

Historic Properties of Morris Township, NJ

Individual Registered Properties



*A Photo Gallery of Historic Properties in Morris Township, New Jersey, Compiled by
the Historic Preservation Commission
Second Edition, January, 2021*



This survey was undertaken by the Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission in order to verify the current state of the historic properties identified on the Township of Morris Master Plan-2012 Historic Preservation Map. Members of the

Commission are:

Carol Barkin, Chairperson

Craig Goss

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Erich Huhn

Jean Rich

Judith Sacks

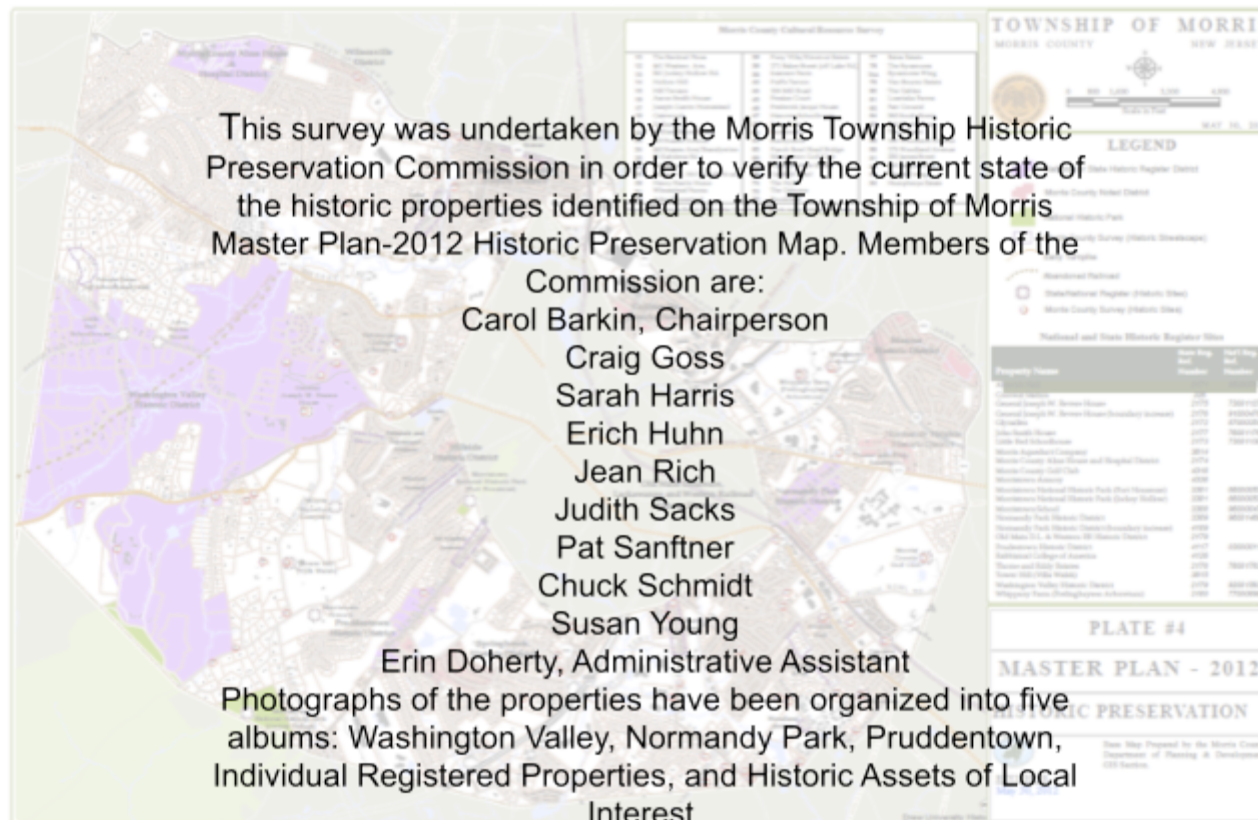
Pat Sanftner

Chuck Schmidt

Susan Young

Erin Doherty, Administrative Assistant

Photographs of the properties have been organized into five albums: Washington Valley, Normandy Park, Pruddentown, Individual Registered Properties, and Historic Assets of Local Interest.



Morris Township's Historic Assets

We are pleased to present the 25 properties in Morris Township that have been honored with a place on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. This list was current as of July, 2020.

There are residences, commercial buildings and archaeological sites in this album.

