New Jersey in Focus

Buildings in Monmouth:
Stories and Styles

Exhibit at the
Monmouth County Library Headquarters
125 Symmes Drive
Manalapan, New Jersey
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Organized by the
Monmouth County Archives
A Division of the Office of Monmouth County Clerk
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and
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After its October 2018 viewing in the Monmouth County Library’s gallery and lobby, a portion of this exhibit will be on display in or near the Archives hallway on the lower level of the Library until Summer 2019.
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Architecture aims at Eternity.

— Sir Christopher Wren, “Of Architecture” (1750)

**Introduction**

This catalog documents another in the annual series of October exhibitions organized since 2000 by the Monmouth County Archives, under the direction of the Monmouth County Clerk. As soon as the theme of buildings in Monmouth County, suggested in October 2017 by County Historian Randall Gabrielan, was approved by County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon, it quickly became evident that the potential number of those qualified far exceeded our resources; indeed, the theme could be used again in the future for another show without overlap with this one. Therefore, the organizers, Robert W. Craig, Randall Gabrielan, Gail Hunton, George Joynson, and Gary Saretzky, met in January 2018 to make decisions on criteria for inclusion and sampling and agreed on the following.

First, the exhibit focuses on “buildings,” not “structures,” a term that may refer to non-inhabitable edifices such as bridges and radio towers. In this exhibit, such non-residential structures are mentioned and illustrated only if they were adjacent to a building that is the primary subject. Second, to emphasize the need for preservation of Monmouth’s architectural heritage, some constructions that no longer exist are showcased. Third, those selected are situated in all parts of Monmouth although not every town is represented; it was felt that choosing one from each town, while a possibly valid approach, would be too limiting and not meet the other project’s goals. Fourth, the exhibit is not limited to the already well-known, exceptional, or historic, some of which are on the National and State registers, but also displays examples of the typical or representative. Fifth, items are not limited by function and include residences and outbuildings, businesses, houses of worship, government offices, schools, and other types. Sixth, viewers will find some by distinguished architects but those designed by unknown or obscure designers may also be found. Finally, some were selected primarily for their association with a story about an owner, unusual function, or an event, rather than for their architectural significance.

With these goals and limitations, the exhibition took shape. Out of more than one hundred possibilities suggested by team members for consideration, seventy were selected, each dedicated to explaining one building or a related group, and team members began drafting captions and locating illustrations. The initial group of writers was joined by Mary Hussey and Kristen Norbut, and late in the process, by Joseph W. Hammond. Where appropriate, documents and photographs from the Monmouth County Archives were used to illustrate the items; however, unavailability was not used as grounds for exclusion and illustrations were drawn from many other sources.

Not surprisingly, since **Residences and Outbuildings** outnumber all other types, there are more of them displayed than others. Seen here are 18th century Dutch domiciles, such as the Cornelius Covenhoven House in Holmdel, 19th and early 20th century mansions built by tycoons, the Modernist Ben and Bernarda Shahn home in Roosevelt, the tents in Ocean Grove, and outbuildings such as the Longstreet Barn. Some of the notable residences, including the Adolph Strauss Mansion and the T. Thomas Fortune House, have been rescued by local historical societies when threatened with demolition. Among lost historically important homes is that of Joshua Huddy in Colts Neck.
Religious Buildings could not encompass every denomination in the County but Catholic, several different Protestant, Jewish, Quaker, and Buddhist houses of worship are on display. These churches, synagogues, and the temple vary in style from the functional Friends Meeting House in Shrewsbury to the ornate Beaux-Arts-Classical Revival St. Catharine Church in Spring Lake. Also in this category is the remarkable Ocean Grove Auditorium, used for Methodist services.

Commercial Buildings vary widely in function and size, from the modest Joseph Bailey trade shop in Keyport to the gigantic Monmouth Park Racetrack. Other commercial facilities include two 18th century taverns, Dr. Robert Cooke’s Medical Office, the Bakery at Allaire Village, the Asbury Park Opera House, Little Silver and Red Bank railroad stations, two hotels, and more.

Government Buildings provide Federal, County, and Municipal examples, both current and non-existent. The Federal is represented by the Asbury Park Post Office, the Sandy Hook Lighthouse, and the U.S. Lifesaving Station in Long Branch. Among those raised by Monmouth County is the former courthouse that was used from 1808 to 1873 on the site of the current Hall of Records. The dwelling at the County’s Poor Farm, in what is now Neptune, is long gone.

Educational Buildings consist mostly of schools, plus the Pollak Theatre at Monmouth University. The octagon school in East Branch, Upper Freehold, was one of only two of its kind in Monmouth County; it was a more popular style elsewhere. The Blansingburg School, a good example of historic preservation, has been restored and moved to a property maintained by the Old Wall Historical Society. The Court Street School in Freehold recalls the period of segregated education.

Clubs and Other Buildings feature still in-use private clubhouses, among them the Red Bank Woman’s Club, while the stunning Pennsylvania Club in West End was demolished long ago. Others on view here had very varied functions. The Phalanstery contained community space and apartments at the North American Phalanx, Monmouth’s famous utopian community active around 1850. Quite different was The Preventorium, a Howell facility built to provide clean air to breathe for urban children at risk for tuberculosis.

This introduction has mentioned only a small portion of those buildings in the exhibition. It is hoped that viewers in the gallery and readers of this catalog will enjoy learning about Monmouth County’s history through these examples of its fascinating and varied architecture.

Gary D. Saretzky, Monmouth County Archivist
Above, Adolph Strauss, original at Atlantic Highlands Historical Society. Above right, building contract, 1892, Monmouth County Archives. Photographs of mansion, courtesy New Jersey Historic Preservation Office.
Residences and Outbuildings

Adolph Strauss Mansion, Atlantic Highlands

Built during the rapid development of high-end “summer cottages” for wealthy New Yorkers near the highest point on the eastern seaboard south of Maine, the Queen Anne Style Strauss Mansion is now the 2½ story, twenty-one room home of the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society, which saved it from demolition in 1980. Born in Germany in 1830, Adolph Strauss, seen here, emigrated with his wife Jeannette (née Rosenthal) in 1856. A successful “notions” merchant, Strauss purchased three adjoining lots in 1892 and contracted with Adolph S. Hutera of New York to build the mansion for $6,800, as per architect Solomon D. Cohen’s plans, with a $500 penalty if the work was not completed by June 1, 1893. With wraparound porches and turrets, the house was aptly named “The Towers” and includes high style Queen Anne features such as the open floor plan, asymmetrical facade, eccentric roof line with multiple peaks, irregular room arrangement, varied windows, elaborate Dutch sash door with “A.S.” in a stained glass transom, and a grand staircase. Located near the top of the hill at 27 Prospect Avenue, the Strauss’s, their seven children, and Adolph’s brother Nathan enjoyed dramatic views of the town, Sandy Hook, and ocean until Adolph’s death in 1905. The family sold it in 1907 and then the mansion had a series of owners; eventually, it became an apartment house. The dilapidated gem was saved through the dedicated efforts of the local historical society, which restored it in phases, with the first floor opened to the public as the Strauss Mansion Museum in 1986. GS


Ben Shahn (1898-1969) was an American artist known for his Social Realist paintings, murals, and photographs. Employed by the Farm Security Administration during the Great Depression, he was commissioned to complete a fresco mural for the school in the New Deal planned community of Jersey Homesteads, renamed Roosevelt in 1945 after FDR’s death. Created wholesale from two square miles of western Monmouth County farmland, Jersey Homesteads was part of a federal program in the 1930s to resettle people from low-income urban areas to the countryside, where they would improve their standard of living by working in relocated local industry, aided by subsistence farming. Many of the first settlers were Jewish garment workers from New York City. The new town’s origins and appearance were different than any other town in Monmouth County. The modernist Bauhaus-influenced buildings, designed by Louis Kahn, appeared quite futuristic in the 1930s, but were appropriate to the experimental nature of the community.

Shahn's mural depicts the town’s founding within the larger theme of immigrants’ hardships and advancements in America. He said that the mural was among his most successful works: “People really look at it. They know it by heart. To them, it’s like the building, a part of the community.” Ben Shahn and his wife Bernarda Bryson Shahn, also an artist who worked on the mural, soon made the town their lifelong home and attracted other notable artists to settle there. In the 1960s, the Shahns built a second story addition designed by the renowned Japanese-American furniture designer and architect George Nakashima (1905-1990). KN


Above, Olivia Wrightson Switz, courtesy, Hartford Family Foundation. Right and opposite, building specifications, 1914, Monmouth County Archives. Color photograph by Randall Gabrielan.
Blossom Cove, Middletown

In 1914, Everett O. Brown, a New York banker, bought a tract on the Navesink River at the end of what was alternately known as Pattersons or Robbins Point. He then hired Ernest A. Arend (1870-1950) to design a large Italian Renaissance Revival house constructed of hollow tile and stucco with a terra cotta tile roof. This style, one of two Arend favored for his residential work, was also employed for the architect’s own home on Broad Street, Red Bank. For Brown, Arend also designed a similarly styled garage, noteworthy in its own right. Brown installed a state of the art water supply system in its basement; during excavation, the skull of a Patterson farmhand was found, buried eighty years previously.

Born in Trenton, where he began his practice, Arend relocated around 1900 to Asbury Park, working there and in the Red Bank area. An early public commission was the still extant North Asbury Park Engine and Hose Company, a Classical Revival structure. He secured numerous municipal and school contracts that included the c.1898 former Neptune High School and the Asbury Park High School and its stadium from the late 1920s. The Monmouth County Archives has nearly 150 Arend building contracts, including Blossom Cove.

After Brown’s death in 1944, under ownership of A&P heiress Olivia Wrightson Switz, 45 Blossom Cove Road became a competitive croquet center in the U.S. but its historical stature stems from a 1956 lawsuit that challenged existing real estate assessment practices. The owners were successful in Switz vs. Middletown: the landmark case established the principle of equalized valuation. The street was later renamed for the Blossom Cove estate. RG


“House Will Cost $26,000.” Red Bank Register, August 5, 1914, 9.

Borden Carriage House-Stable, Rumson

In the 1870s, Matthew C.D. Borden (1843-1912) and Cornelius Bliss (1833-1911), who were related by marriage, began the joint purchase of Rumson property located a short distance west of the future Oceanic Bridge. Borden, an industrial titan, became the most significant figure in the fabric field and one of the richest men in America. The politically-active Bliss served two years as Secretary of the Interior and might have become President had he not declined McKinley’s offer in 1900 of the vice-presidential nomination.

Nearly all the early buildings on their compound have been relocated, burned or replaced but Borden’s carriage house-stable stands out for its design significance, its survivorship through adaptive use, and prominence on the street at 68 West River Road. His architect, Thomas Hastings, was the son of Reverend Thomas Hastings who often served as visiting minister at the Oceanic Presbyterian Church. The younger Hastings also designed this church among other works in the region and became one of the country’s most prominent practitioners with his partner John M. Carrere in the New York firm, Carrere and Hastings. The 1889 Borden project utilized the Shingle and Richardsonian Romanesque styles. By 1893, their work was influenced by the Colonial Revival, as exemplified in the major rebuilding of the William Payne Thompson house at Brookdale Farm, Lincroft, and the former William Meeker house at 80 West River Road.

The carriage house adaptation as a residence, accomplished at an unknown date, retains many original features, including distinctive interior shingles in the large carriage storage room, shingles akin to the scalloped variety in the Presbyterian Church. RG


Monmouth Building Contract No. 2629, April 20, 1889. Monmouth County Archives.
All photographs, courtesy Monmouth County Park System.
Brookdale Farm, Lincroft

Once one of the most powerful stables in the country, Brookdale Farm links to New Jersey’s golden age of thoroughbred horse racing. Racing authority David Dunham Withers acquired 838 acres in Middletown from 1872 to 1888, and named his estate the Brookdale Breeding and Stock Farm. The largest farm in Monmouth dedicated to training and racing thoroughbreds, it included 45 buildings, three training tracks, more than 100 employees and from 90 to 145 racehorses. A 300-foot long training barn built in the 1880s still stands; it stabled 40 brood mares in handsome box stalls.

Racing enthusiast William P. Thompson, a Standard Oil vice president, purchased Brookdale in 1893, beginning 75 years of family ownership, including his son Lewis Thompson and daughter-in-law Geraldine. The Thompsons hired leading trainer James Rowe and constructed the large columned mansion in 1896. Many notable racehorses were raised at Brookdale in alliance with Harry Payne Whitney of neighboring Greentree Stables. The most famous, Regret, became the first filly to win the Kentucky Derby in 1915.

Geraldine Thompson, seen here with Eleanor Roosevelt, was active in public health and juvenile justice reform, and a founder of Monmouth County Organization of Social Services. After her death in 1967, she bequeathed 215 acres of Brookdale to Monmouth County to be used as a park. The mansion became Thompson Park’s Visitor Center, horse barns were repurposed, and the one-mile horse track is now a tree-shaded trail. After a devastating fire in 2006, the Visitor Center, seen here in 1906 and 2010, was reconstructed in honor of Geraldine Thompson and the legacy of Brookdale Farm. GH


“David Dunham Withers.” The Illustrated American (March 1892).

David Dunham Withers Inventory, September 17, 1892 (Book C-3, p. 306). Monmouth County Surrogates Office.


Mrs. Thompson with white hat; Eleanor Roosevelt, center; Freeholder James S. Parkes, far right, c.1949.
Cobble Close, Middletown

In 1908, Herbert Nathan Straus and Percy Straus purchased adjoining farms in the Middletown hill region for country estates. They were sons of Macy’s co-owner Isidor Straus, who with his wife Ida perished on the Titanic in 1912. Percy left following the 1924 destruction by fire of a fine brick house but Herbert and his Francophile wife Therese continued to live in their large, preexisting frame house north of Cooper Road that overlooked the old dairy pictured in the painting.

Since the brothers shared Percy’s stable, the sale of Percy’s property in 1929 required Herbert to build his own. He hired Alfred Hopkins (1870–1941) to design several buildings called a farm group for his equine operation, located on the north side of Cooper. Hopkins, who practiced in New York, linked three disparate specialties. Not only America’s foremost architect of farm groups, Hopkins excelled in designing prisons and banks. Circa 1930, Hopkins designed the Strauss dairy in the French Country style on the south side of Cooper at No. 310. The buildings formed a square on a courtyard perimeter that contained a “close;” ergo, the Cobble Close name. The arcade, built over a pond, became a dominant feature of the plan and the architect’s favorite element.

Herbert died prematurely in 1933 prior to construction of a planned new residence. Therese remained until 1949, when about eighty acres in four sections were sold at auction for low prices. The residence, farm group, and keeper’s house remain individually owned. While Cobble Close was converted to multiple residential units following its 1953 sale to Woodrow Bowne, the group retains the atmosphere of a country estate. RG


Dutch farmers from Long Island began settling in northern Monmouth County in the 1690s, in search of fertile land to own and farm. The Dutch eventually comprised about a third of Monmouth County’s population by the late 18th century, creating a distinctive group of buildings in the historical landscape. Among the first Dutch settlers in Monmouth County was Cornelius Van Couwenhoven (later changed to Covenhoven, then Conover), who purchased land in what is now Holmdel with three other Dutch families. He built the oldest section of this house about 1700 and added the main section within three decades. Characteristic of local Dutch-American dwellings, but larger than most, the 1½ story wood shingled house is constructed on an H-bent structural frame with massive exposed oak beams and a four-room plan without a through-hall. Under the broad gable roof with flared eaves is a spacious second floor with board-partitioned bedrooms. Now 300 years old, this well-preserved house, still a private residence and one of the most significant Dutch houses in New Jersey, is similar to the much celebrated Nicholas Schenck House on display in the Brooklyn Museum.

