

Historic Site Background

Site Name: Zimmerman Dairy

Other Names: Zimmerman Turkey Farm, Zimmerman Excavating, Zimmerman Stone & Supply.

Site Address: From 1889 to 1920, the dairy was operated exclusively on the Daniel Zimmerman farm at the what is now 40 Rhoda Ave., Leechburg, PA. The pasteurizing and bottling process was initiated in 1920 at 6350 Shearsburg Road, Leechburg, PA 15656. The dairy operated from both locations until the mid 1940's when the dairy herd at the Rhoda Ave. location was moved to Shearsburg Road, and that site was converted to a beef farming operation.

Researched by: Kathy Starr

Date Researched: December 15, 2006 to April 3, 2007.

Owners: 6350 Shearsburg Road: Karen and Timothy Zimmerman
40 Rhoda Ave.: Regina and Mario Sorisio

Owner Phone Numbers: Sorisio: 724-842-1121; Zimmerman: 724-845-1948

Documents available from owners: Deed to property and diary of William Zimmerman; see *Zimmerman House* research for other documents

Year(s) built: The house at 6350 Shearsburg Road was built by T. J. Anderson in 1912. It was remodeled by Karen and Tim Zimmerman in 1993. See the *Zimmerman House* research for dates on the original farmhouse.

These dates based on: Information from Karen and Tim Zimmerman, Helen Zimmerman Beecher and Regina and Mario Sorisio.

History of the Businesses: The dairy business was started by Jacob Zimmerman and his son Henry Zimmerman in 1889. The milk was delivered by horse and wagon in the early years. Some was shipped by rail to markets in Pittsburgh. A retail store was opened in Leechburg in 1900 at the corner of 1st Street and Market Street. In 1920 William Zimmerman began to pasteurize and bottle milk on the Shearsburg Road property. He had purchased that property from T. J. Anderson in 1919 for \$14,000. The barn on the original Daniel Zimmerman site was demolished to make way for a housing plan in 1958. Charles Zimmerman started a turkey farm on the Shearsburg Road property in the late 1940's, and in the early 1950's Charles' brother Paul started an excavating business. Paul's son Tim bought the farm in 1992 after Paul's death. He owns and operates Zimmerman Stone and Supply, which had its beginnings in 1985.

This information based on: Tim Zimmerman and notes from the diary of William Zimmerman, and on information from Helen Zimmerman Beecher, great-great granddaughter of Daniel Zimmerman .

Physical description of the site: The Shearsburg Road property farm is about 27 acres.

What else is known about the site. The retail milk route continued until 1948 when it was sold to Meadowgold Farms for \$500. The Zimmermans still maintained a dairy herd and sold milk to Parks Dairy until at least 1951. Tim Zimmerman still has some of the original Zimmerman Dairy milk bottles.

