

# History of Wallisch Homestead and Estate

Discover



The Wallisch Homestead around 1860

The Tichenor-Gregory-Goddel-Wallisch Homestead, known commonly as the Wallisch Homestead, is one of the last surviving large tracts of land that formed the original township of West Milford. The Earliest known mention of the house, **1821**, is in a property deed from Richard Ryerson to Jacob Ryerson, the family that owned the Long Pond Ironworks.

The Tichenor family, one of the early families to settle the area, constructed the original homestead in **1824** as a one and one-half story vernacular frame farmhouse. J.H. Gregory purchased the property from the Tichenors in **1836**, and during his tenure built the extant frame barns and expanded the property. With a wife and nine children, he expanded the house around **1860**. The right wing is the original house.

When James Gregory passed away in **1886**, one of his sons, Sylvanus Gregory, purchased the farm. Sylvanus and his wife May Ann LaRoe raised five children in the house. Sylvanus passed away in **1908**, and in **1910** Mary Gregory sold the farm to Edwin Goddel, who built much of what we see today.



The Wallisch Homestead around 1912

In **1912**, Mr. Edwin Goddel purchased the property for use as a dairy farm. Goddel transformed the frame farmhouse into the extant Dutch Colonial Revival house with additions that likely included the front porch, the dormers, and the rear wing. He also constructed outbuildings that include a chicken coop, two stone barns, and a windmill.

Louis Wallisch, Sr. purchased the property from Mr. Goddel in **1923**. He and his wife Cornelia had three children: Louis Jr., John and Sophie. In **1926**, Louis Sr. renamed the property from "Camp Wallisch" to "Wallisch Estates" and began selling lots for people to build summer cottages. The streets still bear his children's names, John, Sophie, and Louis, as well as Madelyn, the builder's daughter.

Louis Sr. passed and the sons took over the property in **1935**. The family continued to use the property as a second home. In **1973**, Louis Jr. and John Wallisch moved into the house permanently after the deaths of their sister and mother. The Wallisch brothers ran a law firm out of the house and maintained the property until their deaths.



Louis Jr., John, and Sophie 1920s



Camp Wallisch 1920s

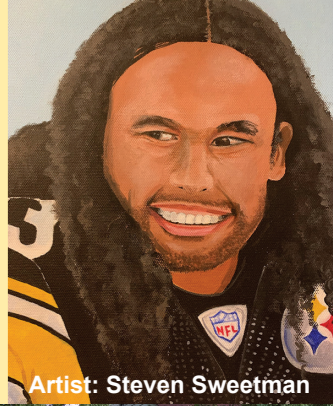
The brothers were heavily involved in the development of the township and witnessed its growth from a rural farming community to the suburban enclave it is today. It is understood that the Wallischs never subdivided or sold off any property, in order to keep their estate representative of the early heritage and development.

John Wallisch passed away in **1984** and left his share of the property to the Board of Education. Louis Jr. passed away in **2001** and left his share to the West Milford Township. In **2013**, the Friends of Wallisch Homestead was created as a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the property to fulfill the Wallisch brothers' vision of the homestead being used as a vibrant community educational and recreational center.



Artist: Stanley A. Zimmerman

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Artist: Steven Sweetman

