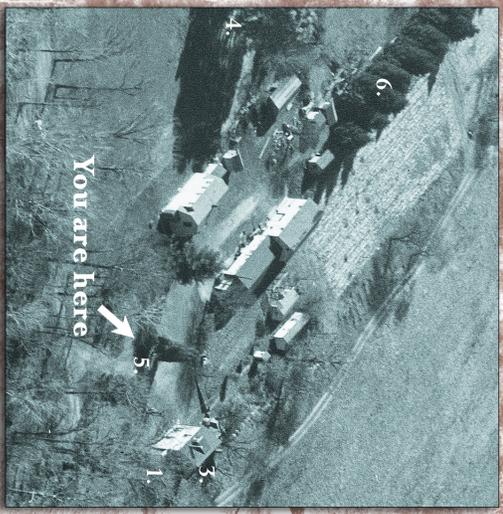


# THE BUZZONI HOMESTEAD FAMILY FARM 1897-1966 AN HEIRLOOM LANDSCAPE

The Closter area was an established farming community by the early 1700s. Most of the 17th and 18th Century farmers were Dutch. Rosa and Frank Buzzoni, like many Italian farmers, came to New Jersey in the late 19th Century. They settled in Closter in 1897 and raised a family of twelve children on this family farm. During WWI, three sons were inducted and 24 year old Arthur died on a French battlefield.

The family's farm consisted of 10.5 acres with horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens and ducks. The farm house (1. on aerial photos) was moved here from Piermont Road (2.) using horses, capstan, block and tackle. The old stone wall (3.) continues to outline the former house site. There were a dozen outbuildings (including barns, blacksmith shop, and a chicken coop), a pond (4., ahead on left) and a large grape vineyard for the family wine. Most food for the large family was raised on the farm and the butchering of hogs and steers in winter provided meat for everyone. The plantings of hay, fodder and corn for the animals covered many acres. These fields are now forested, but fence post remnants can still be seen amidst the new growth.

Where you are standing (5), visitors were greeted beside a flagpole and a circle of small, young cedar trees, now grown tall. The two rows of spruce trees directly ahead correspond to the allee of trees seen in these 1958 aerial photographs (6.). Note the conversion of nearby farm fields (7a.) into developments (7a.) east of Piermont Road, a trend that continues throughout New Jersey to this day. In 1966 the farm was sold by Ann Buzzoni to the Borough of Closter, with funding provided by the State Green Acres Program. The Closter Environmental Commission now oversees its use for education, recreation, and conservation for the benefit of current and future generations.



ERECTED BY THE CLOSTER ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, DESIGNED BY RICHARD KIRK MILLS, 2005

Frankie Buzzoni  
c. 1925-30

The old hitching post



c. 1939



Horse stable and shed



Black-smith shed and large shed, which held Sunny, the bull.



Garage, utility sheds: one contains harnesses, saddles, pony cart and sleigh. 1a.



The farm house 1a.



The newly planted cedar trees and flagpole, where you are now standing. 1a.

The summer kitchen with attached well. Beyond was the underground cellar and smoke house. 1a.

7.