

## 6. ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Irish Iron Puddlers of Safe Harbor Iron Works built a "substantial stone church" in 1854. This beautiful 40 x 62 feet stone chapel with slate roof was near the eastern end of Safe Harbor Spring Street. There was a small, vaulted and semi-circular apse built into the southern wall for the altar. The immediate church and church yard area are still under the auspices of the Harrisburg Catholic Diocese.

## 7. GRAVEYARD

The Harrisburg Catholic Diocese contributed a stone monument in memory of those who are buried here.

We know of 17 Irish family names, and perhaps as many as 30 unknowns buried at this site. You can see recovered stones and restored markers for those known to research.

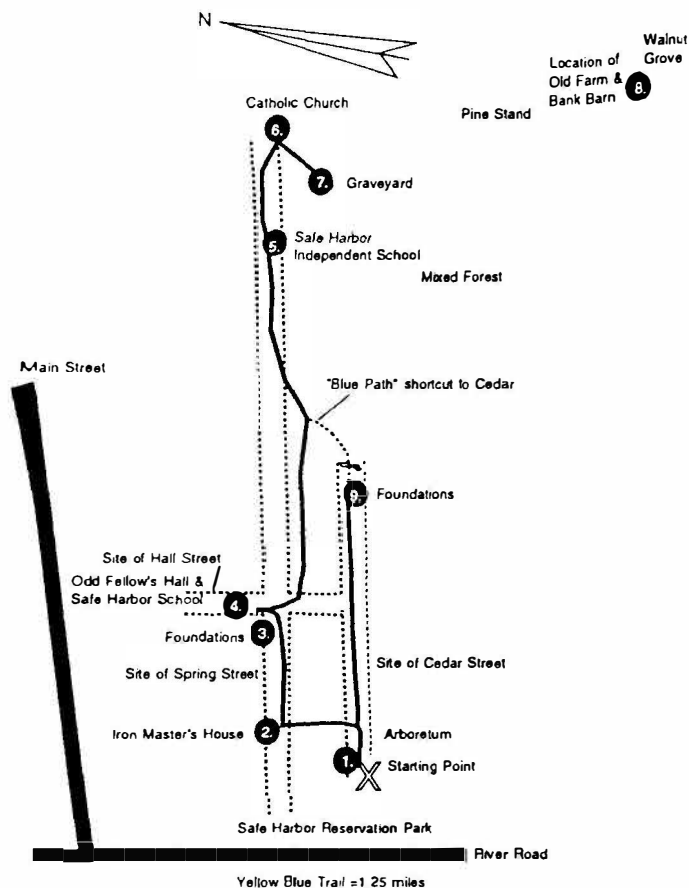
In the railroad section, a bronze plaque displays another 44 family names. It is believed that other unknowns are buried at this site as well. Many depressions are visible where bodies are buried.

## 8. FARM LOCATION - (private property)

Here stood a Bank Barn approximately 100 x 60 feet. The stone foundation is the only remains of what was once a bustling dairy farm with barn, farm-house, and large root cellar. The forested land you see all around was once grazing and crop fields. *Please be aware that stop eight is now on private property and should be skipped.*

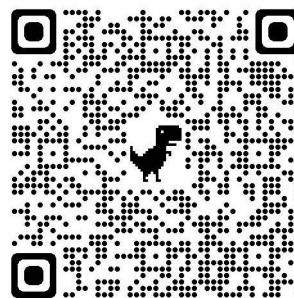
## 9. CEDAR STREET FOUNDATIONS

The foundation depressions are well defined with stones and various flourishing plants of ground cover, reminding us of what once was.



The Yellow-Blue Trail (designated by yellow-blue markers on trees) is approximately 1.25 miles in length; however, after reaching site 6 & 7, one may shorten the hike by walking back past site 5 and cut across the "Blue Path" shortcut to site 9.

Scan for QR Code  
more information.



# A Walking Guide To The HISTORIC



# SAFE HARBOR VILLAGE

Safe Harbor Park  
5365 River Road  
Conestoga, PA 17516

## 1. HISTORIC SAFE HARBOR VILLAGE

Why did the Historic Safe Harbor Village come into existence? In 1846, Reeves Abbott & Company from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, selected Safe Harbor area to build the Safe Harbor Iron Works. The location for industry was ideal with the downriver navigation and canals on both the Susquehanna and Conestoga Rivers. Construction required about two years and production began in August 1848.

