

*Riverton Library*



*Candlelight  
House  
Tour*



**Saturday, December 3, 2011**

*4 pm to 9 pm*



**Riverton Free Library**

*306 Main Street*

*Riverton, NJ*





*The Friends of the Riverton Library* welcome you  
to our 2011 Christmas Candlelight House Tour.

There are six lovely homes plus a historic church open for your enjoyment this evening.

In addition to the beautifully decorated homes, we invite you to visit:

- **The Porch Club** (4th and Howard) is open this evening for refreshments. Naomi Horn (5 pm), Diana Dohmann (6 pm), Kate Brown (7 pm), Mark Brown (8 pm), will be the guest pianists for the evening. Riverton Historian, John McCormick will be presenting the film, *The Romance of Riverton*, filmed in 1926 showing what Riverton looked like back in the day.
- **Bendzius Art Gallery** (530 Main Street) will be celebrating the evening with live music, fine art, delicious holiday treats and more.
- **Thomas-Margaret Gallery** (600 Main Street #5) has been exhibiting art from our region for over 20 years in our beautiful and welcoming environment. Stop in to see the gallery's exhibit and holiday decor.
- **New Leaf Tea Room & Gift Shoppe and the Historical Society of Riverton "Museum-for-a-day"** (606 Main Street) welcomes visitors to explore the charms of its turn-of-the-century buildings. Learn about its early history as an apothecary and enjoy live music, refreshments and the glittering ambiance of Southern NJ's #1 Tea Room. The Riverton Historical Society presents a rare exhibition of some of the seldom seen treasures from the society's archives. The display consists of historical collectives, artifacts, photographs, ephemera, clothing and more. There will also be a continuous showing of our popular historical presentations. Local historical gift items will also be available for purchase.

*Finally, you may want to visit our local specialty shops & businesses that will be open during the house tour:*

- **Gypsy Fish** (600 Main Street)
- **Zena's Patisserie** (308 Broad Street)
- **Nellie Bly's Olde Tyme Ice Cream Parlour** (529 Main Street)
- **Glory Days Cafe** (517 Howard Street)

Have a warm and festive holiday season! - *The Candlelight Tour Committee*

# 1 **Amanda and Bob Boulton - 800 Main Street**

---



Built in 1907 by newly-wed Ralph and Louise (Grove) Boyer, this classic revival house is little changed from its original form. The Boyers raised their two daughters, Eloise and Phyllis, in this house and Eloise continued to live here until her death in 1992. The house was owned for a short time by the Campbell family and sold to current owners, Bob and Amanda Boulton in 1996.

The entrance to the house leads to a large foyer with a split staircase, flanked by 1 1/2 stories of leaded glass windows which perfectly capture the afternoon sun. The first floor boasts inlaid oak flooring, original chestnut woodwork, and unique brass torch lamps in the foyer. Don't miss the powder room tucked beneath the staircase.

The second floor contains a master suite with an extra long bathtub, Amanda's sewing room, three bedrooms, a second bathroom featuring a glass block shower, and a solarium used to display Bob's train collection. The solarium was once an open sleeping porch that was enclosed to stop rain from leaking into the laundry room below.

The third floor has another three rooms plus a full bathroom. The interior window in the bathroom overlooking the staircase unnerves some bathers, but also provides daylight to an interior room. The back staircase returns to the kitchen which has been remodeled to modern standards yet retains its historical integrity. The original coal stove remains as a focal point and the decorative ceiling vent has been retro-fitted with an exhaust fan and continues to be used. A peek into the pantry, behind the kitchen, reveals original floor to ceiling cabinets and a sink with attached drain board and compost bin. Hanging on the pantry wall are photographs and floor plan of the kitchen prior to remodeling.

The Boultons welcome you and may the joys of the season shine light and hope, and fill your heart with peace.

# 2 **Memeo and Keith Betten - 404 Main Street**

---



The house at 404 Main Street and its next door neighbor - No. 402 - are "sister" houses; both designed and built by local entrepreneur Edward H. Pancoast in 1868. The Pancoast Family lived in 404 while they operated 402, with its expansive mansard attic as a boarding house—"The Home Mansion".

*(cont'd. next page)*

On the exterior, 404 has changed little in its one-hundred-and-forty-two years. The tin roof, the shuttered French windows, and the clapboard siding are all original. A covered front porch (identical to the one on the side of 402), which had been removed in the early 20th century was ultimately replaced by a broad, raised, railed, brick entrance terrace in 2000. Since the house was last on the “Christmas Candlelight Tour” twenty-five years ago in 1986, along with the other significant interior changes, the kitchen has been extensively renovated to incorporate a mantle and hearth, and a cozy, many-windowed reading nook. Weather permitting, don't miss the Betten's formal boxwood garden, which they designed and began planting in 1989.

### 3

### Frank Siefert - 304 Main Street

---



Built in 1855, this house was one of the focal points of daily life during the growth of Riverton. Originally owned by William C. Biddle, one of Riverton's ten founders, the house was rented to and eventually purchased by, Milton and Hattie Cowperthwaite in 1888. The house served as Cowperthwaite's Drug Store for over thirty years, with records showing that a public auction of the drugstore fixtures was held in 1901. The house was also the site of the first public telephone station in Riverton, and was used for a time as the town post office.

