

## Historic East Berlin Plays Host to Christmas House Tour Sunday, December 11, 2016 from Noon to 5 PM

East Berliners will open their doors to the public on Sunday, December 11 between Noon and 5 p.m. for the Historic East Berlin Christmas House Tour, which is sponsored by the East Berlin Historical Preservation Society (EBHPS). Six privately owned homes will be open to the public, as well as three Society Buildings—the Church Schoolhouse, The Old Log House, Red Men’s Hall and 2 local churches--Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and Zwingli United Church of Christ. Refreshments will be provided by Trinity and Zwingli Churches and at Red Men’s Hall, while Zwingli UCC will host holiday musical entertainment. In addition, there will be an historically correct demonstration of hearth cooking at The Old Log House. What a wonderful way to start the Holiday Season!

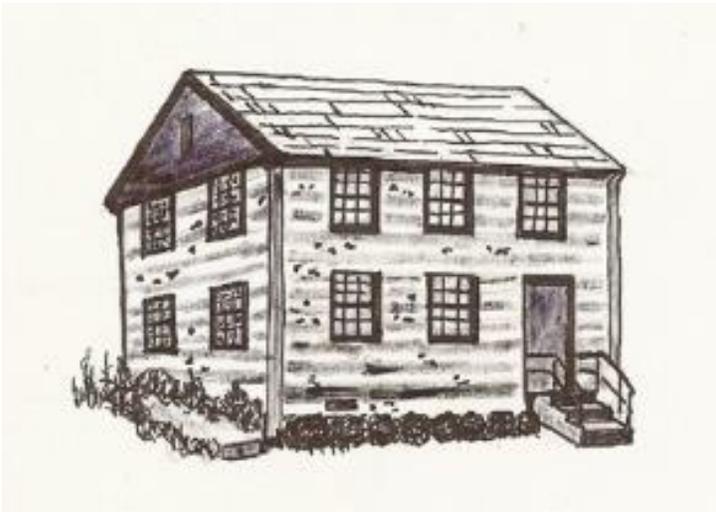
Five of the six homes on the tour are an easy walk along the sidewalks of King Street (Rt. 234) in East Berlin. One home on our tour, the Peter Ickes House, is located in nearby Abbottstown, PA (about 5 miles from East Berlin’s King Street-- maps will be provided). The walk along East Berlin’s King Street will take the visitor from Luke Miller’s house in the 100 block of East King Street to the Baker House, owned by Walt and Anne Geiger, right next door, then on to the George Jacobs House (owners Dave and Mary Titzell) in the 200 block of West King Street., then to Jeff and Raeann Hamon’s home in the 300 block of West King St., and next to the Thaddeus Stevens House (owners Nathan and Megan Smith) in the 400 block of West King St and last but not least, a short drive to Peter Ickes House (owners Steven Lipman and Tracy Dodge) in Abbottstown, PA on East King St. All six houses reflect significant examples of local architecture from the late 18<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Along the walk on King Street in East Berlin, the Trinity and Zwingli Churches invite Tour-goers for refreshments, entertainment (Zwingli) and have available restroom facilities.

*All drawings in this article are by Erma Barnhart, Board Member of EBHPS*

The Luke Miller house, circa 1770, is one of the original houses of East Berlin. Upon the Town’s founding in 1764, dwellings were to be no less than 16x20 feet in size. Interestingly, the log portion of this early home is exactly those dimensions. Added later, the rest of the house features post and beam construction where stones and mortar have been placed between the framing. The home’s many occupants over the years include Luke Heathcote who resided there in the 1860’s, during the Civil War. Mr. Miller, painstakingly restoring this historic treasure, is working to maintain the integrity of the original elements. A beautiful open-hearth fireplace illuminates the period detail, architecture, and furnishings of this special home. Enjoy your walk back in time!



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The Baker House is currently owned by Walt & Anne Geiger. In 1797, Daniel Baxter (Baker) acquired this house from John Hildebrand. Two centuries later, it was meticulously restored and modernized. It retains its two-story, hand-hewn log construction, summer kitchen and timber frame lean-to, all resting on a rebuilt stone foundation. Restored windows, stone hearth, random width flooring and interior divider walls are original. Wrought iron hardware and board-and-batten doors reflect its Pennsylvania German heritage.

In 2010, a period-style, timber frame barn with stone fireplace was constructed. Raised garden beds, arbor and well-house round out this historic gem.

The George Jacobs House, owners Dave & Mary Titzell, is a brick Federal home that was built in 1804 by the Jacobs family. The house boasts two center front doors with paneled jambs and transoms with original wavy glass. Six over six windows with wide lintels and corner blocks along with bracketed eaves complete the front of the home. George Jacobs was a harness maker and his harness shop still stands on the west side of the property along with a hand-dug well. Many artifacts have been found around the harness shop and well adding to the history of this property.



Jeff and Raeann Hamon's double brick home was built in 1892 by George W. and Charlotte Spangler. It resides on lot #24 of the original 85 lots laid out by John Frankenberger, on land bought from Thomas and Richard Penn. When the Hamons purchased the home in 1987, it was three apartment units and a "diamond in the rough," with emphasis on "rough." After two decades of restoration, the home now features things like Bradbury and Bradbury reproduction wall papers, a beautiful custom-designed kitchen with

cherry cabinets, a hand carved walnut mantel, and a spacious garden room. The yard was also overhauled to include lots of shrubs, perennial flowers, spring bulbs, and an in-ground swimming pool.

