

EPHRATA CLOISTER

Junction of U.S. Routes 322 and 222, Ephrata

Erected between 1740 and 1746, these mostly frame buildings with their steep, expansive gabled roofs and long shed-roofed dormers are among the most pronounced Germanic buildings erected in colonial America. They housed members of the Seventh Day Baptists, a pietistic monastic community that Conrad Beissel founded in 1732. During the Revolution, members of the Ephrata community nursed some 500 wounded soldiers from the Battle of Brandywine here. Now administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Ephrata Cloister is open to the public.