Although some early Dutch houses have survived, like this one they are often missing their historic farm settings. In the 19th century the Covenhoven farm encompassed almost 200 acres with 13 structures, including a tenant house in addition to the main house, an 84-foot long barn, two large cow sheds, and a variety of outbuildings. At that time there was a lean-to shed on the east end of the house which has since been removed. GH


Covenhoven House, Freehold

Best known for serving as British General Henry Clinton’s headquarters on June 27, 1778, the day before the Battle of Monmouth, this 1752-1753 home with distinctive shingles on Main Street was then owned by elderly Mrs. William A. Covenhoven (a.k.a. Couvenhoven or Conover). Fearing the loss of her valuables, she had her slaves bury her china and plate in the flower garden and hide her best furniture in nearby woods. Sir Henry, noticing the absence of furniture, cajoled her into bringing it back but did not allow it to be brought in; overnight, most of it was stolen. Clinton also prevented Mrs. Covenhoven from using her bedroom and, according to her closest neighbor, Dr. Thomas Henderson, gave her the choice of sleeping with her “wenches” on the floor or in a chair in the “milk-room.”

Also known as the Conover-Hankinson House and the Hankinson Mansion, the main part of the home is 53x32 feet with a 20x30 foot kitchen wing. The two-story house was sturdily built on a twenty-inch stone foundation supported by 12x13 inch corner posts in several rooms and elsewhere. It was further strengthened with 6x6 inch cedar posts along the window frames, which were cut out of solid oak six inches square. The floors are supported by 8x10 inch beams sixteen inches apart with a 12x12 inch center beam. After many owners, some of whom acquired it by Sheriff’s sales, the historic home on the National and State registers of historic places is now restored and owned by the Monmouth County Historical Association. GS


Derrick Longstreet’s Boxwood Cottage, Brielle

The earliest European settlers in Monmouth County, arriving from established New England settlements, were of English descent. The so-called “English cottage” was among the most common dwellings in the county until the early 19th century. This style is typified by a 1½ story, one-room-deep, one or two room plan, and interior gable end chimney. The central entryway is common, as are shed lean-to additions. Most extant houses of this type exist as wings on larger buildings. Boxwood Cottage is significant as one of a few remaining free-standing English cottages in Monmouth County, and the oldest house in Brielle.

Stoffel Langstraat (later anglicized to Longstreet) settled his family near the Manasquan River around 1700. In 1778, Loyalists stationed at Sandy Hook burned the Union Salt Works and all the buildings in town, except that of Stoffel’s grandson, Derrick Longstreet, reportedly spared because he was a Tory. Boxwood Cottage was once thought to be this building; however, a structural examination revealed a construction date closer to 1800-1820. The house was built by Derrick Longstreet (1745-1827) or his son Derrick Longstreet (1767-1848). At various times it lacked a front porch but it now has a front porch similar to those in historic photographs.

The Longstreet name is Dutch yet this house is in the English style, although this is not altogether surprising. The earlier Derrick’s mother, Alice Osborn, and his wife Prudence Parker were English and would have shared cultural styles and traditions with their neighbors and relatives. GH


Above, house; right, barn; and below, garage. Building contract, 1927, Monmouth County Archives.
Dexter Blagden House, Middletown

Built in 1927, this mansion overlooks the Shrewsbury River from a hill at 713 Navesink River Road, formerly Riverside Drive. The plans were designed by New York architect Arthur C. Jackson (1865-1941), a country house specialist, for Dexter Blagden (1870-1948), who was planning to sell his seat on the New York Exchange and had purchased 27 acres on the waterfront. Having previously designed Blagden’s city townhouse, Jackson drew up a house, multcar garage, gardener’s cottage, greenhouse, barns, and other outbuildings, all elaborately detailed and patterned to match the main residence. Situated on a high hill, the house was built on a concrete foundation and features 2½ stories with a five-bay main block Georgian center hall plan, clapboard siding, and a slate, hipped roof. A two-story, seven-bay servants and kitchen wing is affixed roughly on the north. Jackson’s scale drawings, seen here, provide details of construction. Still occupied, the site is readily recognizable by the grape arbor on the lawn.

In 1918, Blagden became the second husband of philanthropist Mabel Whitney (1874-1968), formerly Mrs. Charles H. Sabin. Mabel was on the board of Babies Hospital, New York, 1908-1931, and in 1915 became a founding board member of the Birth Control League of America, renamed Planned Parenthood. She also founded the Monmouth County Maternal Health Center in Asbury Park, and gave her time and donated funds to the Monmouth Council of Girl Scouts, Monmouth Memorial Hospital, Fitkin Hospital, the Tribune Fresh Air Fund, local libraries, and other organizations. A Guernsey cattle breeder and active in the Woman’s Exchange of Monmouth County, she held regular garden tours and other events on her estate.

MH


All photographs, courtesy Township of Ocean Historical Museum. Opposite, far right, Stucile farm with water tower at the current site of the Eden Woolley House. The building next to the water tower is no longer extant.
The Eden Woolley House might have disappeared when its location at the northeast corner of Highway 35 and Deal Road was slated for development. Although in a sad state of neglect, the developer was required to relocate the building in 2005. It was then moved a short distance to the east to 703 Deal Road on the township library’s grounds. Restoring the building proved a monumental undertaking. Incorporated in 1984, the Township of Ocean Historical Museum Association, which had exhibited in limited space at the former Oakhurst School, agreed to rehabilitate the Woolley House in 1999. After the move, the all-volunteer organization undertook a multi-phased, largely grant-funded project that culminated in the opening of the museum in 2009.

Eden Woolley, born in 1805, farmed, served on Ocean’s first township committee, and was a bank director “so occupied with business interests as to (have left) little time for the discussion of political questions.” After his 1892 death, Woolley was buried on the grounds of the Shrewsbury Quaker Meeting House.

Having previously organized short-term exhibitions at the school, the museum has built a fine record of success at the new location. It features permanent exhibitions on township history and mounts a variety of temporary exhibitions on both local subjects and major themes tailored to a local focus. The Museum publishes an excellent newsletter, hosts a regular lecture series, and maintains a research library and oral history program. Museum grounds include a Victorian playhouse rescued in 1985 and the Stucile Farms water tower that is now undergoing rehabilitation. RG


Township of Ocean Historical Museum website. [www.oceanmuseum.org](http://www.oceanmuseum.org)
Above and below, both undated, courtesy Monmouth County Historical Association. Opposite, reproduction of painting by William Hahn, 1879, courtesy Monmouth County Park System.
Richard Hartshorne (1641-1722), an English Quaker, moved to Monmouth County in 1669 and became one of the county’s most prominent early settlers. He acquired more than 2,400 acres by patent and purchase, eventually owning all of the eastern Highlands between the Bayshore and the Navesink River, as well as Sandy Hook. After originally settling on Waycake Creek on the Bayshore, Hartshorne moved to his Highlands property in the 1670s and built a house on the Navesink River. Known as Portland, it served as the seat of the Hartshorne family for eight generations. William Lawrence’s important early 18th century survey of the eastern Highlands and Sandy Hook shows the house at Portland and the extent of land owned by William Hartshorne, who inherited his father’s vast landholdings.

The early Portland house was destroyed by fire in 1834 and rebuilt the next year. In 1875, Benjamin M. Hartshorne, who had accumulated a large fortune in California, began to transform Portland into a grand country estate, making significant improvements to the house, farm buildings and grounds. A network of private carriage paths was laid out on the 700-acre property, many of which survive today as park roads. A riverfront scene painted by William Hahn in 1879 shows family members against the bucolic backdrop of the Hartshorne estate. Robert Hartshorne made extensive alterations to the large Victorian house in 1901, transforming it into the Colonial Revival mansion shown here. When Portland was sold in 1952, the house was preserved in private ownership. Today Hartshorne Woods Park encompasses almost 700 acres of the former Portland estate. GH

Hartshorne Family Papers. Monmouth County Historical Association.

Portland Place Collection. Monmouth County Park System.

“View of Portland, Highlands, NJ.” William Hahn, 1879. Portland Place Collection, Monmouth County Park System.
Holmes-Hendrickson House, Holmdel Township

Sixty years after Dutch settlers first came to Monmouth County, their houses and barns began to show influences of the surrounding English culture. The Holmes Hendrickson House, an iconic Dutch-American house built in 1754, blends traditions and sensibilities from the two colonial cultures. The H-bent (or anchor-bent) structural frame with heavy beams running front to back, and the 4-room plan without a center hall, are defining characteristics of houses built in America by Dutch colonists, while the balanced façade, centrally placed front door and corner fireplaces are English Georgian design elements. The steep sloped roof with wide flaring eaves, split-leaf “Dutch” door and the front stoop (from the Dutch stoep) also reflect the Dutch heritage of its builder.

William Holmes, son of Jonathan Holmes and Teuntje Hendrickson, purchased the land from his parents in 1752. The high selling price four years later, and his extensive purchases of lumber, supplies and labor, indicates that William Holmes constructed the house in 1754. His cousin Garret Hendrickson, who purchased the 250-acre farm, served in the Monmouth Militia. An inventory after his death in 1801 reveals that Garret was a successful farmer with a comfortably furnished dwelling who owned seven slaves. The house, with barns and outbuildings, originally stood on the site of Bell Labs. When the new research facility was built in 1959, it was moved to its present lot donated by William and Mary Riker, near Longstreet Farm. The Monmouth County Historical Association restored the exceptional Dutch-American landmark, which has survived with very few alterations, and operates it as a house museum. GH


Above and opposite page, from building contract, 1876, Monmouth County Archives. Right and below, before and after restoration, courtesy Randall Gabrielan.
The Jane Oakes House, 56 Oakes Road, Little Silver

Jane Oakes bought twelve acres on Little Silver Creek in 1876, the year after the death of her wealthy father, New York broker and shipping merchant, William Austin. She then hired William J. Merritt, also of New York, to design a then-pretentious Second Empire house. Joseph McCaldin, who bought the place from Oakes in 1903, retained it until its 1928 sale to Harold Hartshorne, a champion figure skater and member of the New York Stock Exchange, who moved the house to its present 56 Oakes Road location in order to build one of Little Silver’s finest mansions.

The building, which lost its porch, tower and widow’s walk during the move, remained in service as Hartshorne’s guest house and as domicile for subsequent owners, but had reached a state of despairing disrepair when bought in 2004 by Ray and Jean Bruening, buyers determined to restore. The fortunate survival of a building contract with plans at the Monmouth County Archives enabled the Bruenings to rebuild the missing elements, a legitimate restoration practice as long as faithful to the original. The challenging and costly project was accomplished by architect Rick Velsor of Fair Haven and builder George Westin. The height of the tower exceeded the current zoning limit but a variance was obtained in recognition by the borough and neighbors of the property’s enhancement to the area. At the 2005 Monmouth County Historical Commission Preservation Award ceremony, Ray commented on his and Jean’s commitment to the project, “I gave her an unlimited budget and she exceeded it.” RG

Building Contract No. 196, October 21, 1876, filed October 26, 1876. Monmouth County Archives.


John Burrowes House, Matawan

Situated on Main Street in Middletown Point, the main portion of this 2½ story high-style Georgian house, built about 1753, measures about 30x30 feet. A small rear lean-to and a two-story wing has been added. Although some current features, such as the front door, are reconstructions based on regional examples, the house retains its historical character and deserves its National Register status. Once thought to date to 1723, too early for its stylistic elements, the house is probably on the site of an earlier structure operated as a tavern by Hope Taylor Watson in the late 1740s. The property was acquired by John Burrowes (1718-1785), known as “The Corn King,” between 1749 and 1769 (the chain of title is incomplete), possibly when he married Mrs. Watson, the widow of his partner, Captain John Watson. The Burrowes’ seven children, three of whom died at childbirth, included ardent patriot John Jr., who during the Revolutionary War, helped organize the First New Jersey Company of soldiers in his father’s yard. In 1778, a raiding party of Tories came looking for John Jr., who escaped but his young wife was attacked and injured. John Sr. was taken captive and his mills, granaries, storehouses and furniture were burned before he was exchanged for a captured Loyalist. John Jr. later became Monmouth County Sheriff as seen in the displayed 1783 document from the Monmouth County Archives. The Burrowes mansion was eventually acquired for a museum by the Borough of Matawan, which stabilized and repaired it with the help of grants from the Monmouth County Historical Commission. GS


John Imlay House, Allentown

Born in 1749, John Imlay was raised in New Sharon, a few miles from “Allen’s Town.” After a successful career as a Philadelphia merchant engaged in the West Indies trade and profitable investments in privateers during the Revolutionary War, he built an outstanding 8,000 square foot Georgian mansion at what is now 28 South Main Street in Allentown. The main framed 51x41 structure is on a brick foundation, with a later addition. Completed in about 1790, the 15-room home has eleven fireplaces, each with a unique mantel, including one shown here. The four main rooms on the first floor are served by two massive chimneys with fireplaces for each. In Philadelphia, Imlay purchased hand-blocked London-made wall paper in 1794; it was later sold and installed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Winterthur Museum in Delaware. Photographs by Nathaniel R. Ewan from the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1936 include the graceful staircase with scroll-sawn ornaments under each riser.

While in Allentown, Imlay built a saw mill, operated several farms, and became a director of the Trenton Banking Company. After his death in 1813, when he bequeathed thousands of acres of land and stock in banks and bridges to his family, his son William occupied the home until 1880. In the early 1900s, the mansion became Miss Emma Gordon’s rooming house. Dr. Walter Farmer purchased it from Gordon’s estate in 1936 for a hospital and added a maternity facility next door. A later owner, Stanley Klos, began preservation in 1985; it is now used commercially. GS


Imlay, John. Last Will, 1813. Case #9035M. Monmouth County Surrogate.


Joseph T. Low Residence, Rumson

Joseph Tompkins Low was a successful New York City businessman when he purchased a portion of the Seabury Tredwell Estate in Rumson in 1882. President of a dry goods firm, Joseph T. Low & Co., he also served as director for the Hanover Fire Insurance Co., the Equitable Life Insurance Co., the Safe Deposit Co. of New York, and others. About 1884, he commissioned prominent New York architect Arthur Bates Jennings, who designed churches, other public buildings, and homes, to plan a summer cottage, a mix of Shingle and Queen Anne styles, on the 22-acre property along the Avenue of Two Rivers that spanned the distance between Rumson and Ridge roads. Built in 1885, the Low house featured sleeping porches, large airy verandas, cone-topped turrets, and whimsical decorative touches, providing a sense of playfulness and relaxation to an elegant summer retreat.

Jennings’ front elevation drawing (seen here) highlights the details that gave the home such character: the latticework in the uppermost gable, the sunburst design on the porte cochere, the scalloped shingles on the second story, and the stained glass windows in the turret. The building contract with Cloughly Brothers Builders stipulated ash floors with doubled borders of walnut, 36-inch high wainscoting on the first floor, five-inch brass tumbler locks and face plates on the first floor doors, and white porcelain knobs. The ceilings were eleven feet for the first floor, ten feet for the second, and nine for the third. Unfortunately, this beautiful home has been lost to history and the property has been subdivided. MH


Joshua Huddy’s House, Colts Neck

If Captain Joshua Huddy’s substantial house, built about 1760, was standing today, there is no doubt it would be a historic landmark. In 1778, Huddy resided there when he married the widow of Levy Hart, a Jewish tavern keeper who had died in 1775. In 1842, the house, seen here, still bore bullet holes and the marks of fire from an attack in September 1780 by 60-70 Loyalist “refugees,” led by escaped slave Colonel Tye. Huddy, shooting from both first and second floor windows, put up a vigorous defense, assisted by 20-year-old Lucretia Emmons, who carried his cartridges and rammed powder in muskets left by Patriot militia. When Tye’s forces tried to burn him out, Huddy surrendered and his captors attempted to take him across the bay to New York. Patriots fired from the beach and Huddy, despite being shot in the hip, swam to shore and escaped. Not so lucky, Tye died from lockjaw (tetanus) from a gunshot wound to the wrist. A September 1780 letter, on view, from Nathaniel Scudder to his brother described the Colts Neck incident. In 1842, attorney Thomas G. Haight lived in the home with his family, including son Charles, born in 1838. Thomas G. Haight was a New Jersey Assemblyman in 1833-1835 and Chosen Freeholder in 1847, the year he died. In Freehold during the Civil War, General Charles Haight served as Camp Vredenburgh’s commander, then served twice in Congress before becoming Monmouth County Prosecutor, 1873-1891. The house’s approximate location is designated by a historic marker on Heyer’s Mill Road near Rt. 537. GS


“Extract of a letter from Monmouth (New Jersey) to a gentleman in this city.” *Pennsylvania Packet*, October 3, 1780. [https://www.genealogybank.com](https://www.genealogybank.com)


Scudder, Nathaniel to Joseph Scudder, Letter, September 11, 1780. New Jersey Historical Society.

