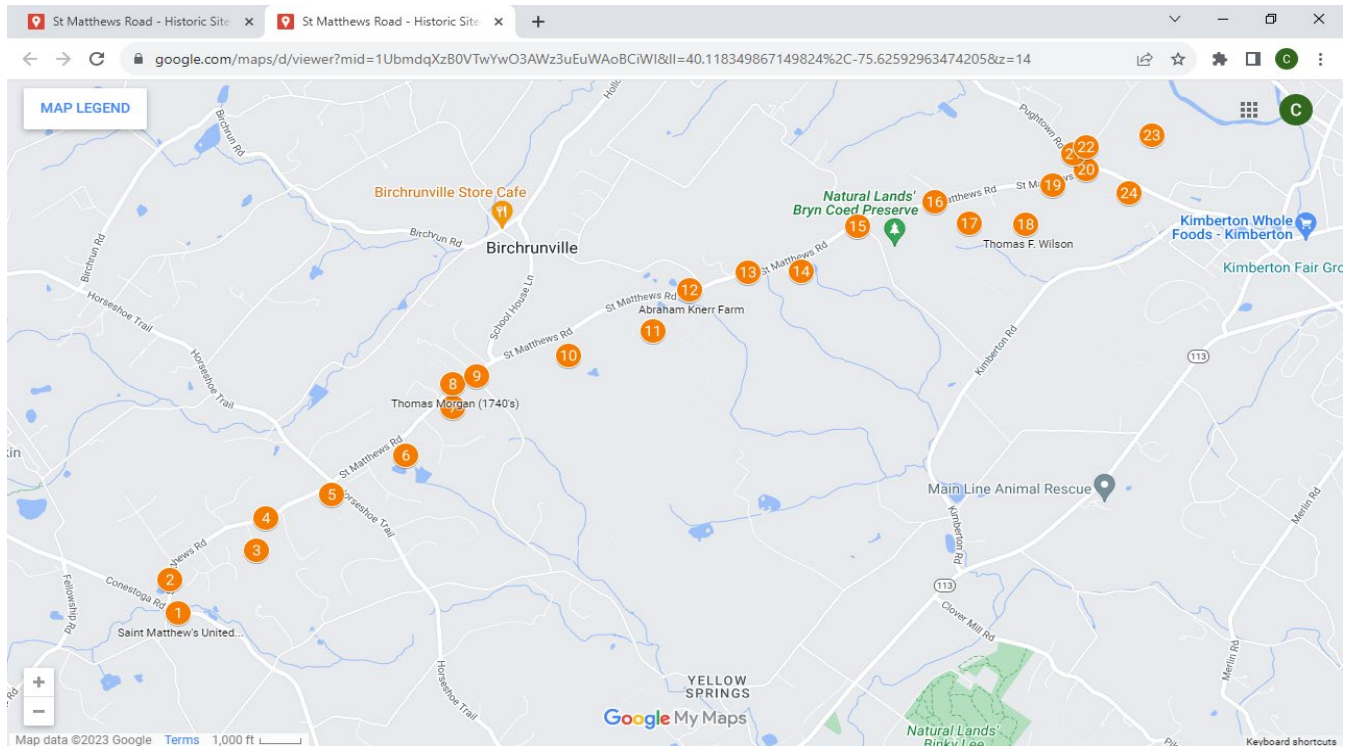


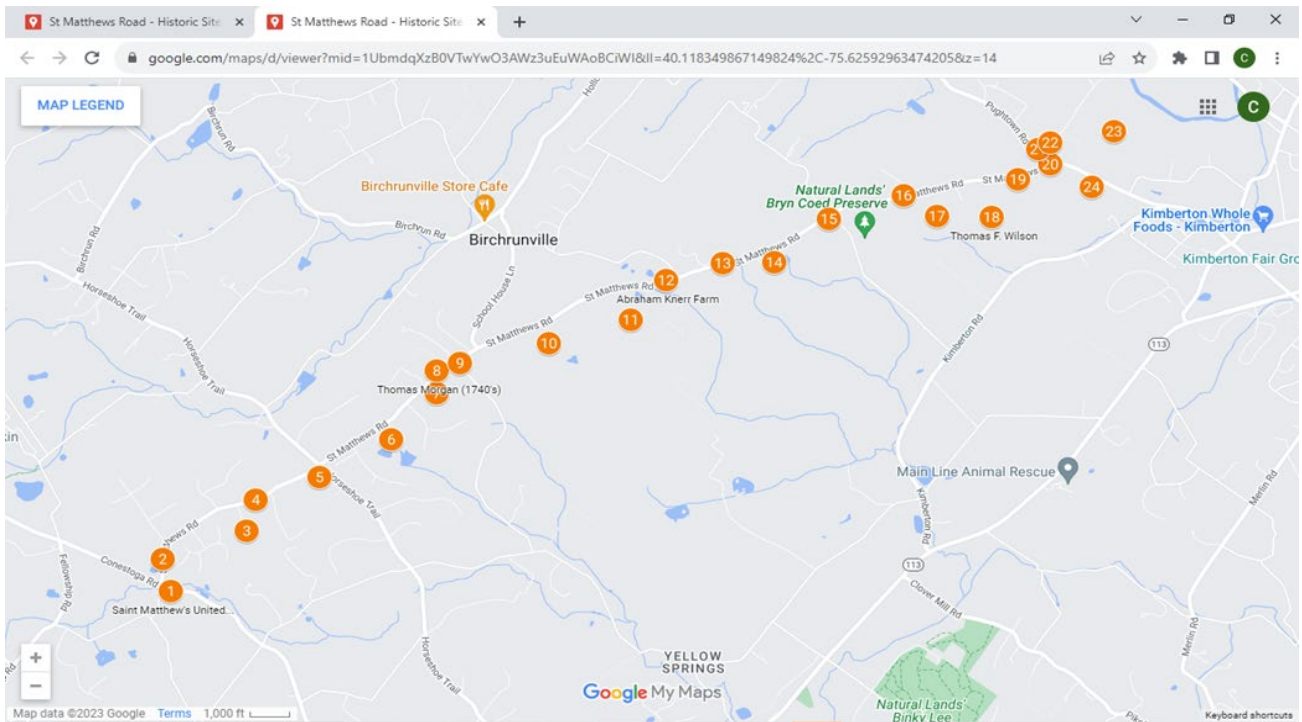


West Vincent Township Historic Resources Committee

Historic Properties of West Vincent Township Along St. Matthews Road (driving west to east)

1. **St. Matthews UCC** – at the intersection of Conestoga Turnpike (#401) and St. Matthews Road, this church was established as the German Reformed Church in 1833 in a smaller stone building and shared alternate weeks with the Lutheran Church until 1879 when the Lutherans moved up the road. C.F. Woodland was carpenter/architect for both new churches.
2. **West Vincent Township Building*** – on land originally owned and farmed by Revolutionary Captain James Barber (ancestor of 20th century composer Samuel Barber). Joshua Woodward and his son, Owen Lewis Woodward, built the present buildings between 1830 and 1860.
3. **Westfrin (also Three Pines Farm)** -originally part of James Barber’s land; early residents were the Ortlips.
4. **Bunker Hill Farm** – early house and later a barn; home of Isiah and Mary Felters in 19th century. “Bunker Hill” rises across the road and may have been named by area fox hunters in 20th century.
5. **Wilmer Ralston House** – with an earlier core, this house is on the National Heritage Register. Briefly in 1860, 13-year-old Henry Longabaugh of Phoenixville lived here as a hired boy. Henry was later known as the Sundance Kid.
6. **Evan’s Inn*** – the core of this house contains part of the early 18th century Inn and Tavern of John Evans and his son, Lt. Col. William Evans. Abraham Mosteller probably rebuilt the house as it appears now, closer to 1860.
7. **Glad Acres (20th century)** – George and Ethel Shaw, Mainliners, built this home for fox hunting, around 1930. The classic façade was changed to create offices for the missionary movement that publishes periodicals here.
8. **Thomas Morgan** (leaseholder on 1740’s map) – the location connects it to an early mining community.
9. **Christian Friday House*** – Margaret Holman of Yellow Springs had something in mind when she built this house, but she may not ever have used it. Although a very public and successful woman, she kept a few secrets. It belonged to Christian Friday (Freitag) for many years.
10. **Strickland – Roberts House** – on the National Historic Register; Hugh Strickland, a weaver, had a log home here in 1790. Became home of Supreme Court Justice (1930-1945) Owen J. Roberts. While living here, OJR bought nearby properties and practiced model farming.





