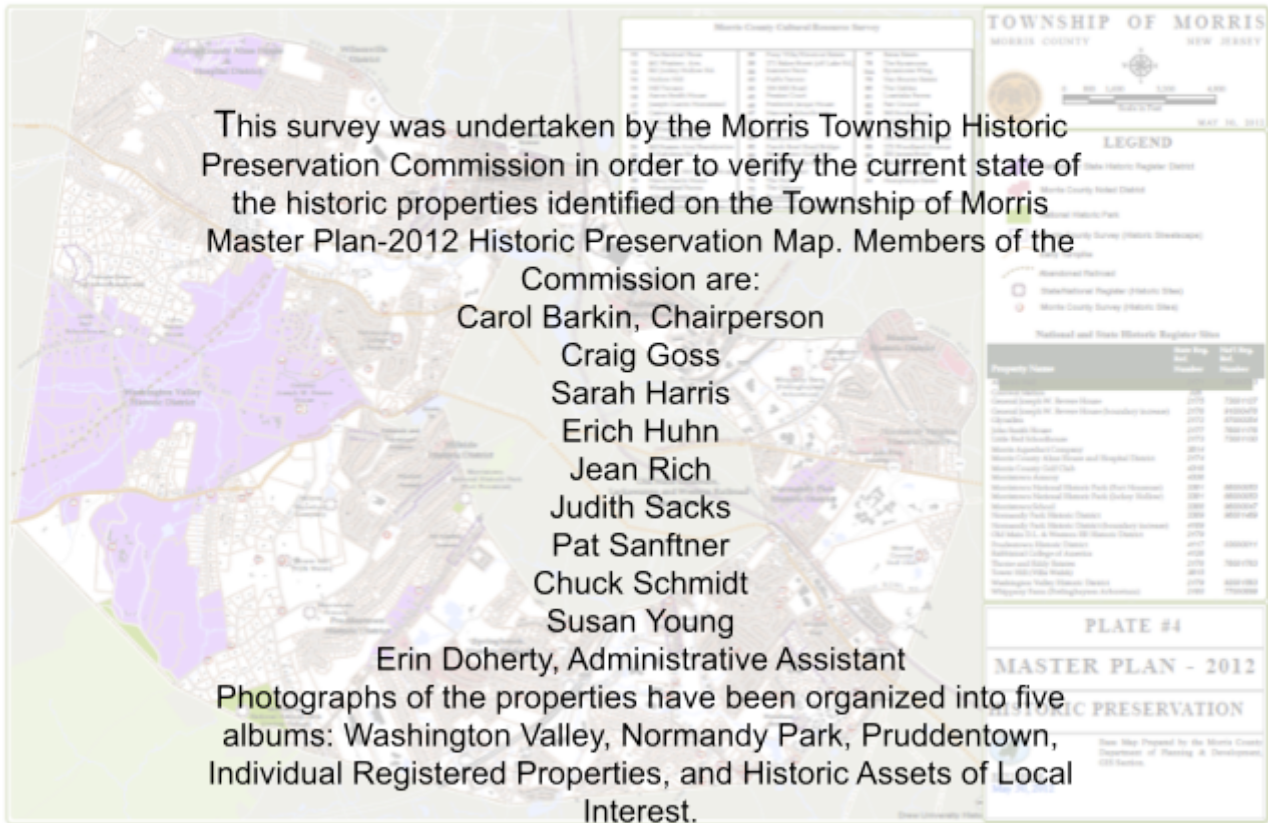


Historic Properties of Morris Township, NJ

Washington Valley District



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



Washington Valley Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on 11/12/1992.
Following are links to the nomination:

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail?assetID=2bbc0150-0975-4c4c-b02f-78ceabc81eea>
<https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/7d8fbb29-208f-4a28-a1d4-7882361b3d41/>

In this book you will find a number of nominations:

Washington Valley Historic District (Registered in 1992)

The Washington Valley Schoolhouse (Registered in 1973)

The John Smith House (Registered in 1975)

Fosterfields including The Willows (Registered in 1973)

The Fosterfields Boundary Extension (Registered in 1991),

plus properties that were cited as historic assets that relate to the Washington Valley in the Acroterion Study, and these will be marked as **Not Registered**.