There is also a mix of designations providing the current status of the properties. Each page in this photo album will note the designation category. The assumption is that all properties are overseen by New Jersey Historic Preservation (NJHPO) and Morris Township's Historic Preservation Commission.

Registered (REG)
Certificate of Eligibility (COE)
Opinion on Eligibility (OPN)

Further, we provide a link to an article or book about the site, if available, for those who want to know more. Recommended reading: Barbara Hoskin's book *"Morris Township, New Jersey: A Glimpse into the Past"*.

All vintage photos courtesy of the Morristown/Morris Township Library North Jersey History and Genealogy Center

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Canfield Road 12 - REG

Glynallyn



Home of George Marshall Allen, then General Drafting, now a single-family residence.

Charles Berg, architect. Built 1914-1917. Registered in 1987. Mansion in May 2012.

There are two registered dependencies on the property, a carriage house and cottage.

<https://njmonthly.com/articles/jersey-living/home-garden/glynallyn-castle-morris-township/>

Convent Road n/a - OPN

Convent Train Station and Old Lackawanna & Western HD-Milepost 27.6



Built in 1913, owned by Morris Township. Station on the far left, plus two freight buildings across the tracks on the St. Elizabeth side. NJ SHPO opinion ID#326 was given in March 1998.

<https://sites.google.com/site/gettherebytrain/home/railroads/njtransit/lackawanna-lines/morristown-line>

Convent Road 2 - OPN



College of St. Elizabeth was founded in 1899. The administration building was designed by Patrick C. Kelly and is known as “the Motherhouse”. NJ SHPO ID#5643 opinion given in May 2018.

Not an official Township historic property.

<https://www.steu.edu/meet-seu/history>

East Hanover Avenue 353 - REG



Country home of George Griswold Frelinghuysen and Sara Ballentine Frelinghuysen and known as **“Whippany Farm.”** Donated to the Morris County Park Commission by their daughter, Matilda. Designed in the Colonial Revival style by Rotch and Tilden, their only non-New England work. Home and carriage house date from 1892. Registered in 1977.

<https://www.morrisparks.net/index.php/parks/frelinghuysen-arboretum>

Jockey Hollow Road 712 - REG



A portion of Morristown National Historical Park lies within Morris Township. The property is part of the National Park System (NPS). The park was added to the National Register in 1966. Above is one of the Morris Township sites, the pre-Revolutionary War “Joshua Guerin House.” This is a private home now, and owned by the Park. The photo on the right was taken in 1934. [More vintage images](#)

<https://www.nps.gov/morr/index.htm>

Jones Drive (various) - COE

4, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15 Jones Drive and 41 Mendham Road plus Block/Lot 56.01 owned by MCPC



This is an archaeological site registered in the State of New Jersey, currently private property plus one parcel owned by the Morris County Park Commission. Site of the Park of Artillery in 1779-80, overseen by General Henry Knox. Given a NJ SHPO Certificate of Eligibility (COE) ID#5266 in June 2013.

<https://www.nps.gov/morr/learn/education/classrooms/upload/Winter-encampments-q-B-2.pdf>

Madison Avenue 355 - REG

Alnwick Hall - The Abbey



Built c. 1904 for Edward and Rosalie Behr Meany. Architect was Percy Griffin. This brick manor house was inspired by Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, England. It was the Mansion in May in 2017.

Placed on the National Register in 1985.

http://www.historic-structures.com/nj/morris_township/alnwick_hall.php

Mendham Road 230 - OPN

Lower Pond Dam



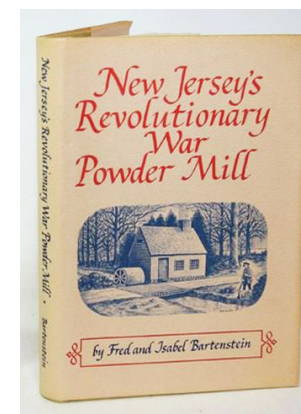
The dam sits on the property of Delbarton School.

It was originally referred to as the "Spring Pond," a stone reservoir that was tapped by a force pump in June 1882. Thought to be part of the water system that was built when the 4,000-acre Gilded Age estate was owned by Luther Kountze. NJ SHPO Opinion September 2013 ID#5283

Go to this page to view Delbarton:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uMV4mUi2DQyJ_SMPPb_FxWYdbr92HsOg/edit#heading=h.t2qzfg3bk6u9

Morris Avenue 68 - COE



This archaeological site is the Revolutionary War-era Jacob Ford Powder Mill. Extensively studied by Fred and Isabel Bartenstein and others, it received a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for the register in June 2018 for its military associations with supporting American efforts to defeat the British Army during the American Revolution, by supplying much need gunpowder to the Continental Army in support of the war effort, and also for its potential to explain 18th century gunpowder production and mill construction.

