



Historic Smithton Inn

900 West Main Street

Ephrata, PA 17522

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Innkeepers: Rebecca and Dave Gallagher

Architecture of the Historic Smithton Inn

Reference Links:

- [The Ephrata Cloister](#)
- [Historic Smithton Inn](#)

Fast Facts:

- Prior to 1763, a primitive structure existed on the site of the present day Historic Smithton. It was a tavern built from wood, which probably looked much like the buildings that still stand at the Ephrata Cloister. The tavern was built by Heinrich Mueller and his wife, Clara in the 1750s and sat on over 200 acres of farmland.
- When Heinrich died, the tavern went to his son, Henry Miller, a trained stonemason. Henry demolished the wood structure and built the stone building that stands today. His and his wife's names are on the date stones on the front of the house, which read "Henry Miller MDCCLXIII and his wife, Susana Henkle," indicating when the stones were laid in place, 1763.
- The building is a traditional, center hall colonial style structure, built with indigenous checkerboard stone. The walls are 18 inches thick. The beams are made of white oak, the tallest and strongest trees in the area.
- A three-story brick addition was built onto the back of the original structure in the late 1700s, over top of what had been a summer kitchen.
- Another two-story addition was added to the front of the building in the mid-1800s. This structure was built as a tailor's shop and inspired the name of two-story suite is now called, "The Tailor's Cottage."
- As was common practice in the 1800s, a wrap-around porch was added to the structure, running the length of the front of the house along Academy Drive and the north side facing Main Street. Also, the stone was plastered over, another common trend.
- In 1979, the building was purchased by Allan Smith, an artist and architect, who intended to bring the building back to its roots as a lodging establishment and to return the style of the structure to a more colonial style.
- During the 1980s, Allan razed the porch and replaced it with a portico. He changed the roofline of the three-story addition, adding peaks to both faces, in addition to adding a German-style, plastered bump out that features sculpted doves on both sides. Allan built a stone wall around the property, matching the one along Main Street at the nearby Cloister property.
- The bed and breakfast has a total of seven guest rooms (including two suites), each with private baths and working fireplaces. The common areas include a living room and dining room, each with a working fireplace, a guest library and two powder rooms. The owners' quarters comprise the third floor and include two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen and living room.