

Historic Sugartown

Offering a window into early 19th-century American life

Along Sugartown Road in Malvern stands the remarkably intact and lovingly restored 19th-century village of Sugartown. After the American Revolution, Sugartown's earliest residents established a school, a general store, local businesses and a meeting center, creating a vibrant community that provided goods and services to surrounding farms. The village served as a vital stop for weary travelers throughout the 1800s.

The restoration of Sugartown began in 1982 when Penelope "Penny" Wil-

son met John Nagy and said, "You live across from that crumbling, sad mess!" For years after that first meeting, Penny and the Nagys worked tirelessly to rescue the seemingly forgotten and forlorn village. Penny was motivated by a desire for others to discover and value Sugartown's authentic historic setting. Sadly Penny passed away in 2021, but her passion for Sugartown lives on.

Today Historic Sugartown offers a valuable window into early 19th-century American life. Visitors get to experience how people would have

come together to conduct business, exchange news and share their lives as a community. Historic Sugartown inspires new generations to connect with America's past through richly authentic historical experiences and the preservation of the village.

As Executive Director Heather Reiffer explains, "We strive to inspire the community to engage



with the past, participate in the village's present life and protect it for the future."

Two years into the pandemic and Historic Sugartown is back with in-person tours and visitation, in addition to virtual tours and workshops that will continue to be offered. Starting this year, Sugartown will celebrate a special milestone in preservation, as 2022 marks 40 years since Historic Sugartown was incorporated and September 2024 will mark 40 years since the village was named a National Historic Register District.

Learn more at HistoricSugartown.com.



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Ramon Townsend

Ramon Townsend has led workshops in Historic Sugartown's Book Bindery since 2015. Nearly 40 workshops are offered annually under Ramon's tutelage, including bookbinding, book restoration, book sewing and paper marbling. At the onset of the pandemic, Ramon adapted his workshops to a virtual format and quickly amassed students from 18 states. "Ever since I apprenticed at Colonial Williamsburg's Bindery, I've had a deep passion for the traditional handcraft of bookbinding. I couldn't be happier for the chance to share this passion with others at Historic Sugartown," says Ramon.