best Ice Cream In The City/15 to 23 North Third Street/Reading, PA."

132 Main Street

In the early days of this building, it was the shoemaker shop of Mr. Groff. From 1919-1922, it was a grocery store, operating as Strauss Saving Store. John Henne owned it in 1927, and it was Gerhart's Bros. Store from 1929-1939. From 1939-1950, it was the Clarence Wenrich Store, and then Warren Trautman, Sr. took over in the 1950s, and long-time residents remember this as Trautman's Grocery Store. When Warren's son became owner, he eventually moved the store to Jefferson Township; it became part of Trautman's Plaza, and the store is now Boyer's Food Markets, Inc. By 1989, the grocery store had been turned into apartments.

133-135 Main Street C

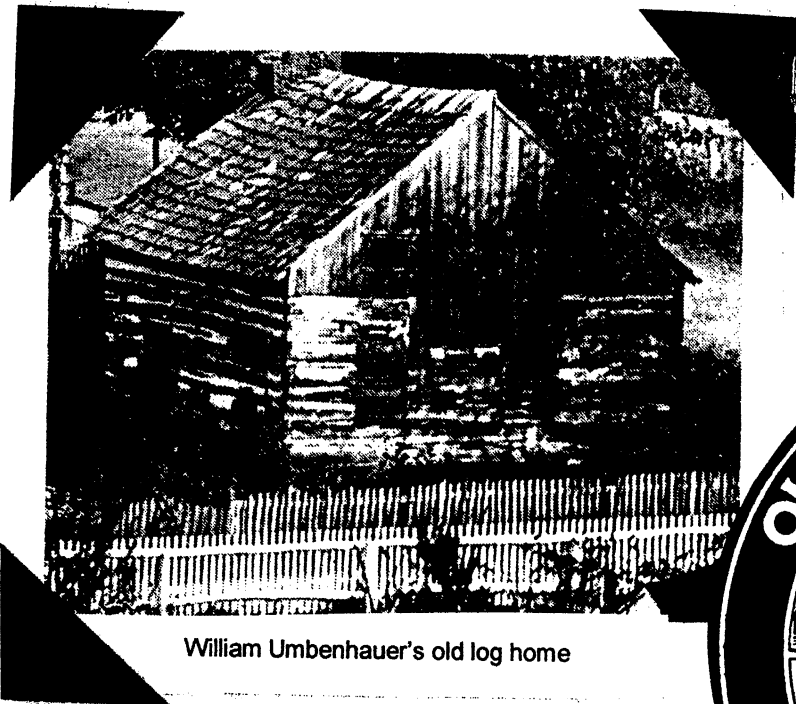
Joseph and Catharine Burkhardt lived here around 1851 and had their candy store in the basement. They were known as Moshy Joe and Grundniss Kate. Moshy (moe'-zshe) is a type of hard candy, and Grundniss (grundt'-nis) means "peanuts" in Pennsylvania Dutch. Joseph was born in 1800 and died in 1874. Catharine (Fox) was born in 1803 and died in 1876. Like many Main Street couples of their day, they were both born in Berks County.

136-138 Main Street

Dr. Schlappich had his office and home here. He attended the Bernville Academy (high school) and taught school for two years. He graduated from Baltimore Medical College and started his practice in Bernville in 1908.

137-139 Main Street

Nathaniel Stoudt learned the trade of butchering at age 18 and started his own business here in 1886. He had a large patronage, engaging the use of three wagons and four employees to supply meat to the residents of Bernville and vicinity. The original shop was destroyed by fire on November 22, 1915 and rebuilt on the site. Edwin, his son, continued in his father's footsteps until his death in 1938. James Luckenbill took over the business and later his brother Roy. Roy butchered here until 1946. The original smokehouse is still standing in the back yard. A view of the rear of the property from Wolfe Street reveals the upper portion of this tall smokehouse.



William Umbenhauer's old log home

B



A Main Street Moment

Oh, those incredible canal days...

October 27, 1875 (from the Reading newspaper)
 Saturday, a boatman came to a huckster stand in Bernville, and asked the proprietor, how much he must pay to eat himself full of raw oysters. 50 cents was the reply. The boatman ate 200, before he left the table.

Reprinted with permission. Thanks to D. & F. Showers for making this information available.

C

Moshy (Mooschi)

1 cup brown sugar, 1 cup light molasses, 1 cup water, 2 oz. butter, ¾ lbs. walnut meats. Add the molasses and water to the sugar. Boil until it hardens when dropped into cold water. Just before taking off the heat, add the butter and the nuts and mix well. Pour into well-buttered pan. When set, break up into bite-size pieces with a hammer.

Additional recipes for moshy can be found on the internet or in *Social Life of the Pennsylvania Germans* by A. Monroe Aurand, ©1949.

No log cabin homes remain to be seen in the borough. Some were torn down (like the ones pictured); others had larger structures built around them.



Old Home Week was a week-long reunion for which thousands of people returned to Bernville. The logo, specially created for the event, depicts familiar Bernville elements around the central log cabin. At top, & going clockwise: the fire company's pumper, the foundry, the 1877 school, the canal, Main Street, and the Northkill Church. (The church, canal, and foundry are gone.)



141 Main Street D

Ephraim Miller lived here at the beginning of the twentieth century. He was Chief Burgess (early term for the mayor of a borough) of Bernville from 1906 – 1909. He was Chief Burgess when Bernville held its week-long celebration of Old Home Week in August of 1907. On August 7th of that week, acting in his official capacity, he ceremonially presented the key to Borough of Bernville to the Mayor of Reading. The “key” was made of wood and was two feet long.

147-149 Main Street E

The original lot owner was Peter Spang, Jr., according to a deed dated Oct. 27, 1820. In 1840, the Odd Fellows (Independent Order of Odd Fellows or IOOF) met in the Spang house. Samuel Hix, a mason by trade, built a three-story hotel on this property around the 1850s; the Plan of Bernville in 1854 lists it as the Samuel Hix Inn. In the 1907 newspaper report of Old Home Week, it was stated that the Odd Fellows—members numbering sixty-three—met on the third floor of the American House, as it was known at that time. This hotel changed ownership several times. In 1920, it became the Curtis Jones Shoe Factory. In a later year, Bernville Borough Council voted to condemn the rundown structure. Warren and Mabel Moll razed the building and built a two-story home that still stands on the corner. (This home, 149 Main, is a red brick building on the corner of Main & 2nd Street.)

148 Main Street

Samuel W. Miller established his store here in 1847. Mr. Miller started his small mercantile business at this location, and operated his business alone until 1864. He then continued the business with his son, Jonathan. The store moved across the street and expanded (202 Main Street, listed below and seen on cover). Samuel’s wife was a bonnet maker. Their daughter, Isabella, married a neighbor—Dr. Darius D. Deppen, son of Dr. Daniel D. Deppen.

