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Reed's Country Store

A Revolutionary War Landmark

The Reeds Country Store sits today at the corner of Dekalb Pike and Skippack Pike (Routes 202 and 73) on land which first held an inn. It was not just a roadside tavern but a central meeting place for the local community. The property's first owner was William Penn, who sold it to a man who sailed to Pennsylvania in 1682 on the ship along with Penn.

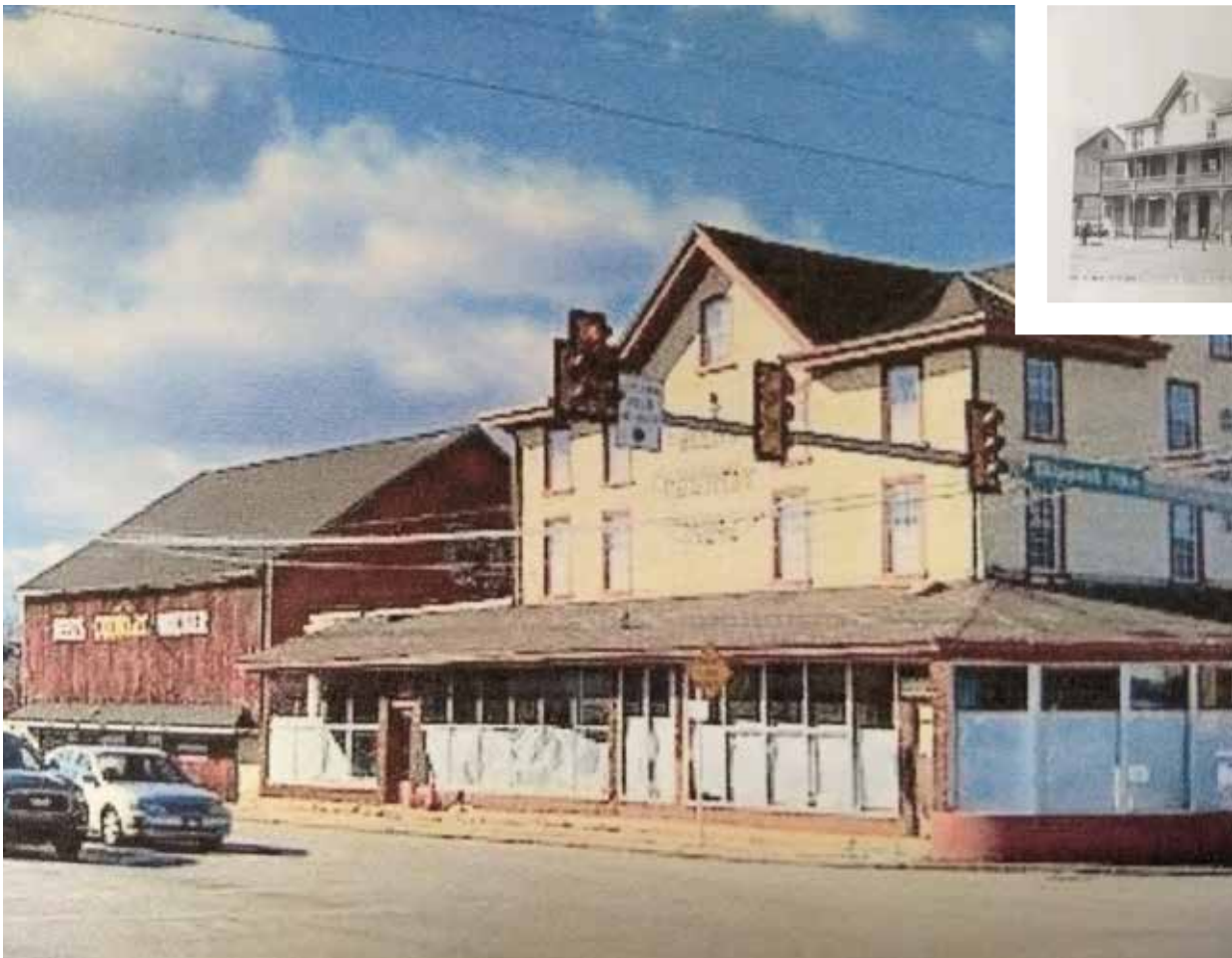
The first establishment at this site, called the Waggon Inn (with two "g's"), was built in 1758. Its road sign depicted what looked like a Conestoga wagon (first made by Lancaster County farmers to haul their products to Philadelphia).

In the fall of 1777, during the American Revolution, George Washington directed his troops along Skippack Pike, so they marched by the Waggon Inn on their way to the Battle of Germantown. When the owner of the inn, John Porter, announced that he did not like "rebels" as customers, Washington ordered guards to stand at the door "swords drawn while the Army passed" to keep out any soldiers yearning for an ale on their way to war. Porter favored the Redcoats! Neighbors called him "Tory John Porter;" thus, his business failed. With new owners, the inn continued, changing hands several times.

Over the centuries, the busy corner went from being the location for an inn to a hotel to a store. In 1804, the old building was replaced by the new Centre Square Hotel, famous as a site for government and political meetings. (Its red barn dates

from about 1870.) In 1925, the Reed family bought the property, operating it at first as an all-purpose store and later as a furniture store, making the Reed business almost 100 years old when it closed its doors in 2019.

Around Town is presented by Carol Kalos, Saint Andrews Resident and President of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society. New members are welcome! An all-volunteer group, WVHS, will soon begin work on the second phase of renovations at the Franklinville School on Morris Road, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Details at www.WValleyHS.org



The Reeds Country Store, located at the site of the Waggon Inn, built in 1758



Hotel Centre Square, in about 1922 (from an old post card)