Julian Mitchell (1851-1926), the last major entertainment figure from the golden age of theatre to reside in the environs of Elberon, was not so much drawn to the area as born to it. However, his paternity is in doubt, as different sources describe him as either the son or nephew of famed actress Maggie Mitchell. Julian Mitchell later made his mark as a stage director, garnering him the wealth that enabled his building a fine Colonial Revival house at 344 Norwood Avenue. It is little known that Charles A. Rich is the architect.

Mitchell was born in New York in 1851, educated in its public schools, attained employment as call-boy at Niblo’s Garden at age fifteen, then five years later produced his first play in which he also danced. He danced in many of his early productions, last appearing on the stage in the 1910 Ziegfeld Follies. Mitchell was deaf but skilled in instructing girls to sing and dance and choreograph to music he never heard. Divorced from dancer Georgia Lake, he married Bessie Clayton (1883-1948) in 1899, a “gorgeous blonde” and one of Broadway’s greatest dancers.

Rich (1841-1943) practiced early in his career with Hugh Lamb in the New York firm Lamb and Rich, then individually after they parted in 1899. His diverse assignments included educational buildings for Dartmouth and Smith colleges, Wesleyan University, a no-longer extant New York theatre called The Playhouse, and a Jersey City office for Colgate. Rich’s fine 1906 house for Mitchell has not only been misattributed, but suffers from neglect that threatens its survival. RG


Julian Mitchell Residence, West Long Branch. Monmouth Building Contract No. 5453, October 22, 1904. Monmouth County Archives. [One of several contracts.]


Bessie Clayton, the second Mrs. Julian Mitchell, courtesy, Billy Rose Collection, New York Public Library.
Diagram, courtesy John Fitchen. Recent photographs by Gail Hunton.
Longstreet Dutch Barn, Holmdel Township

In 1753, Swedish naturalist Peter Kalm remarked on the prevalence of New Jersey barns built by the Dutch, noting that “the whole building was very great, so as almost to equal a small church.” Even with their increasing assimilation after the American Revolution, the Dutch continued to favor their traditional building practices. Hendrick Hendrickson, a third generation American of Dutch descent and a judge and a man of wealth and property, built a big traditional Dutch barn in 1792 for his daughter and son-in-law Aaron Longstreet. Derived from the medieval loshoe or einbarn of the Netherlands, the Dutch barn is nearly square, with big wagon doors located on the gable ends and a broad gable roof sloping down to low side walls. Aside from its distinctive exterior appearance, the main feature of the Dutch barn is its H-bent frame, composed of large interior posts spanned by immense anchor beams of locally-harvested oak and chestnut (1.5x28 feet in the Longstreet example). The true form 40x50 foot Longstreet Dutch barn has a 3-aisle arrangement. The wide center aisle formed by the H-bents was used for threshing and wagon drive-through, flanked by smaller side aisles for keeping livestock. The roof and walls of these barns were typically covered with hand-riven cedar shingles, 32 inches long, and originally unpainted. Once common in Dutch-settled areas of New York and New Jersey, Dutch barns are now rare. The Longstreet barn is one of only three true form Dutch barns remaining in Monmouth County and the only one protected by National Register of Historic Places listing. GH


Merino Hill (Lawrence-Wright Farm), Upper Freehold

Large farmsteads with generously sized houses and barns, owned by the same families for generations, are the hallmark of Upper Freehold’s historical landscape. Merino Hill, among the finest of these historic farms, is associated with the early settlement of Upper Freehold and with Samuel Gardiner Wright (1781-1845), a leading figure in New Jersey history as an iron furnace owner, merchant, agriculturalist, and Representative to Congress. The house incorporates one of the oldest structures in Upper Freehold and the main block is the best example of high style Federal architecture in Monmouth County, all the more remarkable given its state of preservation. The site’s historic character is enhanced by its preserved farmland setting and complement of nineteenth century farm buildings, including an 1832 storehouse of stone construction pictured here.

Robert Lawrence built the oldest part of the house about 1735. Sarah Wright, whose grandparents purchased the property in 1770, inherited the farm and married her distant cousin Samuel Gardiner Wright. Samuel developed the Wright farm into a country estate, which he named Merino Hill after importing one of this country’s earliest flocks of Merino sheep, a valuable breed from Spain.

Architectural historian Constance Grieff contended that Samuel Wright modeled his country house, “an ambitious stately structure,” after the William Bingham House, the showplace of Philadelphia at the time. The three-story brick Federal Style mansion, built in 1810, is notable for its imposing scale, gracious stair hall, fanlight with cast iron tracery, and finely crafted mantles and woodwork, all of which were extensively documented by the Historical American Buildings Survey in 1940. GH


Stereographic views by Pach, c.1880, from color copies donated to the Monmouth County Historical Association by George H. Moss Jr. Below, recent color photograph by Gary D. Saretzky.
Ocean Grove Tent Dwellings, Neptune Township

Ocean Grove was hewn from a rustic, seashore location in 1869 by Methodists who followed their tradition of summer camp meeting sites. Laid-out behind about one-half mile of ocean front, the land, held by the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, was given over to facilities, notably religious structures, erected to suit open air events that included worship, lectures, music and revivals. The visitor accommodations built on land leased by the Association included cottages and lodging places that eventually included substantial hotels. The more spartan resting places were tents, initially canvas-mounted on the ground.

Morris Daniels, an Ocean Grove chronicler in 1919, noted that the tents were the “abode of the people” on what was primarily a campground. After initially renting them, Ocean Grove purchased fifty new tents in 1871, then 100 more later in the season, eventually owning 201 by year’s end. By 1879, tents were primarily arranged around and near the Auditorium, the focal point of Association activity.

Over time, the tents acquired their present character with the rear half a permanent structure built on a slab while the front section consists of canvas that is erected and taken down each season. Tent life became so firmly fixed as a Grove tradition that families renew leases annually over long periods; a waiting list developed. At last count, 114 tents were leased for a season that runs from May 15-September 15. Space inside tents is minimal, making effective arrangement of essentials a must. Tents look alike so some lessees distinguish theirs by distinctive canopy coloration. RG


“A Day at Ocean Grove.” Christian Advocate, September 7, 1876.


Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association. Annual Reports.
Photographs, courtesy Parker Homestead — 1665, Inc.
Parker Homestead, Little Silver

The Parker Homestead reflects the typical expansion of old preserved Monmouth County farms wherein the house was built-up to accommodate occupants’ growing needs and wealth. Parker is singular for having remained in its founding family for more than three centuries.

Scientific research dates the earliest part of the house, the two-bay section on the west, or left side when viewed from the front, as c.1721. Originally, it had 1½ stories. The three bays to the east, when added later in the eighteenth century, also had 1½ stories; it became the main block and was raised to two stories around 1800. The original section became two stories early in the twentieth century. Lean-tos appeared around the early nineteenth century on the east and after 1907 on the west, replacing an earlier one. The porch was added in 1912. The house, open only in recent years, is undergoing phased restoration which may bar seeing the entirety until completed.

The corporate name of the holding public entity, Parker Homestead – 1665, Inc., reflects the family claim for ownership of their once extensive tract where an older house presumably once stood, although documentary evidence of that date is elusive. The place was bequeathed to the borough after Julia Parker’s death in 1995.

Two barns on the premises enhance the farm visitation experience. In 2018, a sweet potato frame, a structure that aids the growth of young sweet potato plants, one perhaps unique in New Jersey, is undergoing restoration. RG


In Upper Freehold, Quakers were among the earliest settlers beginning in the 1690s. They often favored brick for their better houses and the tradesmen they hired used bricks that were "vitrified" on one end to make decorative patterns in exterior walls. ("Vitrified" means made through heat to produce a surface with a glass-like finish. Because of their dark colors, they have long been mistakenly called "glazed" bricks, even though glazes were never applied.) Such buildings were chiefly built in Quaker-settled areas of southwestern New Jersey, where more such buildings are known than from any other region or State in the nation.

One shown here with varying brick patterns stood near Doctor’s Creek on land that William Montgomerie acquired about 1702, and was probably built 1720s-1730s. When bricklayers completed the stringcourse between the first and second stories, they discovered they would not have enough vitrified bricks to complete the second story in the Flemish checker pattern they employed for the first. Thus they improvised two other patterns to “stretch” the remaining vitrified bricks, leaving four different patterns in one wall. This was a unique, unintended combination not found on any other Delaware Valley house. Long derelict, this house was demolished c.2000. Robert Montgomery, William’s grandson, had “Eglinton,” another patterned brickwork house, built in 1773, but it was demolished in 1975. A third survives along Wygant Road. Built in 1766 and painted white, the construction date and first owner’s initials are in black. In the detail map, red indicates surviving brick buildings; yellow, surviving but stuccoed or painted over; and white, demolished. RWC


Grant began vacationing in Long Branch in 1867 and spent his summers at this 28-room “cottage” between 1870 and 1884, when Ocean Avenue was lined with similarly impressive shore getaways. He bought this first “Summer White House” for $32,000 on January 24, 1870, with funds from three wealthy friends. Seen in an early view, the cottage had been built in 1866 in the Stick Style popularized by architect Gervase Wheeler. It featured a facade emphasizing the underlying wood structure, a generous porch, and many windows for good air circulation. Impoverished by the crimes of his business partner Ferdinand Ward and the Panic of 1884, Grant worked there on Civil War essays for Century magazine that led to an offer made at the cottage in late summer 1884 to write his autobiography. After returning to his New York home in October, Grant was diagnosed with tongue cancer, probably from smoking cigars, and did not return to Long Branch. Encouraged by Mark Twain, he finished his memoir just before his death on July 23, 1885. In 1893, subsequent cottage owner Bertha R. Price made significant alterations by architect Emile W. Grauert, including “an eight inch wall of hard brick laid in lime mortar, in place of all existing outside walls,” among other specifications recorded in building contracts at the Archives. However, when the addition in the later view was added has not been determined. Before Penn Station’s destruction, which sparked historic preservation activism, the deteriorated cottage on the grounds of the Stella Maris Retreat Center was demolished in 1963. GS

Articles of Agreement, Bertha R. Price and Richard H. Hughes, November 18, 1893, and January 17, 1894. Building Contracts, Long Branch, Monmouth County Archives.

Articles of Agreement, Bertha R. Price and James Barham, December 6, 1893. Building Contracts, Long Branch, Monmouth County Archives.

Deed, Howard L. Potter & Wife [Louisa] to Ulysses S. Grant, January 24, 1870, Monmouth County Deed Book 222, page 29, et seq.

Deed, Estate of Ulysses S. Grant to Edward A. Price, October 4, 1893, Monmouth County Deed Book, Deed Book 447, page 527, et seq.

Robert Collier Estate, Marlboro

Peter Collier (1849-1909), an Irish immigrant who began his namesake publishing house with Catholic literature, became a sportsman at his Eatontown farm, “The Kennals,” prior to planning for a country estate in the Wickatunk section of Marlboro. Peter died before being able to build but his dream was fulfilled soon by his son Robert (1876-1918) on 350 acres.

Robert Collier hired John Russell Pope as architect for a frame Colonial Revival country house that would serve as a summer sporting retreat. The costly residence, sited on a high hill, features a Mount Vernon look-alike porch designed by one of American’s most prominent practitioners. Pope designed many country houses but is best known for his Washington, D.C. projects, including the Jefferson Memorial, National Gallery of Art, and National Archives.

Collier became a Monmouth aviation pioneer using a polo field on his property. Inspired by a Wright flight at Governors Island in September 1909, he became the first private owner of a Wright Model B. Aviation was the highlight of his October 1911 party where numerous Monmouth residents took their first flight. In 1911, when Collier became president of the Aero Club of America, he donated a trophy later named for him that is now aviation’s most prestigious award. Robert’s widow Sarah Steward Collier, a devout Catholic who had a rare private chapel built in the house, donated the property in 1927 to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The varied activities of the Sisters include Collier High School, an alternative facility for students with special needs. Anticipating the site for their graves prompted Collier’s estate name, “Rest Hill.”

RG


“Gathering of Farmers, R.J. Collier Will Be Host at a Three-Day Festival.” Red Bank Register, October 11, 1911, 1.


“Robert J. Collier Dead.” Red Bank Register, November 13, 1918, 9.

Shadow Lawn I and II, West Long Branch

The long history of Shadow Lawn, 400 Cedar Avenue, requires numeric identification to distinguish the present Woodrow Wilson Hall, or Shadow Lawn II, from the original mansion, or Shadow Lawn I, which attained fame when President Wilson conducted his 1916 front porch re-election campaign here.

John A. McCall, President, New York Life Insurance Company, built the original in 1904, but enjoyed the house only briefly as he became enmeshed in a life insurance scandal that cost him his job and fortune. The Henry G. Creiger design for an Italian Renaissance Revival mansion was obscured by over-sized Colonial Revival decorative elements. Other short-term owners followed. Local businessmen, who believed that securing a U.S. president could restore Long Branch’s faded glamour, attracted Woodrow Wilson as summer tenant in 1916.

The buyer in 1918, Hubert Templeton Parson, president of Woolworth’s, saw Shadow Lawn destroyed by fire in 1927. He secured country house specialist Horace Trumbauer to design an Italian Renaissance palazzo that for a long time was the costliest house built in Monmouth County. Completed in 1930 after numerous and costly change orders, Mr. and Mrs. Parson hoped to secure social stature at a grand opening, but were shunned by the patrician old money class as parvenus.

Parson, who was forced into retirement at age 60 in 1932, was unable to maintain the place and lost it to tax foreclosure. The lavish furnishings were sold at a spectacular auction in 1940, two weeks before Parson died.

After interim educational use, Monmouth Junior College purchased the building in 1955. The school, now Monmouth University, named the building, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1985, for President Wilson. RG


*Self-Guided Tour of Wilson Hall, A National Historic Landmark.* West Long Branch, New Jersey: Monmouth University, n.d.

T. Thomas Fortune House, Red Bank

Timothy Thomas Fortune (1856-1928) was born into slavery in Marianna, Florida. Emancipation and race-fueled threats in the post-war period forced the family to move to Jacksonville, where T. Thomas attended school and learned the printer’s trade. Fortune attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., until financial hardships compelled him to drop out and return to print media, the perfect place for his budding political voice. After launching his first newspaper, *The New York Globe*, in 1881 at age 24, he worked in the newspaper business for nearly 30 years and authored more than 20 books. During Fortune's editorial direction at *The New York Age*, it became the nation's most influential African American newspaper, protesting lynching, mob violence, and disenfranchisement.

In 1901, Fortune and his family moved from New York and occupied this house, which he named Maple Hall. Here he entertained prominent African American figures such as Booker T. Washington and became involved with the local black community. The house, part of which dates from the late 18th century, had been expanded and remodeled in the late 19th century in the French Second Empire Style, with a characteristic mansard roof and arched doorway. The Vaccarelli (a.k.a. Vorcarella) family purchased the property in 1919 and operated a bakery there for most of the 20th century. After being vacant for more than a decade with an uncertain future, the house is undergoing renovation and will reopen as the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center. It is one of only two National Historic Landmarks in New Jersey significant for its role in African American history. KN/GH


National Register of Historic Places, T. Thomas Fortune House, Red Bank, Monmouth County, New Jersey, National Register #76001171.