201 Main Street F

The First National Bank of Bernville began business on October 15, 1907 in the private dwelling acquired from the Dr. Daniel D. Deppen Estate. The bank operated in the front of the home of Lammas C. Klopp, who lived in the rear of the building. The original bank was located on the empty lot next to the present-day bank. James F. Talley was the first bank president. Bernville Bank built a new, modern building on the corner lot; this building is still in operation. The bank was dedicated July 12, 1928. The former bank/home was razed on April 5, 1976. In 2001, National Penn Bank acquired Bernville Bank.

202 Main Street G

In 1867, Samuel W. Miller and Jonathan B. Miller built a modern, well-equipped department store here. Jonathan was Chief Burgess of Bernville from 1894 - 96. Jonathan Miller retired in 1903 and moved to Reading. Other owners of the building include James F. Talley, who operated it until 1912, then John C. Bright. Years later, Berks County Co-op operated out of this building as well as the Patriotic Order Sons of America and The Odd Fellows.

206 Main Street H (next page)

On March 1, 1920, Harvey Kirkhoff became a Bernville mortician and a furniture dealer. He began his business at another location on Main Street, moving the funeral service to the present location in the late 1920s and his furniture business here later. After his death in 1932, his wife, Rosa, carried on the business. Harvey’s son, Irvin, was 16 when his father died. Irvin graduated from Penn Bernville High School; he then went to Cincinnati, Ohio, to mortuary school. After graduating from mortuary school, he returned to Bernville and worked for his mother. Irvin purchased the business from his mother in 1950. In 1970, Irvin’s cousin, Robert, purchased the furniture business and later moved it to another

D



The American House

HOWARD M. DIETRICH
PROPRIETOR
BERNVILLE, PA.

Good, Reliable Accommodations
Fine Meals and Service
Excellent Wines, Liquors and Cigars

LIVERY ATTACHED



EPHRAIM MILLER
Chief Burgess

E

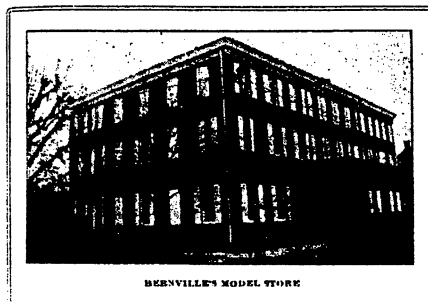
A Main Street Moment
Now it's skateboards, back then it was...
In the September, 1906 meeting minutes, as documented in the 1976 Anniversary book, "Burgess to try and Stop Base-ball playing on Main Street." (page 106)



F



At BERNVILLE'S MODEL STORE



BERNVILLE'S MODEL STORE

YOU find the largest up-to-date line of DRY GOODS, DRESS GOODS, SILKS, MILLINERY, NOTIONS, SHOES, HARDWARE, QUEENSWARE, WOOD AND WILLOW-WARE, Etc.

Millinery, Dress Goods, Notions,
Dry Goods, Shoes, and Men's
Furnishings a Specialty.

SPECIAL EVERY-DAY BARGAINS

Prices the Lowest, Stock the Largest.
Give me a call and be convinced.



Respectfully yours,

JAMES F. TALLEY

G

location on Main Street. In 1979, Milkins purchased Kirkhoff's Funeral Home. (Interestingly, in Pennsylvania German, "kirkhoff" means "church yard.")

212 Main Street

The first hotel in the original borough was built here in 1825. Samuel Umbenhauer's daughter Elizabeth and her husband, William Kalbach, sold the "tavern stand" to Valentine Epler; the Epler estate sold to Joseph Kalbach in 1858, and the 1861 map lists it as the Joseph Kalbach Hotel. Dr. John A. Brobst bought the brick tavern in 1866 and remodeled it into a physician's office.

217 Main Street

Note the carriage way that is large enough to accommodate a horse and carriage. Passageway leads to the former Hetrick's Barber Shop in rear. The shop survives to date.

219 Main Street I

This was the home of Joseph B. Conrad, a grain, coal and lumber merchant, who partnered with his father-in-law and conducted business as Conrad & Witman. Joseph B. Conrad built his home here in 1840; he served in the state legislature in 1870. Both Joseph and his wife, Maria, died in 1905. Later, Simon P. Wilhelm lived here where he and his wife, Emma, raised ten children. Simon was a teacher, working at various schools around the area and in Bernville; he retired from teaching in 1935. He was also a Justice of the Peace, Borough Secretary, leader of the Bernville and Rehrersburg Bands, superintendent of the St. Thomas Church Sunday School for forty years, church organist, and a Reading Eagle correspondent. While owners Matthew and Linda Barnhart lived here (early 1990s), they secured the plaque for this property designating it as a Historic Site of Berks County.

224-226 Main Street

Lot #28 was the early home (1860s) of Zadock Weber, a carpenter, builder of washing machines, and part owner of a tannery. He also operated a steam powered foundry. Later, this was the residence of Charles M. Richardson, who owned the creamery which was located on the site of the present-day Bernville Borough Hall on Route 183. Lehman Burkey owned this double home in the 1950s, followed by his son, John. The second telephone exchange was relocated to this site and was operated here from 1919 to 1962. Some of the telephone operators were: Louise Derr, Sarah Dunkelberger, Marguerite Kalbach, Guila Marberger, Beatrice Sheetz, Anna Troutman, and Florence Zerby. Helen Bashore recalls cleaning the small telephone exchange office in 1932 for 25 cents.

229 Main Street

Over the years, this site has served as a temporary school, a post office, a plumbing shop, a barber shop, a service station, and the "Cracker Shop" (which was inside the service station) where from the 1930s to the 1970s residents would gather to play cards. It is now a private residence.

300 Main Street

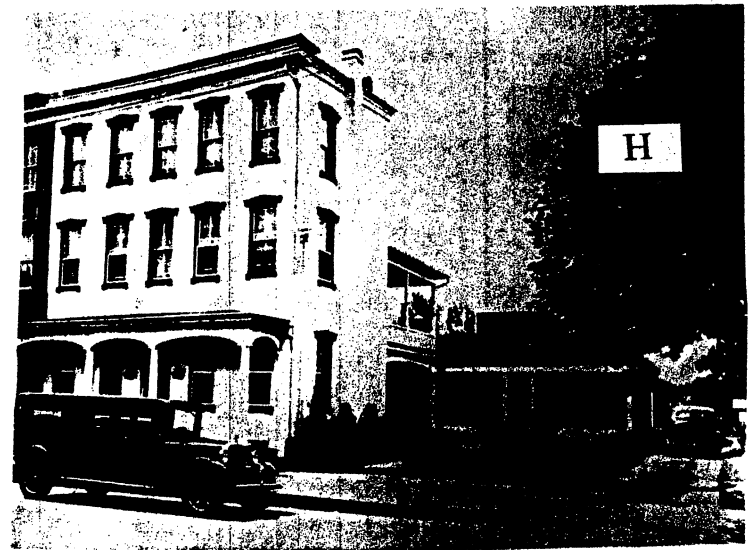
Adam Reber owned this lot in 1827. Later it was owned by John Kintzle, Jr., as given on the maps of 1854 and 1860. Mr. Kintzle was a merchant, according to the 1870 census. On the 1876 map, A. M. Dundore is listed as the owner. Later, it was the home of Peter Blatt, the blacksmith. His blacksmith shop was located in the rear of the lot. Stanley Klopp purchased the property from Peter's son, Reverend Frank Blatt, in 1942.