11. **Opalanie Park** – situated beside one of West Vincent’s earliest industrial districts. Samuel Morris developed an iron mine, run by William Branson not long after 1700. Workers’ children attended a small schoolhouse shown on a 1721 road petition.
12. **Abraham Knerr Farm on Prospect Hill*** – tucked beside it, a small house on the exact spot where a 1721 road petition shows a schoolhouse and across from Samuel Morris’ early iron settlement.
13. **Justice (Lt Col) John Ralston Home** – his earlier Revolutionary War house, burned by the British, is beneath the grassy mound on the right.
14. **Watkins Tannery** – later John Mosteller; early two-floor spring house. Historic barn on left, altered house on right.
15. **Kate U. Ralston*** – widow of William Ralston built this mansion in 1898 at a high point on the land of the original Robert Ralston, and just above his 18th-century house.
16. **Jesse Orr** – datestone is 1842; local farmer and metal worker; transitioned politically during his life from anti-abolitionist to a supporter of Underground Railroad (URR) neighbors. Like his neighbors, the Wilsons, he employed fugitives for day work, hiding them in plain sight.
17. **Thomas M. Wilson** – See #18
18. **Thomas F. Wilson** – farmers and builders. Helped build nearby “Sunnyside”, an URR station. Members of a family who came here from Ireland in the 1750’s.
19. **Chestnut Grove Schoolhouse** – 1840’s; one of six in West Vincent from the time education became free, but not compulsory, for everyone.
20. As St. Matthews Road ends at Pughtown Road, the intersection offers a starburst of historic homes: **Caroline Sheeder House** – on the left; built for her sister Annie.
21. **Frederic Sheeder’s Rising Sun Tavern*** – 1803; across from Caroline Sheeder House.
22. **Ford Road** – leading to Clement Rentgen’s first forge.
23. **Aman French Creek Farm** – on the NHR, “Bicentennial Farm”; held by the same family since 1794.
24. **Clevenstine Farm** – mid 19th century; across from Aman.

**National Historic Register eligible*

This article with map was created for the sole purpose of sharing the history of our township. All sites on the map are our residents' private property and homes. Please respect their privacy and refrain from trespassing.

