

Historic East Berlin Plays Host to Christmas House Tour Sunday, December 14, 2014 from Noon to 5 PM

East Berliners will open their doors to the public on Sunday, December 14, 2014 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). Four privately owned homes will be open to the public, as well as the Liberty #1 Engine House, The Old Log House, Red Men's Hall, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and Zwingli United Church of Christ. Refreshments and music will be provided by Trinity and Zwingli Churches along with refreshments at the Engine House. In addition, there will be a demonstration of hearth cooking and chair caning at The Old Log House. What a wonderful way to start the Holiday Season!

An easy walk along the sidewalks of King Street (Rt. 234) in East Berlin will take the visitor from Elliot Maher's house at 114 West King Street to Denny and Kathy Neiman's house at 200 West King Street on to Tom and Lisa Pohlman's property at 324 West King St., and finally to Jan Hoffman and David Woodward's home at 412 West King St. All four houses reflect significant examples of local architecture from the late 18th through the 19th century.

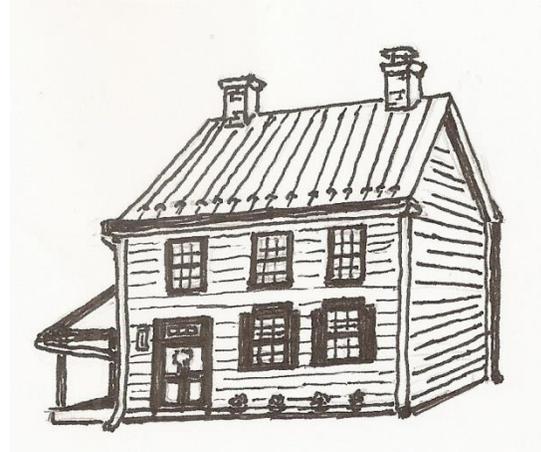
The Elliot Maher house at 114 West King Street, locally known as "The Doll House", is a 1790 log cabin and is one of the oldest houses in East Berlin. In the mid-20th century, the house was a supply depot. A 1970's owner sold dolls from the front room of the house earning it the nickname, "The Doll House".



The Studebaker House at 200 West King Street, currently owned by Denny and Kathy Neiman also is an 18th century example. In 1790 David Studebaker built this house of log and frame construction. The repurposed wooden clapboard siding and old rose head nails are still visible today. By 1820 the home included a brick two-story addition. In the early to mid-1800's the large, open-hearth fireplace was moved to the rear shed. Doorways connecting the two sides of the home were rediscovered in 2007 during the home's

restoration. In 2014, the current owners connected the second floor sides of the home with a doorway, at which time they discovered the concealed shoes of past owners intended to ward away evil spirits and bring peace to the home.

The Dolly Menges House, current owners Tom and Lisa Pohlman, at 324 West King Street is one of the few original properties remaining in East Berlin. This circa 1780's house was the home of Dolly Menges, local town historian for over 90 years. The house is constructed of log and chink covered with German clapboard siding. It boasts 9 over 6 pane windows with early wavy glass and original front and side doors with thumb-latch hardware. Features inside the home include wide beadboard walls and ceilings and two fireplaces, including a walk-in style with Dutch oven. The kitchen still shows an early green paint. Hardwood floors add to the beauty and simplicity of this wonderful home.



The John Fox House, with current owners Jan Hoffman and David Woodward, is located at 412 West King Street. John and Catherine Fox had this beautiful Flemish Bond stone house built for themselves (possibly by Daniel March) in the late 1700's. A succession of owners followed until 1985 when it became the home of Jan Blyler Hoffman, who undertook an authentic restoration of the house, furnishing it with primitive Pennsylvania furnishings.



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. The Old

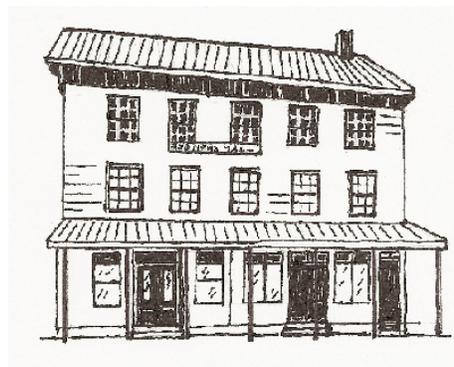
Log House, built in 1832 and located behind the Post Office, will be the site of two demonstrations. The EBHPS Hands at the Hearth cooking group will demonstrate hearth cooking from Noon until 5 PM and there will be a demonstration of chair caning by Rick Barrick from Noon until 2:30 PM, both at the Log House. In addition, Liberty #1 Engine House at 101 Fourth Street will be open with holiday refreshments available. 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 sale. Restrooms are located here, also.



The Old Log House



Liberty #1 Engine House



Red Men's Hall

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

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. There will be refreshments available here, as well as entertainment at 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm. 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 15th, 1890, the cornerstone was laid. Material from the old Union Church was used to construct the new church, and on Sept. 25th, 1891, Zwingli Reformed Church was dedicated. The church was named after the Swiss reformer, Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) who founded the Reformed Church denomination.

Refreshments will also be available here. Restrooms are also 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 18th through 19th 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 October 1st at Cashman's True Value Hardware, 1595 Route 194 North, East Berlin, PA for \$12. For children under 12, admission is free when accompanied by a paid adult. All proceeds from this Tour support the preservation of our five historic buildings and education work of the Society. For more information, visit the website at ebhpspa.org or call 717-259-0822.