301 Main Street, Corner of Main and 3rd Street (The Eagle Hotel) J

This lot was purchased by Simon Siefert on March 7, 1820. It is not known when the hotel was built, but the 1854 Plan of Bernville lists this as the Runkle Inn, owned by William and



The Eagle Hotel (above) and Kirkhoff's Funeral Home (top right) at an earlier time.



Simon P. Wilhelm
(b. 1872 - d. 1947)

Obituaries of Joseph B. & Maria Conrad
from the Reading Eagle

Maria (on June 27, 1905) and Joseph (on July 11, 1905)

Courtesy J. C. DeLong

BERNVILLE.

Funeral of Mrs. Joseph B. Conrad.
The funeral of Maria, wife of Joseph B. Conrad, was held from the residence of her husband, and was well attended. Services were conducted by Rev. Morris F. Good, in the English language, assisted by Rev. T. C. Leinbach, in the German language, in St. Thomas' Union Church. Interment was made at Haag's cemetery.



The remains were attired in her own black dress, covered with a satin trimmed elderdown blanket, and reposed in a black broadcloth-covered casket, mounted with heavy square silver bar handles. The plate was inscribed "Mother." Relatives were present from Chicago, Washington, D. C.; Philadelphia, Hackensack, N. J.; Reading, Wernersville, Myerstown and other distant places.

The tributes consisted of the following: Pillow of roses and carnations, inscribed "Mother," in Immortelles, from the children; spray of pink carnations, from grandchildren, Lloyd and May Dunder; sheaf of wheat and bouquet of roses and lilies, from Ladies' Aid Society of St. Thomas' Union Church.

The bearers were: Monroe K. Manbeck, J. Henry Burkhardt, Lewis P. Kerahner, Henry Luckenbill, Cyrenus Snyder and C. M. Richardson. Undertaker J. H. Hollenbach had charge.

BERNVILLE.

Funeral of Joseph B. Conrad.
July 11.—The funeral of Joseph B. Conrad was held from his late residence at Bernville on Sunday, July 9, at 10 a. m. Services were conducted by Rev. T. C. Leinbach at St. Thomas' Union Church. Interment was made at Haag's Cemetery. The remains were attired in his own clothing, covered with a satin-trimmed elderdown blanket, and reposed



JOSEPH B. CONRAD, FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN YEARS AGO.

in a black broadcloth covered casket, mounted with a heavy silver square bar extension handles and plate, inscribed "Father." The tributes were: Pillow of roses, marked "Father," in Immortelles, children; spray of roses and ferns, Lloyd and May Dunder; spray of pink roses, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Uphold, Bernville Lodge, No. 122, I. O. O. F., of which deceased was an active member, performed the funeral rites at the grave. Dr. George W. Fahrnbach delivered the address and B. B. Hoover offered prayer. The bearers at the house were the following members of Lodge No. 122: Morris Winters, John L. Wagner, M. P. Kissling, Henry Lutz, George D. Fahrnbach and Joseph Stoult.

The following, who were the bearers for the wife of Mr. Conrad two weeks ago, officiated at the cemetery: Henry Luckenbill, Charles M. Richardson, Lewis P. Kerahner, Monroe K. Manbeck, J. Henry W. Burkhardt and Cyrenus Snyder. Undertaker J. H. Hollenbach had charge.

Elizabeth Runkle. On the 1861 map, it is identified as Levi Gerhart's Hotel, and in a deed dated March 22, 1862, it is noted that the hotel, commonly called Grey Eagle, was owned by John R. Koenig. It has seen a succession of owners over the years, but the name "Eagle Hotel" has remained. It is the only hotel in Bernville that is still in operation.

Notice that Main Street is 20 feet wider in this block. This was done to provide for a market square, but it was never used for this purpose. However, reviewing stands were set up here for parades, Christmas trees were erected in the middle of the street (around which cars would drive), and carnivals were held here in the 1920s.

304 Main Street (2 story wood addition attached to 306-308 Main Street) K

This was originally built as a warehouse for the adjoining drugstore. The first piece of fire equipment was stored here, on the first floor. This is also the site of the first borough hall. Council members held meetings on the second floor. The Bernville Cornet Band rehearsals were held on the second floor as well.

306-308 Main Street

This lot was originally purchased by Michael Porst in 1831. Later, tinsmith Henry Witman (father-in-law to Joseph B. Conrad) started an early store here. Mr. Witman was Chief Burgess in 1854. After this, Henry Snavely had a store here; this was followed by the residence and store of Charles P. Kalbach, druggist. In addition to the drugstore, there was a soda fountain here. Note the large display windows. This was the first house wired for electricity in October 1903. (Bernville Borough's first "street lights" consisted of 18 lights—each one was 16 candle power which is equivalent to a 40 watt bulb—suspended over the middle of the street. The monthly cost to the borough was \$13.50.) Additionally, the first private telephone line ran from Kalbach's Drug Store to Kalbach's Electric Plant (later Shower's Electric Plant) which was located a mile and a half south of Bernville.

307-309 Main Street L

Lot #33 was purchased by Joseph Kauffman on August 1, 1826. The IOOF (Independent Order of Odd Fellows) was formed on September 6, 1845, and the 1860 map lists the owners (of address 307 Main) as the Odd Fellows Society. The 1876 map lists the owner as G. Himmelberger. Bordner's Confectionery and Produce Store was on the other part of this lot (309 Main) and was owned by Jacob M. Bordner. He was a butcher, Berks County Commissioner from 1909 - 1911, and a mail carrier. He conducted the stage coach between Bernville and Reading for over three decades. He was known as "Old Honest Jake Bordner." Later, the property was owned by Samuel Burkey and his brother, Calvin, who operated a butcher shop on the rear of this lot. Lehman Burkey purchased this property in 1908 from Jacob Bordner. Lehman Burkey turned the confectionery and produce store into a restaurant that carried the family name for over 90 years. A specialty of the house was Cora Burkey's 25 cents oyster platter or 3 fried oysters for 10 cents. Cora & Lehman's son, John, took over the business in 1949 along with his sister, Anna Kline and her husband, Richard. Later, John and his wife, Jean, became sole owners and continued serving typical Dutch platters along with Yuengling ice cream. The restaurant closed in 1994.

