

The Role & Function of the Historic Preservation Commission

The role of the Historic Preservation Commission is to protect and preserve the historic sites in Tewksbury Township and to help to maintain the historic character of this community for current and future generations. The commission identifies and recommends local historic districts and sites. It reviews exterior alterations to structures within these local districts as well as proposed demolitions. It prepares nominations of historic sites, structures and districts for inclusion in the Township's Development Regulations Ordinance (DRO) and/or the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, and advises the Land Use Board on matters affecting local historic districts.

The Commission, consisting of 5 regular and 2 alternate appointed members, meets the 4th Monday of every month (check www.tewksburytwp.net for location). For applications, deadlines, and general questions, please call the Commission secretary at (908) 439-0022 x730. A Design Guidelines booklet is available to assist property owners with questions about selection of appropriate materials and designs.

requently asked questions;

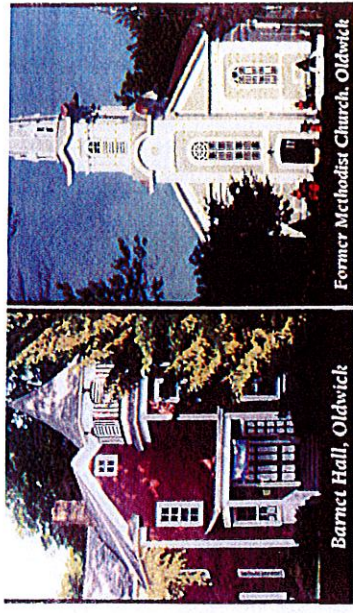
Does my project need to be reviewed by HPC?

Any construction project requiring a permit within Tewksbury's three local historic districts needs to be reviewed. Some examples include:

- Changes in roof and siding materials, including gutters and downspouts
- Window replacement
- Storm window installation
- Repair of porches, including posts, cornices, steps and handrails
- Addition or replacement of exterior light fixtures
- Construction of fences, walls and walkways
- Building additions and new construction, including accessory structures
- Demolition of any structure
- Change or replacement of a business sign
- Sheds and all prefabricated structures.

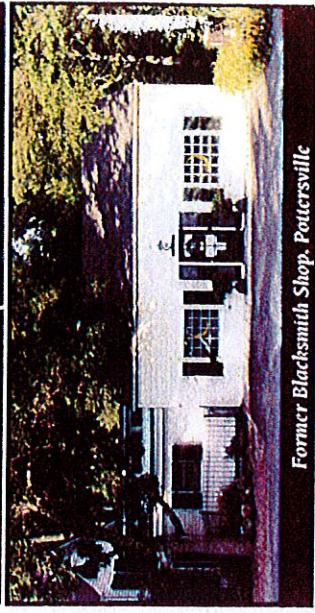
Do my color choices for exterior siding and trim need to be reviewed?

Exterior paint colors are NOT subject to review.