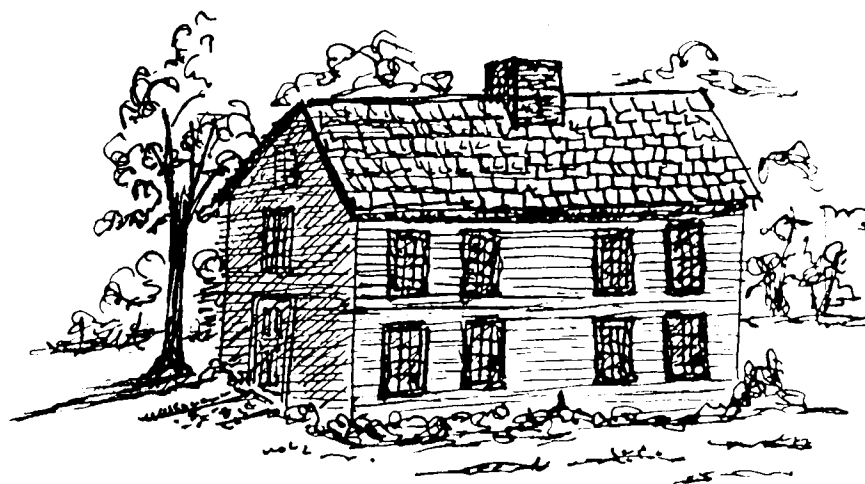
Arranged along the Conestoga River on the Conestoga Township side from north to south were the blast furnace, foundry, blacksmith shop, employee's store, and the rolling mill. The rolling mill was the largest of all structures. It covered over an acre of ground and stood on the site of the present Safe Harbor Park's tennis courts. Employees numbered about 250, some of whom were local residents, but many came from other parts of the country, and even a sizeable group direct from Ireland. The housing problem created by this influx into a rural community was solved by the iron company building a village containing over seventy duplex frame dwellings, complete with a system of streets with names such as Cedar, Spring, Griffin and Mill.

The Village deteriorated after the ravages of a flood which washed out the bridge crossing to the other side of the river where the canal boats were located. This stopped the transportation of the materials needed for production as well as goods going to

market. Many houses in disrepair were sold around 1913 for \$30.00 to be torn down. Two original houses remain on Groff Street located off Main Street, however, they have been modified.

## 2. IRON MASTER'S HOUSE

Stone work was done by Benjamin Eshelman, early Mennonite settler (1711) and stone-mason. Current owners are Pam and David Pflumn who refinished the house. You are viewing the actual front of the house as it faced Spring Street, the main thoroughfare. Two date slates were found under the old stucco noting dates of 1725 and 1765, along with Masonic symbols engraved on the one slate.



## 3. DOUBLE HOUSE FOUNDATION ON SPRING STREET

The Safe Harbor Iron Works Irish Puddler's families lived in these two story houses through a very prosperous period between 1846 and 1865. Note the chimney on the sketch which enabled access by both sides of the house for heating and cooking. An

outside privy was usually located to the rear of the house about 30 yards.

The village of Safe Harbor by 1851 was known as one of the "Booziest" for its size anywhere in the county. It had five taverns, three liquor stores and six beer halls. By 1913, the houses had all been sold for the lumber and materials. Most foundations in the Safe Harbor Arboretum have been filled in however, along the trail many depressions where houses stood are still visible on both sides of the trail.

## 4. SCHOOLHOUSE AND ODD FELLOWS HALL

Behind the Odd Fellows Hall stands a schoolhouse, best visible from today's Main Street. The Safe Harbor Independent School comprised the Safe Harbor property until it became a separate school district. In 1882, school was held on the second floor of the Odd Fellows Hall with attendance around 80 pupils.

The Charles M. Howell Masonic Lodge, No. 496, founded at Safe Harbor, August 17, 1871, held their meetings on the third floor of the Odd Fellows Hall until it moved to its present site of Millersville in 1899.

## 5. INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SITE

The independent school was built by the same builder as the church with structural similarities. Only a few remaining stones are left from the foundation.