

# The Boxwood:

## A 1730 Farmhouse, Now Our Representative's Office



By Carol Kalos, St. Andrews Resident Writer and Wissahickon Valley Historical Society Interim President

“The Boxwood” at 1098 Skippack Pike (at the corner with Cathcart Road) houses the office of our Pennsylvania Representative Liz Hanbidge. This charming 19th-century Federal-style house with its white barn used to be part of a 50-acre property, Boxwood Farm, created by the Woods family. In Colonial America, wealthy homeowners styled their yards with boxwood hedges in a formal design. In this case, many boxwood shrubs were planted near the house, giving the property its name.

The original section of the structure, built around 1730, later had two additions. Today the house is three stories high with extended eaves (overhangs from the roof). The two large front windows may have been French doors, now filled in at the bottom.

The Olsons bought the site around 1945 and did extensive renovations. In 1988, they sold to Whitpain Township, who leased “The Boxwood” to the Historical Society of Whitpain. The Whitpain group held its meetings on the first floor, where Hanbidge and her staff had their desks, and they used the second floor for their office, library and museum. The second floor is used today only by the township for their storage.



The Historical Society of Whitpain combined with the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society in 2015. With the merger, the Whitpain group's local history collection became available at the WVHS museum at the 1895 Public School.

*The WVHS promotes and preserves the history of Ambler Borough, Whitpain Township, and Lower Gwynedd Township (the Wissahickon School District). Its president is Saint Andrews resident Carol Kalos, who writes monthly for Stroll Blue Bell. Find out more about WVHS at [www.WValleyHS.org](http://www.WValleyHS.org).*



**Panache**  
WOOD FIRE  
BRICK OVEN GRILL

**TAKE OUT  
AVAILABLE!**

Hours: 11 A.M. to 8 P.M.  
602 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422  
215.641.9000 • [panachewoodfiregrill.com](http://panachewoodfiregrill.com)