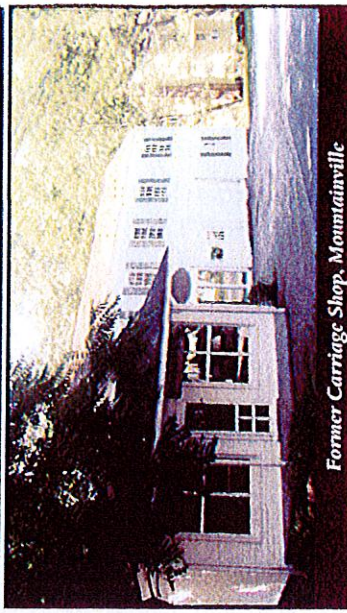


Barnet Hall, Oldwick

Former Methodist Church, Oldwick



Former Blacksmith Shop, Pottersville



Former Carriage Shop, Mountainville

View From Old Turnpike Road
heading south into New Germantown,
circa 1900

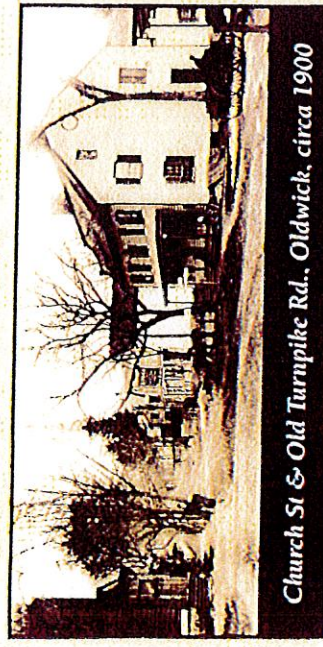


Church St & Old Turnpike Rd., Oldwick, circa 1900

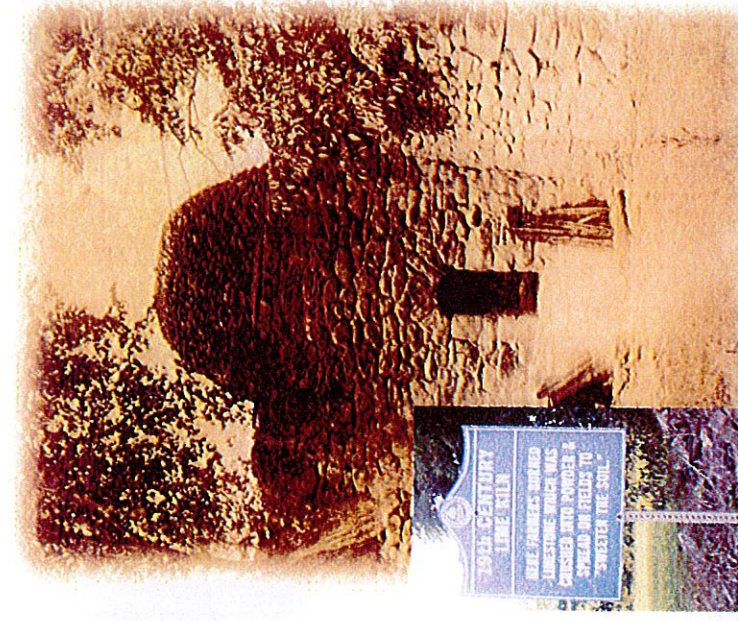
The Need for Historic Preservation

The need for historic preservation in Tewksbury Township was recognized early on as an important element of zoning in this once agrarian community. As change accelerated here in the 1970's and the 1980's, the character of our historic villages needed protection from road widening, improvements and demolition. Landmarks that played an important role in local history needed to be surveyed and designated as historic sites. Twenty-seven such sites have been designated along with the three local historic districts, Oldwick, Mountainville, Pottersville. Those three, together with Cokesbury, Upper and Lower Fairmount, and Taylor's Mill are listed on the New Jersey and National Register of Historic Places.

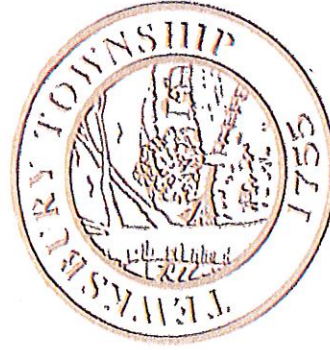
With these efforts the character of this community is being preserved.



