

******Excerpted Material******

MONMOUTH COUNTY HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY

Original survey prepared by Gail L. Hunton and James C. McCabe, 1980 – 1984
Funded by the Monmouth County Park System and a Historic Preservation Survey and Planning Grant
from the National Park Service administered through the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
with additional assistance from the Monmouth County Historical Association and
the Monmouth County Planning Board

The Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory is maintained and updated by the
Monmouth County Park System, 805 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ 07738
Contact: Gail L. Hunton, Supervising Historic Preservation Specialist
(732) 842-4000 ext 4259
ghunton@monmouthcountyparks.com

Public copies of the *Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory* are on file at the
New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, NJDEP in Trenton (609) 292-2023
and the
Monmouth County Historical Association Headquarters in Freehold (732) 462-1466

INTRODUCTION TO THE MONMOUTH COUNTY HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY

BACKGROUND

Once described as "a garden by the sea," Monmouth County has a rich historical legacy shaped by its bountiful farmland, scenic coastline and proximity to two major metropolitan areas. But exactly what are Monmouth County's historical qualities? More precisely, what buildings, structures, and places signify the county's historical identity? As the county changes and grows, what historic features are worth preserving, and why?

The Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory, the first comprehensive survey of the County's architectural and historic resources, is an important first step in answering these questions. In accordance with the criteria established by the Department of Interior under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, the purpose of the project was to identify and to document buildings and structures which are significant to and/or representative of the County's history, culture, and architecture. The study was limited to extant above-ground structures. Archeological resources, a highly significant component of the historical landscape, were not within the scope of this project.

The project was initiated in 1980 by Joseph Hammond, then Director of the Monmouth County Historical Association, who worked with James J. Truncer of the Monmouth County Park System in applying for a federal Historic Preservation Survey and Planning Grant administered through the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office. The State administers survey and planning grants with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Monmouth County Park System matched the grant with county funds, in-kind services, and facilities. The Monmouth County Historical Association contributed administrative, clerical, and library assistance. Municipal base maps and aerial photographs were supplied by the Monmouth County Planning Board. The Park System applied for and received subsequent state matching grants in 1982, 1983, and 1984 in order to expand and to complete the survey.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted by two architectural historians, Gail Hunton and James McCabe, who completed the field work, photography, mapping, research, and writing for the project. Following federal guidelines for historic sites surveys, the consultants systematically covered all roads in the County's 472 square miles and fifty-three municipalities during the course of the field work. On-site analysis, historical maps, written source materials, oral histories, US Geological Survey maps, and aerial

*The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 established a State/Federal partnership in historic preservation. A historic preservation fund was authorized for the identification, recognition, and preservation of historic properties. State responsibilities were placed under the aegis of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). In New Jersey, the SHPO is the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. The Office of New Jersey Heritage serves as the professional staff of the SHPO.

photographs were used to identify potential sites. Site selection was based on age, structural type, architectural style, and/or association with persons, events, and cultural patterns in local, state, and national history. In general, a site had to be at least fifty years old, although there are a few notable exceptions (such as Bell Laboratories in Holmdel, 1318-3). The physical condition and integrity of structures were also factors in site selection. Radically altered structures, with little or none of their original fabric remaining, were generally excluded. The survey attempted to incorporate a representative cross-section of building history and cultural development in each municipality. The survey user should understand, however, that it was not feasible to include every building of historical value or architectural interest. The selected sites should be viewed therefore as the principal, but not the sole, components of Monmouth County's historic built environment.

Approximately 2000 structures were documented individually. In all, the survey totals nearly 4000 sites, counting those structures that are part of surveyed districts and streetscapes. Surveyed sites are photographed, mapped, and recorded on forms which include physical description, historical background, statement of significance, and National Register eligibility. Five types of survey forms were used: (1) individual structure forms; (2) abbreviated "listed site" forms for selected sites; (3) streetscape forms; (4) district forms; and (5) building complex forms for farmsteads and industrial complexes.

