



Western Salisbury Church,

founded in 1741, was the first place of worship in Salisbury Township and was erected by the Lutheran and Reformed settlers of the area. The present stone edifice, the third building, dates to 1819.

Originally called “Schmaltzgass (or “lard valley”) and now called Jerusalem, this church continues its ministries as a union church, with two congregations, Lutheran and United Church of Christ, in a “Shared Ministry.”



Commix Hotel,

was built in the later half of the 18th century and was constructed of stone in the Germanic style. This building was once a colonial tavern, which was owned by Martin Ritter. In 1799 it was the site of an infamous meeting

during the so-called “Fries Hot Water Rebellion” of 1798-99. The Germans were upset by a tax that Congress levied to pay for the naval war with France, which took place between 1798-1800.

Rathburn Bridge,

also known as the Reinhart Bridge, was built in the 1830's and is one of two surviving triple stone arch bridges that span the Little Lehigh River. The bridge, which is over 164 feet long, is constructed of cut and shaped stones; the bridge walls were recapped and railings were added in 1963.



Bogert's Bridge,

the longest and oldest surviving covered bridge in Lehigh County, is 145 feet long and was built in 1841 by the descendants of Peter Bogert, who lived on the nearby farmstead. Located in Allentown's Little



Lehigh Parkway (originally part of Salisbury Township,) the bridge is an example of a Burr-Truss type bridge, which utilizes an arch to help support the trusses, arranged triangularly on the bridge's sides.

Eastern Salisbury Church,

dates to 1759, when Lutheran and Reformed

settlers from the eastern part of Salisbury Township organized and built a



log structure. By the close of the 18th century, however, the log structure had been abandoned, but the old graveyard remained. After more than fifty years, the church was reorganized and the present edifice was built in 1847. Today, the Lutheran congregation continues to worship in the building.

The Keck Homestead,

was built in 1815 by Andrew Keck, grandson of Heinrich Keck, the original Keck settler in Salisbury Township. The farmhouse was built in the tradition of the 18th century Germanic settlers. The site also includes a stone and brick bake oven and was once the location of an aborigine Indian Village.



The Inn of the Falcon,

bears a date stone of 1809, however the building retains, to the present, the style of an 18th century stone building. Once called “Acker's Hotel,” it served as a tavern stop on the way from Bethlehem to Emmaus. Today, it continues to serve as an establishment for fine dining.



A Short History of Salisbury Township

In March of 1753, a number of people living along the Little Lehigh River, near Bethlehem, petitioned the Court of Quarter Sessions to create a new township. That request was approved by the Court of Easton on June 9, 1753, and thus, Salisbury Township was born.

Since a majority of the petition signers were of German descent, it seems reasonable that Salzburg was a preferred name at the time, however because the United States was under British rule, and thus the recording clerk was English, the township might have been named after Salisbury, England. Through the years, the township has been referred to as Saltzberg, Salsberg, Saltzburg, Salsburg and Salisbury, and Salisbury - its official name today.

Salisbury Township was originally much larger than it stands today. Fountain Hill, Emmaus from Keystone Street eastward, and all of Allentown south of the Little Lehigh Creek were originally part of Salisbury Township. However, annexations by the City of Allentown, and incorporations by other municipalities nibbled at township boundaries over the years, leaving Salisbury as essentially two nearly separate territories - an eastern and a western portion. At its current 11.3 square miles, Salisbury has gone from one of the larger townships in the Commonwealth to one of the smallest.

Since it became a First-Class Township in 1951, and with its own school district and a strong municipal structure, Salisbury is now a respected and long-lived entity in its own right.

Salisbury Township Historical Society



Historic Sites of Salisbury Township