

NSHA's 40th Anniversary

Tour of New Scotland

2011

N.B. This is an extract from the full tour guide and includes maps and information for the following tour(s) only:

New Salem



Sponsored by the New Scotland Historical Association

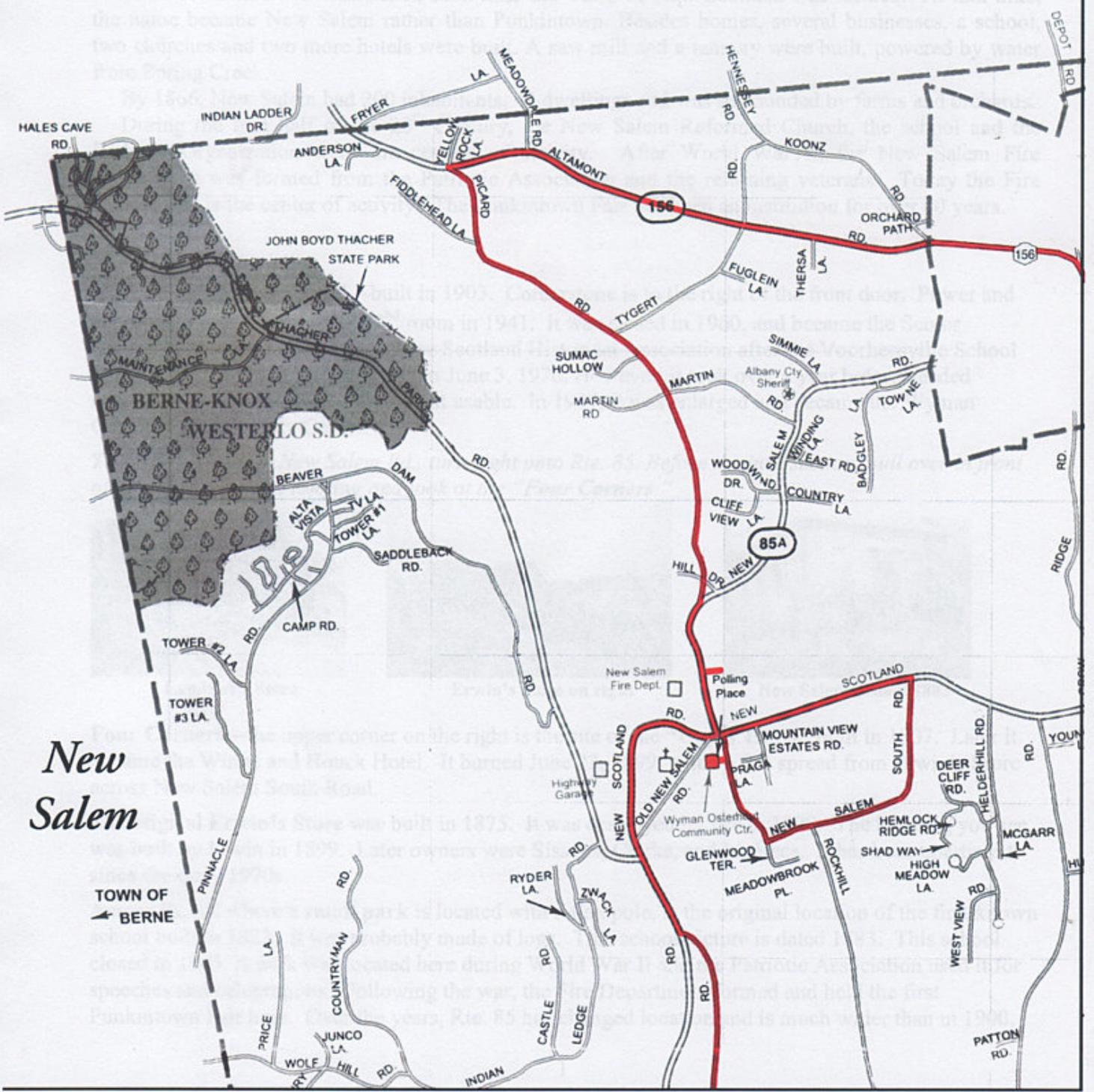


Town of New Scotland Historical Tour Key Map



New Salem, originally known as Punkintown, was first settled in the 1770s. The original Dutchman Road passed to the south of the present highway and Johannes Markle built a tavern there in 1792. This road was rerouted in 1806 to pass through New Salem as it does today. We now know this road as Old New Salem Road. Once this road was built, New Salem began to grow. Traffic passed through here on the way over the mountain to points west, and to what later was to become Thacher Park, which was a huge draw for tourists.

