

T ◊ H ◊ E PRIESTHOOD RESTORATION SITE

While Joseph and Emma Smith lived in the area formerly known as Harmony Township in Pennsylvania, USA, Joseph translated most of the Book of Mormon, and the Lord restored the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods.

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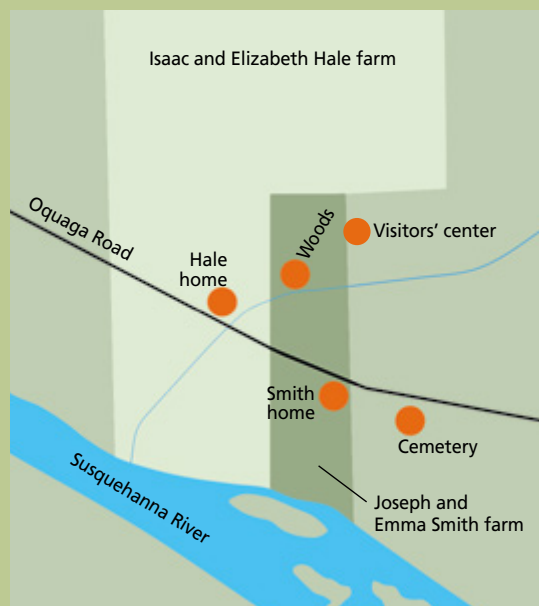
Nestled in the forests of a narrow Pennsylvania valley along the Susquehanna River is a small township once known as Harmony. Isaac and Elizabeth Hale started a farm there in 1790. In the autumn of 1825, Joseph Smith and his father, Joseph Sr., boarded on the Hale farm and worked briefly nearby. Here Joseph met 21-year-old Emma Hale and fell in love with her.

After Joseph and his father returned home to Manchester, New York, Joseph could not forget Emma. Eventually they

Left: Joseph and Emma Smith's original home burned, and this replica stands in its place. The Smiths lived here from February 1828 until early September 1830.

married on January 18, 1827, not far from Harmony in South Bainbridge, New York, against Isaac's wishes. They moved in with Joseph's family in Manchester. When Joseph received the golden plates on September 22, 1827, from the angel Moroni on the Hill Cumorah, Emma waited at the foot of the hill with the wagon. From the beginning, Joseph and Emma worked together to protect the golden plates from those who tried to steal them. Nevertheless, it soon became clear that they needed to move to find the peace that would allow Joseph to translate the Book of Mormon. In December 1827 they found that peace in Harmony, Pennsylvania.

Right: Morning mist rising from the Susquehanna River. In this river on May 15, 1829, Joseph and Oliver baptized each other after receiving the Aaronic Priesthood from John the Baptist.





Top: Joseph Smith translated most of the Book of Mormon in his home, while others, mainly Oliver Cowdery, acted as scribes. Right: Isaac Hale, a prosperous commercial hunter, provided a fine home for his family, as the room below shows.





Above: The visitors' center has many exhibits, such as this "What Is the Priesthood?" display (note the video of the Susquehanna River). Right: The entrance to the meetinghouse, which is located in the same building as the visitors' center. Below: This exhibit is one of many interactive presentations in the visitors' center. It features a cutaway of a barrel of beans showing how Joseph hid the golden plates when he and Emma moved from Manchester back to Harmony. The screen shows a video of the story.





Today the area has been restored to look as it did during the time of the restoration of the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods and the translation of the Book of Mormon. Nearby is a new building housing both a modern-day visitors' center and a Latter-day Saint meetinghouse. ■



Above: These two statues commemorate the restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood and the Melchizedek Priesthood. Left: Near this peaceful grove of maple trees north of the Smith home, John the Baptist ordained Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery to the Aaronic Priesthood on May 15, 1829 (see Joseph Smith—History 1:68–69). Within the following two weeks in “the wilderness” between Harmony, Pennsylvania, and nearby Colesville, New York, New Testament Apostles Peter, James, and John restored the Melchizedek Priesthood to Joseph and Oliver, including “the keys of the kingdom, and of the dispensation of the fulness of times” (D&C 128:20; see also 27:12).