OLD ECONOMY VILLAGE

270 Sixteenth Street, Ambridge, PA 15003
724-266-4500
http://oldeconomyvillage.org/

Check their website for operating updates, special tours and events!

**Museum Hours**

April 1 through December 31

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  Friday — Sunday

Closed Monday — Thursday
Closed Holidays
DESCRIPTION

Old Economy Village strives to preserve and present the life, thought and material culture of the Harmony Society, a 19th century religious community. The Society, led by George Rapp, endeavored to create a utopia, inhabited by German Lutheran separatists. At Economy they waited for the second coming of the Messiah.

The Village was organized and planned for efficiency, with the church and leaders’ houses in the center of town, which were surrounded by a store, post office, Feast Hall, and several businesses. The members’ houses were then built around those buildings. Finally, at the edges of the community were the barns, stables, tannery, blacksmith shop, etc.

The community was economically successful and remained in operation for 100 years, from 1805-1905, by creating, adapting, and adopting the new technologies of their day. They were involved in manufacturing wool, cotton and silk textiles, plus in the production of wine and beer. In addition, they had financial investments in railroads, river travel, coal, oil, and timber.

Visitors of Old Economy Village can tour the Visitor Center, and many of the settlement’s buildings such as the George Rapp House, Carriage House, Mechanics Building, Wine Cellar, Store, Post Office, Baker House, Bake Oven, Community Kitchen, Cabinet Shop, Blacksmith Shop, and Granary. In these buildings, visitors can observe artifacts on display and learn about the daily life of the Harmonists.

A variety of programs, presentations, and special events are offered, such as Hands-On History Days, Easter Egg Hunt, Garden Mart, Wedding Showcase, Summer Camp, Harvest Festival, A Halloween Haunting, and Christmas at the Village. Check their website for the monthly schedule. School tours are also offered for every age of student.

An affiliate of the Heinz History Center, Old Economy gives us a glimpse into this fascinating culture from the past.