



## A Ride Down Old Mine Road Part IV: Peters Valley NJ



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***(These following directions pick up from Walpack Center.)***

*Continue another 3 miles from Walpack Center, and note on the left a farmstead with a white frame house. Pull off to the left.*

### **VALLEY BROOK FARM**

Built late 19th century  
Private Residence  
Barns now house blacksmith studios for the Peters Valley  
Crafts Center

This house is built in the Colonial Revival style popular after the centennial year of 1876. Once an industrialist's country escape, the complex has undergone much remodeling.

Across the road from Valley Brook Farm and on the right is the **Dutch Reformed Church of Peters Valley**. It was built in 1838 to replace an earlier church building that still stands on the triangle of land across from the Craft Store. Although church services are no longer held here, burials still take place. Look for the tree-trunk tombstone of Daniel Rosenkrans, who died in 1891, and for the grave of a Mrs. Victor Bevans, who was murdered in a mysterious crime of 1903.

*Continue 0.2 miles on the same road, and turn left at the four-way intersection. Head southwest another 0.4 miles up a hill to a farm complex on your right (with a two-story frame house).*



Valley Brook Farmhouse.  
*(NPS Photos by Ken Sandri)*

*Pull into the driveway just beyond the house.*

## HILLTOP FARM

Built early 19th century

Now used as an artist residence and weaving studio for Peters Valley Craft Education Center.

Private Residence

The nucleus of the main house suggests this may have been one of the earliest homesteads in the area. Note the additions in different architectural styles that were put on at different times. The complex includes a springhouse (across the road), a cottage, and other outbuildings. The "bank"-style barn (constructed into the bank of a hill) shows the influence of Germans settlers.

*Retrace your path towards the intersection in town and pull into the head-in parking spaces alongside the store on your left as you near the intersection. (Further directions will be given starting from these parking spaces.)*



Hilltop Farmhouse and barn.  
(NPS Photos by Ken Sandri)

## PETERS VALLEY

Established mid 19th century

Some buildings occupied



The village was originally named for Peter Van Ness, who settled in the area during the late 18th century. Like other villages, it developed during the mid 19th

century to serve surrounding farms, declined in the late 19th century, and adapted to serve summer vacationers in the early 20th century. For a time the village was called *Hensfoot Corners* because of the way the roads come together in the center of town. Still later, the village was called *Bevans*, after its postmaster.

Architecturally, this is probably the most interesting village in the area because of the wide variety of

*(Left)* The Peters Valley Craft Store today. The Greek Revival House is just visible to the left. The road to Dingmans Ferry bridge is at the right.



The Peters Valley Craft Store in years past. Note the Greek Revival building behind the store to the left. This building is also still standing today.

styles. Unique is the Greek Revival House (built in 1855) high on the hill behind and next to the store. The store, built around the same time, is also Greek Revival in style, though of a vernacular form, and is a rare example of cobblestone construction with a stucco finish.

Today the village is operated by [Peters Valley Craft Education Center](#) as an artist community with workshops offered during the summer months. Participants are housed in the Greek Revival house and other structures. The Craft Store and Gallery is open year-round.



The Peters Valley Craft Store and Greek Revival House today. (NPS Photo by Ken Sandri)



Two postcard views of Bevans (today's Peters Valley) around 1919.

(Far left) North Main Street.

(Left) South Main Street.

***This is the end of the tour excerpts.***

***To return to Kittatinny Point and Interstate 80 via Route 209 through Pennsylvania:*** when you pull out of the head-in parking spaces alongside the Craft Store and Gallery, go back to the intersection in front of the store, make a left turn at the Store, towards Dingmans Ferry. At the next paved road, 1.9 miles later, turn left to the bridge. (There is a 75-cent toll.)

***To explore more of Old Mine Road:*** when you pull out of the head-in parking spaces alongside the Craft Store and Gallery, go back to the intersection in front of the store, make a left turn at the Store, and continue straight across the next paved road (Route 560). As Old Mine Road reaches Route 206, turn right for the Nelden-Roberts Stone House, or left briefly onto 206 and then bear right onto Route 521 North for the Foster Armstrong House (Both are operated by Montague Association for the Restoration of Community History (M.A.R.C.H..))