

BARN TOUR



Brought to you by the
Peapack & Gladstone
Historic Preservation Committee





Barn Tour Introduction

Welcome to the 2025 Historic Barn Tour! 🐾

We're thrilled to have you join us for a journey through time as we explore seven of the most storied and iconic barns nestled in the heart of Peapack & Gladstone. Each stop on today's tour offers a glimpse into the craftsmanship, character, and charm that define our borough's rich agricultural heritage.

This special event is brought to you by the Historical Preservation Committee, whose dedication ensures these treasures continue to inspire for generations to come. We hope you enjoy every moment—from the weathered wood and soaring beams to the stories that live within these walls.

Don't miss the grand finale! From 2:00 to 3:00 PM, we invite you to gather at the magnificent Hamilton Farm Stable, home of the USET Foundation, for a celebratory reception and an engaging presentation on the legacy of Hamilton Farms.

Guided Tour Information

1. And 2. Peapack Brook Farm - Grist Mill and Corn Crib

Andrew D. Mellick Jr. recounts the history of the Moelich family—later Anglicized to Melick and Mellick--and the family's farm in an 1889 book entitled, *The Story of an Old Farm, Or Life in New Jersey in the Eighteenth Century* (Heritage Books 1993). The farm—part of the large Peapack Patent of 1701— was purchased by Johannes Moelich in 1751.

Beside and below the Moelich family's landmark stone house on Old Dutch Road sat several barns and other structures that formed a rural industrial enterprise. These structures included a grist mill, sawmill, bark mill, and a leather tanning operation, each a separate operation not directly affiliated with Melick.

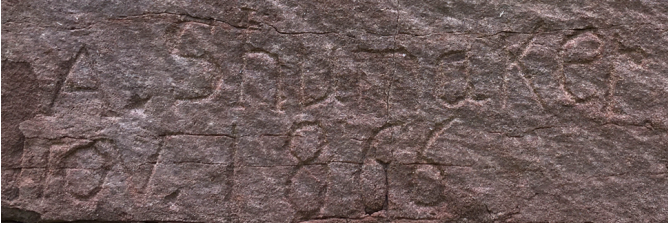
Behind the barns is the Peapack Brook, which fed water to operate the mills. The Peapack Brook and the North Branch of the Raritan River come together below the mills.

Initially, the Peapack Brook was variously known as the Lowrance / Lawrence / or Lorentz Brook, named for Johannes and Anna Margaretha Lorentz, who settled along the brook in what is now Peapack sometime around 1716. By about 1720, Johannes had built a mill on the creek behind what is now 99 Main Street.

The two barns that are part of this Peapack Barn Tour are with permission from the Somerset County Park Commission.

The barn on the left is a grist mill that is four stories high and was used to grind corn and perhaps wheat into flour. The original grist mill on the property was constructed around 1752, but the present structure dates from 1866, as indicated by a carved date on one of the foundation stones. The process starts with corn that was dried for several months, husked, shelled, and bagged. The dried shelled corn was then poured into a hopper above the grinding stone. The

grinding stone was turned by a water wheel, fed by a stream of water from the Peapack Brook.



The barn on the right is a corn crib used to dry the corn after harvest. Upstairs in this barn is a loft that was likely used for wheat. Note how the downstairs center area provided room to wagon in the crops and to prepare the crops for drying and storage.

The Peapack Brook water was gathered into a pond behind the grist mill and fed to the wheel on the left side of the barn. The wheel is no longer there, but you can see the stone wall above and behind it that would have fed water to the wheel. This photo represents what it might have looked like.



Both of the structures were almost certainly built during the ownership of Cornelius Wyckoff Schomp (1816-1872) and his wife, Louisa Arrowsmith (daughter of the previous owner), or by their son, William A. Schomp (1840-1898). We know the extant

gristmill was built in 1866, undoubtedly on the site of at least one and possibly two previous mills.

What to Look For

- The wheel, represented above, was on the left side of the barn.
- The hole on the left side of the building is where the wheel shaft passes from outside to inside.
- Where the corn or grain would have been brought in from the back of the mill to be ground upstairs at the stone wheel.
- The racks on either side of the crib are for storing and drying the corn.
- The Tenant House is to the right of the corn crib.
- The white house, Allen/Arrosmith/Schomp house.
- Behind the Grist Mill, imagine cribbing, dams, and trestles used to direct water into a pond to accumulate for the wheel.
- Note where the North Branch of the Raritan River meets the Peapack Brook below this farm.

