



# Panache: Once the 1774 Blue Horse Tavern

A Blue Bell Landmark

BY CAROL KALOS, PRESIDENT, WISSAHICKON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At 602 Skippack Pike, across from the Blue Bell Inn (1743), stands one of Whitpain Township's fine old stone buildings, now Panache Wood Fired Grill. Established in 1774, records show that, situated across from the White Horse Tavern (the Blue Bell Inn) and the Black Horse Tavern, it was originally called the Blue Horse Tavern. Although the structure has a modern addition, its front reveals its historic Georgian-style appearance with its attic dormers, two large chimneys, and shuttered windows.

*Whitpain Township: A Tricentennial Reflection* notes that during the eighteenth century, the property belonged to the DeHaven family; then it was a private residence. Starting in 1926, it became a series of eateries. "From the 1920s to 1950 the rear of the building housed a popular establishment for young people, called The Chatterbox. It had a soda fountain, served food, and had a pinball machine. Guests later knew

the building as Frank and Eddie's Bar and Restaurant, Tommy Woodeshick's Pier 37, La Sorda's Restaurant, ... in 2001, Marabella's," and later, L'Angolo Blue. Panache's owners renovated the structure in 2004, and today it is a popular dining spot with an outdoor patio and wood-fired grill. Most importantly, the site remains a lovely historic landmark.

**Carol Kalos is president of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society. Its headquarters, museum, and research archives are located at the 1895 School on Skippack Pike in Blue Bell. The historical society owns the one-room Franklinville School on Morris Road. Both appear in the National Register of Historic Places and are open to the public. Please email for details: [Info@WValleyHS.org](mailto:Info@WValleyHS.org)**