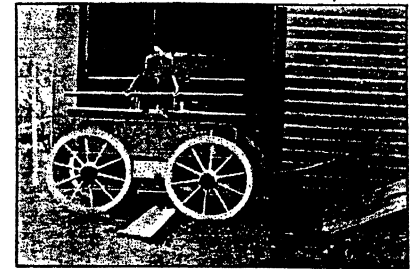
317 Main Street

This property has been home to a variety of businesses. Margaret Marks is listed as the owner on the 1860 and 1876 maps. In 1881, this was occupied by Frank Shroeder, undertaker and cabinet maker. Later, Jonathan B. Miller had a branch of his General Store here. He sold it about 1891 to James H. Hollenbach who made many improvements and soon had a two-story furniture warehouse. He owned a hearse, two furniture wagons and several other vehicles. He kept three horses and up to four men were employed in his



First Fire House

K



BERNVILLE'S FIRST FIRE ENGINE
"Always Ready"



Did You Know...
Main Street's population greatly increased during the winters when the canal would freeze; this forced the boatmen and their families in the vicinity of Lock #36 to stay in the town until the canal was passable.



J. M. BORDNER
THE BUTCHER

Best Meats Always on Hand

ALSO PROPRIETOR OF

The Old Reliable 'Bus to Robesonia
(RUNS DAILY)

L



For County Commissioner:

Jacob M. Bordner

OF BERNVILLE

Subject to Democratic Rules

I am the oldest candidate in the field. Six years ago I had the next highest vote to the successful candidates, and am therefore entitled to this nomination.

I Kindly Solicit Your Assistance. Primaries, Saturday June 3, '05

establishment. Later this was owned or occupied by Thomas G. Kalbach, funeral director; Harvey S. Kirkhoff, funeral director; Brooke Fidler Produce Store; Joe Shirk; Schell and Farnsworth, barbers; and Fein & Glass, a shoe factory. (Irvin Kirkhoff recalls storing the funeral home's coffins in this building. They purchased the coffins and then put on the handles and the linings.) In 1950, Donton and DeLong purchased the buildings for a plumbing shop, office, appliance showroom, and plumbing supplies. In 1955, Mark G. DeLong became sole proprietor.

319 Main Street

This was owned by Charles Daniel Gruber, a veterinary surgeon. He was the son of Isaac H. Gruber who founded Gruber Wagon Works in 1855. Charles and his wife, Mary Martha Burkhart (great granddaughter of Moshy Joe and Grundniss Kate, and sister to J. Paul Burkhart—see 604 Main Street) bought the home from Jacob Bordner and his wife, Ellen.

318-320 Main Street M

Schock's Store was opened here in 1872 by Albert F. Schock. The property was later bought by his son, Moses S. Schock of Jefferson Township. (Albert & Moses built a larger store in 1884 at 402 Main Street.) Moses' daughters, Alice and Annie, inherited the property in 1915. Annie Schock sold the building to Stanton H. Clay in 1954. The first telephone exchange was established here on the second floor in 1909 and remained here until 1919 when it moved to the 200 block. At one time there was a dentist's office here, the Bernville Band practiced on the 3rd floor, and the Bernville Post Office was here for many years. On September 1, 1973, Stanton and Margie Clay opened the Bernville Laundry. Stanton Clay was the Mayor of Bernville from 1951-1996. The laundromat has remained in this location and is under different ownership.

321 Main Street

William Heffelfinger, confectioner and cigar maker, opened a cigar factory on this site in connection with his small confectionery store in 1871. Other cigar makers of Bernville were Peter Bright, Levi Berger, and Jacob Madeira.

323-325 Main Street

The White Horse Hotel, constructed of logs, was located here; this was the second hotel in the original Borough of Bernville. According to a deed of 1844, the hotel was owned by Daniel Bentz; it was listed as the Bentz Inn on the 1854 Plan of Bernville. In 1876, the building was listed as Francis R. Kirst Hotel. Mr. Kirst was also a painter and paper hanger. In 1876, the business directory called it the White Horse Hotel, with Mr. Kline as proprietor.

328 Main Street

This building was home to Walter Berger's Barbershop for many decades. The shop was moved from the rear of the property to its present location in 1954. Walter learned to cut hair during WWII while serving in the US Navy. He began his hair cutting career in 1947 at 3rd and Main Streets on the second floor. He moved to another location for two and half years before purchasing the building and moving it closer to the street. One patron recalls getting his hair cut for 35 cents. Walter and his wife Betty lived next door at 326 Main.

334-336-338 Main Street N

John F. Burkhart (son of Moshy Joe and Grundniss Kate) had a thriving tinsmith business here dating back to 1848, dealing in hardware, tinware, general house-furnishing goods, stoves, spouting, and roofing. He was best noted for lamps, coffee pots, candlesticks, candle molds, and a nursing can know as "mam" or "memche" in Pennsylvania Dutch. (The nursing cans were only 4" tall.) Mr. Burkhart's neighbors would often gather around the



HOLIDAY GOODS

—AT—
ALBERT F. SCHOCK'S,
BERNVILLE, PA.

M

I will open my late purchase of Specialties for the Holiday Season,
ON DECEMBER 7th, 1895.

I have the Finest Line of Holiday Goods, suitable for CHRISTMAS GIFTS, ever shown in Bernville.

FANCY GOODS.

French, Bohemian, China, English, German and American Glassware, Ruby and Decorated Wine Sets, Hanging and Fancy Lamps, Fine Beaded, Opal and Amber Vases, Water Sets, Plain and Engraved Celery Stands, Engraved Pitchers, Cake Baskets and Glass Sets, China, Decorated Bone Plates, Fruit Plates, China Plates, China Dec-
orated Bread Plates, Tea and Pitchers, Mustache Cups and Saucers, and endless variety of all Fancy Wares. Also a large stock of Fancy Toys to suit the children, consisting of Horses, Cows, Elephants, Mules, Goats, Sheep, Deer, Dogs, Cats, Cars, Wagons, War, Ironclad and Infant's Dolls, all kinds of Savings Banks and Curiosities. This assortment is grand and surprising. Bohemian Champagne Sets, Enamelled Turkey Plates, Dishes, Teas and Bowls, Carved Knives and Forks, Wax Angels, Opal Rose Bowls, French China, Austrian and Bohemian Fancy High Colored and Decorated Luminaires and Water Sets, Black Opal Decorated Plates, Jumbo Coffee, China Candle Sticks, Fruit Lamps, Japan, Belgium and Italian Bells and Sappers, a large assortment of Toilet Sets, Decorated Dinner Sets, Japan and English Fancy Tea Pots, Ruby Glass Spoon Holders, Creams, Toothpick Holders and Wine Sets, Flush Albums, China Smoking Figures (old fashioned style in new ware).