Water Power & Hunt's Folly

One of the challenges of powering the mills was having enough water flow. To try and increase the capacity of the mills, water was diverted from the North Branch of the Raritan River to the Peapack Brook upstream from where it meets below the Peapack Brook Farm.. Around 1766, a 100-foot tunnel, 6 feet high and 3 to 4 feet wide (part of a 500-foot-long channel) was excavated upstream at a narrow hill called the Hogback. Stephen Hunt was an engineer and owner of the tunnel that came to be known as “Hunt’s Folly.” Accounts differ, but the term “folly” may have come about either because Hunt lost his money in the project or because of an engineering mistake in constructing the tunnel. According to Andrew Mellick, there are two right-angled turns in the middle of the tunnel that resulted from the excavation having been started simultaneously and inaccurately from both ends. You can see the race that fed the tunnel behind the Natirar Ranger House. The

tunnel was dug below the trail (now Main Street) and under the end of the pasture at 1 Main Street (now named Mane Street Farm). The tunnel then emerged into a cistern and fed out to the Peapack Brook.



What to Look For

- Behind the Ranger House, formerly a Schomp Tenant House, is a race or dug-out ravine to divert water to the tunnel under the road (Hogback).
- Imagine this as one of Schomp's ponds
- Imagine the tunnel coming out, now at the railroad tracks.

3. Lower Tiger Barn (Mane Street Farm)

Welcome to the Lower Tiger Barn

Jacob Tiger's son, Captain John Tiger, had a son, Jacob John Tiger. Jacob John Tiger bought this farm in 1885. His son John Harvey Tiger inherited the farm, and then two of his children, Charles H. Tiger and John J. Tiger, inherited the farm. In 1896, Charles H. Tiger became the sole owner of the property. Is your head spinning yet?

The lower Tiger Barn was a dairy barn back in the day. This post-and-beam barn has five levels. The lowest level is for livestock, and all levels above it are for storing loose hay and grain. The post and beams are constructed of American Chestnut, now an "extinct" species of wood, that is highly sought after in the reclaimed wood market. The Gambrel roof is a two-sided symmetrical roof with two slopes on each side. This provides more room for hay storage than a traditional roof. The current tack room was previously used as a milk parlor and creamery.

The barn was likely originally built sometime well before 1862 and shows evidence of being rebuilt and expanded sometime after 1855. This is when hay rails became commercially available, and this timeframe coincides with the 1862 Tiger purchase. The barn was originally a three-bay structure that was expanded to four bays, with a grain room above and the milk parlor below.

If you look carefully, you will see pulleys and hooks used along with the hay rail, trolley, and hay door used to stack enough loose hay to get through the winter. The cows likely grazed across the street in the entrance meadow, now part of Natirar. This was previously owned by Tiger, before selling it to Kate Macy and Walter Ladd of Natirar.

Next to the barn is an icehouse barn that was built in 1905 and was used to store ice harvested from nearby ponds and lakes. Chax


(Charles Tiger) signed and dated two of the top inside boards at the peak of this balloon-framed barn.

What to Look For

- Notice the stonework: three smooth sections mark the original corner, while a fourth shows different craftsmanship from later repairs.
- Look up at the beams—three are solid, single-piece girders, while one is made of split sections.
- Upstairs, compare the bent heights: four match the original bays, while two differ, marking the expansion.

Hay Handling Tools

Keep an eye out for pulleys, hooks, and the hay rail system used to hoist and stack hay through the large hay door. The cows likely grazed across the street in what's now Natirar—once part of the Tiger property before being sold to Kate Macy and Walter Ladd.

 **Bonus Stop: The Icehouse Barn:** Just next door, you'll find the Icehouse Barn, built in 1905. It stored ice harvested from nearby ponds and lakes—a vital resource before refrigeration. This barn is a testament to the ingenuity and resilience of early Peapack farmers. Let's keep exploring!



Bonus Question: Did you see the “cow’s breath vent”?