The current owner is an architect who purchased the house in 1984, restored the property, and designed and built a two-story addition containing the kitchen and master bath.

Many thanks to my friends who helped ready the house for the tour. Best wishes for a beautiful Holiday season filled with peace and joy.

### 4

### Erica and Dave Polaneczky - 303 Main Street

---



Built circa 1854, this plot of land was originally sold to James and Martha Hayes of Chester County on 5 January 1854 from the Riverton Improvement company for 400 dollars. They in turn sold the land and premises to the Miller family for 2,400 dollars on 2 July 1855. Mr George S. Washington later bought the house in 1917 and made additions to it in 1927. These additions include the area that is now part of the kitchen, family room area, downstairs bathroom and laundry rooms. Two upstairs bed rooms and a Jack and Jill bathroom were also added. The Architect for both renovations was J. Fletcher Street of Philadelphia.

*(cont'd. next page)*

Sadly, Mr Washington died in the house at the age of 83 after a short illness. Of interest, Mr Washington was related to General George Washington on both his paternal and maternal sides. (Colonel Samuel Washington on his mother's side and John Augustine Washington on his father's side, both of whom were full brothers of President Washington.)

Recently, we completed a full renovation of the kitchen area and downstairs bathroom. We would like to thank Frank Siefert for his original design of the area. Hank Croft was the Architect and renovation was completed by Elmer Adams Construction. During the construction, the well to the house was unearthed; if you stand in front of the kitchen sink you are standing on top of the well. Our family placed a time capsule in the well so that the next generation of owners may find it.

## 5 **Christ Episcopal Church - 305 Main Street**

---



The Reverends Richard and Anne Wrede. Christ Church Parish was founded in 1855. Designed by John Fraser and constructed of Trenton redstone, the church was erected in 1883, and dedicated in 1884. Thus 2011 marks its 125th anniversary.

The Tiffany "Rose Window" in the west wall was installed in 1884 as a memorial to Louis A. Godey, publisher of Godey's Ladies Book, who summered in Riverton and worshipped with the congregation. Most of the rest of the stained glass, as well as the eagle shaped lectern and the pulpit dates from that period as well.

The east window over the altar is German glass, installed in 1910 in memory of Edwin and Nannie Fitler. It replaced a window depicting Jesus blessing children, which is now located in the chapel located on the south side of the church.

The present choir pews, altar rail and altar were installed in 1955 on 100th anniversary of the founding of the church. The retable and reredos (the shelf and the carved wall behind the altar) were erected in 1985, commemorating both the 100th anniversary of the church building and the 20th ordination anniversary of the Reverend Dr. Alan K. Salmon, who served Christ Church from 1970-2003.

The pews are of pine, butternut and cherry-wood. The organ of 45 ranks and 2980 pipes was dedicated in 1976 to the memory of Amos M. Heacock.

The decoration of the church is very simple, as we are in the season of Advent, a period of penance suffused with joy as we spiritually prepare for the birth of Jesus.

## **6 Jackie Ott and Frank Lake – 408 Lippincott Avenue**

---



This Victorian home, built in 1905, is a mansard slate roof frame cottage with Italianate proportions and decorative features, including a central projecting third floor balcony with railing. One remnant section of iron fence remains perpendicular to the street between the house and 406 Lippincott Avenue.

Renowned author, Henry Charlton Beck, of many New Jersey non-fiction books and mysteries lived here with his family over 50 years ago while writing “Forgotten Towns of South Jersey” and “Jersey Genesis”. The Beck school in Cherry Hill is named for Mr. Beck.

The interior of the house has many original features including hardwood flooring, six panel doors with hardware, five fireplaces, and plaster molding on the surround ceiling in the entry foyer.

Purchased in 2005 by Frank and Jackie, extensive renovations began throughout the house, including a reconfiguration of the first floor, which was formerly an apartment. This extensive renovation reclaimed space by adding a kitchen, dining room and powder room to the main house, while maintaining a one bedroom apartment in the back half of the first floor. The decorating and renovation style preserves the old while infusing the new. Renovations will continue.

Christmas decorations feature their beloved Santa’s collected over the years. We hope you enjoy your visit to our Riverton home.

## **7 Kelly and Dave Glass - 636 Thomas Avenue**

---



Purchased in 2002, they have kept this four-square home in most of its original state. The house is approximately 110 years old, built in 1902. The scotch-pine hardwood floors were refinished in 2002 when purchased. The four-square home has only one bathroom upstairs which was common for the 1800 and early 1900’s. The owners refinished the front porch to its original shape, but added their personal touches as well. A presumed historic fact is that William Penn spent his summers in Riverton because of the wonderful front porch breezes. The kitchen was renovated as well by the owners. And the den is a 25-year-old addition.