SILK MUFLERS AND HANDKERCHIEFS!

My stock is the Largest and Grandest that I ever exhibited on Christmas.

A Special Purchase for Christmas.

A large variety of Fancy and Fine Garters, Cakes and Nuts, Large Florida and Jamaica Oranges, IMPORTED GLASS ORNAMENTS to ornament the Christmas Tree.

In making this Holiday Goods selection I made large purchases of Winter Goods, consisting of Overcoatings, Fine Suitings and Cashmeres, Ladies' and Misses' latest styles of Skirts, Blouses and Coats, Capes, a well selected stock of Silk, Wools and Henriettes in Black and Colors, Cashmeres and Cashmere in all the new shades, Ladies' Plain Plaids and Striped Cloths, a large variety of Men's, Buckskin and Fur Kid Gloves, Men's and Boys' House-
Made Overcoats, Stormers, Boys' Ready Made Suits, Fur and Plush Caps, Men's Gums, Etc. Waterproof and Call head-quarters for the largest stock and assortment.

SPECIAL BARGAINS in Men's Fine Suits, Ladies' Dress Silks, Table Linens, Fine Plush Lap Blankets, Robes, Wool, Square and Horse Blankets, Bed Blankets and House Made Comforts, White Coverlets, Marcellite Quits and Lace Curtains. Do not fail to call and see this large assortment.

JEWELRY. My late selections are very suitable for Holiday gifts. Watches, Gents' and Ladies' Watch Chains and Guards, Ear Drops, Breast and Lace Pins, Gold and Filled Rings, Collar and Cuff Buttons, Silver
Knives, Forks, Table and Tea Spoons, Silver Sugar Bowls, Etc.

A full stock of Double and Single Barrel Guns, Rifles, Muskets, Spectacles and Eye Glasses. You will find the best assortment.

HOSIERY'S SEWING MACHINE. It is made of the best material known to science. Its capacity for speed and a large range of sewing is unlimited. Buy the Household Sewing Machine and you will be pleased. For sale by Albert F. Schock.

WATER WASHING MACHINE. It WASHES CLEAN and is a great saving of time, labor and clothes, and no one can afford to do without one. For sale by Albert F. Schock.

SPECIAL INVITATION to all buyers of Fancy Robes, Plush Lap Blankets and All-Wool Square Horse-
Blankets at all times. The best makes and new styles. A large stock on hand to select from.

A special line of Colors, Trimmings and Satony Wool, Stocking Yarns, Two and Four Fold Zephyr, Hand-
Made Satony Hoods, Cloths, Dress Fur, Plush, Velvets and Braided Trimmings.

CALL AND BE CONVINCED.

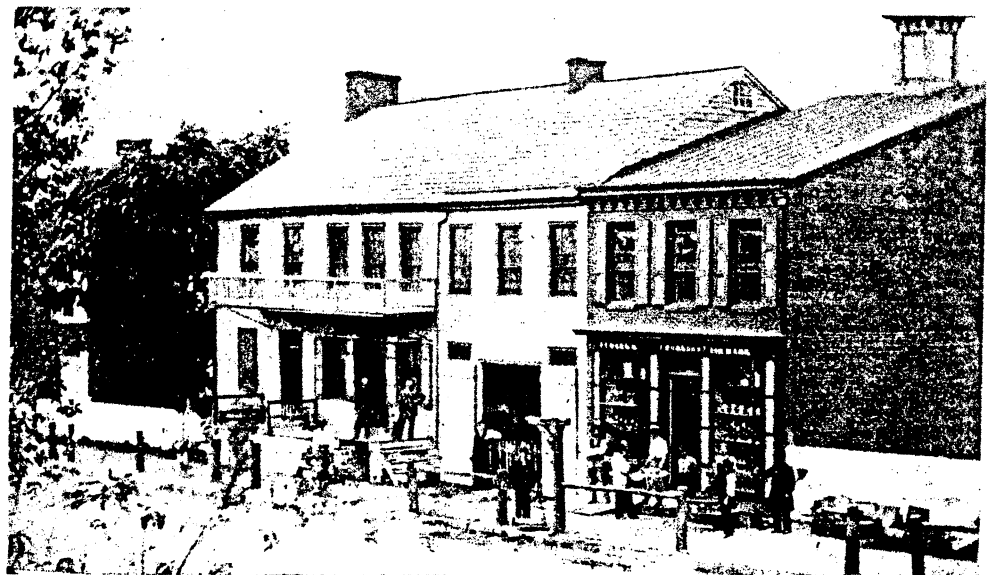
All are invited to call and see the Largest Stock of Fancy Goods for the Holidays. Come one and all and see my store in its holiday attire. It equals all former displays.

ALBERT F. SCHOCK, Bernville, Pa.



Tinsmith John F. Burkhart
(b. 1823 - d. 1910)

N



Burkhart's Tinsmith Shop and Home

town pump to listen to him read the German newspaper, the Reading Adler. He built his residence at 338 Main Street in 1875 for a cost of \$3,800. In 1912, his heirs sold the property to William H. Marberger who operated Marberger's Feed Mill here. In the 1970s, Marberger's Mill was converted into apartments.

345 Main Street

The 1860 map shows Josh. Renno, owner, and in 1876 D. M. Renno was owner. In recent history, this site was known as the Ray C. Schaeffer Garage. Ray Schaeffer was a mechanic for Klopp and Kalbach in North Heidelberg Township earning \$9.00 week. He first opened a garage in 1917 (at W. 3rd & Rt. 183) where he sold Fords and Elcars. In 1922, he bought the property at the corner of 4th and Main. He sold Chrysler-Plymouths and International trucks here. Mr. Schaeffer kept a record book of all the cars and trucks he sold including the date, purchaser's name, model of car or truck, and price. In 1924, he sold 77 cars; in 1931 he recorded sales of 242 cars in three and one-half years and 485 Model T's in nine years. He operated one of the largest sales and service garages in rural Berks County. After Ray Schaeffer, this became the Roy Hix Garage, selling and servicing Kaiser-Frazer cars. About 1944, the garage converted to a shoe factory. In 1976, the shoe factory had 55 employees making boys' shoes. In 1979, Robert Kirkhoff bought the building and opened a furniture store. Dorothy Kirkhoff, his wife, opened a gift shop in the front of the building in 1985. The plumbing company, M. G. DeLong, Inc., under different ownership, moved here in 1997.