Church St & Old Turnpike Rd., Oldwick, circa 1900



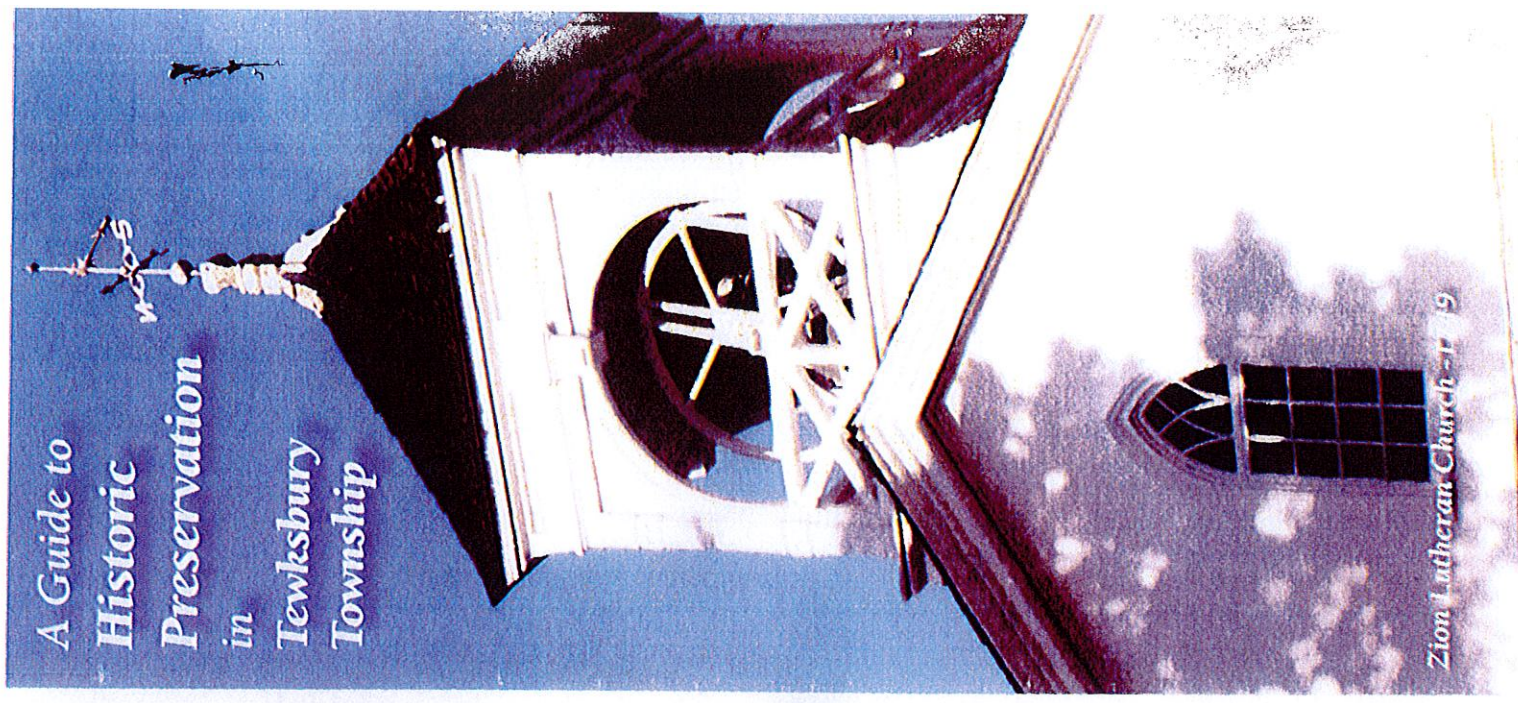
Lime Kilns, a legacy of our agrarian past



Township of Tewksbury
Historic Preservation Commission

(908) 439-0022 x730

www.tewksburytwp.net



Zion Lutheran Church - 1759

Tewksbury

Tewksbury Township was created from Lebanon Township in 1755. The community's history, however, goes back to pre-recorded times- to settlements by Native Americans, whose traces can still be found today along stream beds and newly plowed fields. Its recorded history began with the survey of the 92,513-acre "Great Tract" across northern Hunterdon County for the West Jersey Society, a group of London investors, in 1711.

Mountainville

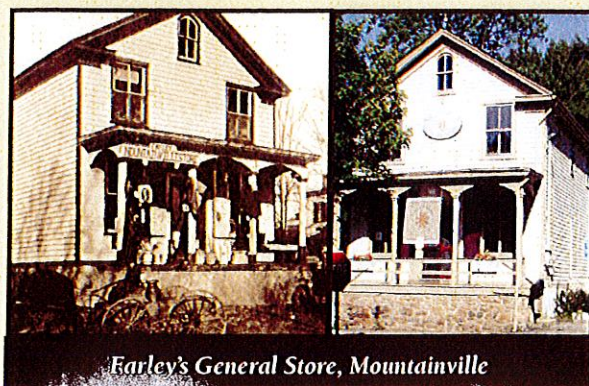
Mountainville clusters at the base of Hell Mountain, where the confluence of five streams provided water power that was utilized for grist and saw mills at an early date. By the middle decades of the 19th century, the village grew to encompass a store, tavern, school, wheelwright shop and more than a dozen dwellings, all rather closely spaced on narrow winding roads. Vernacular structures of stone or frame construction exhibit simple stylistic embellishment typical of the period, most notably the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The village retains much of its original character.

Farley's General Store - circa 1868

Located in the center of the village, it is a two and one half story three bay building with a gable front, center door, full Italianate porch and round-headed gable-window.