<https://hunterdonhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/1975-Fall.pdf>

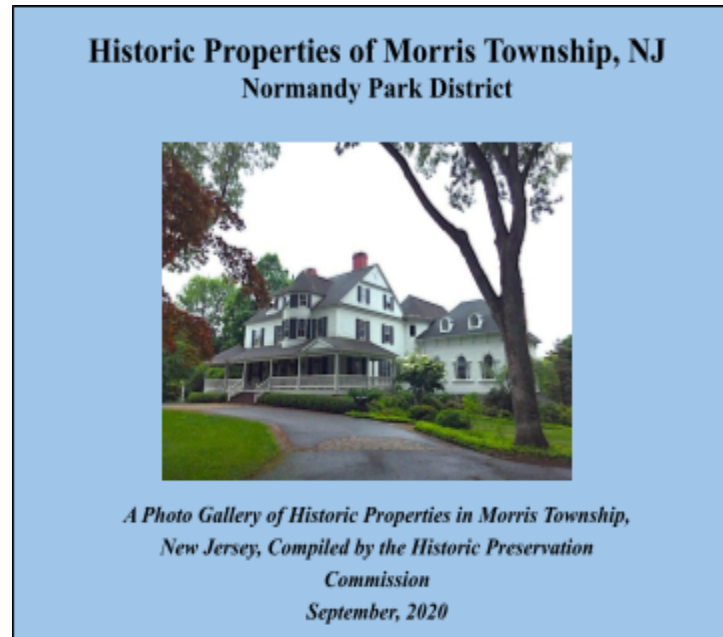
Mount Kemble District (cross-reference) - REG



Early settlers in the area of today's Mount Kemble Avenue created Morris Township's first industrial area. A local brickyard owned by the Pruddens and then the Armstrongs provided building material for many structures throughout the area. The Prudentown Historic District was added to the National Register in 2003.

<https://www.morristwp.com/DocumentCenter/View/7584/Prudentown-Album-10292020>
http://gardenstatelegacy.com/files/Morris_Countys_1770_Industrial_Complex_Mierisch_GSL5.pdf

Normandy Park District (cross-reference) - REG



This historic district contains homes from Morristown's Gilded Age. Many but not all were razed. There are estate pillars, walls and Victorian lamp posts that remain. The Normandy Park Historic District was added to the National Register in 1996. The boundary increase to add properties along Normandy Heights Road received a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) in April 2003.

Raising a family in Gilded Age Morristown:

<https://cdm16100.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16100coll3/id/182/rec/11>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PfPjHLb7FnuHM2Jf5aLpsJrwjedJFQzg/view?usp=sharing>

Normandy Heights 21 and Columbia Road 96 - REG

Thorne and Eddy Estates Nomination



This is the c. 1912 Neo-Georgian estate of William S. V. Thorne. It was designed by Delano and Aldrich, and named “Gateways”. Added to the National Register in 1978. The similarly styled carriage house at 96 Columbia Road is registered. It housed cars, carriages and Thorne manservants.

<http://www.beyondthegildedage.com/2012/01/gateways.html>

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/1aa32e8f-95ff-4690-ab8c-c6c49f543621>

Normandy Heights 45 and Columbia Road 98 - REG

Thorne and Eddy Estates Nomination



This is the c. 1895 home of Jesse Leeds Eddy. It is built of hand-hewn Vermont granite in the Victorian Shingle style by local builder Augustus Mills it was named “Valley View.” Added to the Register in 1978. The similarly styled carriage house at 98 Columbia Road is registered. It housed cars, carriages and Eddy manservants.

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/1aa32e8f-95ff-4690-ab8c-c6c49f543621>

Picatinny and Route 24 - OPN

Morris Aqueduct Company



There was a NJ SHPO opinion ID#3614 given on this property in January 1990. The address given for the Morris Aqueduct is 1.5 miles South of NJ Route 24 and Picatinny Road. The Morris Aqueduct Company began operations in 1799. Two miles of manually augured wooden pipes were buried in a ditch leading from an aquifer on Mount Kemble into Morristown.