The Post Office was established soon after the Town of New Scotland was formed. At that time, the name became New Salem rather than Punkintown. Besides homes, several businesses, a school, two churches and two more hotels were built. A saw mill and a grist mill were built, powered by water from Spring Creek.



New Salem

TOWN OF BERNE

A

New Salem

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By 1866, New Salem had 200 inhabitants, 42 dwellings and was surrounded by farms and orchards.

During the first half of the 20th Century, the New Salem Reformed Church, the school and the Redman Organization were the centers of activity. After World War II, the New Salem Fire Department was formed from the Patriotic Association and the returning veterans. Today the Fire Department is the center of activity. The Punkintown Fair has been an institution for over 60 years.

New Salem Tour

HdM **New Salem School**—built in 1903. Cornerstone is to the right of the front door. Power and water were added in 1936, the 2nd room in 1941. It was closed in 1960, and became the Senior Citizens Center and home of the New Scotland Historical Association after the Voorheesville School District deeded it over to the Town on June 3, 1970. However, it took over a year before needed renovations were completed to make it usable. In 1987, it was enlarged and became the Wyman Osterhout Community Center.

Turn right onto Old New Salem Rd., turn right onto Rte. 85. Before the intersection, pull over in front of S & L Siding and Roofing and look at the “Four Corners.”



Lambert's Store



Erwin's Store on right



New Salem School 1883

Four Corners—the upper corner on the right is the site of the “**Upper Hotel**” built in 1807. Later it became the Winne and Houck Hotel. It burned June 23, 1899, when a fire spread from Erwin's Store across New Salem South Road.

The original **Erwin's Store** was built in 1875. It was destroyed by fire in 1899. The building you see was built by Erwin in 1899. Later owners were Sissons, Clarks, and McVees. It has been apartments since the early 1970s.

Across Rt. 85, where a **small park** is located with a flag pole, is the original location of the first known school built in 1823. It was probably made of logs. This school picture is dated 1883. This school closed in 1903. A park was located here during World War II and the Patriotic Association used it for speeches and celebrations. Following the war, the Fire Department formed and held the first Punkintown Fair here. Over the years, Rte. 85 has changed location and is much wider than in 1900.

Lambert's Store and Gas Station was on the Northeast corner from at least the early 1930s until the 1950s. They sold gas, penny candy, soda, ice cream, and other groceries. Previous to this building, there was an earlier one that housed the Helderberg Garage Towing and Wrecking Service in the 1920s.



North Rd. – looking toward Voorheesville



New Salem Fire House

At the four corners, turn left onto 85A. Soon on your right you will see the home of Capitol Upholstery. Originally this was a **Methodist Episcopal Church** built in 1850.

The stained glass windows still can be seen. This church closed in 1904, when the congregation merged with the Voorheesville Methodist Church. The Improved Order of Redmen purchased the building in 1911. The Redmen Organization and many community groups used it for plays, church suppers, dances and a meeting place. It was a polling place for many years. When you get to Clarksville, you will see the original bell from this church!

Continuing down the road after the 3rd house on the right, is the original **New Salem Fire House**, built in 1949-50. Returning World War II Veterans and the New Salem Patriotic Association formed the Fire Department, and soon built the firehouse. The building was sold several years ago, after a new firehouse was built and then enlarged across the street. Now, it is the home of Morrison Engineering.