The W.V. District also consists of empty lots, some privately owned and not developed, owned by the Morris County Park Commission, or the water utility, SMCMLUA. They are mentioned in the nomination because they preserve the open vistas, fields and woodlots that contribute to the pastoral nature of the district. There are another 600 acres of open space in the Washington Valley Historic District that were formerly associated with the Rockaway Valley Railroad.

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

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Gaston Rd 30



C. 1739 the “Isaac Gaston” vernacular Federal house. 18th century. Has had many additions over the years. Left side is the original building and was moved to this location c. 1929. Gaston was a farmer, part owner of a sawmill and cabinetmaker. Some of his chairs are in the collection of Morristown National Historical Park. In 1992 there was a well house and barn/garage mentioned on the property. **Not Registered.**

Gaston Rd 57



“Whispering Waters”, shingled, 2-story Colonial Revival house with a gable roof and projecting portico, deeply recessed door and fluted pilasters. C. 1887 (?) **Not Registered.**

Gaston Rd 65



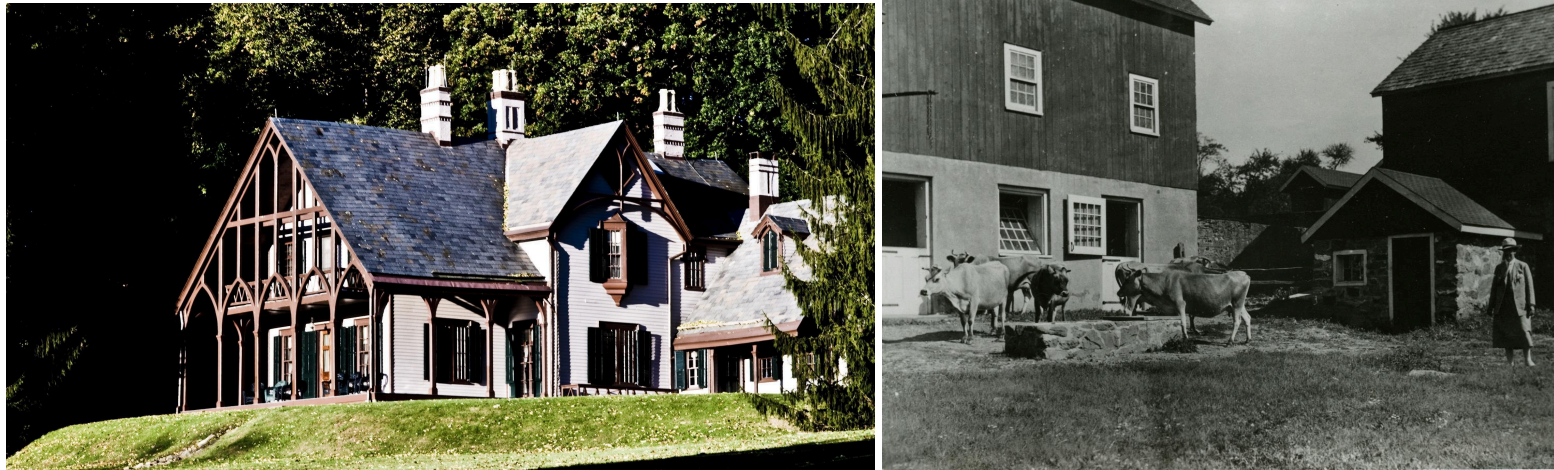
C. 1860-1887 vernacular mansarded Victorian house with bracketed cornice and chamfered porch posts.
“George Estes House” Not Registered.

Kahdena Road 50



C. 1887. East Jersey cottage/vernacular, one of two remaining buildings from Gustav Kissel estate “Wheatsheaf”. This was a worker’s cottage. **Not registered.**

Kahdena Road 73



General Joseph W. Revere House "The Willows, Fosterfields" ID#2176. Victorian Gothic Revival style with late 19th century modifications. Later the estate of Charles Foster, whose daughter Caroline donated the property to the Morris County Park Commission. Caroline Foster pictured on right c.1930.