400-404 Main Street, Corner of Main & 4th Street O

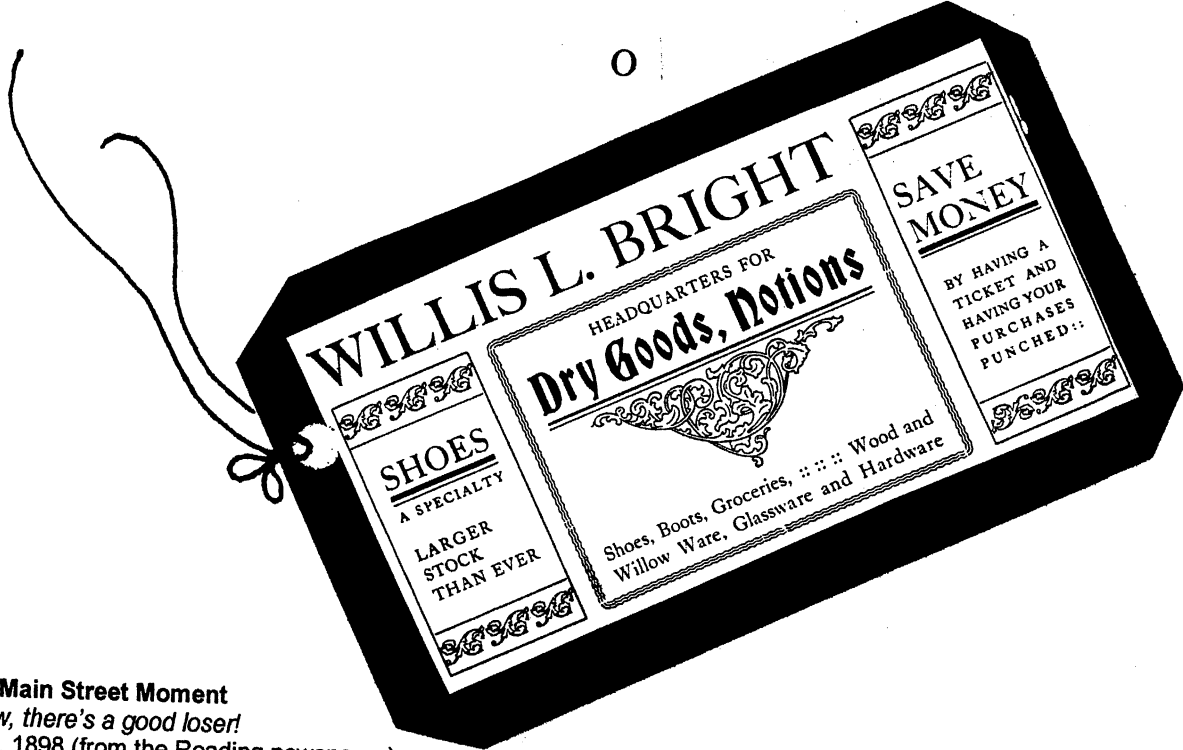
Daniel Umbenhauer was listed as the owner of Lot #48 on the 1820, 1854, and 1860 maps. Albert Schock and his son Moses built a large store at this location in 1884. The 1900 Census of Bernville lists Willis L. Bright as Assistant Clerk next to Albert Schock. Later, Willis L. Bright purchased the buildings. In 1907, Bright's Store was one of the leading General Merchandise stores in the area. Willis and Mayme Bright's spacious residence was located on the corner lot at 400 Main Street. It had four bedrooms on the second floor and two over the store. The store and inventory were sold to Fred Hommas in 1948. He operated the store until 1960. Later, the buildings were turned into a nine unit apartment complex.

407-409 Main Street

Benjamin Pleis purchased this 60' lot from the Daniel D. Filbert estate on February 26, 1869 at a public auction held on the premises. He paid \$2,757.00 for the real estate which consisted of a two story brick dwelling house, stable, etc. On the 1880 census, Benjamin Pleis was listed as a carriage manufacturer. His sons, Milton and James, were employees. They built sleighs and carriages on the second floor and used a ramp to bring them down to the ground level.

416 Main Street P

One of the first owners of this lot was Dr. Enoch Bricker, as shown on the 1854 map. Another owner was William B. Riegel, as listed on the 1860 map. Mr. Riegel lived in Bernville from 1845-1860 and was known as one of the best clock and watchmakers. He was especially good at repairing grandfather clocks. On the 1876 map, this lot was owned by J. Schock. This structure is mostly known as the St. Thomas Church parsonage. St. Thomas Church bought this property in 1917. Rev. Frank W. Ruth, pastor of St. Thomas Church, lived here with his family from 1918 until 1963. He served as pastor for 44 years. He also served on the school board for 38 years. Reverend Ruth was elected to the PA State General Assembly in 1930 and in 1936 became a State Senator, being re-elected five more times. He and his wife, Florence, raised eight children in this home. St. Thomas Church sold the property in 1964. It has been a private residence since that time.



A Main Street Moment
Now, there's a good loser!

November 12, 1898 (from the Reading newspaper)
 Wm. J. Harpel, Republican, and John Mogel, Democrat, made a wager on the election results, that the one that loses must haul the winner through the Main St. on a wheelbarrow. Last evening the parties assembled at the Eagle Hotel and carried out the bet. Mr. Harpel, the winner, took a front seat on the wheelbarrow, with the stars and stripes in one hand, and Mr. Mogel took hold of the handles, and hauled him through the principal thoroughfare. The procession was headed by the Bernville drum corps. A large delegation with torches followed the wheelbarrow.
 Reprinted with permission. Thanks to D. & F. Showers for making this information available.



Reverend Frank W. Ruth
 (b. 1888 - d. 1968)



Parsonage

P

422 Main Street

Haag's Wheelwright was built by John Haag in 1841. His sons Harrison and Jefferson, both veterans of the Civil War, continued the business after his death. The directory of 1876 advertised, "H. Haag & Co. & Bro., Wheelwrights and Inventors and Manufacturers of the Lightning Meat Cutter, a sausage stuffer, lard preparer & boring machine." The shop was torn down in 1906 to make room for the home and office of Dr. George W. Fahrenbach who practiced medicine here from 1900-1943. He was also a school director for 37 years. In 1945, it became the home of Carl Anspach Post #732, the American Legion Home. The social headquarters were in the basement and meetings were held on the second floor. In 1951, the American Legion moved to their new home on Second Street and the property owners, B. Frank & Flora Sheidy, converted it into a medical office and residence for Dr. Richard deB. Bertollett and family. In 1958, Dr. Peter T. Pugliese established a private practice here until 1963. After he constructed the new medical clinic in Jefferson Township, the Sheidy's converted the building into three apartments.