<https://cdm16100.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16100coll3/id/281/rec/35>

[http://gardenstatelegacy.com/files/The Morris Aqueduct Company Mierisch GSL21.pdf](http://gardenstatelegacy.com/files/The_Morris_Aqueduct_Company_Mierisch_GSL21.pdf)

Punch Bowl Road 36 - OPN

Morris County Golf Club



There was a NJ SHPO opinion ID#4316 given on this property in September 2004. It was America's first golf club to be founded by women. Originally the 7-hole course was built on 20 acres of rented land, one-half a smooth meadow, the other containing the famous "punch bowl". The club was founded in 1894. The first two clubhouses burned down (1903 and 1915) and the third one dates to 1916, in the Tudor Revival style, by architect George B. Post.

<https://www.morriscgc.com/about-us/history>

Schoolhouse Lane 146 - REG



The Washington Valley Schoolhouse c. 1869 was built on the site of an earlier 1813 school that burned down. The property is owned by the Morris School District and is home to the Washington Valley Community Association. The school operated until 1913, and was added to the National Register in 1973, and is also a part of the Washington Valley Historic District (1992 registered).

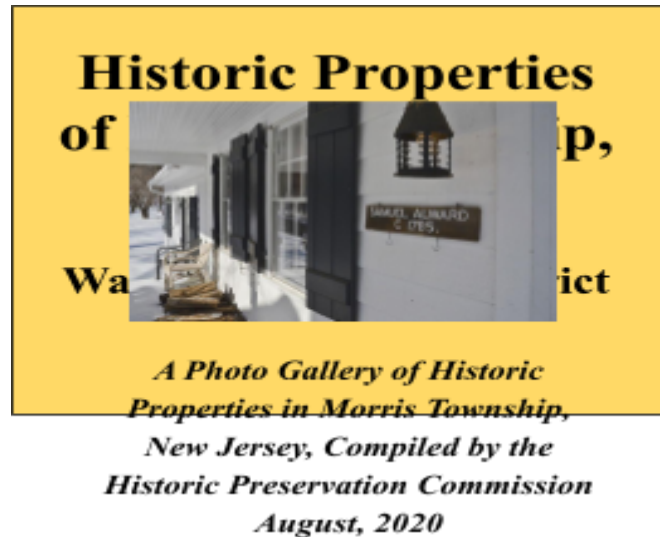
<https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/73001130>

Sussex Avenue 226 - OPN



This yellow brick building c. 1928 is one of three comprising Our Lady of Grace School, built and run by The Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Since 1971, it has been home to the Rabbinical College of America. There was a NJ SHPO opinion ID#4126 given in July 2002. It is notable for its Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style. The property was once part of the Theron Henry Butterworth estate and lies adjacent to the former estate of John Cleves Symmes called “Solitude”, later the Gustav Kissel estate known as “Wheatsheaf Farms”.

Washington Valley District (cross-reference) - REG



Washington Valley lies three miles west of Morristown on the northwest boundary of Morris Township, in a valley formed by an arm of old glacial Lake Passaic during the last Ice Age. It was settled in the 18th century by farmers and retains much of its agrarian charm today.

Washington Valley, An Informal History. Hoskins, Roberts, Foster, and Foster, 1960.

See Washington Valley HD Photo Album at:

<https://nj-morristownship2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/7582/Washington-Valley-Album-10292020>

West Hanover Avenue 550-560 - OPN



The Morristown & Morris Township Library The North Jersey History & Genealogy Center

The Morris County Alms House and Hospital Historic District received a NJ SHPO Opinion ID# 2174 of October 1994. The buildings are owned by Morris County. They tell the story of local social welfare through the decades. The former county hospital c. 1920 is a Georgian Revival building. Attached is another Georgian Revival building c. 1940. Karen Ann Quinlan lived on this site in a comatose state from 1976 until her death in 1985, and was the subject of a landmark “right to die” case.

<https://morristowngreen.com/2020/06/22/building-a-brighter-future-morris-countys-community-chest/>

Western Avenue 430 - OPN



Land for the Morristown Armory was selected in September 1936 and purchased in late 1937, with construction April 1938 - early 1939. Vintage “Armory boys in action” photo (at right) 1924.
May 26, 1668: The first NJ Assembly met in Elizabethtown. During a five-day session, the body passed militia legislation requiring men between the ages of 16 and 60 to train for “at least four days a year.”
NJ SHPO opinion ID#4336 of September 2004.