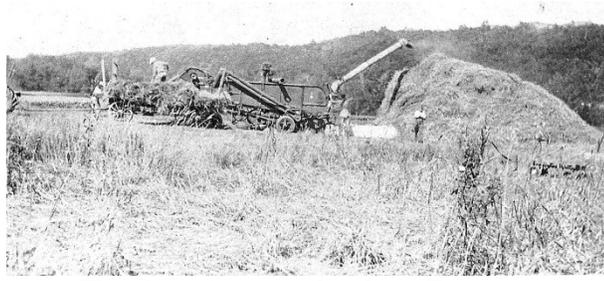
Fair Grounds



Park with Honor Roll

*Turn around at the Punkintown Fairgrounds and return to the **Four Corners**. Cross over Rte. 85 and continue onto New Salem South Rd. for about .5 mile from the intersection. After going around a sharp bend to the left,* you will see a large white house on the hill on the left built by Johannes Markle in 1792 and used as a **tavern**. At the time, Old Beaverdam Rd. passed in front of the tavern and continued up the mountain. The road was changed to pass through New Salem in 1896. (*Now called Old New Salem Rd.*)

Right after you pass Rock Hill Rd., you will see a barn to the left. Much of the land in this area was part of the Lester Sharp farm.



Threshing Scene on the Sharp Farm

Continue on New Salem South Road until you come to **Water District #1 Town of Bethlehem Filtration Plant** on the right at #143. Construction of the Vly Creek Reservoir was begun in 1955. The plant treats 4 ½ million gallons of water a day. (If you have never seen the reservoir, it is worth a short ride up Rock Hill Road. It is a beautiful area) Continue on South Rd. until it intersects with Rte. 85.

*(At the end of South Road, if you have the time, turn right onto Rte. 85 and almost immediately you will see signs for **Mt. Pleasant Cemetery** on the right. There are some very old stones at the rear of the cemetery—fascinating. This part was originally a family cemetery but in 1864, a cemetery association was formed.)*



New Salem Reformed Church

Turn left at the end of South Road and return to New Salem on Rte. 85. You will pass an old **Dutch Reformed Church** on the right, built in 1893. It replaced a church built here in 1875 that had to be replaced in 18 years because of its already poor condition! Records show the first church was built further up the road near the Four Corners in 1783. The last service here was August 23, 1998.



New Salem Hotel

Soon after, on the right, you'll see what was a large hotel-tavern-store built in 1829-30. In the 1830s the first Post Office was established here. The **New Salem Hotel** continued to operate as a hotel and later just a tavern until it was converted to apartments in the early 1990s. You will pass many lovely old homes on this street.

*Continue up the mountain at this point—on your way to **Clarksville** on Rte. 85.*

Soon after the turn-off for Thacher Park (Rte. 157), on the right, is the site of **Osterhout's Indian Ladder Lodge**—a favorite night spot run by the Osterhout Family from 1932 until much of it burned in 1956. A new house is located on this site now.



Osterhout's Indian Ladder Lodge

Continue on Rte. 85 a short distance to Stove Pipe Rd. on the left. Turn left onto Stove Pipe Rd. and continue south.

After 1.1 mi., you come to **Tommell's** beef cattle farm, **Hill Top Farm** on the left. This is the largest beef cattle farm in the Town. This area near Tommell's was once referred to as Houck's Neighborhood and School #3 was located here. Continue another 1.5 mi. to Rte. 443.



Souvenir from the Houck Neighborhood School (School District No. 3)

NAMES OF PUPILS.	
Edna Rowe.	
Charles Rowe	
	Morgan Barber
Helen L. Lambert	
Lewis C. Wagner	
	Katherine Wagner
Myrtle Wagoner	
	Chester Wagoner
	Morgan Wagoner
Emerson Wagner	
	Hazel M. Moak
	Iva F. Moak
Charles M. Moak	
	Catherine E. Moak
	Ernest Stoneburner
Bianche Stoneburner	
	Allen Kniffin

Before you turn, you can look in the distance to the right and see **VanWie's Meadowbrook Farm** through the trees. They pasteurize and bottle the milk on the farm and still make home deliveries. *Turn left onto Rte. 443 and continue .3 mi. on towards Clarksville.*