

# Satterthwaite House and Patterson Farm

THREAT: DETERIORATION, DEMOLITION BY NEGLECT



As open land in Bucks County is gobbled up by new housing developments, the fertile soils of Patterson Farm remain in cultivation, continuing a centuries-long agricultural tradition. Much of this land is already protected, however, a 40-acre parcel owned by Lower Makefield Township and containing a number of historic buildings, including the Quaker Satterthwaite House, is at risk. The buildings have fallen into disrepair since the Township obtained the farm in 1998. A local advocacy group seeks approval to begin restoration work before it's too late.

## HISTORY

Patterson Farm is a 234-acre property owned by Lower Makefield Township, located at I-95 and Mirror Lake Road. An exit off the interstate highway means the open farmland is a visitor's first impression.

The Township obtained the farm in 1998 from Thomas and Alice Patterson. A year later, 71 acres were placed under a farmland preservation easement. The farm's neighbors formed the group Patterson Farm Preservation, Inc. and lobbied Lower Makefield Township officials for a farmland preservation easement for additional acreage. The Township voted in October 2018 to grant an agricultural conservation easement to the county on approximately 106 acres, protecting a majority of the farm. The Patterson Farm Preservation group is now working toward protection of the last 40 acres, which include all of the historic structures.