4. Vernon Manor Barn

The Riker / Sloane / Gambrill Property

This land has a rich lineage stretching back to the 19th century, when the prominent Moses Craig family owned it. The Craigs built two homes just south of where the Municipal Building stands today—those houses remained local landmarks until fairly recently.

Later, the property passed to sisters Harriet and Emily Apgar, who began subdividing the land along both sides of Main Street before 1905. That year, Newark attorney Chandler Riker purchased the remaining 60-acre tract on the east side of Main Street. His purchase also included a meadow and mill race on the west side—land that would eventually become Liberty Park.

Interestingly, the Rikers had just sold their previous home farther south on Main Street to Walter Graeme Ladd and Kate Macy Ladd. That house would soon become Maple Cottage, Kate Macy Ladd's first convalescent care facility.

This property tells a story of transformation—from farmland to community cornerstone—and reflects the evolving character of Peapack & Gladstone through generations.

Estate Design & Vernon Manor

The Rikers hired the Brinley firm to design their new estate, including the original drive from Main Street up to their house, later known as Vernon Manor. Drawings from 1906 and 1907 show the former Craig/Apgar house and several modest outbuildings. Interestingly, none of those match the scale of the barn that stands today, suggesting the current barn was either altered or expanded later.

The Gambrill Era

Around 1927, when the Gambrills were renovating the old Riker/Sloane house, they likely enlarged the barn to accommodate horses and cows. This was before they built the

elegant brick Georgian stable and carriage barn nearby. If you look closely, you'll see signs of these changes in the barn's structure and scale—clues to its evolving role over time.

This stop offers a glimpse into how estates grew and adapted across generations, blending practicality with grandeur.

What to Look For

- Look for the hay rails, trolleys, forks, and pulleys. Look up!
- Walk around to the lower (bank) section and see what would have been a place for horses and a carriage..

Current Usage: Interior design showroom

5. and 6. Tiger Stone Barn and The Loft Barn

The history of the Tiger Stone Barn in Gladstone, NJ, is tied to the historic Tiger Farmstead and its owner, Ellis Tiger, who started as a farmer and sheep dealer. The barn, built in the 1890s, was originally a sheep barn that has undergone multiple renovations to become "The Loft on Mendham Road," a mixed-use community space. The property is now a renovated adaptive-use building that retains some original features, such as its post-and-beam framing, while the exterior has been updated with a standing-seam copper roof and other modern elements.

Origins:

The structure was originally part of the historic Tiger Farmstead and was built in the 1890s as a sheep barn. Ellis Tiger, the property's owner, was a prominent local farmer and sheep dealer.

Agricultural use:

It was used for agriculture for decades until it became unsuitable for farming.

Renovation and adaptation:

In 2016, the property was acquired by Melillo Equities, which launched a two-phase renovation project.

- The interior work preserved original agricultural elements like the hayloft and post-and-beam framing.
- The floor plan was modified to create an open-floor concept.
- Exterior renovations included a standing-seam copper roof, half-round copper gutters, and board and batten siding.

Current status: The building, now called "The Loft on Mendham Road," was fully renovated by 2021 and is used for community services like childcare, fitness, and coworking.

What to Look For Stone Barn

- Look at the beauty of the stone work.
- Walk around to the lower (bank) section and see what would have been a place for cows, horses, and carriages.
- Look for the hay rails, trolleys, forks, and pulleys. Look up inside!
- More antique Chestnut

Current Status: The Barns of Gladstone are home to an interior design studio and a few professional office spaces.

7. Hamilton Farm Stable and Carriage Barn (now USET)

There is no more important monument in the Somerset Hills to the love of equestrian sport than the large and opulent stable and carriage barn built 108 years ago by James Cox Brady (1882–1927) on his 5,000-acre Hamilton Farm estate. The Hamilton Farm stable and carriage barn, noted in part for its elegant Guastavino terra cotta tile ceilings, was designed by architect William Weissenberger Jr. and constructed between 1916 and 1917. When completed, it was a state-of-the-art facility and among the largest structures of its kind in the country.

The building featured a total of 50 horse stalls on two levels, with access between the two floors via a convenient interior ramp. A large carriage room occupied one wing of the building. The second floor of the stable is architecturally dominated by the trophy room, with its walnut paneling, glass-fronted display cases, stained-glass skylight, and famous plate-glass oval floor through which the Bradys and their guests could look down as horses and carriages were paraded through the central cross hall to the outdoor riding ring.

