

Old State Road Barn

*Emlenton, Pennsylvania
Salem Township*



The Past: The barn was built sometime between 1853-1860 as determined by the circular sawn marks on the barn's siding. The original land parcel was part of 400 acres that was won in the Northumberland Lottery in 1785 by John Junkin. Junkin was a Revolutionary War soldier who fought in the 1777 battle of Brandywine. After his passing in 1814, Junkin's family members inherited the land. Eventually in 1840, George Jones, a German immigrant, purchased several acres of the land. Years later the barn was built. George Jones passed in 1879. In 1880 George, Jones son, George Junior, rented his father's 90 acres from the estate. The agricultural census for that year states that the farm was valued at \$6000 with \$150 of farm machinery; \$275 in livestock which included: 2 horse, 4 milk cows, 4 other cattle, 5 sheep, 4 swine, 20 barnyard fowl, and 2 other birds. Farm products listed in the census included: 8 tons of hay, 12 bushels of clover seed, 50 bushels of buckwheat, 200 bushels of Indian corn, 300 bushels of oats, 12 bushels of potatoes, 200 bushels of apples from 100 trees, 500 pounds of butter, 11 pounds of wool, 100 dozen raw eggs, and no lumber products. The farm was very productive for its time. In 1917, John W. Dehart purchased the farm. Dehart family descendants owned the farm until its dismantling in 2017.

Barn Facts:

- Built c. 1853-1860
- German basement bank barn
- Machine cut square nails (pictured to the right)
- Majority of beams were oak
- 60'x40' in size
- 2 story
- Spirit Holes at both gable ends



Information of Interest: Original growth forests to this area and time consisted primarily of pine, hemlock and oak. These forests were used for building material, and the creation of charcoal used in the making of iron. Lumber, charcoal and iron making were the township's key economic activities. The nearest town of George Jones' timeframe was Salem. In the early 1900's there was one hotel, one drug store, one doctor's office, one millinery shop, two blacksmiths, one meat shop, three carpenter shops, three dry goods & notions stores, three large churches, one schoolhouse, and a post office. From 1830-1850, settlers were of a varied ethnic background including, English, Scots, Irish, and Pennsylvanian Germans.



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