All the Fosters' former property is part of the Fosterfields boundary extension nomination, and the Willows and Foster property are part of the Washington Valley Historic District (1992 registered).

Contributing buildings: 9, contributing structures: 7, contributing sites: 1.

The Willows was separately registered in 1973.

The boundary increase dates from October 1991.

<https://www.morrisparks.net/index.php/parks/fosterfields>

Knox Hill Road 1



C. 1888. Queen Anne Shingle late Victorian. Has extensive porches, stained glass windows and ogee gable. Charles Cutler Estate known as "**Kahdena**" on Telephone Hill by architect Frank Colburn. Contributing structure on site: granite gate posts mark the original location of the driveway entrance

Knox Hill Road 21



C. 1892 Eclectic Queen Anne/Colonial Revival. Architect E.G.W. Dietrich. Clapboard, hipped roof and cross gables. **"Nutwood"** built for the McConnells.
Contributing building on site is a frame stable northwest of the house.

Knox Hill Road 35



C. 1916-17 Eclectic Tudor Revival by Harrie T. Lindeberg*. The eight-sided, glass-walled summer gazebo with a conical shingled roof stands to the rear of the house and is contributing. Offices of Community Foundation of NJ; house and land deeded to the Morris County Park Commission in 1976. "The Henry Rawles Estate"

**Lindeberg designed several important New Jersey country houses in the early 20th century. Many of his creations were in the Tudor Revival style, including Hollow Hill (Morris Township, demolished), the Humphreys-Fairburn House (Morris Township), and the Vietor-Christianson House (Rumson).*

Knox Hill Road 43



C. 1910 English-influenced Eclectic Revival with steep gables, with later additions.
Formerly the “**Rawles Estate Stable**”. Was willed with the lot to long-time Rawles estate employees.

Mendham Road 69 and 75



On maps before **1869**. Vernacular fieldstone with many additions. Formerly Murray's General Store, a gas station in the 1920s, and now an antique store and rental apartments. The store served traffic on the much-traveled Washington Turnpike between Morristown and Mendham in the 19th century. The car repair business at 75 Mendham Road is part of the estate. **"Ader Homestead". Not Registered.**

Mendham Road 230



C. 1882-1887 Neoclassical Revival/Eclectic; Gardener's Cottage, House, Dairy, Bridge, Barn, Mills, Farmhouse, Springhouse, Recycling center, Kountze Mansion, Pump house, Italian Garden with sculpture gardens, Farmhouse, Outbuilding (stable) originally on 4,000 acres and the township's largest estate property. Architect unknown. SHPO opinion in 2013 ID#5283 was provided concerning the Lower Pond Dam which is not registered, but is on the property, and was filled in by the Township. Pictured above is "Delbarton", known as Old Main.

<https://saintmarysabbey.org/the-kountze-family-of-delbarton>

Mendham Road 284



C. 1800-1830. Vernacular with Georgian Revival additions. Contributing building is a separate residence that was once a carriage house. Once a tavern on the Washington Turnpike between NY and Easton, PA.

“William Sayre Estate” The empty field across Mendham Road was part of the Sayre estate where stagecoaches could park overnight. Barns were razed after 1992.

Old Mendham Road 15



Queen Anne and Classical detail Victorian bridge to Colonial Revival influence-vernacular. Built c.1880-1910. House and barn in good condition. **“Aaron Smith House”**. **Not Registered**.

Old Mendham Road 25



C. 1790 (prior to) Vernacular Classical/Federal by Henry Gardner, Sr. on 75 acres. Then the James S. Pierson family farm. One of the oldest buildings in Morris Township. Surrounded by an apple orchard, cider works and distillery. **“Gatewood”**. Contributing building is a three-car garage/carriage house.