The Mountainville Hotel- circa 1820-50

The small two-story tavern with clapboard siding and a simple Greek Revival wrap-around porch was run by the Potter family for more than 150 years. The original bar and second-story ball room survive intact.



Farley's General Store, Mountainville

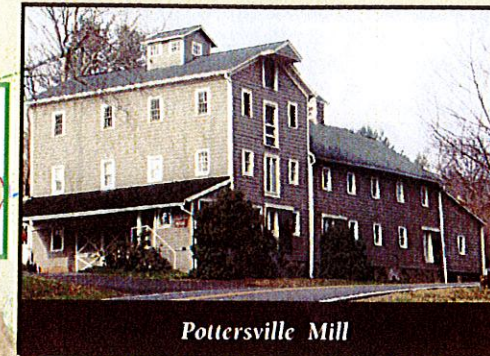
The Mountainville Hotel



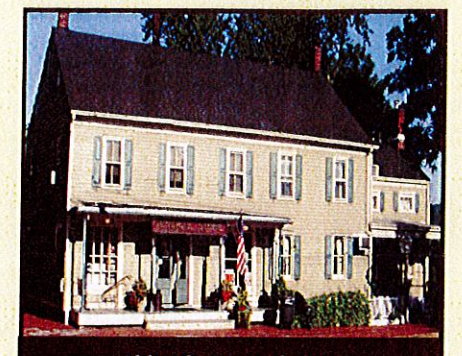
Barber Shop, Mountainville

Pottersville

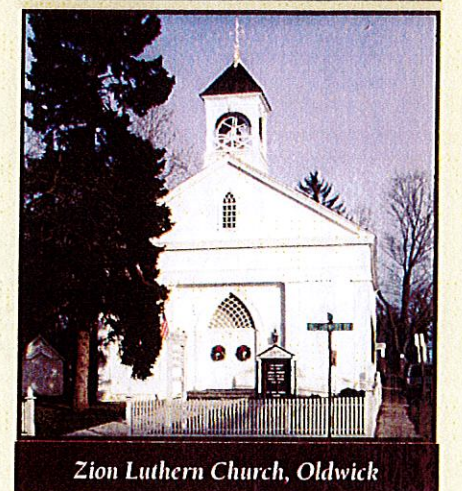
The abundant water power from the Lamington River fostered the initial settlement and subsequent development of Pottersville which, straddling the river, is located in both Tewksbury and Bedminster Township. By the time of the American Revolution, grist, fulling and saw mills were in operation on the west side of the river. Acquired by Serring Potter in 1783, the hamlet was known as Potter's Mills until 1840 when the name was changed to Pottersville upon the establishment of a post office. Pottersville preserves much of its 19th century character. The grist mill and portions of its hydrosystem survive, along with houses, a store, church, school and blacksmith shop.



Pottersville Mill



Oldwick General Store



Zion Lutheran Church, Oldwick

Oldwick

Originally known as Smithfield, the crossroads village was renamed New Germantown upon the construction of the Zion Lutheran Church in 1749. The name was changed again during World War I to Oldwick. An 1813 turnpike and a late 19th-century railroad provided economic stimulus and Oldwick prospered as the service center for a rich agricultural district, as is evident from the substantial dwellings lining its streets. Dating primarily from the 19th century, its buildings exhibit many of the styles popular in that era: Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. Tewksbury Township's largest village, Oldwick, could once boast of three churches, several stores, and a dozen artisan shops, as well as a tavern and school. It still retains its historic character as a vibrant center of community life.

Zion Lutheran Church -built 1749, remodeled in 1831, 1854 & 1883

Established in 1714, the congregation is New Jersey's oldest Lutheran body in continuous service. The stone church originally faced south; the Greek Revival temple front was added in 1854 and the Victorian belfry replaces one blown off in the Blizzard of 1888.

Barnet Hall Academy- built in 1807, remodeled in 1833 & 1902

Named after its founder, Dr. Oliver Barnet, a Revolutionary War figure and the town's first physician, Barnet Hall was a private school for many years. Its present late Victorian appearance results from extensive renovations in 1902, at which time the front wing and belfry were added.

The Oldwick General Store - 18th century

This vernacular frame building has served many purposes in its history, including a residence, general store, antique shop, and eatery.