The Thaddeus Stevens House is now owned by Nathan & Megan Smith. This home was built in 1780 and is a two story, three bay sandstone house operated as a tavern in the early 1800's. The property was said to have been occupied for a great number of years as a tavern with the name of the Indian Queen or the Sign of the Indian Queen. Thaddeus Stevens, Congressman, lawyer and equalitarian purchased the property in 1832. Stevens owned the home from 1832 to 1849.



The Peter Ickes House, in Abbottstown, PA, is currently owned by Steve Lipman and Tracy Dodge. This 18th Century log and stone Swiss-German home was built by Revolutionary War Captain Peter Ickes who purportedly served under General Washington. The original log section dates to 1740 while the stone side was built in the 1760's. The large family room addition in the back was added about 20 years ago. One of the oldest homes in Abbottstown, it had undergone a renovation that earned it recognition in 2012 from the Adams County Historical

Society. There is a new antiques shop in this home and parking is available in the rear on E. Water Street.

For a more inclusive walking tour of East Berlin and a greater appreciation of the historic nature of the Borough, House Tour ticket holders are encouraged to also visit the three additional historic properties on the Tour, which are maintained by the East Berlin Historical Preservation Society. Each of these buildings has their own histories described in the brochure (ticket) as well as on our website at [ebhpspa.org](http://ebhpspa.org). The Old Log House, built in 1832 and located behind the Post Office, will be the site of a hearth cooking demonstration by the EBHPS Hands at the Hearth cooking group. In addition, Red Men's Hall, circa 1840, is located at 332 West King Street and will also be open as part of the Tour and tickets for the Tour can be purchased at Red Men's starting at 11:30 am the day of the Tour. Refreshments will be served at Red Men's and restroom facilities are also available here for Tour-goers. The Church Schoolhouse, circa 1769 log building, is located at North Avenue next to Union Cemetery and near the East Berlin Area Community Center, will also be open for this Tour. This historic building is owned by the Union Cemetery Association and maintained by the EBHPS. It has been a center for learning for much of its history.

After exploring some of the historic buildings of the Borough of East Berlin, the Tour continues with two of our local churches, which kindly opened their doors for this Tour, also on West

King Street. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 117 West King Street, was founded in 1811 and has a rich and diverse history. Many of the members are the 3rd and 4th generations of the same church family. The facilities are a beautiful blend of old and new. The sanctuary was completed in 1875. Throughout the years the facilities have been modified and improved, with major renovations in 1998 and 2009. Trinity Church is happy to offer refreshments for Tour participants. In addition, restrooms are located here for those on the Tour.

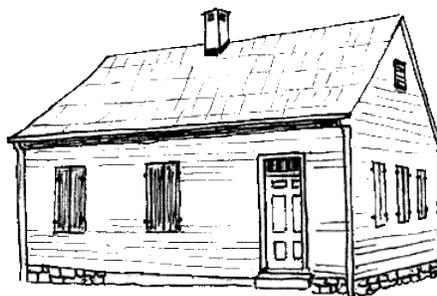
Zwingli United Church of Christ, also one of the two churches which kindly opened its doors for this Tour, is located at 403 West King Street. In 1889, members of the Emmanuel Butt Family donated land on West King Street, where the church currently stands. On June 15, 1890, the cornerstone was laid. Material from the old Union Church was used to construct the new church, and on Sept. 25, 1891, Zwingli Reformed Church was dedicated. The church was named after the Swiss reformer, Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) who founded the Reformed Church denomination. The members of Zwingli UCC are pleased to welcome Tour guests with refreshments and Christmas music to enjoy. Restrooms are located here for those on the Tour.

Thanks again to all who will be graciously opening their doors for this Christmas House Tour. They are making it possible for you to see the results of their efforts to preserve significant examples of local architecture from the late 18<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> century.

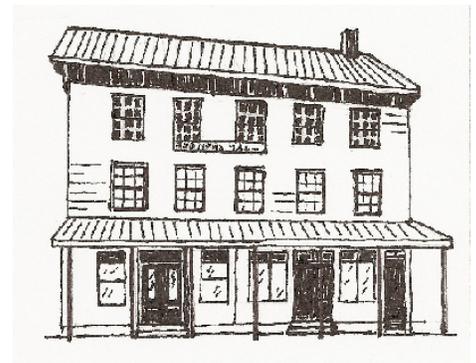
Tickets will be available the day of the Tour starting at 11:30 AM at Red Men's Hall, 332 West King St. (Rt 234), East Berlin, PA for \$15. Discounted price advance ticket purchase is available beginning November 1st at Cashman's Hardware, 1595 Route 194 North, East Berlin, PA for \$12. All proceeds from this Tour support the preservation of our five historic buildings and education work of the Society. For more information, go to website at [ebhpspa.org](http://ebhpspa.org) or email us at [ebhps@comcast.net](mailto:ebhps@comcast.net) or call 717-259-0822 and please Like Us on Facebook.



**The Old Log House**



**Church School House**



**Red Men's Hall**

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