School House Lane 1



C. 1830 Vernacular Style, prob. East Jersey Cottage with modifications. Extensively remodeled in 1900. Four contributing buildings on site: house, barn garage in the former stable and frame chicken coop. **“Enoch Roff House”**

School House Lane 31



C. 1932 Home of Barbara Hoskins, local historian lived here from 1947-1988. Authored several books about Morris Township. Colonial Revival style. Contributing building on site is a storage shed.

School House Lane 40



C. 1850s. East Jersey Cottage with 1970s additions. 2-story barn is also a contributing structure. Fieldstone foundation denotes the oldest part of the house.

School House Lane 44



- C. 1920s Bungalow. Plus a detached single car garage contributes.
"Sunnyside" bungalow from the Sears and Roebuck catalogue.
Detached garage built at the same time contributes.

School House Lane 61



C. 1784 East Jersey Cottage. With c. 1810 additions. **Samuel Alward House.** One of oldest homes in Morris Township. Some interior features are protected via a covenant thru a prior owner. Samuel Alward barn across the road burned in January, 1992.

Spencer Road 30



C. 1927-1932 Eclectic Revival with Tudor Influence, “**Spencer Estate**” built by Frank Spencer on 40 acres. A later owner sold 4 acres to the nearby church in the 1960s.

Washington Valley Road Bridge



Bridge #0684. Original truss structure replaced with modern in 1993. Bridge over Whippany River on Washington Valley Road. Adjacent to Patriot's Path.

Seeing Eye Way 1

(Address was changed in 2019 to #1 Seeing Eye Way in honor of their 90th Anniversary)



In 1965 the internationally known Seeing Eye, Inc., formerly located on Whippany Road, purchased “Tranquility”, the 120 acre estate of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kemeys on Washington Valley Road, razed the old house, and built handsome new quarters of brick and limestone, with kennels for the dogs {Barbara Hoskins, 1987, p. 30)

Washington Valley Road 60



C. 1822 “Zenas Smith Gould Farmhouse” with later additions.
Property of the Seeing Eye for tenants. Earlier address was 10 W.V. Road.

Washington Valley Road 59



C. late 19th century. Vernacular Victorian. Built by Christopher Moody, prominent farmer. Moved in 1903, originally across the road. Part of the Seeing Eye, once part of the Kemeys estate “Tranquility”. Contributing building on site is a bank barn north of the house.

Washington Valley Road 68



C. 1790 vernacular cottage. **"Jacob Smith House"** Smith was a weaver, and there are some artifacts at the Morris Museum from Jacob Smith. Cottage, barn/garage and chicken house/artist studio contribute on site. The original well house is positioned in front of the door with what appears to be original hardware and mechanisms. This cottage is related to Jacob's brother's house at 124 Washington Valley Road and was probably built contemporaneously. The retaining wall does not contribute. Updated information from the owner during an April 2021 site visit.

Washington Valley Road 124



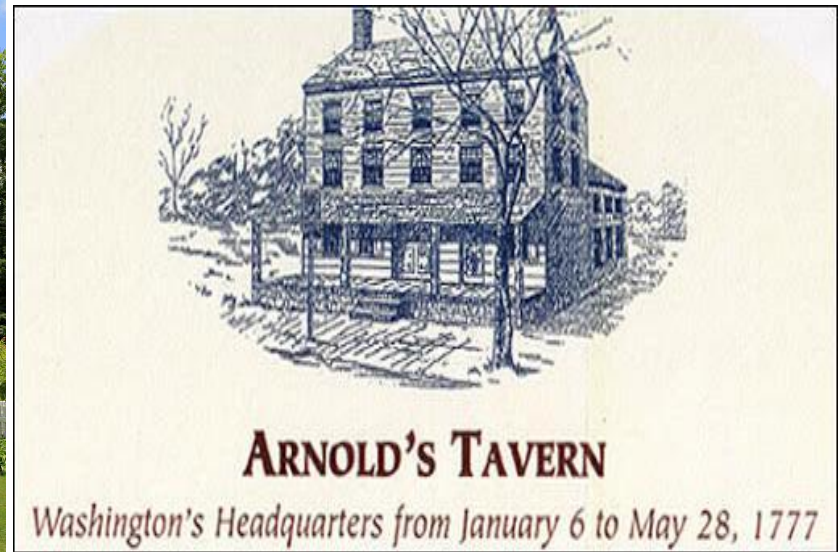
C. 18th century frame structure and 1812 brick structure. Part of the W.V. District and also separately registered in 1976. Note: the year "1812" in black brick on the west end of the brick house. "**John Smith House**" is in the Federal style and is the only brick residence in the area. The frame building was moved here from its original location c. 1812. Property includes the remnants of the only known lime kiln in the Valley. Three contributing buildings (house, outbuilding, springhouse) and two contributing structures (stone wall and lime kiln). A large main barn was demolished before 1950. Related to Jacob Smith House at 68 Washington Valley Road with a similar retaining wall.

