

Historic Glen - Walking Tour



The Glen Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in August 2001, encompasses a variety of building styles and types dating from the late 1700s, when the village was founded, through the late 1800s. A stroll through Montgomery County's first historic district will disclose some notable highlights:

(Interiors are normally accessible only at the Glen Country Store and the brick church. Please respect private property.)

West of the “commons” area and village park stands a mid-19th century barn and shop complex built by the Edwards family. The structures underscore the community's agricultural heritage.

On the north side of Logtown Road across from the commons stands a two-story white frame residence built in the late 1820s by a local cabinetmaker named Mabee. The doorway centered in the main block opens into one large room, an unusual design possibly based on 18th century garden “pavilions” and adapted for yeoman cottages.

The brick residence on Logtown Road facing the park point was built in 1818 by Jacob Sanders Glen, for whom the village was named. (Note: the settlement was originally called Voorheesville, after another early resident, until after J. S. Glen's death in the late 1850s.) The Glen house is a notable Federal period structure modified somewhat about 1830: above its Greek Revival doorway can be discerned the elliptical outline of the original transom window of 1818. The dormers were probably added in the 1890s during the residency of the Edwards family.

Just east of the Glen residence stood a brick store complex originally built by J. S. Glen in 1817. Until its destruction by arson in November 2000, the Glen store was possibly the oldest extant commercial structure in the area.

East of the park across Rte. 30-A stands a French Second Empire style brick Victorian residence built in 1878 by J. S. G. Edwards, grand-nephew of Jacob Sanders Glen. Its slate mansard roof is a distinguishing hallmark of this ornate style, and the house echoes pattern-book designs of the period. Outbuildings on the property are original to the 1870s.

Next in line to the east stands the mid-19th century Glen Country Store. This modestly picturesque frame structure once included the village post office and remains as a

noteworthy survival of a type of vernacular commercial structure once vital to the American village landscape.

On the north side of Rte. 161 stands a large frame residence built by Peter Voorhees in the late 1790s. Its façade is distinguished by a fine “Venetian” or “Palladian” window above the front door. The gracefully side-lighted entrance is typical of Federal period neoclassical style, popular from about 1790 until the 1820s. The date of the barn appears in its patterned slate roof.

East of the Voorhees house stands the Glen Conservancy Hall, built in the early 1830s as a separate meeting house for a conservative splinter congregation of the Glen Reformed Church. The multi-paned arched windows, patterned by graceful Gothic-arched muntins, are hold-over features from 18th century Georgian design.

Across from Conservancy Hall stands the Perrine-Tallmadge-Briggs cottage, built about the time of the Civil War. Its bracketed eaves and gingerbread trim are typical of mid-19th century Romantic Revival “picturesque” cottages popularized in design books widely available to the middle class. Glen once had a number of cottages of this type, and several remain, modified by 20th century materials.

The Glen Reformed Church of 1870, its spire the most noticeable architectural feature in the community, is a slate-roofed brick edifice built in a vernacular modification of Italian Gothic design, one of the many styles available to post-Civil War Victorians. Its stained glass memorial windows date to the World War I period between 1915 and 1920.

The farmyard across Rte. 161 from the brick church boasts a Dutch barn of possibly 18th century origin. One of several Dutch barns in the area, it is the only one within the current Historic District. Modified to fit 19th and 20th century dairying practices, the central structure with its gable end entry is nonetheless a survival of building practices brought to these shores by German and Dutch immigrants in the 17th and 18th centuries.

*The old names are here, And the old forms...
The light falls the way the light fell, And it is not clear...
If it be ourselves, here, Or others who were before us.
- David Morton, “American Village”*