Right, The Navaho at red arrow, and above and below.
Construction of The Reservation capped the career of noted entertainment figure Nathan Salsbury (1846-1902), an Illinois native who as a boy enlisted in the Union Army. He served multiple tours, the second following mustering out after being wounded. His claim to have left the army with substantial gambling winnings appears folklore at best or myth but his warm personality that entertained at war camps led to a life in the theater. He began with a lowly stage start in Grand Rapids, Michigan, then earned local renown with a four-year run as a comedian at the Boston Museum. He subsequently established the Salsbury Troubadours, a traveling company that toured both sides of the Atlantic and became his true métier.

While with the Troubadours, Salsbury met William Cody. The two launched “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show,” Salsbury’s greatest success. Salsbury needed a home base, so Frank Maeder, his manager who lived at 331 Liberty Street, Long Branch, attracted Salsbury to the adjoining lot at 329 where Salsbury built a no-longer surviving house. Salsbury’s memory endures there as a consequence of his investment.

In 1900, Salsbury purchased the neglected site of the East End Hotel, 16.66 acres in North Long Branch, and formed fourteen lots to build a colony called “The Reservation.” Nine of eleven planned houses were built, each given an Indian name. Salsbury did not live to enjoy the fruits of this investment.

The buildings, buffeted by storms at exposed locations that required considerable upkeep, were lost except “The Navaho.” The Reservation property, after a checkered 1960s-1970s history, was acquired by the County of Monmouth, which turned it into Seven Presidents Park. RG


“Nate Salsbury’s New Reservation.” *Long Branch Daily Record,* August 31, 1900.

“Nathan Salsbury [obituary].” *Freehold Transcript,* January 2, 1903.


Above, Walnford c.1910, and recent photographs, left and opposite, courtesy Monmouth County Park System. Below, recent photograph by Gary D. Saretzky.
Walnford, Upper Freehold Township

Like many colonial settlements in New Jersey, Walnford originated as a mill site. The first grist mill was built in 1734, and within ten years it was part of a village with a brick house, fulling mill, and cooper’s shop. Later owners added a blacksmith shop, saw mill, tenant houses, and farm buildings. In 1772, prosperous Philadelphia merchant Richard Waln purchased the property and named it Walnford. The mills and farm served as a production source for Waln’s international trade, providing commodities such as lumber, flour, and woolen cloth. Richard and Elizabeth Waln built a gracious country house for their family in 1773, designed in a simplified Georgian style reflecting their Quaker sensibilities. Only a handful of pre-Revolutionary dwellings in the region rivaled the Waln house in size, style, and conveniences such as bedroom closets. At the time, the typical house in Monmouth County was 1½ stories, with one or two rooms on the first floor and a garret above.

Five generations of Walns owned Walnford, as it evolved with changing times from a mill village and farm to a pastoral country estate. Sarah Waln Hendrickson, who managed Walnford for over 50 years, made substantial investments, rebuilding the gristmill in 1873 with a modern turbine and adding a fashionable carriage house in 1879. Richard Waln Meirs and his wife Anne undertook extensive work on the buildings and grounds about 1910, changing its appearance from a working farm to a country retreat. The historic site has been restored by the Monmouth County Park System and features the county’s only operating grist mill. GH

Walnford Collection.
Monmouth County Park System.

Top, house; below, garage. Photos by Randall Gabrielan.
William A. Street House, Rumson

The house that William Augustus Street (c.1844-1924) built at 79 Rumson Road at the southwest corner of the Avenue of Two Rivers is the only one in the region that maintains integrity of design by the distinguished New York firm of McKim, Mead and White. Street was a senior partner in the firm R. W. Cameron & Co., exporters to Australia, director of a number of firms in New York, and an official with the Seabright Beach Club and Rumson County Club. Charles Follen McKim and Stanford White, who often worked collaboratively, were the principal design partners in a firm where many younger architects trained and worked in concert.

The architects planned a long, narrow house that faced north and built with a number of towers and porches, elements the firm placed in other period designs. The Shingle Style house was destroyed by fire prior to completion in 1883. It was rebuilt and occupied but fell into disrepair by the 1980s, when it began to be restored by several owners. Earlier, owner Frederick H. Douglas (no relation to the abolitionist Frederick Douglass), was killed in the September 1958 plunge into Newark Bay of a Jersey Central train.

The lot shrunk through subdivisions over the years and an early garage was converted into a separate dwelling. A fine later addition was another garage at an Avenue of Two Rivers entrance that George Rudolph designed to mesh stylistically with the house. Other nearby surviving McKim, Mead and White commissions have been remodeled beyond recognition, including Rohallion, thus elevating the distinctiveness of the Street residence. RG


Left to right, William Rutherford Mead, Charles Follen McKim, and Stanford White, c.1905, courtesy Randall Gabrielan.
Below, copy of October 13, 1864, Certificate of Incorporation in County Clerk ledger, Monmouth County Archives. Photos by Randall Gabrielan.
Religious Buildings

All Saints Memorial Church, Middletown

A visit to the All Saints campus in the Navesink section of Middletown, centered about a small, Gothic Revival church built on a hill at 202 Navesink Avenue, may replicate a rural nineteenth century house of worship experience. The buildings, designed by the father-son team of famed ecclesiastical architects Richard Upjohn and Richard M. Upjohn, originated as a private chapel for the Milnor and Stephens families, early Newark summer residents. After the cornerstone was laid on October 7, 1863, consecration followed the next year as a memorial to deceased members of the two families.

The atmosphere of the well-preserved site is enhanced by ancillary buildings which include an 1870 rectory constructed of the same local peanut stone, a compatible parish house from 1866 and rare surviving c.1907 carriage sheds. The cemetery, beginning at the roadside and progressing up a hill, reflects the mid-nineteenth century beautiful park movement. Graves date from the church’s origins to the recent past; some embrace the peanut stone material.

The church is richly decorated with stained glass, most designed by the New Jersey studios of Doremus, Bloomfield, while three on the western wall of the transept are twentieth century works from Payne Studios, Paterson. One that depicts the Virgin Mary is by the J.R. Lamb Studio, New York. Numerous memorial plaques that commemorate past parishioners are set in an intimate interior, which in addition to worship, can be experienced as a concert venue. Indeed, the parish is esteemed as a community resource. All Saints was entered on the National Register in 1974 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1988. RG


Above, Bishops of the A.M.E. Church, copyright by John H.W. Burley, printed by J.H. Daniels, Boston, 1876, from Library of Congress. Below, detail from 1851 Jesse Lightfoot map of Monmouth County, copy available at Monmouth County Archives. Opposite page, photo by Kristen Norbut, Monmouth County Park System.
A.M.E. Zion Church, Eatontown

The African Methodist Episcopal Church is the earliest remaining house of worship in Eatontown. Built in 1846, the church serves a substantial African American population in the area, present since the founding of the county in the late 17th century. Sometime before 1680, Lewis Morris purchased 70 slaves from Barbados to work at his ironworks in nearby Tinton Falls. These workers represented the largest slave population by a single owner in Monmouth County.

Discrimination towards black worshipers in the eighteenth century was a problem in many Christian denominations. In response, Richard Allen, a former slave and the founder of the Free African Society, established the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia in 1794. The A.M.E. congregation in Eatontown formed in 1840, more than two decades before the abolition of slavery in the United States. While New Jersey formally initiated abolition in 1804, the process was gradual. At the time of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in 1865, there were still about 16 people enslaved in the state.

The vernacular style Eatontown A.M.E Church was constructed with the aid of a carpenter named Isaac T. Lane, hired for $15. The locally sourced timber was hauled by oxen to the site. The workers dug out the basement and raised the frame by hand. The church’s location can be seen on the displayed 1851 Lightfoot map. The bell tower was added in 1887. Many decorative elements including the central double doorway and the round headed windows date to Colonial Revival renovations undertaken in 1913.


Photographs, courtesy Monmouth County Park System.
Buddhist Temple Choephel-Ling, Howell

Situated on a quiet street in the Freewood Acres section of Howell Township, the Chinese architecture of the Choephel-Ling Temple stands out among smaller ranch style houses in the neighborhood. The temple was built in 1976 by the small Kalmyk community living in the area. The building was designed in the same style as the Golden Pavilion, built by the Chinese in 1930 for the Chicago World’s Fair.

The Kalmyks descended from a formerly nomadic Mongolian culture that settled on the western banks of the Volga River in the 1630s, in what is now Russia. Struggles with the Russian government induced many Kalmyks to migrate in the early 20th century. In 1943, the Soviet Union exiled the remaining population. Refugees arriving in New Jersey after World War II were initially housed in a former Japanese internment camp near Vineland but, by the 1950s, a connection with the Russian Cossack population living in the area drew the Kalmyk community north to Howell.

The Dalai Lama visited Freewood Acres on his tour of the United States in 1979. The community remains active, with additional immigration to the area helping to maintain membership. The building has undergone many changes in the past 40 years, most notably the removal of the majority of the wooden decorative elements on the vertical wooden siding which has been replaced with vinyl siding and the diamond pane casement windows, replaced with 1/1 sash. The form, footprint, and décor in the pediment of the vestibule remain. KN


Congregation Brothers of Israel Synagogue, Long Branch

Congregation Brothers of Israel was one of the earliest synagogues in Monmouth County, reflecting the growth of the Jewish population in Long Branch. Jewish settlement in the county originated in the early 1700s but sizable Jewish communities did not develop until the rise of the seashore resorts in the late 1800s. Long Branch became the major Jewish community and the first synagogue, Temple Beth Miriam, was built there in 1888 on North Bath Avenue, catering to affluent German Jews who summered in Long Branch. Beginning in the 1890s, less affluent Eastern European Jews moved to Long Branch and became active in the resort industry as proprietors of small hotels, boardinghouses, shops, and trades and services. Many differences separated the new immigrants from the Americanized German Jews, who practiced Reform Judaism.

As a result of this new wave of immigrants, an Orthodox congregation of Eastern European Jews organized in 1898. Congregation Brothers of Israel held services in various locations until this synagogue was erected on Second Avenue in 1918. The building’s Romanesque Revival-influenced facade was elaborately decorated with buff and red patterned brick, numerous stained glass windows, a classical portico and Byzantine details. Three prominent circular stained glass windows depicted the Torah, Star of David, and the menorah. The sanctuary interior was open to the upper floor with a balcony on three sides and featured a beautiful coffered pressed metal ceiling as seen in the accompanying photograph. The congregation built a new synagogue on Park Avenue in Elberon in 1977. Abandoned, the historic synagogue was demolished in the 1980s. GH


Works Progress Administration, New Jersey Writers’ Project. Entertaining a Nation: The Career of Long Branch. City of Long Branch: Long Branch, New Jersey, 1940. (Photograph of façade.)
Escaping religious persecution in New England and New York, the Quakers (Religious Society of Friends) were among the first white settlers in Monmouth County, arriving from Long Island under the terms of the April 4, 1665, Navesink Patent obtained from Governor Nicholls. From the Lenape, they purchased a large, roughly triangular tract of land, encompassing much of present day eastern Monmouth County, and settled in Middletown and especially Shrewsbury, a town much larger geographically than now. Their first meeting house, built by 1672, in what became Little Silver, burned. Subsequently, on March 5, 1695, as seen in the deed excerpt, three members purchased an acre from John Lippencott for five pounds at the northeast section of Shrewsbury’s historic Four Corners, for a meeting house and cemetery. The first two buildings erected there also burned and the current one with two stories, 61x40 feet, was completed in 1816, using bricks from its predecessor to reinforce the frame structure’s walls. Except from 1907 to 1943, when the congregation met in Manasquan, it has been in continuous use for monthly meetings. The 1940 Historical American Buildings Survey drawings accurately depict the symmetrical design of this elegant, unostentatious structure, consistent with Quaker values of modesty and industriousness. The classic Quaker dual-cell style provides separate spaces for men and women. A movable partition opens the space for business or other purposes. A balcony with additional seating extends around three sides. The outhouse in the Ground Floor Plan was replaced by a restroom during renovations after yet another fire in 1968, when a kitchen and fellowship hall were added as well. GS


7 switches to control arch lights.
4 " " " balcony "
2 " " " under "
6 " " " border "

We will place a nickel plated name plate on each switch to designate circuit controlled by same.

**WIRING:**

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<td>55 lights each,</td>
<td>385 lights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balcony</td>
<td>24 - 5 &quot; clusters,</td>
<td>120 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Balcony</td>
<td>24 - 5 &quot;</td>
<td>120 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Borders</td>
<td>40 - &quot; each,</td>
<td>120 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch Board</td>
<td>1 - &quot;</td>
<td>1 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>746 &quot;</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance 54 lights to be distributed in the Building as your Committee may direct.
Ocean Grove Auditorium, Neptune Township

Opened on July 1, 1894, this magnificent wood-and-steel frame building, 225x161 feet, succeeded more modest gathering places beginning with an outdoor preacher’s stand in 1870, the year the State of New Jersey issued the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association (OGCMA) charter. Initially, meeting attendees sat in the shade of trees, enjoying the mysteriously mosquito-free air freshened by ocean breezes. By 1880, 6,000 or more Methodists were praying at a covered assembly hall. But OGCMA President Ellwood H. Stokes, who served from 1869 until his death in 1897, saw a need for expansion. In 1883, he began advocating for a new one that would seat up to 10,000. New York architect Fred T. Camp’s design was accepted in October 1893 and ground was broken that December. To make space for it, a row of the famous tents used by the summer residents to this day had to be removed. Camp’s plan called for 4,750 installed seats on the main floor and 2,653 in the gallery for a total of 7,403, but folding chairs brought the capacity to 9,600. Subsequent changes, including more comfortable chairs, have reduced the seating to 6,662. Visitors since 1894 continue to marvel at the acoustics provided by the barrel vault ceiling, designed before the advent of electronic amplifiers. The ceiling carries 385 light bulbs on seven arches and guests often wonder how they are replaced (the bulbs are pulled up through holes above them, accessed by a catwalk). In addition to religious services, the Auditorium is used regularly for concerts and other events. GS


Field & Hoffman, Electrical Engineers and Contractors.

Opposite, building specifications, 1894, Monmouth County Archives. Color photographs by Gary D. Saretzky.
Above, daguerreotype, c.1850, reversed left to right as original was mirror image, Monmouth County Historical Association. Right and opposite, Historical American Buildings Survey, photo, 1936, drawing [1936?], Library of Congress.
Old Tennent Church, Manalapan

For almost 14,000 Sundays, parishioners have gathered to conduct religious services in Old Tennent Church. Three hundred years ago, its Presbyterian forebears came to America to avoid religious prosecution, long before the freedom to practice any religion was protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. “Religious Liberty”: the words are contained on the seal of this iconic church.

In 1751, Chief Carpenter John Davies built the church in high Georgian style. The 1½ story building is on a fieldstone foundation, with white cedar shingle walls and slate roof. A hand-forged rooster weathervane sits atop the spire and octagonal steeple, rising 67 feet, 9 inches above the ground.

During the American Revolution, on June 28, 1778, the George Washington-led Continental Army fought the British forces at the Battle of Monmouth, a little over a mile away, and the church probably served as a hospital for Washington’s wounded soldiers. There is a tradition that musket balls pierced the sides of the church during that battle. Those cedar shakes have long since been replaced but bloodstains are still visible on some pews. The surrounding cemetery contains the remains of several battle casualties, both American and British soldiers, including a British officer. Captain Joshua Huddy, after he was hung in Highlands by British Loyalists in 1782, was buried there.

The house of worship has had different names over the centuries. In 1920, the trustees officially renamed it Old Tennent Church, in honor of early reverends John and William Tennent. GJ McCabe, James C. Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory No. 1326-1-5, Presbyterian Church of Freehold (Old Tennent Church), Monmouth County Park System, March 1981.