Washington Valley Road 131



C. 1930 French Eclectic Revival. 2 ½ story manor house. Slate roof, brick chimneys.
Garage does not contribute.

Washington Valley Road 140



C. 1789. Vernacular Federal. "**Jacob Arnold House**" proprietor of Arnold's Tavern in Morristown, headquarters for General Washington. One of the Valley's original families (1749).

Jacob Arnold was born in the Valley. Extensive house additions/renovations 1927 and 1990.

Were six contributing buildings noted in the 1992 nomination: house, barn, outbuilding, frame chicken house, shingled pig pen, greenhouse.

Washington Valley Road 144



C. 1910. 1 ½ story Colonial Revival Cottage. Shingle sided with center brick chimney. House was listed in 1992 nomination as at the corner of School House Lane and Washington Valley Road, and distinctive because it was on Arnold family land.

Washington Valley Road 146



C. 1869 One-room schoolhouse, Vernacular. Property of the Morris School District, largely intact including the privy. Replaced an earlier 1813 school that burned down. Registered as part of the W.V. district in 1992 and separately in 1973.

Washington Valley Road 173



C. 1848 2 ½ -story Vernacular farmhouse and Colonial Revival additions. **“Isaac Whitehead House.”**
Focal point front door has with fluted pilasters, sidelights and transom, 3-bay, side hall, white picket fencing.

Washington Valley Road 185



C. 1798 East Jersey Cottage with shed roof dormer additions. Built by John Morris, a distiller and farmer. Property has an historic apple orchard and large secluded garden.

Washington Valley Road 189



C. 1856/1880 Carpenter Gothic/Queen Anne style. Known as "**The Pickets**" built for Augustus Whitehead and his bride, built on land owned by Isaac Whitehead.
Three contributing buildings on site: house, barn and garage.

Wheatsheaf Road 15



Gustav Kissel estate **“Wheatsheaf”** C. 1887. This remodeled home dates to 1904, built by Kissel as another residence located closer to his stables. Architect: Hamilton, Bell and Co. Georgian-derived brick Classical Revival. Kissell purchased Wheatsheaf Farms and the old Symmes homestead, “Solitude”.

Original Kissel mansion, shown on the right, was razed. **Not registered.**

Note: Kissel estate caretaker cottages were at 47 (razed) and 50 Kahdena (extant)

Whitehead Road Bridge



ca. Late 19th Century. Notable for wrought iron railing in a lattice like pattern.

Whitehead Road Bridge



C. Late 19th Century. South heading bridge, notable for wrought iron finished with pyramidal points.

Whitehead Road 41



“Sylvester Whitehead Farm” with a C. 1900 Colonial Revival house with a C. 1850 Federal-era house at its core. On site are five contributing buildings: house, barn, greenhouse, another outbuilding, and a Colonial Revival cottage. There is one contributing structure, the stone retaining wall, broken in the center by gate posts and an arched metal trellis over steps up to the lawn.

Original address was 55 Whitehead Road.

Whitehead Road 41 continued



Whitehead Road 41 continued



There are two remaining red brick posts at the corner of Whitehead and Whispering Meadow that were formerly part of the Whitehead property. Second one is heavily overgrown with vegetation, and just to the right of the No Outlet sign.