Before the United States formally entered World War II, the carriage wing of the stable was converted into a production facility where some 130 local women canned thousands of quarts of fruits and vegetables grown on the estate for shipment to England during the Battle of Britain and the Blitz. Soon after the United States entered the war, the stable was converted into an emergency medical center called “Hamilton Farm Base Hospital No. 1.” Complete with an operating room, the facility was capable of accommodating between 200 and 250 patients and had a staff of 15 doctors and between 75 and 100 other employees, including nurses and social workers.

By late 1942, it was determined that the greater need was for a convalescent and rehabilitation center for merchant mariners injured in war convoys across the North Atlantic. Reorganized as

the “Gladstone Merchant Marine Rest Center,” the stable became one of seven such facilities across the country. Before closing in 1947, the facility had cared for some 5,000 merchant mariners. Among the prominent wartime visitors to the facility were the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, who were personal friends of Helen McMahon Cutting, the third wife and widow of James Cox Brady. Helen had married the noted explorer and naturalist, Charles Suydam Cutting, following Mr. Brady’s death.

In 1961, eleven years after the founding of the United States Equestrian Team, the Hamilton Farm stable became the team’s first permanent home for the training and housing of both horses and riders. Today, the stable, which is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, is occupied by the United States Equestrian Team Foundation and continues to host equestrian and other events throughout the year.

What to Look For

- Tiles in rotunda and stalls
- Brasswork at stalls
- Plate glass oval floor below Trophy Room and the Rotunda
- Stained glass, Tiffany style ceiling in Trophy Room
- Double decker stalls with ramp to bring horses upstairs without going outside.

Thank you for joining us today. For more information on the Historical Preservation Committee of Peapack and Gladstone check the town website for meeting dates and events:

<https://www.peapackgladstone.org/>

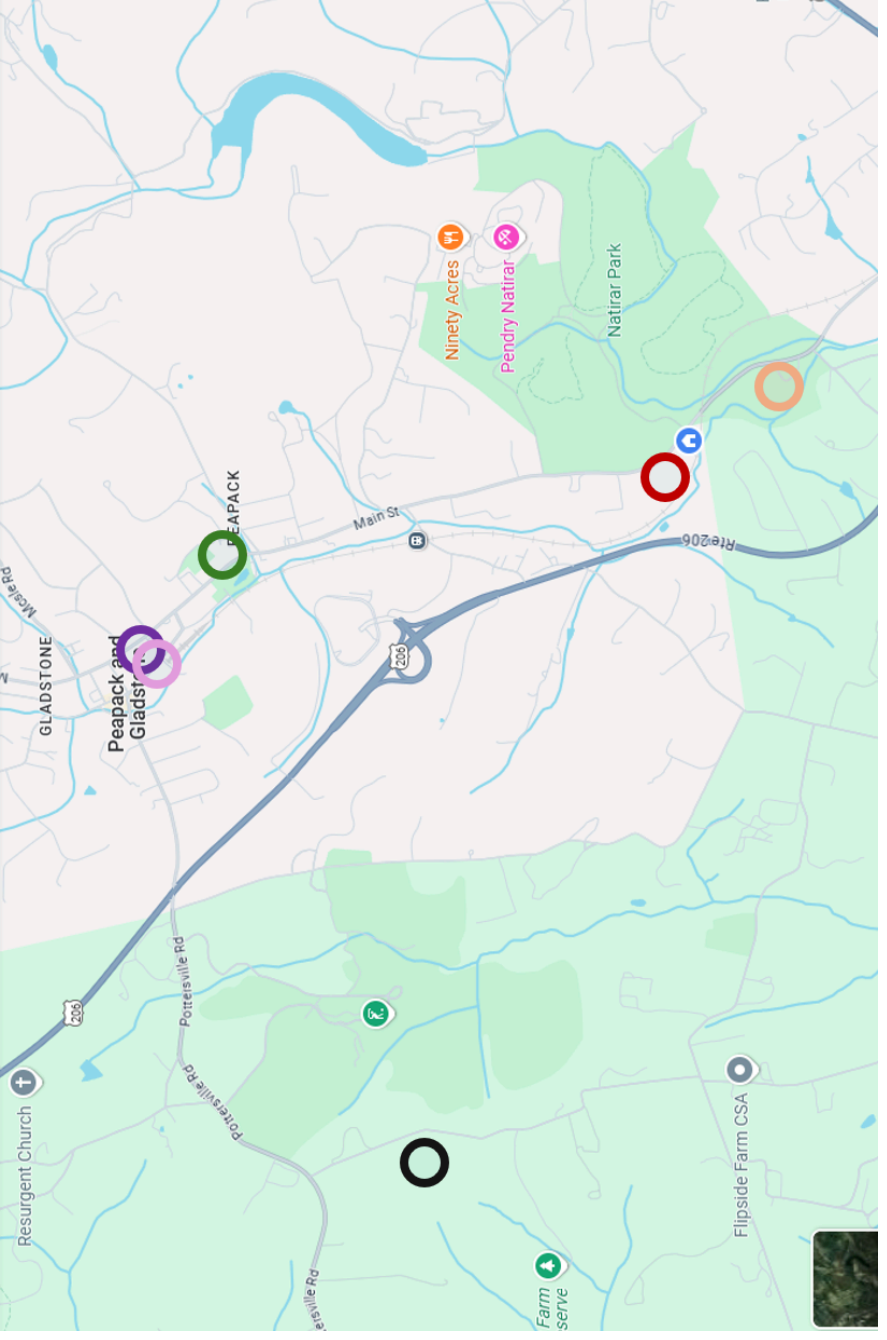
Be sure to check for information on the America 250 celebrations throughout the Somerset County area.