The survey consultants designed the building complex form specifically for the project in order to improve documentation of farmsteads, which are among Monmouth County's most significant historic resources. The form provides information on major farmstead structures (barns, houses, wagon sheds, corn cribs, smokehouses, windmills, etc.), landscape features, as well as an overall site plan showing the layout of the farmstead and the relationship of farmstead structures to one another.

The degree of any surveyed site's documentation depends in part on its relative significance, in part on available source materials on the property, and in part on the time constraints of the project. While primary sources such as wills, tax records, family papers, and survey maps were routinely consulted, the scope of the project did not allow for exhaustive research and complete property histories for each site. The survey relied heavily on historical maps, atlases, views, newspapers, county and local histories, and oral histories.

National Register work was an additional component of the project. Except for the Allentown, Ocean Grove, and Sandy Hook historic districts, all properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places were reviewed, re-mapped, and photo-updated, including the historic districts in Middletown Village (Kings Highway), Navesink, Shrewsbury, and Tinton Falls. In addition, Gail Hunton prepared a National Register nomination for the Jersey Homesteads Historic District, which comprises the entire Borough of Roosevelt (listed on the National Register in 1983).

A 367-page Summary Report of the Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory was written by the consultants and published by the Monmouth County Park System in 1986. The purpose of the report is twofold -- to review the survey results by geographical areas and structural types, and to present an historical and architectural context for using and interpreting the survey data. The significance of individual historic sites and structures can be only understood within the context of the natural landscape, patterns of settlement, population characteristics, and the various cultural factors that have shaped Monmouth County's built environment over time. Accordingly, the report narrative provides an overview of the county's natural features and the major aspects of its historical development, which is followed by more detailed accounts of specific regions within the county. Subsequent chapters summarize specific topics that bear on the historic built environment, including residential building traditions and design, farming, religion, civic life and institutions, manufacturing and milling, transportation, communications, commerce, entertainment and recreation. In addition to the background narratives, the report also contains a list of all surveyed sites as well as sites location maps for each municipality. A complete project bibliography is included at the end of the report.

The complete Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory (survey forms, photographs, maps, and research documents) is maintained and updated in the form of an unpublished archive by the Monmouth County Park System, 805 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ 07738. For information, contact Gail L. Hunton, Principal Historic Preservation Specialist, at (732) 842-4000 ext 4259 or ghunton@monmouthcountyparks.com

Public copies of the Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory are on file at two locations: the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office in Trenton (609) 292-2023 and the Monmouth County Historical Association in Freehold (732) 462-1466. Survey sites are filed by municipality and then alphabetically by street address. Each site has a designated inventory number which is preceded by a four-digit municipal code.

USES OF PROJECT

The Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory is part of the statewide New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory which is used as a basis for environmental reviews, determining eligibility for the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, state planning, and scholarly research. At the local level, the inventory is an available database for municipal and countywide planning and historic preservation projects. The material also serves as a useful source of information for those individuals and groups pursuing research on local and county history. It is hoped, above all, that dissemination of the inventory's results will stimulate public awareness, conservation, and beneficial future use of Monmouth County's outstanding historic and architectural resources.

UPDATE

In the two decades since the initial publication of the Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory Summary Report, the County has witnessed accelerated growth and development with enormous consequences for the historic landscape. Almost every municipality, rural and urban alike, has lost places and buildings of historic value. Many other historic structures, although still standing, have lost their settings and are now engulfed by new development. *Approximately twenty percent of the sites included in the original 1980-1984 inventory are now gone.*

At the same time, historic preservation is evident in both the public and private sectors in Monmouth County, perhaps as a result of experiencing rapid change in our communities and a growing awareness of the significance and vulnerability of our architectural and scenic heritage. Scores of older homes have been restored or rehabilitated by their owners. Other historic buildings such as stores, schools and carriage houses have been rescued from disrepair and creatively adapted to new uses. Private organizations and local governments are undertaking historic preservation projects, and are playing leading roles in working for the preservation of historic resources in their communities.

The Monmouth County Park System continues to maintain and update the Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory. The inventory is continuously revised to reflect new research, demolitions, changes in site conditions, and National Register eligibility. Large portions of the original inventory have been re-photographed, field checked, and entered into a computerized database, and research on individual sites continues to be incorporated.