438 Main Street

The 1850 Plan of Bernville indicated an early log home here. Later, this was home to the Greim Cabinet & Cigar Shop, which was owned by the first undertaker in the vicinity, William S. Greim. An 1876 ad in the Berks County Business Services read: "W. S. Greim, Cabinet Maker by Trade, is a first class workman in all kinds of light wood work, and has been in the employ of Klahr & Son for eleven years. Owner of a two story frame house and well-improved lot in Bernville on Main Street. The house is 20 x 25, with kitchen 12 x 20. The lot is 30' in front and 200' deep. The buildings are new & substantial." Many years later, about 1915, owners Mr. and Mrs. Seidel remodeled the old log home by building a new structure around it. In 1976, it was the residence of Carl and Esther Wilhelm. He was the son of Simon P. Wilhelm. Carl was a tax collector for Bernville for many years.

449 Main Street Q

The 1854 map listed this structure as the Early Bernville School. The first school house was a low log structure on the rear portion of this lot. The log school house was razed, and a new two-story brick schoolhouse was built. In 1877, the two-story brick schoolhouse made way for an even larger school building which remains on this site. Michael A. Gruber was one of the teachers of the Grammar School level here; he taught Latin, German, and Greek. He was a teacher, historian, genealogist, poet, and author. Later, this building was bought by the Mennonites and turned into a Mennonite church. The first service was held in June 1953; services continued until the 1990s.

The Mennonite Church marks the end of the original town boundary; 501 Main Street and those properties that follow which are listed in this Walking Tour were in Penn Township, although today they are within Bernville Borough.

501-503 Main Street, Corner of Main and 5th Street R

The photographer Cyrus G. Blatt had his residence and photo gallery here. The long windows in the house allowed light to come into his studio. In this building, he also operated a candy store. As early as 1865, he had a photographic wagon at the corner of Fourth and Main Streets. He was the official photographer for the 1907 Old Home Week Celebration. Mr. Blatt was also a correspondent for the Reading Eagle and Reading Times newspapers. When Mr. Blatt died on January 7, 1915, the Reading Eagle ran a lengthy article in tribute to him. The heading read, "Death of the Eagle's Oldest Correspondent-Wrote the Bernville Letter 45 Years-Cyrus G. Blatt, One of the Best Known Men in Northern Berks, Succumbs to Complications in His 74th Year."

Q



The Early Bernville School

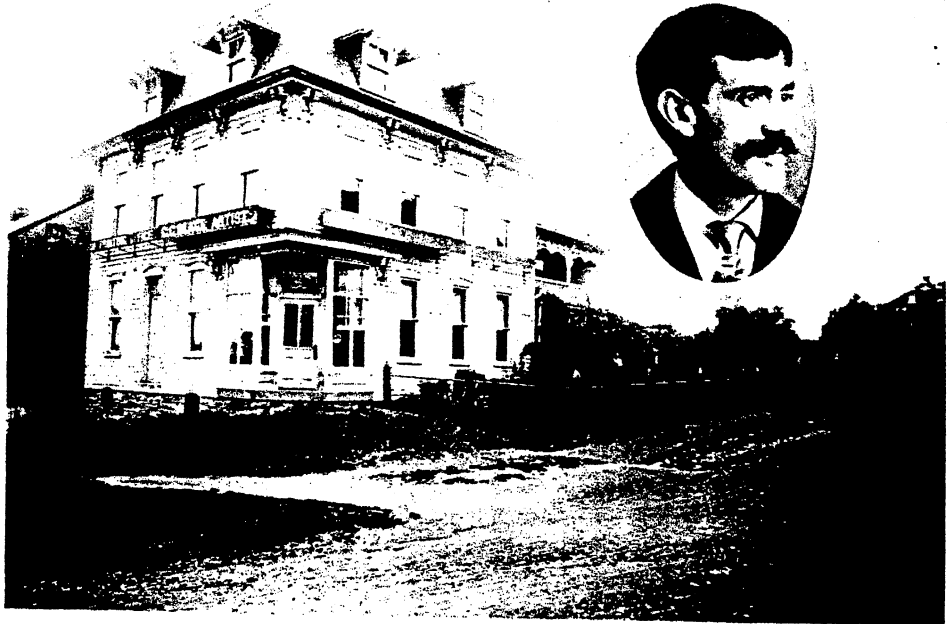
For a history of the early schools, and a list of the early teachers, see page 12 of
A Retrospective of Bernville - Old Home Week
 in the Bernville Area Community Library.

A Main Street Moment

Do you wonder what the dog was thinking?
 March 11, 1886 (from the Reading newspaper)
 C. G. Blatt, photographer, is the owner of a small dog, that possesses more than ordinary intelligence. He will sit erect, smoke a pipe, and perform many little tricks, at the word of command. Mr. Blatt has taken a photograph of his dog by the instantaneous process, which must be seen to be appreciated. The animal is perched on top of a small box, with a large smoke pipe in his mouth, wearing spectacles. Reprinted with permission. Thanks to D. & F. Showers for making this information available.

R

Cyrus G. Blatt & Photo Gallery



504 Main Street

An early deed of April 22, 1836 transferred this lot from Philip Kline to his son, John. In 1860, John and Judith Kline sold the property to the German Lutheran Church for \$237.00. This is the former Lutheran Church Parsonage, as indicated on both the 1860 and 1876 maps of Bernville. In 1901, the Evangelical Lutheran Friedens Church sold the property to Aaron Fox. Since this time, it has been privately owned by a number of individuals. This house is designated a historic site of Berks County.

516 Main Street S

This is the former Anna (Schaeffer) Faust home where she and her husband, Frank, raised their two daughters. Anna was the author of many poems in the Pennsylvania German dialect. Most of the poems speak of the life, customs, and recollections of the Bernville area during her youth. Anna spent her younger days on a farm in New Schaefferstown until her family moved to Main Street, to a house that was located just right of this home. The Bernville Area Community Library has a copy of her four-volume poetry collection.

533 Main Street

Evangelical Lutheran Friedens Church was built in 1897 (for a cost of \$12,000.00) on land donated by Gottfried Fidler and Samuel Filbert. The cornerstone was laid October 3, 1897. This church is built in the Gothic style using Swatara Brown Stone. The seating capacity is 500. The large stained glass window in the front depicts the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This window was dedicated to the Building Committee: Jonathan B. Miller, Moses S. Schock, and Levi Geiss. The first pastor was Rev. J. J. Cressman.

536 Main Street

Ground was broken for St. Thomas Church on July 15, 1897, and it was dedicated in 1898. The exterior stone is comprised mostly of White Bear Stone, accented by Berks County Brown Stone. It cost \$18,000.00 to build and has a seating capacity of 750. The church was named St. Thomas to honor the founder of the Reformed Congregation, Thomas Hartman Leinbach and his son, Thomas Calvin Leinbach; both served as pastors. A large addition was constructed in 2004.