Special thanks to the following businesses:

Kathy Bittner Interiors

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Route Path One

Stop 1	1. and 2. Peapack Brook Farm	GPS 150 Peapack Rd Far Hills, NJ
Stop 2	3. Lower Tiger Barn (Mane Street Farm)	GPS 1 Main St Far Hills , NJ
Stop 3	4. Vernon Manor Barn	GPS 3 School St Peapack, NJ
Stop 4	5. and 6. Tiger Stone Barn and The Loft Barn	GPS 240 Main St Gladstone, NJ or 17 Mendham Rd Gladstone, NJ
Stop 5	7. Hamilton Farm Stable and Carriage Barn	GPS 1 School House Ln Gladstone, NJ

Route Path Two

Stop 1	5. and 6. Tiger Stone Barn and The Loft Barn	GPS 240 Main St Gladstone, NJ or 17 Mendham Rd Gladstone, NJ
Stop 2	4. Vernon Manor Barn	GPS 3 School St Peapack, NJ
Stop 3	3. Lower Tiger Barn (Mane Street Farm)	GPS 1 Main St Far Hills , NJ
Stop 4	1. and 2. Peapack Brook Farm	GPS 150 Peapack Rd Far Hills, NJ
Stop 5	7. Hamilton Farm Stable and Carriage Barn	GPS 1 School House Ln Gladstone, NJ

Route Path Three

Stop 1	4. Vernon Manor Barn	GPS 3 School St Peapack, NJ
Stop 2	5. and 6. Tiger Stone Barn and The Loft Barn	GPS 240 Main St Gladstone, NJ or 17 Mendham Rd Gladstone, NJ
Stop 3	1. and 2. Peapack Brook Farm	GPS 150 Peapack Rd Far Hills, NJ
Stop 4	3. Lower Tiger Barn (Mane Street Farm)	GPS 1 Main St Far Hills, NJ
Stop 5	7. Hamilton Farm Stable and Carriage Barn	GPS 1 School House Ln Gladstone, NJ

Parking Historic Barn Tour 2025

Peapack Brook Farm

As you look at the Grist Mill, park on the grass to the left of the barn, closer to Peapack Road, away from the barns and off the u-shaped driveway so that cars can enter and exit.

Lower Tiger Barn (Mane Street Farm)

Park in front of the house around the circle on the grass. Angled parking.

Vernon Manor Barn

Park in any available parking spaces in the parking lot.

Tiger Stone Barn and The Loft Barn

Park in any available parking spaces in the parking lot. Either lot, up the hill on Mendham Road or down the hill on Main Street.

Hamilton Farm Stable and Carriage Barn

Park in any available parking spaces in the parking lot.