



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JANE THEISE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

# House Tour: Strasburg, Pa.

## A renovated three-bedroom, one-bath vacation retreat offers a sun porch, a dining room and views of nearby farmland.



Eddie and Rich Landis's farmhouse, above, which in the 18th century was a log cabin. Top, its sun porch.

By **BETHANY LYLTLE**

**WHAT** Three-bedroom, one-bathroom farmhouse.

**WHERE** Strasburg, Pa., in Lancaster County, about 149 miles from New York City.

**WHO** Eddie Landis, 48, and her husband, Rich, 52, an accountant, inherited a run-down farmhouse almost 10 years ago but weren't sure what to do with it. In 2002 they began a renovation in hopes of offering it as a vacation rental. Ms. Landis tells the story.

"Hurricane Isabel was our first guest. She swooped right through the backyard. Everything was blowing, trees were falling, and after a year-long, nonstop renovation, everything was a mess. And this was the day of our grand opening. Our kids were out there, hauling branches out of the way as folks arrived.

In a way, it was a fitting beginning, though, because what we discovered during the renovation was that back in the 1700s, this was a log cabin. A lot of trees had been felled to build it. You can see the markings on the logs — slashes and numbers that were matched up for construction — when you're inside. We found them exposed after we

At first the rental business was slow, but this past summer we had a banner year. You learn as you go. And one thing I learned is that when people leave, their story remains. Like this couple from Africa. They were here during a week of terrible blizzards, and everyone in town, including us, was hunkered down waiting for the end. But they kept playing it out.

In the end, I think that what we offer is a glimpse into rural life. From the front porch you can watch the neighbors who own a farm next door pass by in their Amish carriages. You can make breakfast in the homey yellow kitchen, with its Hoosier and tin-top table. Or read in the dining room that we created by eliminating the master bedroom that used to be on the first floor. The sun porch and living area are big enough for a family but small enough to keep everyone together. And at night you can upstairs to the bedrooms — all of which have quilts, wusthandstans and rockers — in town, including us, was hunkered down waiting for the end. But they kept playing it out.

**RENTAL INFO** Rate is \$190 or \$200 a night, depending on season. Two-night minimum stay. No pets or smoking. [www.stayathomeplace.com](http://www.stayathomeplace.com).

# Ye Olde Craving Calling?

By **KALY SOTO**

**YOU'RE** never too old to dress up for Halloween, but after about 31, if you turn up at an unsuspecting someone's door looking for candy, you could end up in the back of a squad car.

For those with an aching sweet tooth, there are still candy stores in the city, from the 500-square-foot Sweet Life of Chinatown to the 15,000-square-foot Dylan's Candy Bar on the Upper East Side, and each has confections of every preference: sweet, sour, hot, chocolate or gummy.

Also on the Lower East Side is a city staple, Economy Candy, with a red awning and windows decorated with candy boxes. Treats of every stripe are stacked floor to ceiling in this 73-year-old store, run by the Cohen family. Jerry Cohen, and his wife, Hene, who took over the business from his father, greet customers (some "handed down from generation to generation," Mr. Cohen said) and help them find their favorites — including nostalgic items like candy cigarettes and clove gum (three packs for \$1).

The store is a favorite stop for customers like John Singler, who lives in the West Village and was browsing on a recent Monday. "I bring friends here," Mr. Singler said. The nostalgic items appeared to him but probably not in the way that Singler is holding up a packet of Nik-L-Nips (was bottled with figs), he reminisced about the "really awful" candies from his childhood.

Economy isn't so much an issue at the well-known Dylan's, which was started by its namesake, Dylan Lauren. The store carries 7,000 types of goodies, a strong lure for Kathy Fox and her family, repeat customers from Shelton, Conn. "We come every time we're in the city," Ms. Fox said.

By Dylan's is too much sugar stimulation, try scaling back at the Sweet Life, a quintessential



The goods at Dewey's candy store in Dumbo, Brooklyn, include Nerds and jawbreakers.

corner candy store at Hester and Ludlow Streets on the Lower East Side. In addition to all kinds of candy and nuts, its many confections include sea-salt caramels in lavender (divine) and fudge in flavors like pumpkin. It also carries an array of licorice, including Kookaburra from Australia, said Sam Greenfield, who bought the shop seven years ago with his sister, Diane Miller.

Across the East River in Dumbo is Dewey's, a bright sweet spot with glass candy jars lining the walls and tables filled with treats. Dewey's opened in January, and its owner, Alison Oblonsky, said she decided to go into the candy business because it "makes people so happy."

Marcus Woolley, 10, visiting from San Diego, walked out with a bag of Nerds, jawbreakers and a tin of mints in the shape of the head of Stewie from "Family Guy." Experienced candy consumer that he was, Marcus said he had a hard time finding a good selection of jawbreakers elsewhere.

Ms. Oblonsky said her big sellers at the moment were anything in the shape of fangs (including old-timey wax ones) or eyeballs. On non-Halloween days, Ms. Oblonsky said nostalgic candy was a good seller. Also, she said, "never underestimate the power of gummies."

And at \$10.99 a pound, they are cheaper than



Ilene Cohen, co-owner of Economy Candy, whose stock includes candy cigarettes.

## Tricks to Finding the Treats All Over Town

**DEWEY'S** 141 Front Street, between Pearl and Jay Streets, Dumbo, Brooklyn; (718) 422-1333, [deweyscandy.com](http://deweyscandy.com). **Fun find:** Red licorice Scottie dogs.

**DYLAN'S CANDY BAR** 1011 Third Avenue, at 60th Street, Manhattan; (646) 735-0078, [dylanscandybar.com](http://dylanscandybar.com). **Fun find:** everything but the Kitchen Sink Bar.

**ECONOMY CANDY** 106 Rivington Street, between Ludlow and Essex Streets, Lower East Side; (800) 352-4544, [economycandy.com](http://economycandy.com). **Fun find:** clove gum and candy cigarettes.

**THE SWEET LIFE** 63 Hester Street, at Ludlow Street, Lower East Side; (212) 599-0092, [sweetlifeny.com](http://sweetlifeny.com). **Fun find:** sea-salt caramels.

Also: **SCHMIDT'S CONFECTIONERY** 94-15 Jamaica Avenue, between 94th and 95th Streets, Woodhams, Queens; (718) 846-9326, [schmidtsconfectionery.com](http://schmidtsconfectionery.com).

**WILLIAMS CANDY** 1318 Surf Avenue, near West 15th Street, Coney Island, Brooklyn; (718) 372-0302, [candytreasures.com](http://candytreasures.com).

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