600 Main Street

The original site of the earliest school in the area was standing here, a little back from the corner of Main and Washington Street. A water pump for the school was also located here; now the road passes over the site. The earliest school was run by the Northkill Church. In 1876, chair maker Jacob Staley and his wife, Harriet, operated a candy store here. Samuel Mogel, a cigar maker and painter, purchased it in 1879. One of his specialties was home made ice cream. His candy shop was especially popular with the children attending the Penn Township primary school located next door. About 1917-1919, it was bought and operated by Milton Graeff. (Candy stores, also known as confectionery stores, were popular in Bernville. There was one or more on almost every block in the borough.)

604 Main Street T

This present-day home was once a brick school house that was built in 1850. In 1851, Penn Township adopted the free school plan. Grades 4, 5, and 6 were on the first floor and high school classes were taught on the second floor. The high school classes were taught by J. Paul Burkhart, a Princeton graduate and grandson of the tinsmith, John F. Burkhart. Classes were conducted here until the 1930s. In 1934, George and Esther Reppert bought the property from the Penn Township School District; the deed is dated July 2, 1934. It has been a private residence now for over seventy years.

Poem reprinted with permission of W. Faust

Here is the last verse from one of Anna Faust's many poems; the translation follows:

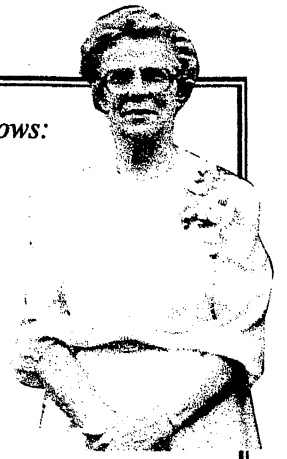
"Hausbutze" die Anna vun Bannwill

Wann's net waert fer die Kich – waert der erscht Shtock Schpass:
Beinoh, dreht die Memm mich dresche – wann ich net uffbass;
Der Parler un die Kammer hen net zu lang genomme,
Heit du ich, viel liewer – der Leckdrikbutzer heere brumme.

"Housecleaning" by Anna from Bernville

Except for the kitchen, the downstairs was easy:
By that time, I was so tired of housecleaning, Mom threatened action if I didn't do better;
The parlor and pantry didn't take long,
Today, I'd rather hear the electric cleaner's hum.

Anna (Schaeffer) Faust 1918-1989



The former Schaeffer home, below, was bought by St. Thomas Church and razed by the Army Corps of Engineers. A portion of the parking lot is now over the site. (Information updated August 1, 2007.)

Photo courtesy of Edith Reifsnyder



family photos courtesy of Winnie Faust

Schaeffer sisters with their mother, Sallie. Anna on right, Edith Reifsnyder on left.

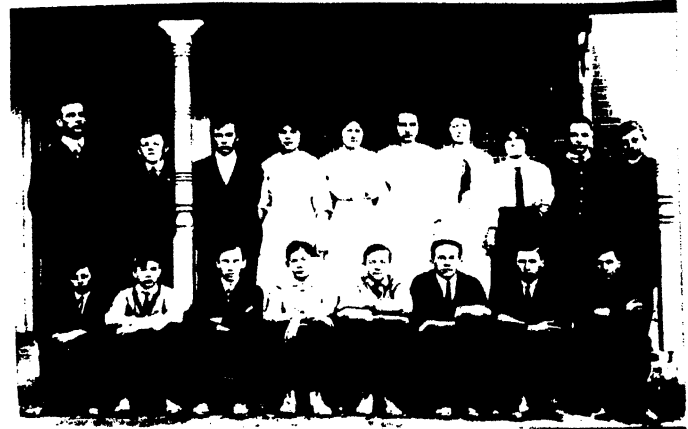


T

"Scholars" in front of the school building with their teacher (on L), J. Paul Burkhart. (b.1882-d.1968)



Brick exterior, front of former school.



603 Main Street, Corner of Main and Washington Street

This area was a big open field until Ray Marberger built his home here on the corner in 1930. (Ray took over Marberger's Feed Mill from his father, William.) This property was first owned by the Haag family (who had a large foundry that was located behind St. Thomas Church). Calvin Burkey owned this property around the turn of the century. Before this property had been built on, Grace Burkey Stoudt (daughter of Calvin) remembers that they had a garden here and planted corn and lima beans.

611 Main Street (2 story stone house next to 603)

Ray Marberger had this home built for his son, Franklin. He and his wife, Verle, lived here.

617 Main Street (2 story red brick house next to 611)

Ray Marberger had this home built for his son, Carl. Carl's wife, Guila, was Verle's sister. Carl worked for his father in the feed mill (334-338 Main) until it closed on June 1, 1969.

This walking tour has come to an end. Thank you for taking this tour of Bernville's Main Street.

ADDENDUM

Not everything that is known about Main Street's residents and businesses is contained here. A more detailed record of Bernville history may be found in the 1976 Anniversary Book; the Bernville Area Community Library has a copy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Bernville Heritage & Cultural Society gratefully acknowledges Janice C. DeLong (long-time Main Street resident) for her many hours of research, writing, and photographic efforts. This Self-Guided Walking Tour booklet is based, in large measure, on her Walking Tour that was printed in Bernville's 1976 Anniversary Book and on the Walking Tour which she updated (and provided photos for) during the borough's sesquicentennial in 2001. This booklet is a combined effort of the members of the Heritage & Cultural Society who offered their time, input, and guidance to bring to residents and other interested individuals this information about Bernville's Main Street. Our thanks go to the borough residents who supplied information and/or photographs when asked.

Most of the information and photographs in this Walking Tour are taken from the following printed sources: Bernville Borough's 1976 Anniversary Book, the 1907 Old Home Week Official Program and Souvenir Book, Evangelical Lutheran Friedens Church History Books, and St. Thomas United Church of Christ 1987-1997 History Book.

If you are aware of any corrections that need to be made, please send the information (along with your name and contact number) to Bernville Heritage & Cultural Society, P.O. Box 40, Bernville, PA, 19506. You may submit corrections anonymously; if doing so, please provide documentation (if possible) by which the new information may be verified. If you would like to contribute additional information or photographs for any future update of this walking tour, please contact borough hall at 610-488-1591.

ON THE COVER

The building on the right is the American House with I. G. Miller's horse sale and exchange at the back of the building. On the left is Jonathan B. Miller's store which was a fully-stocked general store, with as many as 19 clerks in the three-story building. The borough's "street light," an electric light suspended above the street, is near Miller's store. Note the cobblestone gutter in the lower right corner. (Photo - early 1900s era)



