EWING TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Historic Preservation Commission meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm at the Ewing Municipal Building, 2 Jake Garzio Drive.

Visit our website for more information:
www.ewingnj.org/boards/historic
or email us at ewinghpc@gmail.com

Mayor Bert H. Steinmann
Ewing Township Council
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CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH IN EWING

AMERICA 250

EWING TOWNSHIP LOCALLY REGISTERED HISTORIC PROPERTIES DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

WHEN EWING WASN'T EWING

Prior to the 1600s, the Lenni Lenape Native Americans called this area home. In the mid-1600s, the European expansion (mostly Dutch and English) discovered the riches of the "new land" and settled in an area known as West New Jersey (roughly what is now north of the Rt. 1 corridor). In addition to landowners and their families, Black men, women, and children helped care for properties while enslaved or as indentured servants.

From then the boundaries changed: Burlington County (1694-1700); Hopewell Twp. in Burlington County ('til 1714); Hopewell Twp. in Hunterdon County ('til 1719); Trenton Twp. in Hunterdon County ('til 1834); Ewing Twp. in Hunterdon County ('til 1838) and finally, Ewing Township in newly formed Mercer County in 1838.

EWING IN THE 1750s 'TIL NOW

In 1750 - 1800, land ownership was large (usually 400+ acres), but fields were small. The land was mostly covered in trees and shrubs, flowing streams, and a few dirt roads. Businesses (saw and grain mills, boat building, stables, small stores, etc.) were established to meet the needs of a growing population. The number of farms grew, larger properties were divided and became small in size.

Through the 1800s, the building of the canal system linked and improved transportation as did the expansion of the railroad. Population grew as more jobs became available. General Motors (1939) and the end of World War II (1945) had major impacts on changes.

By 2026, there are no farms left and properties are mostly on ¼ acre lots. There are very few sole business operations as the majority of the 38,000+ people who reside here work for others.

St. Michael's Cemetery, ca. 1702

The cemetery is on the site of the former Hopewell Church, one of the earliest organized religious sites in the county, and establishes Ewing's settlement as critical to early colonial history in New Jersey during the Revolutionary War. Today only two headstones are readable in the graveyard, Samuel Tucker (1721-1789) and his wife Elizabeth Gould Tucker. Local legend has it that the unmarked graves of William and Mary Trent are also located here.

William Green House, ca. 1730

The original section of the house was one room deep and two-and-a-half stories tall. Materials used in the second section suggest construction took place between the 1750s and 1790s. A third section was likely added in the early 1800s.

William Green III, who was born in the house in 1743, may have served in the Hunterdon County militia during the Revolutionary War. While George Washington himself may not have stayed there, historic documents indicate that some of his troops did. Today, although the property is in a state of disrepair, it remains a significant example of colonial farmhouse architecture.

David Howell House, ca. 1730

The earliest section of the house was two stories of one room each. In 1790, an addition was constructed, which is the main 5-bay section you see today. The Howell family can be traced back to the 1500s in England. The house was once part of a large farm property that contained a mill, but is now surrounded by a 1950s development.

Anthony Cook Farmhouse, ca. 1750

The Anthony Cook Farmhouse is a 2.5-story, rectangular clapboard house containing four rooms on each of the two floors, with original brick fireplaces, plaster walls, and wide-plank pine floorboards throughout. It is quite possible, during the early morning hours of December 26, 1776, that the house may have witnessed part of the long and arduous march to Trenton of George Washington's Continental Army, since the house faces what was then the original Pennington Rd.

Hill's Hollow, ca. 1765

The house originally consisted of two rooms with the first floor for daily living and the second floor for sleeping. Amos Scudder, a scout for General George Washington during the Revolutionary War, is believed to have lived here. Hill's Hollow is one of Ewing's best preserved vernacular farmhouse complexes, consisting of house, stone barn, and well.

S.T. Atchley Farm, 1802 or earlier

Property had been owned by the Atchleys for six generations dating back to 1601 and part of the house may date to the 18th century. Once it was a large farming operation which was between Roger's Park Rd (Rt. 31) and the road leading to the Asylum (Lower Ferry Rd), which were two of Ewing's earliest commercial roads. The left side was the original two-story building which has been expanded multiple times since. Some of the earliest features are within the building (such as a beehive oven); however, the exterior design is in character with early Hopewell Valley buildings. Most of the land is now modern housing.

Temple Ryan Farmhouse, ca. 1750

Built circa 1750 with an 1840 addition, the historic Benjamin Temple House is a rare, preserved example of Georgian-style wooden colonial architecture in the area. Originally owned by a prominent farmer, the interior of the house is characterized by its paneled fireplace surrounds and dentil crown molding. Saved from demolition in 1973, it was moved and now functions as a historic house museum and headquarters for the Ewing Township Historic Preservation Society.

Cornell-Brophy Springhouse, ca. 1750

This is an extremely rare example of a dairy farm bulk cooling structure found in this area during the 18th century. Made of stone or brick, the structure used natural springs which provided cool fresh water to help keep milk and cheese preserved and could be used as a smokehouse in the fall and winter for preserving meat. In later years, it was a trolley stop for passengers traveling from Trenton to Pennington.

Scudder–Reeder House, ca. 1780

The Scudder–Reeder House was built by Daniel Scudder in the late eighteenth century and later expanded by Amos Reeder, descendants of prominent Ewing families.

The earliest section, a two-and-a-half-story rubble stone building, is visible on the southern façade. Later renovations enlarged the home. Unusually large for a farmhouse, the Scudder–Reeder House reflects both the prosperity of its owners and its connection to the nearby canal, an important transportation route.

Where is downtown Ewing?

There was never one! Originally, Ewing was mostly woodland. As it was settled, small settlements (hamlets) were formed to support developing business, mostly farming. The woods became fields, houses and churches were built, and non-paved roads were developed.