<https://njarmyguard.com/jersey-line>

Western Avenue - 455 - OPN



“Tower Hill” c. 1878-1890, was the summer home of Louis Charles Gillespie. The style is reminiscent of a Southern Colonial home with a second story porch supported by Corinthian columns and the view to the west over the Washington Valley. Notable feature is the stone tower (c. 1894) that rises 70 feet, with a chimney 12 feet higher, and sitting above a 417-foot deep well from which water was pumped by a steam engine to supply the estate. Existing caretaker’s cottage (#451 Western) and pillars are historic. NJ SHPO Opinion ID#3615 in January 1990.

Whippany Road 70 - REG



The Morristown School was added to the Register in 1996. The school was founded in 1898 and merged with the Beard School in 1971. The main building was designed by Boring and Tilton and is of Colonial Revival style and dates to 1897. The architects also designed the Morristown Library and the Ellis Island Immigration Station.

<https://www.mbs.net/about/history>

Lost Properties



C. 1805-1820 Isaac Newton Pierson Farmhouse razed in November 2016, now CubeSmart Self-Storage - OPN



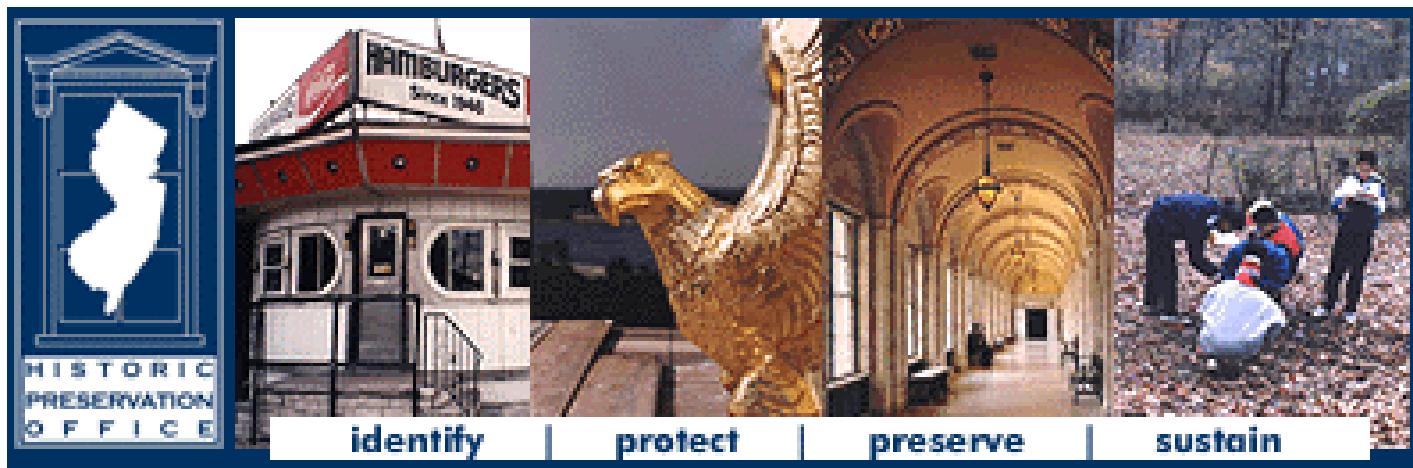
99 Columbia Road

A NJ SHPO opinion ID#3600 was given on the Isaac Newton Pierson house and property in 1981. Pierson purchased the Georgian-style house in 1856, but claimed to have been born in it in 1822. The house relates to the period when the course of Columbia Road was laid out by the Newark and Morristown Turnpike Company in the early 1800s.

Link to the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office

Throughout the year New Jersey's Historic Preservation Office (HPO) updates the State and National Registers of Historic Places which may be accessed at the link below. This is a list of Morris County properties by municipality. Scroll down to *Morris Township*.

https://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/nrsr_lists/Morris.pdf



Record of Revisions

- 3/15/2021 Corrected caption for Sussex Ave. 226 to show that the RCA and its predecessor school, run by the Sisters of the Good Shepard, is actually located on what was the Butterworth estate, not Wheatsheaf as previously believed. This was discovered when researching the location in support of an application to the Planning Board. C. Schmidt.
- 4/11/2021 Removed 73 Kahdena Rd. and 124 Washington Valley Rd, which were duplicates of pages in the Washington Valley album. C. Schmidt