Williams, Seymour, A.I.A., District Officer. Old Tennent Church, Englishtown, Monmouth County, New Jersey. HABS-NJ-26, Library of Congress.
CERTIFICATE OF

OF

ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH

SPRING LAKE N. J.

WHEREAS, St. Ann's Church, Spring Lake, N. J.

is a body corporate and politic, organized

pursuant to an act of the Legislature of this

State, approved April 9th, 1875, entitled

"An Act to Incorporate Trustees of Religious

Societies" as appears by the certificate of Incorporation duly filed and

recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County of Monmouth, in Book

No C of Certificates of Incorporation on page 319.

AND WHEREAS, The Trustees of the aforesaid corporation, having decided to

change the former name of said corporation, and to assume the name of St.

Catherine's Church, Spring Lake N. J. ("in honor of St. Catherine of Alex-

andria ) by which name it is hereafter to be known;

THIS THEREFORE CERTIFIES, that at a meeting of the board of Trustees

of the aforesaid Church corporation held on the eleventh day of January

in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and one, at the Bishops

House, in Trenton, in the State of New Jersey, it was RESOLVED, that

the corporate name of St. Ann's Church, Spring Lake N. J. by which said

corporation is now known be changed, and that the said corporation assume

the name of, and be hereafter known by the corporate name and title

"St. Catherine's Church, Spring Lake N. J.," and that a copy of this

resolution of the change of said name, Signed by the Rt. Rev. BISHOP

president of the Board of Trustees of St. Ann's Church, Spring Lake N. J.
The St. Catharine parish, founded as St. Anne’s in 1882, worshipped in a small frame church at Monmouth and Fifth Avenues when benefactor Martin Maloney (1847-1929) offered to build a new church as a memorial to his recently deceased young daughter Catharine. Horace Trumbauer, a country house specialist and architect of Maloney’s Spring Lake residence, designed a spectacular Beaux-Arts-Classical Revival edifice that ranks among Monmouth’s finest twentieth century houses of worship. Built at 214 Essex Avenue on the lake in the shape of a Greek cross, the cornerstone was laid on March 17, 1901. Consecration followed on May 25, 1902, although construction continued until 1907.

The richly decorated interior began with Maloney’s 1904 commission of Gonippo Raggi (1875-1959) to come from Rome to execute over two dozen frescos and canvasses that reflect Maloney’s love and inspiration from art in the Vatican. This two-phased, lengthy project was completed in 1928. Stained glass was executed by the famed Munich studios of Mayer and Company, while the statuary and carved stonework was sculpted by the firm of Florentine sculptor Guglielmo Pugi.

Maloney, an Irish immigrant who worked in Pennsylvania coal mines as a youth, had business acumen that enabled him to foresee developments in utilities which, along with an investment in Standard Oil, helped him amass a fortune. He was a devout Catholic and donor to many church causes, here and in Europe. Pope Leo XIII designated Maloney a papal marquis. The Maloneys are entombed in the Sacred Heart Chapel at the north side of St. Catharine’s nave.

RG


Saint Catherine’s Church. Incorporation, January 11, 1901. Incorporation Book D, p. 150. Monmouth County Archives. [Renaming of St. Anne’s Church.]

Recent photographs, courtesy, Monmouth County Park System.
Monmouth County’s earliest settlers established congregations in the late 1600s and early 1700s, though none of their first houses of worship survive. The early meetinghouses were simple unadorned buildings of wood frame construction. Contrary to the typical nave-aisle church plan, the entrances and pulpit were placed on the long side of the building. The interiors often had galleries along one or more sides.

As early as 1700, Baptists conducted worship services in Upper Freehold, described at the time as “a wild uncultivated place.” A house of worship was built on this site about 1720 on land donated by Thomas and Rachel Saltar. The present Upper Freehold Baptist Meeting, also known as the Old Yellow Meeting House, was constructed about 1766. It is the last surviving 18th century traditional meetinghouse in Monmouth County and the oldest Baptist meetinghouse in New Jersey. Its significance is enhanced by its 17-acre rural setting, a burial ground containing gravestones dating to 1723, and an early 19th century parsonage.

The 46x26 foot meetinghouse is sited with the gable ends facing east and west, providing a long southern exposure for heat and light. About 1820, the building was extended, and the arrangement of the doors, pulpit and galleries was altered to its present appearance. After the Upper Freehold Baptist Church was formed in Imlaystown in 1855, this church was used mainly for special occasions. Since 1977, the meetinghouse, parsonage and burial grounds have been restored under the auspices of the Friends of the Old Yellow Meeting House, which now owns the National Register historic site. GH


Below, courtesy Monmouth County Historical Association.
Allaire Village Bakery

Allaire Village’s origins date back to Isaac Palmer’s sawmill in the 1750s, followed by the Williamsburg Forge and the Monmouth Furnace, but its heyday came under James P. Allaire, who purchased the property in 1822 to supply pig iron from bog ore for his New York foundry. At its peak in 1836, Allaire’s Howell Iron Works employed hundreds of workers and their families who lived at this largely self-sufficient industrial village. The furnace was extinguished in 1848, initiating decades of decline. An 1892 visitor to New Jersey’s “Deserted Village” commented that “the ruins, they are all about you. Building after building tumbling down and long since gone to rack and ruin.” Fortunately, in 1928, subsequent owner Arthur Brisbane leased acreage, including the village, to the Monmouth-Ocean Council of Boy Scouts as a camp for twenty years and, partnering with other organizations, the youth repaired buildings, cleared the grounds, and built paths. In 1941, after Brisbane’s death, his widow donated the property to the State of New Jersey for a park. Neglected again, the State and citizens groups began restoration in 1957. One of the first buildings to open was the 25x30 foot bakery, seen here in 1936 when photographed for the Historic American Buildings Survey. Built in 1835, the bakery’s second floor had been used for a time as a school. Constructed of brick, it features a cast iron lintel over the entrance. By 1958, the Federated Women’s Clubs of Monmouth County, which paid for the building’s restoration, began operating a museum there. Today, with its nearly 13-foot wide fireplace’s beehive oven used for demonstrations, the bakery is one of more than a dozen historic buildings at this unique site.


Asbury Park Convention Hall

One of Monmouth County’s iconic buildings, Convention Hall in Asbury Park has served as a multi-purpose entertainment and exhibition center since 1929. Warren and Wetmore, the prestigious architectural firm of New York City, drew the plans. Whitney Warren, seen here, and Charles Wetmore also built New York City’s Grand Central Station, Berkeley Carteret Hotel in Asbury Park, and many other prominent buildings.

The impressively grand oceanfront Convention Hall measures 240x390 feet and features a 1920s eclectic style. The architects provided designs from the Early Italian Renaissance and Classical Period of France, with some details from Colonial Revival and Art Deco, as well as nautical themes. Colorful carvings of seashells, dolphins, sea horses, sailing ships, lanterns, anchors and seashore scenes are particularly entertaining and apropos to the beachfront location. In 1934, five years after it opened, the burning passenger liner, *Morro Castle*, drifted ashore next to Convention Hall, which appears in many photographs of the wreck.

Millions have visited Convention Hall’s theater with seating for 3,500 guests to enjoy entertaining shows of many different music genres, from Jimmy Dorsey’s swing jazz during the Big Band Era, to opera, to rock concerts by Emerson Lake & Palmer, Bob Dylan, The Who, The Doors, Pink Floyd, Bruce Springsteen, and many others. Besides music, sponsors have also hosted sporting events, trade shows, punk rock flea markets, comedy acts, and pageants. GJ


Convention Hall. Photograph. HABS NJ, 13-ASPA, 3—1, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, DC.


Below, Asbury Park Opera House Lien Claim, 1887, page 2, Monmouth County Archives. Right, detail, Asbury Park, Wolverton's Atlas of Monmouth County, Plate 14, 1889 (from reprint).

twenty four feet in depth on the west side, the Opera House portion of said building being sixty feet wide, and one hundred and six feet long, and about thirty four feet high with a single pitched roof, erected on a lot of land or curtilage situate, lying, and being in the borough of Asbury Park, in the County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey; beginning at a marble stone at the intersection of Bangs avenue and Emory street, it being the north east corner thereof, thence (1) easterly along the northerly line of Bangs avenue one hundred and thirty three feet four inches, thence (2) northerly at right angles to Bangs avenue and parallel with Emory street, one hundred feet, thence (3) westerly parallel with Bangs avenue one hundred and thirty three feet four inches to the easterly line of Emory street, thence (4) southerly along Emory street one hundred feet to the place of beginning.

The name of the owner or said land, and of the estate wherein, on which said lien is claimed is, The Asbury Park Building and Improvement Association, body corporate, which has an estate in fee simple therein.

The names of the persons who contracted the said debt and for whom and at whose request the said materials were furnished, for which the aforesaid lien is claimed, are Edward G. Andrews and William H. H. Bonnell, late partners trading as Andrews & Bonnell.

The following is a bill of particulars of the aforesaid materials furnished by the said Samuel M. Hall and William Campbell, partners as Hall & Co., the amount and kinds of materials furnished, and at the prices at which, and times when the same were furnished, and giving credit for all the payments.
The Asbury Park Grand Opera House on Emory Avenue was built in 1887 for the Asbury Park Building and Improvement Association, founded by Frank Patterson, who was still serving a two-year term for forgery when the theater was completed. The Association went forward without sufficient funding. It couldn’t pay its general contractor, I.S. Nesbit & Co. of Newark, as the work advanced, so Nesbit consequently did not pay its subcontractors and suppliers. These affected firms filed twenty-five mechanic liens with the Monmouth County Clerk, to secure payment, documenting the complexities of large building projects. Two Asbury Park firms supplied brick for the project, and a local company provided the basic hardware. A Jersey City firm, Dodge & Co., provided the bulk of the structural lumber, as well as flooring, lath, and shingles. Major & Loomis of Lakewood provided some of the plank and siding. The Standard Paint Co. of New York provided most of the roofing material. Two other Newark firms, Macknet & Felsberg, provided the steam heating, and Macknet & Doremus furnished the plumbing fixtures, piping, and lighting fixtures. Nesbit even relied on a New York City decorating firm, Bonnell & Co., for interior painting, graining, and wallpapering. The new opera house, with 1,200 seats, opened on April 25, 1887, with Joe Jefferson, seen here in a photo by Napoleon Sarony, starring in “Rip Van Winkle.” Sold in December 1887 by order of the Court of Chancery to pay the claims, the Opera House was destroyed by fire on August 12, 1900. RWC


Ball & Co. vs. Andross & Bonnell and Asbury Park Building and Improvement Association. Lien Claim received July 23, 1887. Monmouth County Archives.


Above and left by Gail Hunton. Below, aerial photograph, courtesy Monmouth County Park System. Opposite, Governor Kean, June 1984, *Red Bank Register* Negative Collection, Monmouth County Archives.
Bell Laboratories, Holmdel Township

At its peak, Bell Laboratories was arguably the most innovative technological research facility in the world. Once owned by AT&T, it had a presence in Monmouth County for over 70 years. Erected on the grounds of an earlier facility dating to the 1930s, this massive building formerly housed more than 5,000 scientists and researchers and is the site of technological advancements that have shaped our modern world, from the transistor to the laser, and from digital communications to cellular telephones.

The centerpiece of the 465-acre site is Monmouth County's singular example of modernist architecture designed by an internationally-known architect. Eero Saarinen (1910-1961) "designed the boldest buildings erected anywhere in the world by a generation of architects after Frank Lloyd Wright, and he put them where Wright never had the chance, center stage in the big industrial scheme of things" (Architectural Forum). Built between 1959 and 1965 with later additions, the six-story monolith, dubbed "The Biggest Mirror Ever," is surrounded by a vast curtain wall of aluminum-framed gray reflective glass intended to mirror the clouds and surrounding countryside. The interior planning solutions to Bell Labs’ functional requirements were considered innovative; the building is divided into four pavilions of labs and offices, separated by a cross-shaped atrium. The beautifully landscaped grounds feature reflecting pools and a water tower designed to look like the then-new transistor.

After its sale in 2006, the future of the landmark was in jeopardy for several years. The now-renovated building, named Bell Works by the redeveloper, houses a variety of offices and shops, and the Holmdel Public Library. GH


Dr. Robert W. Cooke’s Medical Office, Holmdel

Some have driven past this quaint, two-story building, thinking it was an old one-room schoolhouse or the Holmdel town jail. Neither is the case. Dr. Robert W. Cooke (1797-1867) had it built as a doctor’s office in 1823 and it may be the oldest extant doctor’s office in the United States.

The medical office was built in the Federal style, popular 1780-1830, and features many of that style’s characteristics. Focus is centered on the front six-paneled door entrance, encompassed by a small porch that features parallel bench seats, spindled hand railings and two plain, slender tapered columns resting on short pedestal bases. Narrow side windows with thin wood muntins surround the front door and are decorated with intricate metal tracery, including acanthus leaves, which required detailed craftsmanship. Above the front door, the headboard is incised in elliptical patterns, fan-shaped geometrical designs, and punch-&-gouge sunbursts with fluted radiating lines. The porch roof is a triangular pediment with tooth-like soffit blocks. The well-planned placement of the door, porch, columns, windows and rails of the front elevation create a stunning symmetrical appearance. Unfortunately, its architect and builders’ names have not been identified. Despite being nearly 200 years old and twice moved, this rare structure is still in good condition.

Cooke, who was born in Newton, Sussex County, came to Monmouth as a young doctor in 1820. He also became Holmdel’s first postmaster in 1836. Cooke was succeeded in his medical practice by his son, Dr. Henry G. Cooke (1833-1919), a Civil War Surgeon. GJ

Dr. Robert W. Cooke’s Office, Holmdel, Monmouth County, New Jersey, August 1940, HABS Survey No. NJ666, HABS NJ, 13-HOLM, 2- (Drawing and building photograph), Library of Congress.


New Jersey State Registry of Historic Places, ID#4972, NR Reference #:10001145.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT, Made the thirty-first day of July, One Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-four, Between

COMMUNITY HOTEL CORPORATION OF LONG BRANCH, a body corporate, with its principal office in the City of Long Branch, County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey, hereinafter called "the owner";

party of the first part;

And

CAULDELL-WINGATE COMPANY, a corporation, with its principal office at No. 341 Fourth Avenue, in the City, County and State of New York, hereinafter called the contractor;

party of the second part;

WITNESSETH, FIRST, The said party of the second part, does hereby for itself, its successors and assigns, covenant, promise and agree, to and with the said party of the first part, its successors and assigns, that it, the said party of the second part, its successors and assigns, shall and will for the consideration hereinafter mentioned, on or before the fifteenth day of September, nineteen hundred twenty-four, well and sufficiently, do, erect and finish all excavations, all footings, and all walls, for the hotel to be built on the property of the party of the first part, located on the northwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Broadway, in the City of Long Branch, County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey, according to the plans and drawing, entitled "Job No. 101- Sheet No. 12 - footing and foundation wall plan", and specifications accompanying the same entitled "Excavation work and concrete work", which said plans and specifications are made a part of this contract, and which said plans and specifications were made by William Van Allen, architect, No. 331 Madison Avenue, New York City, and signed by the said Randall Gabrielan. Left, building contract, 1925, Monmouth County Archives.
Garfield-Grant Hotel, Long Branch

The Long Branch claim as the greatest seashore resort of the second half of the nineteenth century was justified by a long row of hotels that lined its shore on the Atlantic Ocean. By the end of the century, most were gone, while soon thereafter the remainder were demolished: lost to fire, a lack of regular capital investment or, simply, neglect. The oldest hotel of significance now in Long Branch, the six-story, yellow brick and terra cotta Garfield-Grant, built away from the shore in 1926 at 275 Broadway for a business clientele, still remains while beachfront development has transformed that area of the city. It is a little-known work of the architect William VanAlen, renowned for his design of the Chrysler Building, completed in 1930 in New York.