*(cont’d. next page)*

Kelly loves decorating, using old and new concepts into the home as well as playing with color, and it passes the mom test! Her mom is an artist and painted the historic Riverton Yacht Club ( the oldest Yacht Club on the Delaware and one of the oldest in the country) located on the living room wall as well as handed down many of her own treasures, such as the pot-belly stove located in foyer, which has been in the family more than 60 years. Her mother-in-law has also given her antiques. Take notice of the sewing machine table in the foyer, the glass bookcases in living room as well as a French provincial chair located in the dining room.

## Special Acknowledgements

---

We would like to thank those listed below for their invaluable assistance:

*The Homeowners -*  
for graciously allowing us to exhibit their homes.

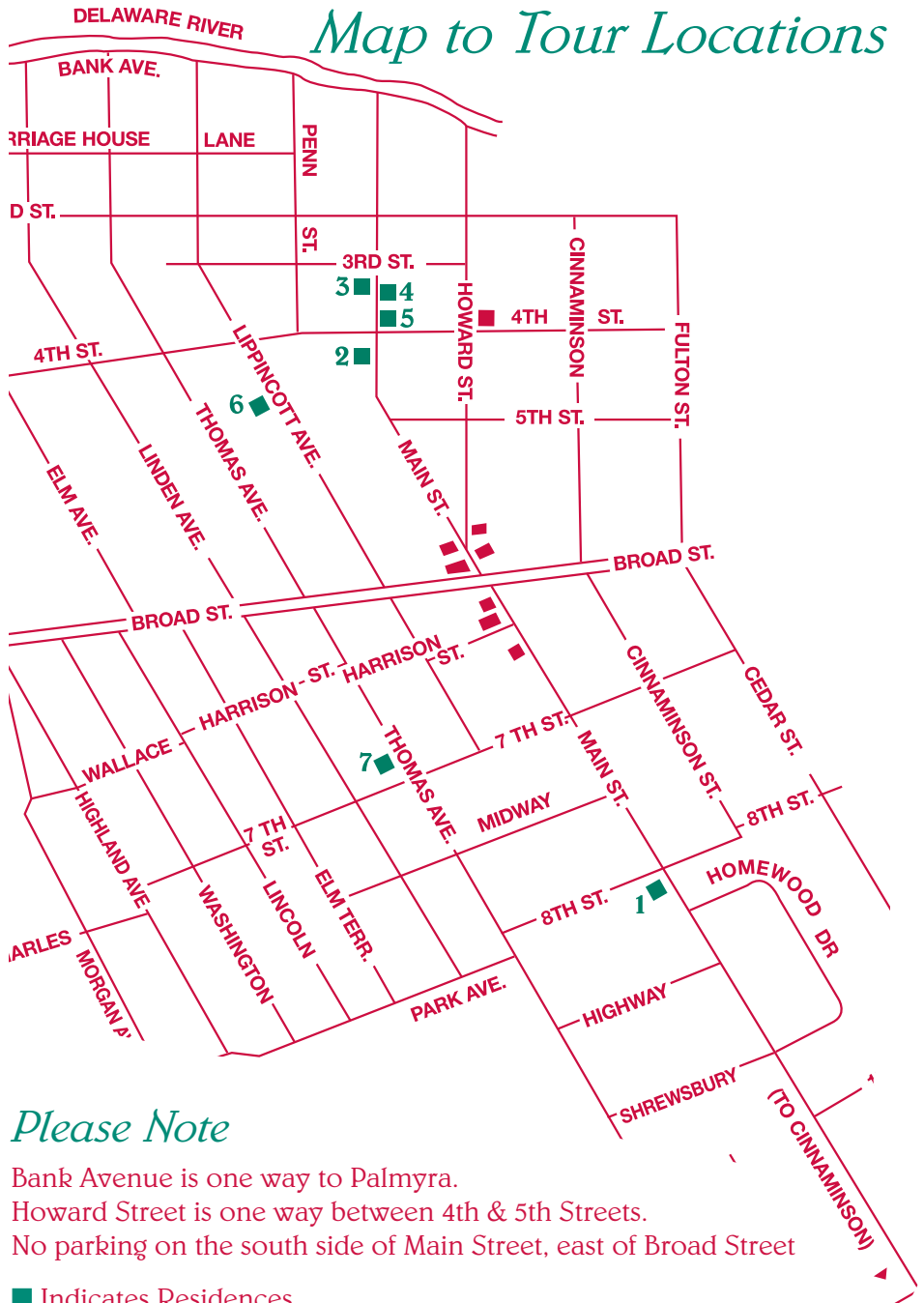
*The Riverton Porch Club*

*The Riverton Police Department*

*The House Tour Committee and Other Volunteers -*  
for their dedicated efforts at making the 2011 Riverton Candlelight House Tour an enjoyable experience and a means of helping to sustain the Library throughout the coming year.



# Map to Tour Locations



## Please Note

- Bank Avenue is one way to Palmyra.
- Howard Street is one way between 4th & 5th Streets.
- No parking on the south side of Main Street, east of Broad Street

- Indicates Residences
- Indicates Specialty Shops and Unique Destinations