Whitehead Road 82



C. 1926. 2 ½ story Craftsman-Colonial Revival, extensively renovated in 2015/2016 with additions. Known as the "**Black Sisters House**" for Bea and Ethel Black. Contributing building was a two-story barn cited in the nomination and located behind the house. It was razed after 1992.

Whitehead Road 95



C. 1846 and later. 1 ½ story East Jersey Cottage. Built by Samuel Loree. House probably had a blacksmith shop on property. In the 1992 nomination cited as the “**Loree-Smith-King House.**”
Fire damaged in the 1990s and rebuilt.

Lost Properties



- *Alward Barn at 60 (Block 317, Lot 7) School House Lane **burned Jan.1992 Registered.**
- *C. 1912 Gould-Sanford House and tenant house razed at 170 Washington Valley Road **Registered.**
- C. 1850 Robert Roff House and barn razed c. 2000 at 182 Washington Valley Road **Registered.**
- *C. 1912 Gould-Sanford House and tenant house razed at 170 Washington Valley Road **Registered.**
- *C. 1915 Colonial Revival House and garage razed 9/14/92 at 37 Whitehead Road **Registered.**
- C. 1920 Cottage razed at (Block 312, Lot 7) 54 Whitehead Road **Registered.**
- C. 1926 Black Sisters' barn razed at 82 Whitehead Road **Registered.**
- *SMCMUA c. 1910 House and shed razed 2015-16 at 86 Whitehead Road **Registered.**
- C. 1927 Rochelle House razed after 1992 at 173-185 Mendham Road. **Registered.**
- Former Sayre Property at 303 Mendham Road. House demolished 9/15/92
- May still have two barns and a chicken house as contributing buildings. Morris County property.**Registered.**
- *Kissel Estate Caretaker's Cottage at 47 Kahdena Road **Acroterion.**
- The Joseph Guerin Home at 17 Old Mendham Road **Acroterion.**

*Empty lots, all other properties have new construction

Lost Properties



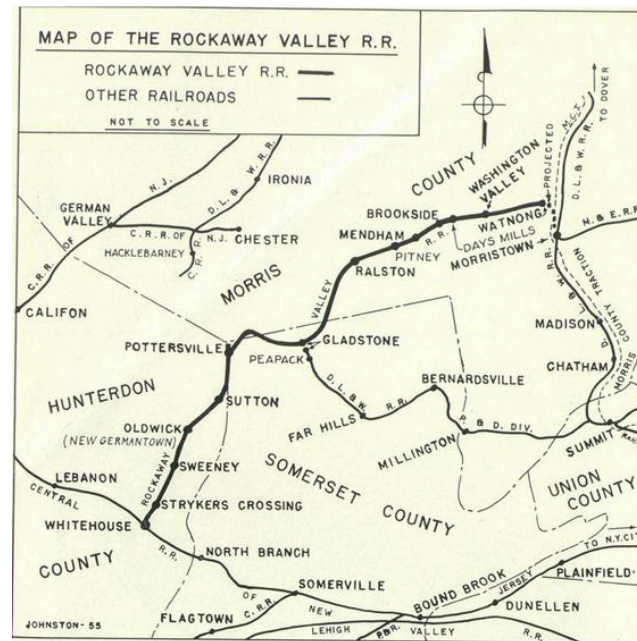
182 Washington Valley Road

86 Whitehead Road

View of the Washington Valley from Picatinny Road



Municipal Open Space in the Washington Valley



600 acres of the Valley are open space and are part of the Washington Valley Historic District. The 1992 nomination cited one contributing structure-the remaining bed of the Rockaway Valley Railroad, C. 1891.

The Washington Valley nomination cited these empty lots in 1992:

Block 274, Lots 5A, 6A & B, 12, 62, 62A and 79 A

Block 312, Lots 42, 26, and 47

Block 320, Lots 9, 13A, 13 B and 13C

Record of Revisions

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 3/27/2021 | On Washington Valley Road 124, corrected caption to refer to Jacob Smith house address as 68 instead of 60. C. Schmidt |
| 4/11/2021 | Updated description of 73 Kahdena Rd. Updated description of 68 Washington Valley Rd. C. Schmidt |