VanAlen, born in Brooklyn in 1883, studied at Pratt Institute while employed by architect Clarence True. He worked for several New York firms, continued his education in Paris after winning the Paris Prize scholarship in 1908, and returned to practice in New York. VanAlen’s designs often heralded advances in modernism, but not the Renaissance Revival Garfield-Grant commission, a likely client-driven design for the Community Hotel Corp. The acclaimed Chrysler Building, although his best known work, derailed VanAlen’s architectural career over a successful lawsuit for his commission. VanAlen died in 1954.

The advent of the twentieth century and the collapse of the resort industry brought a city-wide decline to Long Branch. The city recovered by developing manufacturing and mercantile firms. The Garfield-Grant, near City Hall in a commercial district, reflects newly attained business power. The building was later repurposed as offices. RG


Monmouth Building Contracts, No. 11,840, Dated and Filed March 27, 1925. Monmouth County Archives.

Above and below, courtesy, Monmouth County Park System. Opposite, detail, Sanborn insurance map, 1884, Princeton University Libraries website.
Joseph B. Bailey House and Trade Shop, Keyport

This house and workshop, located on First Street in Keyport, were built by Joseph B. Bailey in the mid- to late nineteenth century. Bailey captained a vessel that shipped farm produce from towns along the Shrewsbury River across the Raritan Bay to New York. He also held a variety of municipal positions in the township in the 1860s-1870s, including Commissioner of Appeals, Overseer of the Poor, and Surveyor of Highways.

The house and shop are part of the residential and commercial First Street Historic District, listed on the Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory, which grew around the commercial center of Lockport (Chingarora) Dock, located at the end of Atlantic Avenue in the mid-nineteenth century. Although some stylistic elements have been altered, the house, a three-bay symmetrical structure with Greek Revival elements, remains a good example of the mid-nineteenth century architecture present throughout the district.

Seen in the displayed 1884 Sanborn map, the frame shop located on the lot is one of the best remaining examples of a small workman’s shop in Monmouth County. Small wood frame shops owned and operated by tradesmen were once common in the county’s towns and villages, but few remain today. This workshop was used by a variety of tradesmen including chair-makers, upholsters, and coppers who repaired shoes. Joseph Bailey likely rented the space to local tradesmen, including his grandson John S. Matthews, who built pretzel back chairs out of the shop c.1870. The Keyport Historical Society reportedly owned two of the chairs produced in this shop until their collections were destroyed during Hurricane Sandy. KN


ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT.

made this twenty-first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, between, THE NEW YORK AND LONG BRANCH RAILWAY COMPANY of the first part, and J. V. BRICE, Builder, of Long Branch, New Jersey, of the second part.

WITNESSETH:

That the party of the second part in consideration of the covenants and agreements contained, to be kept and performed by the party of the first part, and of one dollar, the receipt whereof the party of the second part hereby acknowledge, does covenant, promise and agree, to and with the party of the first part, that he, the party of the second part, will erect, build and complete, or cause to be erected, built and completed in a good and workmanlike manner on the land of the party of the first part at Little Silver, New Jersey, at such point or location, as shall be designated by the party of the first part, if such location be not fully shown on the plan hereinafter referred to, a good and substantial Station House of the dimensions, description and materials, mentioned and specified in the written paper entitled "Specification for a Station at Little Silver, New Jersey," signed by said parties and bearing even date herewith and according to a plan made by Messrs Peabody and Stearns, Architects, with reference to which said specification is

Left, first page of 1889 building contract for the Little Silver Railroad station, Monmouth County Archives. Below, recent color photograph by Randall Gabrielan. Opposite, photograph, c.1900, courtesy, Joyce Mauer.
Little Silver Railroad Station

Nineteenth century New York and Long Branch Railroad stations included Red Bank (shown elsewhere in this exhibit) and its twin, Matawan. Both original buildings survive in high-traffic areas. Others were later destroyed and replacements were built to serve expanding traffic, including Little Silver. This stop was renamed twice after initially being called Shrewsbury at the line’s opening in 1875 in view of proximity to that long-established village. The name was soon changed to Oceanport, located a short distance to the south, to avoid confusion with the Shrewsbury station on the New Jersey Southern Line.

Little Silver attained its current name after John T. Lovett, whose nursery was the major business in the area, advocated a name change from Parkerville in 1879. The new name was intended to clarify the identity of a locality that became a separate borough in 1923. The first station was a common design utilized for smaller stops, while the existing building was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style by Peabody & Stearns of Boston and built in 1889. Robert Swain Peabody (1845-1917) and John Goddard Stearns (1843-1917), well-known for their country homes, enjoyed a diverse practice as the pre-eminent New England firm of their time, one that included office and public buildings, and educational works. Commissions for the Central Railroad, including their Jersey City terminal and New York office, provided entree to Little Silver. Success for early twentieth century housing developments adjacent to the station was marginal. Later, Little Silver became an important commuter stop following major residential construction nearby to the north, beginning in the 1920s. RG

Little Silver Railroad Station. Monmouth Building Contract No. 2560, January 21, 1889; Filed March 8, 1899. Building Contracts, Monmouth County Archives.


For the comfort and convenience of the large staff of operators and engineers necessary to maintain the twenty-four-hour service at Belmar the Marconi Company has erected the hotel shown in the above illustration. Built of dark red ornamental brick, with a lighter red tile roof, this fireproof structure is as handsome as any of the palatial summer resort hotels in the vicinity. It is a city block long and contains 45 bedrooms.
Guglielmo Marconi, one of the most important telecommunications inventors, was keenly aware of the profit potential of wireless technology so he established a worldwide wireless network. His New Brunswick facility served a global link, while another built in 1913-14 along the Shark River in Wall was dedicated to communications with England. The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America paid generous prices for four farms in 1912, land chosen for transportation access and ground conditions suitable for massive communication towers.

Numerous buildings were erected at the Belmar Station, named for the nearby town. Opened for public inspection June 6, 1914, the New York Times reported, “The houses at the station include a two-story hotel, or barracks, spacious enough to accommodate the eighty-odd operators and their families, the operating rooms, which are located on the lowlands at the edge of the water, and various official residences, including the Superintendent’s cottage, the Chief Engineer's dwelling, &c.”

Marconi lost control after America entered World War I when Navy personnel occupied the hotel. After the war, in the early 1920s, Marconi linked operations with Radio Corporation of America. The site was subsequently bought for a Ku Klux Klan headquarters, succeeded by Kings College c.1937-41, prior to becoming the Camp Evans branch of Fort Monmouth where major communications research, notably for radar, was undertaken.

The hotel is now headquarters of the InfoAge Science Center museum consortium spread over the camp’s extensive grounds. Entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002, Camp Evans was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2012. RG


All illustrations, courtesy Fred Carl, InfoAge.
Left, recent photo, courtesy Monmouth Park Racetrack. Other illustrations, courtesy, Monmouth County Park System and Monmouth County Historical Association.
Monmouth Park’s storied past includes three distinct racetracks, all historically noteworthy. In an effort to create an additional attraction for the seaside resort of Long Branch, a group of businessmen financed the first Monmouth Park, opening with much fanfare on July 30, 1870. Located on 250 acres within what later became Fort Monmouth in Oceanport, it featured a one-mile track, a steeplechase course, and an elaborate Victorian grandstand. Racing in the country was transformed in 1882 with Monmouth Park’s institution of the “long meeting” that included 24 days of continual racing at one location, beginning on July 4th of every year. Due to its overwhelming popularity, a new racecourse was built adjacent to the existing track. When the second Monmouth Park opened on July 4, 1890, the New York Times pronounced it “the finest track in the world, with its wide stretches, its straight-way run of a mile and five-eighths, and its enormous cantilever grandstand of iron in which 10,000 people could be seated comfortably. It was the dream of D.D. Withers, who outlined the plans for the course and the buildings.” Monmouth Park’s gates were not open for long. Racing was abandoned in 1894 after the State legislature banned gambling. The track was sold at auction and the mammoth grandstand was sold for scrap iron. When the State Legislature passed a bill permitting wagering in 1946, thoroughbred horse racing returned to Monmouth Park on June 19th with 18,724 in attendance at the new racetrack. By the 1950s, horse racing became a very popular spectator sport. GH


“New Monmouth Park.” The Turf, Field and Farm (New York), [unknown month and day], 1890. Newspaper clipping, Monmouth County Park System.

Right, Harper’s Weekly, August 13, 1870.
Above, postcard, c.1908, Historical American Buildings Survey Report, 2007, Monmouth County Archives. Right and below, 2018 photographs by Monmouth County Park System staff. Opposite, King George VI, who stopped at the station in 1939.
Red Bank Train Station

With great fanfare on June 25, 1875, citizens celebrated the opening of the rail line to Red Bank. Five months later, the Central Railroad of New Jersey, which operated under a lease agreement with Anthony Reckless, President of the New York and Long Branch Railroad, completed construction of the train station, which still stands today. The Red Bank Train Station became a focal point of the town and facilitated rapid population growth. One of the few nineteenth century railroad stations in New Jersey still in active use, the station has operated continuously for more than 140 years.

The two-story wood frame building was built in Carpenter Gothic style, characterized by its steep roofline and saw tooth patterned gingerbread ornamentation and woodwork. On a foundation of 13-inch thick brick walls on stone footings, builders used no less than five different types of wood: hemlock frame and rafters, chestnut doors, white pine walls, maple for the first floor boards, and spruce for the second floor boards. A baggage building was added and the gatekeeper’s house was relocated nearby. The station has been restored but the exterior door to the ticket agent’s office is still original.

Heads of state have stood on the platform, including U.S. presidents: Ulysses S. Grant rode the first train in 1875 and, in 1912, former president, then candidate, Theodore Roosevelt, got off to campaign. On June 10, 1939, King George VI, depicted here, and his wife, Queen Elizabeth, disembarked at Red Bank on route from Washington, D.C. Annually, almost a half million passengers get on at the stop; in 2012, there were 1,276 average daily passenger boardings.


At a Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace held at Freehold in & for the County of Monmouth: Of the Term of April 1775.
The tavern licenses granted, including Leonard Robins, Court of General Quarter Sessions, April 1775, Monmouth County Archives. Below, photograph, no date, courtesy Alice Wikoff. Opposite, painting, courtesy, Monmouth County Historical Association.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tavern License Holder</th>
<th>Names of the Society</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Lawrence Taylor</td>
<td>Abraham Hendricks &amp; John Andrews</td>
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<td>2. James Cox</td>
<td>Abraham Hendricks &amp; John Andrews</td>
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<td>3. Henry Poole</td>
<td>Richard Kinnar &amp; George Smarch</td>
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<td>4. John Cook</td>
<td>Gabriel Woodhouse &amp; Jacob Allis</td>
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<td>5. David Gordon</td>
<td>John Andrews &amp; Joseph Taylor</td>
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<td>6. David Harmon</td>
<td>John Van Dyke &amp; Jacob Smarch</td>
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<td>7. John Tows</td>
<td>Michael Hunt &amp; William Hendricks</td>
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<td>8. Gilbert Poole</td>
<td>John Andrews &amp; Abraham Hendricks</td>
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<td>9. John Penn</td>
<td>John Willard &amp; John Mount</td>
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<td>10. Mary Thompson</td>
<td>Abraham Hendricks &amp; John Andrews</td>
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<td>11. John West</td>
<td>Fowler &amp; John Barton</td>
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<td>12. Sarah Shaw</td>
<td>John Wood &amp; Anthony Woodward</td>
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<td>14. John Jones</td>
<td>Abraham Hendricks &amp; John Gray</td>
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<td>15. John Taylor</td>
<td>Samuel Willard &amp; John Barton</td>
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<td>17. William Lewis</td>
<td>Benjamin Woodland &amp; John Willard</td>
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<td>18. Jeremiah Brummet</td>
<td>David Hamilton &amp; John Wolley</td>
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<td>19. John Cresswell</td>
<td>James Smarch &amp; John Bennett</td>
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<td>20. Joseph Cox</td>
<td>Solomon Wood &amp; Benjamin Woodland</td>
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<td>21. Thomas Smith</td>
<td>Gilbert Brust &amp; Thomas Woodward</td>
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<td>22. Edward Andrews</td>
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<td>23. John West</td>
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<td>24. Daniel Horne</td>
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<td>25. David Horne</td>
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<td>27. Benjamin Woodard</td>
<td>John Lewis &amp; John White</td>
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<td>28. John Shaw</td>
<td>John Price &amp; John Jones</td>
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<td>29. John Sherley</td>
<td>John Payne &amp; John Taylor</td>
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<td>30. George Taylor</td>
<td>John Smith &amp; John White</td>
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<td>31. David Poole</td>
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<td>32. Samuel Hendrick</td>
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<td>33. Joseph Smith</td>
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<td>35. Jacob White</td>
<td>John Willard &amp; John Andrews</td>
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<td>36. Henry Knapp</td>
<td>John Cross &amp; John Watson</td>
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Monmouth County is rich with unsung places that played a brief role in history then retreated into obscurity. Such a place was Robins Tavern, along County Route 524 in today’s Clarksburg, Millstone Township. Built possibly in the 1740s or early 1750s, and enlarged in 1781, it emerged briefly as an important landmark during the British and American maneuvers before the battle of Monmouth in June 1778. The tavern was owned by the Leaming family through the 1760s, but in 1775 was acquired by Leonard Robins. It was called “Robins Tavern” by the Americans, who tended to identify taverns by their owners or operators, but it was called the “Rising Sun Tavern” by the British. At a time when nearly all farmhouses were oriented southward to capture the warmth of the mid-day sun, this tavern faced easterly, to optimize the morning sunlight through the windows. British General Henry Clinton occupied the tavern on the afternoon of June 25, 1778, and stayed until early the following morning before continuing the eastward advance of his army. Close in pursuit were elements of the Continental Army led by the Marquis de Lafayette, who arrived at Robins Tavern in the early afternoon of the 26th. Alexander Hamilton rendezvoused with Lafayette later that afternoon. There they consulted with other American officers about the disposition of British and American forces. Together they moved out in the early hours of June 27th, seeking to reach Washington’s forces in time for the joint attack that came the following day. Robins Tavern became known as the Willow Tree Tavern in the nineteenth century. It was demolished in 1948. RWC

Below, tavern license for Margaret Fleming, 1882, Monmouth County Archives. Right, 2018 photograph by Gary D. Saretzky. Opposite, reconstructed bar at the inn, 1993, Monmouth County Historical Commission records, Monmouth County Archives.
Near the end of June 1778, before and after the Battle of Monmouth, it is likely that George Washington spent time at the 2½ story Village Inn. Robert Newell, a tailor, bought the property in 1726 and the oldest section of the building dates to c.1726-1733. Newell sold it to Thomas Davis in 1749 and its first record of tavern use dates to his ownership. Daniel Herbert succeeded Davis in 1777. On June 26, 1778, Generals Charles Lee and Marquis de Lafayette arrived in the tiny village with 5,000 troops, joined the next day by Washington, who customarily slept in a large tent now at the Museum of the American Revolution. The Inn was used by Lee after Washington ordered him to go to the rear during the battle, according to Dr. William Read’s memoir. After the battle, Washington returned for a few days to Englishtown, where he wrote up charges against Lee for disobedience, retreating, and disrespecting the Commander-in-Chief, for which Lee was convicted at court martial. After many subsequent owners, Margaret Fleming (see document) bought the tavern in 1879. For a time called the M. Fleming Hotel, it remained in her family until 1973 when, after the death of Hazel Fleming Applegate, it was bought by the Borough, succeeded in 1978 by the Battleground Historical Society. The Society, aided by federal and state funds, private donations, and grants from the Monmouth County Historical Commission, restored it to its Federal appearance circa 1810 but without removal of post-1845 additions. A mahogany “Victorian Bar,” which had been sold some years previously, was replaced with the Colonial bar seen here. GS


Government Buildings

Asbury Park Post Office

Through unrelenting efforts of Postmaster William Heath Bannard, the current United States Post Office in Asbury Park opened in 1912, when it was described as an imposing and attractive building unsurpassed in appearance. In 1908, Congressman William F. Howell had convinced Congress to appropriate $125,000 to build a new post office. Through condemnation, Asbury Park founder and real estate developer James A. Bradley transferred his Liberty Park public square on Main Street to the federal government for the building site. Bradley received $30,000 for his half-acre property. Bannard, who took charge of the postmaster office on March 20, 1909, was a former star running back for the Princeton University Tigers. He immediately met with U.S. Supervising Architect James Knox Taylor, who had designed many federal buildings and preferred Italian Renaissance architecture. Bannard traveled to Washington several more times to express his design preferences for the new building. He succeeded in getting many upgrades to the original plans, including changing it to two stories, enlarging the work room by 1,500 square feet, and securing an additional $8,000 dollars to upgrade the exterior facing from stucco to white marble. The entrance features five arches, Corinthian capitals, and broad granite steps. The loggia has terrazzo floors and dome ceilings.

