

HISTORY & CULTURE

The iconic 40-acre Case-Dvoor Farm serves as a gateway to the past and future of Hunterdon County. From a historical standpoint, its importance cannot be overstated. An archaeological survey found evidence of short-term task-specific camp sites positioned on the bluff overlooking Walnut Brook. They were likely used by small groups over thousands of years from the later Late Archaic (3,000 to 2,000 BCE) into the Middle Woodland period (up to 700 CE).

The property's history in more recent times began in 1712 when it was part of a 5,000-acre tract owned by William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania. When Penn died, he bequeathed the land to his sons. In 1738, Thomas Penn sold a 374-acre parcel to a German immigrant named Johan Philip Kaes (later changed to Case). Kaes was an early European settler of the area that became Flemington. He built a log cabin along the Walnut Brook with the help of Indigenous villagers led by Chief Tuccamirgan of the Lenni Lenape tribe. Kaes' son, Phillip, inherited the land where he established a successful tannery, enabling him to build the Georgian-style stone house in 1798 that is the oldest structure on the property. Enslaved people also lived on the property during this time.

The farm's name is derived from the two families who owned and farmed the property the longest: the Cases from 1738 to 1860 and the Dvoors from 1920 to 1999. By adding the Horse Barn and Farm Office as well as remodeling the barns for their stock dairy cattle business, the Dvoors are responsible for the way the farmstead appears today because of these additions and their preservation of its historic character.

DVOOR FARM REHABILITATION PROJECT

Since taking title to the Farm in 1999, Hunterdon Land Trust has worked toward fulfilling its potential as a community resource. A multi-phase capital project, which began in 2023 with an anticipated completion date in 2027-2028, will rehabilitate the historic Bank Barn complex into a large multi-use space where people can connect with the property by enjoying its cultural and historic resources. The rehabilitated barn will provide a place year-round for residents and visitors to attend educational forums and hold activities such as weddings, anniversaries, and birthdays. Guests will also be able to enjoy this preserved farm's surrounding scenic natural landscape.

Beyond the historic farmstead, enjoy a hike on 40 acres along the Walnut Brook, featuring forest, meadows, and restored streambanks and wetlands. Hunterdon Land Trust has planted more than 1,000 trees to expand the stream corridor and improve ecosystem health. The farm is part of a more than 200-acre contiguous greenway of trails that includes Mine Brook Park, Bernadette Morales Nature Preserve, and Uplands Reserve.



Above: Milkweed, a crucial plant for native pollinators, can be found along the meadow trail in the summer months.

PRESERVE RULES

- **Open from sunrise to sunset**
- **Stay on marked trails**
- **Carry out trash**
- **Leave all plants, animals, rocks, and artifacts for all visitors to enjoy**
- **Leash pets and carry out waste**
- **No alcoholic beverages, camping, fires, or motorized vehicles**

The mission of Hunterdon Land Trust is to foster healthy ecosystems and communities in the Hunterdon County region through permanent preservation of open space and farmland, stewardship of natural resources, and cultivation of the Dvoor Farm as a center for inspiration, education, and connection.



Funding for this trail guide provided by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. Hunterdon Land Trust gratefully acknowledges community groups, state and local governments, and corporations for their support of the historic preservation of the Dvoor Farm.

The Dvoor Farm

Headquarters of Hunterdon Land Trust



Hunterdon Land Trust
Protecting the places you love

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DVOOR FARM



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