

# PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH HEX TOUR:


*A Tour Map of Northern Berks County Along the Hex Highway*

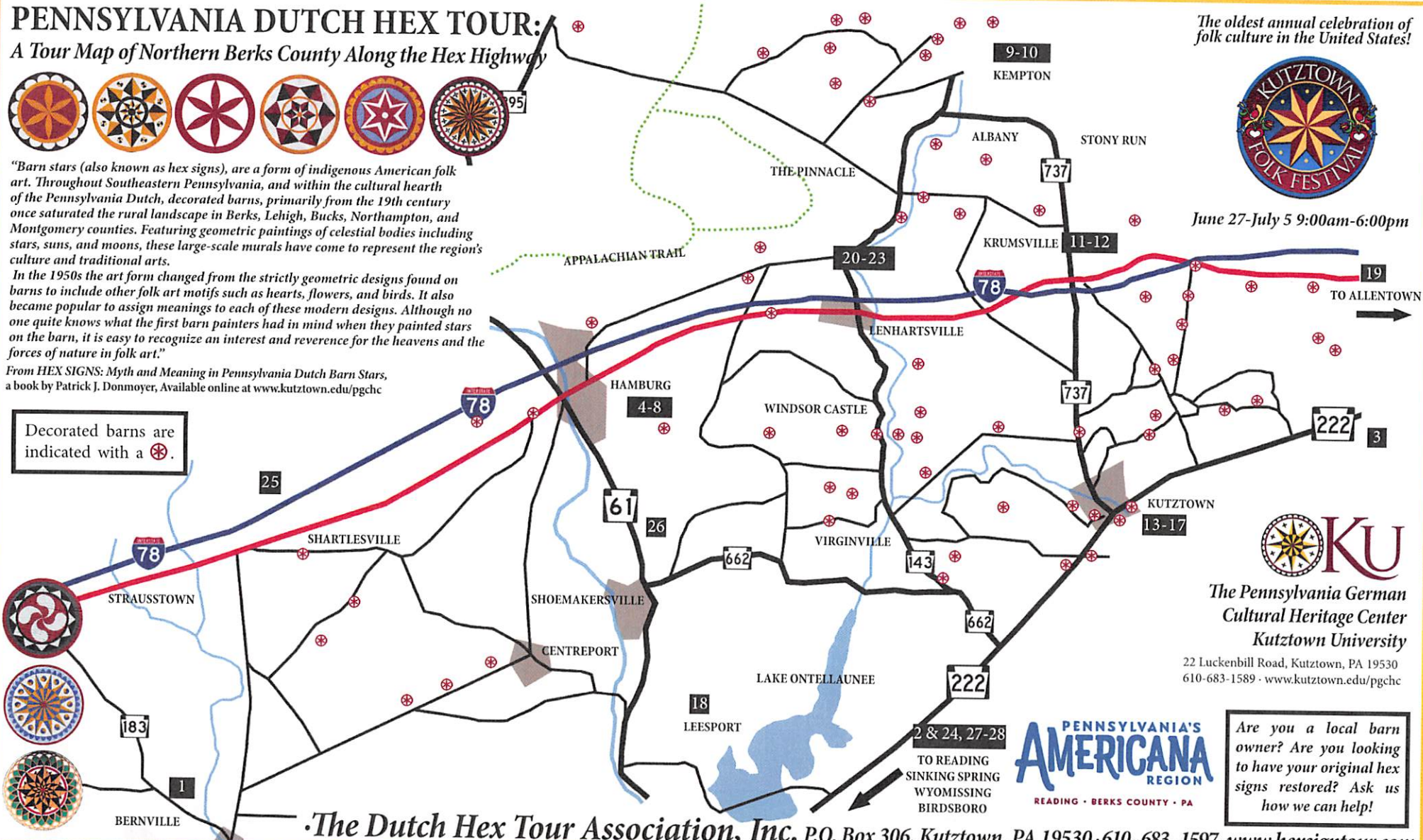


"Barn stars (also known as hex signs), are a form of indigenous American folk art. Throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania, and within the cultural hearth of the Pennsylvania Dutch, decorated barns, primarily from the 19th century once saturated the rural landscape in Berks, Lehigh, Bucks, Northampton, and Montgomery counties. Featuring geometric paintings of celestial bodies including stars, suns, and moons, these large-scale murals have come to represent the region's culture and traditional arts.

In the 1950s the art form changed from the strictly geometric designs found on barns to include other folk art motifs such as hearts, flowers, and birds. It also became popular to assign meanings to each of these modern designs. Although no one quite knows what the first barn painters had in mind when they painted stars on the barn, it is easy to recognize an interest and reverence for the heavens and the forces of nature in folk art."

From *HEX SIGNS: Myth and Meaning in Pennsylvania Dutch Barn Stars*, a book by Patrick J. Donmoyer, Available online at [www.kutztown.edu/pgchc](http://www.kutztown.edu/pgchc)

Decorated barns are indicated with a .



The oldest annual celebration of folk culture in the United States!



June 27-July 5 9:00am-6:00pm



The Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center  
Kutztown University

22 Luckenbill Road, Kutztown, PA 19530  
610-683-1589 · [www.kutztown.edu/pgchc](http://www.kutztown.edu/pgchc)

**PENNSYLVANIA'S AMERICANA REGION**  
READING · BERKS COUNTY · PA

Are you a local barn owner? Are you looking to have your original hex signs restored? Ask us how we can help!

*The Dutch Hex Tour Association, Inc. P.O. Box 306, Kutztown, PA 19530 · 610-683-1597 · [www.hexsigntour.com](http://www.hexsigntour.com)*