W.H. Fissell & Company of New York City began work in November 1910. They laid the cornerstone with much hoopla on April 13, 1911, and completed construction in February 1912. Postal service employees moved in on March 26th. Today the Asbury Park Post Office still has its original red tile roof and marble stairways in the interior. GJ


Above, County Poor Farm after grounds became a golf course, c.1920, courtesy, Helen Pike. Below, Board of Chosen Freeholders authorize $3,500 for support of the Poor House, minutes, January 4, 1832. Opposite, Freeholders prohibit serving refreshments served at Poor House to all but those listed, January 5, 1831. Freeholder Minute Books, Monmouth County Archives.
The conditions at the county poorhouse, where impoverished citizens resided in the 1800s, would be considered appalling today. But nineteenth century arrangements were preferable to colonial practices that made little distinction among care, restraining the insane, and punishment. Poor laws of New Jersey’s earliest colonial times tended to limit access rather than provide aid. The Act of March 11, 1774, doled shame with assistance by requiring support recipients to wear a Badge of Poverty.

In 1801, the Monmouth County Freeholders sought improvements by the purchase of 700 acres along the Shark River in the future Neptune to establish a poor farm and residence. Following the County’s 1834 sale of the land to several townships, new owners operated it jointly, each sending inmates to meet legal care requirements. In 1844, about 100 acres were under cultivation. Scant extant records suggest bleak life on the poor farm. As seen in the displayed minutes, the Freeholders on January 5, 1831, ordered the poor house steward not to serve refreshments for himself or to anyone other than visiting VIPs. Among other problems, some workers assaulted residents, as reported by the New York press in 1890.

Theodore Taylor, a young Navesink homeowner, symbolizes the prevalent despair and insufficient medical care. He became ill in 1893, soon exhausted accessible savings and, unable to secure other funds due to a lost bankbook, was sent with his mother to the poor house, where he died.

Monmouth speculators who bought the farm from the municipalities in 1911 sold it at a profit the next year. Residential development, including much of Shark River Hills, ensued with a golf course. RG

“A Poor House Scandal,” Red Bank Register, February 19, 1890, 1, and “Died in the Poor House,” Red Bank Register, December 13, 1893, 1.


Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholder Minutes, Book 1, March 3, 1801 and Book 2, January 5, 1831.

Monmouth County Deeds, Book M/264, William Parker to Board of Chosen Freeholders, recorded March 9, 1801.

Above, Courthouse built 1809, from 1860 Beers map of Monmouth County. Below, Courthouse with 1869 addition from Ellis, *History of Monmouth County*, 1885. Opposite, Courthouse as it appeared in 1778, postcard of painting by J. Koehler, date unknown. All, Monmouth County Archives.
The current Hall of Records was formerly the Courthouse and got its current name when the new courthouse on Court Street opened on October 10, 1955. But there were previous courthouses on the site. In 1715, the first one, a small wooden building with shingled walls, shown here, was built on a lot conveyed by John Reid. After a 1727 fire, another replaced it for more than 75 years. It was a frame building with a cupola or steeple and included a jail with at least one cell window facing the street. During the Battle of Monmouth in 1778, when Freehold was still known as Monmouth Court-House, the building was used to house British troops; at least 45 wounded men were left there when they retreated. By the early 1800s, this Courthouse had become dilapidated, and the Freeholders authorized a larger one, 40x60 feet, completed in 1808 and occupied in January 1809. The stone was brought from New York State and the bricks from Philadelphia. The County Clerk and Surrogate offices were in a small building, built in 1799, to the left as one faced the Courthouse, as seen in the illustration. In 1851, new Clerk and Surrogate offices were erected to the rear along Court Street; they were connected to the Courthouse in 1869, when an expansion and a second matching steeple were added, as shown. This imposing Courthouse burned in 1873, leaving some sturdy walls that were used in its successor; it partially burned in 1930 and was superseded by the current edifice, to which several significant alterations have been made. GS


Koehler, J. “No. 4 Court House (1778), Freehold, N.J.” Postcard by L.S. Packard, n.d.
Sandy Hook Lighthouse

This iconic 90-foot tall, octagonal tower is one of the most distinctive buildings in Monmouth County. At the tip of Sandy Hook, it overlooks New York Harbor, in plain sight of every vessel and aircraft visiting the city, and it has been there since Isaac Conro built it in 1764, as the fifth lighthouse built in America. The first four were constructed of wood but blazing oil lamps and wood proved to be fire hazards. Conro chose to use masonry of rubble which included rough fragments of locally mined peanut stone and brick, considered far superior for construction. When built, it was 500 feet from the tip of Sandy Hook but due to shifting sands, it is now almost 1.5 miles away.

During its 254 years, the Sandy Hook Lighthouse has withstood hurricanes, blizzards, and even an attack during the American Revolution, when the Hook was the longest held possession of the British military forces and American Tories. On June 21, 1776, Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Tupper of the 21st Regiment led an American raiding party of about 300 men at about 4 o’clock in the morning. In a letter to George Washington, Tupper reported that they “continued the attack for four hours with field pieces...but could make no impression on the walls.” Today, the sturdy Sandy Hook Lighthouse is the oldest standing lighthouse in the United States. With today’s GPS technology, lighthouses have become outdated as navigational aids. As a result of decreased funding, some lights have been extinguished but Sandy Hook’s is still operating. GJ


Hoffman, Thomas, Sandy Hook Park Ranger Historian, Gateway NRA, Sandy Hook Unit. Telephone conversations with George Joynson, March 2018.


Above, from postcard, c.1920, courtesy Belmar Historical Society. Right, Certificate of Incorporation, 1889, Incorporation Book, Monmouth County Archives. Opposite, building contract, 1910, Monmouth County Archives.
The Union Fire Company No. 1 in Belmar was organized and incorporated on January 31, 1889, followed a few years later by The Volunteer Hook and Ladder and The Goodwill Hose Company, each with its own firehouse. The Union Fire Company’s first home, built in 1890 at a cost of $975 on F Street between Eleventh and Twelfth avenues, was moved in 1910 to 10th and Railroad for commercial use. On its former site, a much more substantial building was constructed for $14,877 that provided for municipal office space in the front and the firehouse in the back. The Articles of Agreement in the Monmouth County Archives between the Borough of Belmar and contractor J. Allen Conklin were signed on June 16, 1910, based on drawings and specifications by local architect Wallace G. Hooper. This contract specified that “All materials of every kind and description are to be of the best quality....” Consequently, this building is still in excellent condition today. Initially, the firehouse included stables, since the fire engine was drawn by two horses, including “Major,” who was still at work when he was replaced by a motorized truck in 1922. At about that time, the Borough offices moved to a 25,000 square foot building at Eighth Avenue and Route 35, formerly the Community Center, and renamed it the Belmar Municipal Building. The Borough vacated that building in 1984 and sold it in 1992. Meanwhile, the Union Fire Company has continued to occupy its 1910 home. GS


Above, Harper’s Weekly. March 26, 1859. Opposite page, Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Historical Register of the Centennial Exposition, 1876. All illustrations, courtesy, Monmouth County Park System.
In 1839, young Dr. William A. Newell watched helplessly from shore as a brig’s entire crew, unable to swim to shore from a sandbar 300 yards off the New Jersey coast, perished in stormy waters. The experience stayed with Newell and, as an Allentown resident when re-elected to Congress in 1848, a priority was to establish eight New Jersey lifesaving stations, from Sandy Hook to Little Egg Harbor, through an amendment to a lighthouse bill. Each was equipped with a cannon to launch a buoy line to shipwreck victims as seen in this etching of the wreck of the Adonis which sank off Long Branch in 1859 (that entire crew was rescued).

U.S. Lifesaving Station #5 at Long Branch included three early rare examples of structures built by the Lifesaving Service. The oldest, dating from 1878, replacing a tiny cabin, was modeled after the Stick Style “1875-Type” design, as exhibited at the United States Centennial Exposition. Two later Shingle Style buildings were constructed in 1903: the “Port Huron Type” station featured an octagonal tower, while the boathouse had a prominent square tower.

The site became the Lake Takanassee Beach Club in 1928 after the lifesaving station closed. In 2004, the land was sold to a developer with intent to demolish the buildings. As a result of a public preservation effort, two of the lifesaving buildings were saved and relocated to a nearby private residence as guest and pool houses. The boathouse was to be saved during development but was leveled by Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Leslie, Frank. Illustrated Historical Register of the Centennial Exposition, 1876. Frank Leslie: New York, 1876.


Above, 1981 by Gail Hunton. Below and opposite, recent photos by Kristen Norbut. Right, detail from 1889 Wolverton’s Atlas (from reprint), Monmouth County Archives.
Educational Buildings

Blansingburg School, Wall Township

Seen here first in a 1981 photo for the Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory, this structure is an example of creative and practical means used to preserve a mid-19th century rectangular one-story schoolhouse in Monmouth County. Construction was under the leadership of Dr. Robert Laird, who in addition to serving six townships for thirty years as the Almshouse Physician, became Wall Township’s first Superintendent of Schools in 1851. Built in 1856, the modest building is wood-frame on a plastered brick foundation, covered with clapboard. Originally located at 1215 Sea Girt Avenue, the school is significant for its association with the early settlement of Blansingburg in Wall Township that developed near the intersections of Sea Girt Avenue, Old Mill Road, and Bailey’s Corner Road. The location is found in the accompanying map of the Blansingburg School District No. 99 (of 112) from the 1889 Wolverton’s Atlas, with G. Newman next door and the Friend’s Meeting House nearby. By 1990, it was a garden supply shop at Frank I. Newman and Son Lawn and Garden Supplies. After moving in 1999 and with a good coat of paint, shutters, and other modifications, the schoolhouse is shown in the recent color photos on the site of the Allgor-Barkalow Homestead, a museum at 1701 New Bedford Road. There, the Old Wall Historical Society interprets local history for visitors and displays museum artifacts. GS


Wolverton’s Atlas of Monmouth County, New Jersey. New York: Chester Wolverton, 1889, Plate 34.
Specifications for a Brick Public School Building to be built on lot located on Court Street in Freehold, N.J. For the Board of Education for Freehold Township, Monmouth Co., N.J. and according to the accompanying drawings made for the same by Warren E. Kornberger, Architect of H.S. West 46th St., N.Y.C., and Freehold, N.J.

General Conditions. These specifications are intended to embrace all of the materials and labor required in the erection and completion of the structure in all its parts, the same to be included within the contract of contracts that may be made for the same.

All the materials are to be as herein mentioned and the best of their respective kinds, and unless herein otherwise mentioned shall be furnished and erected by the Contractor.

All work shall be performed in a thoroughly good, complete, substantial and workmanlike manner and to the reasonable satisfaction of the Architect.

The Contractor shall carry on his work at all times with the greatest reasonable speed, shall protect his work and all materials from all damage during the progress of the work and to deliver the whole broom clean and in perfect condition as herein mentioned and shown on the drawings.

The Contractor shall make good any damage to the building caused by fault or neglect or by reason of use of defective or improper materials or workmanship.

The Contractor shall secure and pay for all permits required from Town Authorities, and to comply with all rules and regulations of the Town.

The Board of Education reserve the right to make any alterations, additions or omissions of work and materials that they may require or that they may find necessary, without in any way violating or mitigating the contract, the same to be agreed upon and to be added to or deducted from the contract as the case may be.

The Board of Education reserve the right to reject any or all bids and shall require the Contractor to furnish satisfactory security for the faithful performance of the contract.

Drawings. The following is a list of the drawings that shall accompany these specifications and to form a part thereof. Foundation and cellar plans, first floor plan, three elevations.

All writing and figures on the plans shall be considered a portion of these specifications and to be followed accordingly. Figures are to be taken to prove measurements, but where figures are not given the plans are to be carefully scaled and to be followed accordingly.

Excavating & Grading. The cellar shall be dug and such trenches as will be necessary to properly carry out the plans, and the dirt that will be removed shall be graded off at the lot as will be directed by the Architect.

Brickwork. All the walls, piers, chimneys &c. shall be laid up straight, true and plum, with good hard burned merchantable bricks no soft or saloon bricks will be allowed in the work. The walls are to be laid up to a line on both sides of the wall and there shall be a head joint at every街上 throughout the work.

All the enos or brickwork on the outside of the building above the finished grade shall be faced with bricks to be selected from the common bricks for color and shape.

All enos or joints shall be neatly struck, and those of the face work shall be struck with 5/8 round jointer making hollow joint, and all face-brick work shall be laid with mortar colored to suit the architect.

The brickwork shall be well bedded and tied in with Concrete blocks on corners &c., and Concrete blocks are to be made to lay with the brick courses.

If bricks are laid in hot weather they are to be well wet before laying and if laid in cold weather shall be piled and shall be protected from freezing.

Left, building specifications, 1911, Monmouth County Archives. Below, February 1983 photograph by County Photographer Paul DeNucci, 1983-02-04, Monmouth County Archives. Opposite, Court Street School Class of 1941 photograph, courtesy, Randall Gabrielan.
Court Street School, Freehold

The Freehold Colored School, built c.1880 by the Township, was in dilapidated condition when replaced in 1912 by a new building designed by Warren H. Conover. John Enright, Monmouth Superintendent of Education, reported: “A very fine brick building has been erected in Freehold Township. It is to take the place of the old building occupied for many years by the colored school. The building cost $5,000 and fulfills the requirements in regard to light and ventilation.” Conover (1868-1955) of Freehold was one of the most prolific and esteemed Central Jersey architects of his era. His varied practice numbered many residences, schools and public buildings, including, in Freehold, a former post office, the Central Railroad passenger station, and municipal building, now its firehouse.

Racially separate education was a reality in New Jersey until after the Second World War. The Freehold building, renamed the Court Street School c.1920 and expanded in 1927, was the last segregated school in Monmouth County and one of the last in New Jersey. After the 1947 New Jersey Constitution banned school segregation, the Freehold School Board reorganized primary school districts by neighborhood, but closed Court Street to preclude de-facto segregation as much of the African American population lived close-by. For a time, summer sessions were held in the school for children of migrant farm workers. Reopened after district space needs became urgent, white parents resisted sending their children there. Court Street became vacant in 1974, then reopened as the County probation office, followed by the Court Street School Education Community Center a few years after it organized in 1990. National Register listing followed in 1995. RG


Monmouth County Building Contracts, No. 7696, July 8, 1911; Nos. 12661, 12662, 12663, 12664, September 6, 1927. Monmouth County Archives.
Octagon Schoolhouse, East Branch, Upper Freehold: Temple of Learning

In 1773, a group of Quaker neighbors in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, whose children attended the same neighborhood, one-room school, decided the time had come to build a better school house. They came up with a design that was octagonal--"eight-square" in their parlance--and by 1815 this formula was already accepted by many Quakers and others in the Delaware Valley. Such buildings were better lit because their windows caught sun from all directions, leaving no dark corners. They resembled nothing so much as the “temples” of 18th-century British landscape gardening, which, in turn, evoked classical precedents. The walls were built taller to provide better ventilation, and a stove was placed in the center, to more effectively heat the room during winter sessions, and the pupils were arranged on bench seating concentrically around the stove, the younger ones toward the middle, and the larger, older children on the outside. Well over one hundred octagon schoolhouses were built in the Delaware Valley before 1850, including at least twenty-five in New Jersey. Together they represented the first architectural reform in the United States to improve public education, anticipating ideas that later galvanized the 19th-century education reform movement. The East Branch school in Upper Freehold was built in 1819, and was supported by the East Branch Friends Meeting, less than two miles away as seen in the 1889 map. The school was probably still in use as late as the 1920s, but was demolished about 1940. The other octagonal schoolhouse in Monmouth County, just south of Allentown, was replaced by a conventional, rectangular schoolhouse in 1855.

