



# SUN INN



## SUN INN TODAY

Additions and changes were made to the Inn until the 1960s, when it went out of business. In the late 1960s the Sun Inn was slated to be demolished to make way for a bank. Hughetta Bender, a community activist who had attended a lecture about the Sun Inn, insisted that the building should be saved. Bender organized her friends and they created the Sun Inn Preservation Association, a non-profit 501(c)(3) charity to preserve the building for future generations.

In 1982, with a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Sun Inn was restored to the way it looked back in the 1760s. The 1758 Moravian Sun Inn is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, the Sun Inn stands as a living museum and restaurant, in testament to those early Moravian settlers who created a city in the wilderness. A dedicated group of volunteers and members of the Sun Inn Preservation Association keep the Sun Inn alive through various activities open to the community.

To become a member of the Association or to volunteer at the Sun Inn, visit our website at [www.SunInnBethlehem.org](http://www.SunInnBethlehem.org).

The Sun Inn is always looking for volunteers. We are registered with the Bethlehem Area School District as a community service organization.

Sun Inn  
Preservation Association

564 Main St  
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Phone: (610) 866-1758

Connect with us  
on social media:



ESTABLISHED IN  
1758

SELF-GUIDED TOUR

# WELCOME TO THE SUN INN MUSEUM

Please sign the Guest Book at the Innkeeper's Desk

On Christmas Eve 1741 a group of Moravian missionaries founded the community of Bethlehem. These settlers were skilled craftspeople. By 1760 their thriving economy included a gristmill, tannery, and smithy, as well as weavers, hatters, potters, and shoemakers. Philadelphians and New Yorkers came to Bethlehem to trade. The community built the Sun Inn in 1758 to accommodate these Taverlers who wanted to see this remarkable community.



## ROOMS IN THE MUSEUM

### INNKEEPER'S DESK

Behind the Registration Desk was the suite in which the Innkeeper lived with his wife. The Innkeeper maintained the building, while his wife did the cooking. The meals were served in the "Great Room" on the second floor. In addition, the second floor had three more suites.



### GASTSTUBE

Guests could wait for the stagecoach, enjoy their favorite beverage, and chat about the day's events in this public room. The grandfather clock was made in early Bethlehem. The harpsichord reproduces a 1750 Moravian instrument. The high back chairs are reproductions of the chair that Lafayette used in 1777 while he recuperated in Bethlehem from wounds he received at the Battle of Brandywine.



### VIP LIST

Given its renowned hospitality and having served twice as a Continental Hospital, Bethlehem became a destination for many distinguished travelers, including a litany of America's Founders, many of whom stayed at the Inn.

### MARTHA WASHINGTON SUITE

The Sun Inn had four suites, each containing a sitting area and two bedrooms. Such accommodations were very rare in the colonies. Guests in each suite were assigned a servant to tend to their needs, including stoking the fire, bringing food, and emptying the necessary chair pot (which can be seen in the doorway of the bedroom on the left). Guests who could not afford a suite stayed on the third floor, which had four big rooms. Each room had four beds. Four people could fit in each bed if they slept head to foot!

Please notice the shutters on the window on the right side. Workers restoring the Inn in 1982 uncovered a false wall. Behind it they found an original window and shutters, which were added in the 1763 when Bethlehem feared attack by Native Americans.

### COLONIAL KITCHEN

In the walk-in fireplace, cooks would take hot coals from the fire to create smaller fires on which they would place a trivet and a pan. They had to be very careful: the second most frequent cause of death for women at that time was fire. Clothing could catch on fire as women walked around the fireplace to cook.

The original kitchen had a butcher area where wild game and fish were cleaned for guests' meals. By 1762 the Moravians had built a remarkable water works, which pumped spring water to a cistern located above where Central Church is now. It was one of the first Inns in America with running water.