RWC


Wolverton’s Atlas of Monmouth County, New Jersey. New York: Chester Wolverton, 1889, Plate 43.
Rear of building and interior views of auditorium and gallery by Randall Gabrielan.
Monmouth University did not plan its outstanding arts venue when erecting what a substantial 1968 federal grant referred to as the “Classroom-Lecture Hall Complex,” built in 1969-70. The plan included twenty-four classrooms along with lounges, offices and conference rooms with an adjoining lecture hall. A theatre only emerged after the arts assumed greater significance at an expanding Monmouth.

The building was designed by Bernard Kellenyi (c.1920-2013), an Atlantic City native who came to the Red Bank area as a youth to follow the career of his architect father, Alex. After World War II service as a B-17 pilot, Kellenyi opened his office in Red Bank at a time when prevailing modernism motivated his many innovative designs. Educational and religious projects became significant parts of a practice that drew upon many styles, including Colonial-influenced, and he designed a variety of building types.

At Monmouth, a spacious lobby links the theatre section, an octagonal structure, to the classroom building now known as Howard Hall. The variety of presentations in the auditorium embrace live theatrical and musical performances, screenings, educational instruction and events such as Monmouth’s Visiting Authors series. Art exhibition space adjoins the auditorium.

Maurice Pollak (1896-1990), contributed to an earlier auditorium in Wilson Hall named for him. He requested a name transfer as the new venue emerged as a major theatrical space that has been updated regularly. This life trustee made many benefactions to Monmouth, including his home on four and three-quarter acres, now part of the campus. Pollak is remembered by the annual Maurice Pollak Distinguished Community Service Award. RG


Peck, Vaune, Director, Monmouth University Center for the Arts, e-mail correspondence with Randall Gabrielan, May 2018.
Near Sugarloaf Hill, the North American Phalanx was the longest lasting of many 1840s utopian communities. Despite variations, they all offered alternatives to laissez-faire capitalism. At the Phalanx, which began in 1843, men and women received equal pay, with higher hourly rates for “necessary but repulsive” jobs. Members, who could be invited to join after a one-year trial residency, could work at such tasks as farming, livestock, education, and manufacturing; rotating among jobs was the norm. Member Mary Paul worked as a seamstress; her men’s socks were sold at the Phalanx store in New York. Among other innovations, the Phalanx introduced commercial canning in the United States. The Christian Sabbath was observed, religious groups held services, and matrimony was respected. The community’s many buildings included a school and day care center. At its peak, 200 dined at the Phalanstery, a three-story wooden building completed in 1847 that included 35 apartments and the grand salon, 70x39 feet, for communal dining, dancing, and entertainment, such as black fiddler Caesar Johnson. Visitor Frederika Bremer in 1849 was “regaled with a dinner which could not have been better.” Internal arguments and a disastrous fire led to the Phalanx’s dissolution in 1856. Farm manager John Bucklin purchased the canning factory, which continued into the 1900s. Although the dining room and salon were torn down in 1935, most of the Phalanstery still stood in November 1972, when arson caused massive devastation, to the dismay of the Colts Neck Historical Society which had tried to save it; the remainder was demolished in January 1973.


Monmouth Historian. Journal of the Monmouth County Historical Association (Spring 1974, Volume 2). Theme issue on the North American Phalanx. [Cover illustration exhibited.]


Old postcards and recent color photograph, courtesy, Randall Gabrielan.
New York Jewish philanthropists led by Marcus Marks and Nathan Straus founded The Tuberculosis Preventorium for Children, a healthcare facility that removed from adverse home environments children who were at high risk for contracting tuberculosis. This then widespread, contagious, and dreaded disease thrived in areas of poverty and poor sanitation. Established in 1909 at the Lakewood home of former president Grover Cleveland, the Preventorium was driven out of the then-prominent winter retreat by residents’ fears of disease, although Preventorium patients were healthy. Widespread Anti-Semitism, protectionist resort owners, and an antagonistic Governor Fort also contributed to the Preventorium’s move.

The journalist Arthur Brisbane, who had acquired the expansive grounds of the former Howell Works at Allaire, provided a nearby tract for the relocation of the Preventorium in 1910, when fund-raising began for a series of purposefully designed buildings. The new construction was dedicated on April 25, 1912. Residents enjoyed a regimented stay, typically three months, based on nutrition, play and rest, much of it in an open-air environment. Schooling was also provided; thousands were saved.

The Preventorium mission was modified over the decades as the threat of tuberculosis diminished but at-risk urban children remained their constituency. A 1962 name change to the Child Care Center reflected the revised mission. While considerable support was provided by the City of New York, a financial crisis developed, partly due to claims of inadequate City funding. Out of money, the Center closed in 1969.

The site was purchased in 1970 by Howell Township and occupied as the municipal hall until its relocation in 2012 to Highway 9. The main Preventorium building is now used for storage, pending effective adaptive use. RG


Ciranni, Allison, Deputy Township Clerk, Township of Howell, e-mail correspondence with Randall Gabrielan, May 2018.


Anthony B. Reckless House – Red Bank Woman’s Club

The Anthony B. Reckless residence at 164 Broad Street is reminiscent of nineteenth century Broad Street when the business district extended only a short distance south of Front while spacious estates lined the southern section. Reckless, who was born in 1821 and came to Red Bank around 1849, initially engaged in retail trade prior to building a successful business career. A key figure in the construction of the New York and Long Branch Railroad, he served as president prior to assuming the secretary-treasurer posts. Reckless brought the *New Jersey Standard* to Red Bank, was an incorporator of the First National Bank, and served in the New Jersey State Senate.

Reckless also owned a farm, a tract that extended west to the future Maple Avenue, on which he built an Italianate mansion, designed by Chicago architect J.P. Huber, in 1874. He died there in 1889 and is remembered by the nearby one-block long Reckless Place.

The Woman’s Club began as a literary society in 1896, formally organized in 1916, then incorporated the next year and bought the mansion in 1921. Club activities, which followed the guidelines of community improvement established by the Greater Federation of Women’s Clubs, include community health, social gatherings (such as the occasion with a madrigal singer pictured here), and literary events. The waning of the twentieth century brought a character change to the organization that ceased the rental of rooms to individual women, attracted younger members, and refocused on contemporary needs. Recognizing historic stature as a key asset, the club attained listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. RG

“Anthony Reckless Dead.” *Red Bank Register*, February 27, 1889, 1.


Right, postcard, Monmouth County Historical Association. Other illustrations, courtesy, Monmouth County Park System.
Monmouth Beach Bath & Tennis Club

Constructed between 1912 and 1914 by New York developer Thomas W. Butts, the design of the Monmouth Beach Bath & Tennis Club blended coastal architectural elements popular in the region, including a shingled exterior and tracery sash, with Mediterranean Revival details such as Tuscan columns in the interior pool courts, meant to resemble Roman baths (seen in the interior photograph c.1920). Originally, the pools were filled with salt water, drained and refilled every other day.

The large arched floor-length windows were traditionally left open in season, creating a breezy, rectangular pavilion on the upper floor, with an expansive ocean view. While originally constructed in a symmetrical design, the ocean side pavilions were removed in the mid-twentieth century. Despite several periods of renovation, the club retains much of its original architectural character and footprint.

Nineteenth and early-twentieth century oceanfront beach clubs and casinos were once common in the region’s many seaside resort towns, yet the Monmouth Beach Bath & Tennis Club is the only intact pre-1930 bath clubhouse remaining along the county’s coast. The structure has survived a century of natural and economic disasters, including two world wars, the Great Depression, and at least seven devastating hurricanes. Damaged in 2012 after Hurricane Sandy, recent renovations have since restored the structure to its pre-storm condition. Exclusive as ever, membership for the club remains at capacity, with a reported multi-year waiting list. KN


Above and opposite, bottom, courtesy New Jersey Historic Preservation Office. Opposite, top, ice boat race, Shrewsbury River, from lantern slide c.1910 by Charles R.D. Foxwell, Monmouth County Archives, on loan from Randall Gabrielan. Left, Incorporation, 1888, Monmouth County Archives.
Red Bank, Monmouth County, is one of the most important places in the U.S. for the obscure winter sport of ice boating, because of this little building at 9 Union Street. Owned since 1883 by the North Shrewsbury Ice Boat and Yacht Club, incorporated January 11, 1888, more national ice-boating championships have been held here than anywhere else. If it is cold enough to put deep ice on the Navesink River— but not too humid to snow— this clubhouse is a hive of activity, as ice-boaters gather from across the region— not just the club's own members— to sail their skeeters and larger craft on the ice. The downstairs includes a workroom to repair iceboats; the upstairs, a meeting room with displayed trophies. The clubhouse formerly stood behind the Monmouth Boat Club next door, but was moved alongside the Boat Club's property in 1922. The two clubs have long had members in common and a symbiotic history, with the boat club most active in summer and the ice-boat club in winter. The Ice Boat and Yacht Club is also most famously the home of The Rocket, built in 1888, one of only two remaining Class A ice-boats in sailable condition. The best of these Class A boats, the biggest ever built, sped faster than locomotives. Four years ago, the Club took the newly-restored Rocket up to the Hudson River, where it faced off against its arch rival, The Jack Frost, the other operable Class A boat. The Clubhouse was listed in the New Jersey Register of Historic Places in 2008. RWC


Top, postcard, c.1905.
Above and right, black-and-white digital positives from glass plate negatives in the Pach Collection, Monmouth County Historical Association. Right, Philip Daly with daughter-in-law Jennie Joyce Daly. Opposite, detail, Wolverton’s Atlas, 1889 (from reprint), Monmouth County Archives.
The Pennsylvania Club, West End, Long Branch

The Pennsylvania Club served as one of Long Branch’s most prominent gambling houses during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. Wealthy bankers, lawyers, industrialists and others frequented its opulently furnished facilities, where individuals routinely lost or won up to $10,000 or more in a single evening. Built in 1868 by John Hoey, the Pennsylvania Club became known internationally as the Monte Carlo of America.

From 1875 to its closure in 1902 following a final police raid, the club was owned by Phil Daly (1835-1910), one of the era’s legendary gamblers, seen here with his daughter-in-law Jenny Joyce Daly. Daly acquired magnificent paintings, crystal chandeliers, porcelains and other furnishings for his club, while enriching the architecture and grounds of its buildings. The main club contained dining rooms, lounges, and rooms for the use of members. Gambling took place in a large wing surmounted by two gilded domes. There, members could play roulette, poker, faro, baccarat, and other popular games of chance.

New Jersey outlawed gambling in 1894 but the laws were only enforced sporadically. Finally, in 1902 the casinos in Long Branch and elsewhere in the state were shut down permanently. Phil Daly’s wife Catherine attempted to run the Pennsylvania Club as a restaurant and hotel, renaming it the Wellington Inn. But it was not successful. Mortgage holders finally forced its sale in 1909. The buildings and property sold for $70,000. Another $10,000 was taken in through the sale of the furnishings. Demolition of the once grand club took place in June and July 1909. Daly, still suffering from the lingering effects of a gunshot wound in 1888, died the following year. JWH


“Phil Daly, Gambler, Dies at Long Branch.” *Asbury Park Press*, March 15, 1910, 1.

“Thousands Gambled Nightly in Reign of Phil Daly at Shore.” *Asbury Park Press*, February 9, 1931, 3.

Seabright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club, Rumson

The then-new sport of lawn tennis, which took form in 1877 at Rumson Neck estate grounds at the eastern peninsula, formally organized the next year at the home of Robert Rutherford before migrating to the property of Jose deNavarro, arguably Monmouth’s most prominent Hispanic American. Championship competition began in 1879. In 1886, the club purchased approximately nine acres on Rumson Road at the corner of Tennis Court Lane to build their clubhouse, designed by Renwick, Aspinwall and Russell with Tudor Revival and Shingle Style elements. Expenses were financed by $25,000 of club-issued gold bonds with deNavarro purchasing about ten percent. The club’s organizational intentions were stated in an extraordinary Agreement, publicly recorded in a County Clerk deed book on April 12, 1886. The prominence of cricket in the 1880s is recalled by the club’s adopting the black, red and gold colors of England’s famed Zingari Cricket Club.

The club installed grass courts which became the most esteemed tradition in a tradition-bound organization and the prime factor for the club not merging into the later Rumson Country Club. Tournament play has long-characterized club activity. Its annual Invitational Tournament, initiated in 1894, continued until 1950. Many prominent players participated during most of that period when the Seabright club was a major stop on the United State tennis circuit. Among them was Dwight F. Davis, originator of the famed Davis Cup tournament. Bernon S. Prentice, a frequent club tournament winner, became a guiding light who cultivated regard for club history.

The club was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991 and designated a National Historic Landmark the next year. RG


Monmouth County Deeds, Book 403, page 122, recorded April 12, 1886.


*Seabright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club – Jubilee Year Book*. [Rumson, New Jersey]: Seabright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club, 1928. [ Probably by Bernon S. Prentice.]

Acknowledgments

After approval of the theme by County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon, Esq., the content for this exhibit was developed principally by Robert W. Craig, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Department of Environmental Protection; Monmouth County Historian Randall Gabrielan; Gail Hunton, Chief, Acquisition & Design Department, Monmouth County Park System; Archives Reference Specialist George Joynson; and Gary D. Saretzky, Monmouth County Archivist, who served as exhibit project manager. This group wrote most of the captions, with more provided by Kristen Norbut, Historic Preservation Specialist, Monmouth County Park System; Joseph W. Hammond, Director of Collections, Monmouth County Historical Association; and Mary Hussey, Archives Processing Specialist, Monmouth County Archives. County Clerk Hanlon continued to be supportive during the exhibit’s development and made helpful suggestions regarding the captions. She and Jennifer Collins of the County Clerk’s office also crafted and disseminated County media releases for Archives Week that promoted knowledge of the exhibit.

Documents from the Monmouth County Archives, many of them located and scanned by George Joynson and Mary Hussey, are featured in the exhibit in conjunction with additional illustrations from other sources gathered by the caption writers. Randall Gabrielan shared many items from his substantial personal collection. Gail Hunton and Kristen Norbut drew on the exceptional resources of the Monmouth County Park System, while Bob Craig drew on files at the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, both for his own and for captions by others. Photographs by all these contributors, as well as George Joynson and Gary D. Saretzky, also appear in the exhibit.

When material was needed that was not in the personal or institutional collections of the collaborators, they sought and obtained illustrations from other sources. Among these, two in particular stand out in quantity. First, a number of excellent drawings and photographs from the Historic American Buildings Survey records, easily accessible online without restriction at the Library of Congress website, are included in the exhibit. The other major source was the Monmouth County Historical Association, which shared its rich pictorial resources. Other institutional collections represented in the exhibit include the Belmar Historical Society, Hartford Family Foundation, InfoAge, Monmouth Park Racetrack, New York Public Library, Parker Homestead-1665, Princeton University Libraries, Township of Ocean Museum, and the Union Landing Historical Society.

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Caption writers are identified by initials:

GH    Gail Hunton
GJ    George Joynson
GS    Gary D. Saretzky
JWH   Joseph W. Hammond
KN    Kristen Norbut
MH    Mary Hussey
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RWC   Robert W. Craig

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