

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received JUN 11 1982
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Rocky Hill Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number ~~Generally including Washington Street, Montgomery Avenue,~~
Crescent Avenue, Princeton Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Rocky Hill and Franklin Twp N/A vicinity of congressional district 5th

state New Jersey code 34 county Somerset code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple public and private (see continuation sheets)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Administration Building

street & number North Bridge and East High Streets

city, town Somerville state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N.J. Historic Sites Inventory: Rocky Hill has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980-81 federal state county local

depository for survey records Cultural and Environmental Services

city, town Trenton state New Jersey

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Rocky Hill is today a borough of approximately one square mile in area, with a population of about 700. The town can trace its beginnings to early in the 18th century, with its major growth occurring from the second quarter of the 19th century. All periods, as well as the intervening years, are reflected in the 145 buildings and seven potential archeological sites included in this nomination, of which only 12 (or 8%) are classified as intrusions. Rocky Hill has been fortunate in retaining a sense of its identity as a discrete village, even though suburban sprawl has begun to characterize part of the surrounding area. Much of it was a century or more ago with the interspersing of compatibly massed, scaled and textured 20th century buildings, the village today consists of a principal street, with integrated commercial and residential areas, with additional residences on intersecting streets. The predominant building material remains, as it was historically, wood, and the compact, village scale is maintained by building heights that in general do not exceed 2 1/2 stories.

A century or more ago, Rocky Hill was a thriving, self-sufficient village. The river provided power to run its mills, and the canal and railroad were vital commercial links. Workers, merchants, mechanics, and farmers lived and conducted business farther up the hill, at what is now the center of town. The corner of Washington and Montgomery was an important focal point, with the church and school facing each other (25, 26)*. Most houses were frame, two stories, lined up neatly along the streets. Commercial activity was limited to a few stores in town. That picture is generally what is seen today, although the economic focus has changed. The mills and the railroad are gone and the canal no longer hauls commercial traffic.

Although specific retail uses have changed, the village continues to provide the services its population requires - restaurants, post office, insurance, etc. One of the elements contributing to the village's integrity is the fact that a wide variety of retail activity exists on nearby Route 206, outside the district. As in most commercial areas, many of the structures' facades within the Rocky Hill's commercial district have been altered, or modernized, to keep up with the competitive times. Intrusive signage and parking are nonexistent.

The principal street in the Borough (Route 518, known locally as Washington Street) runs nearly east and west, and there is no major perpendicular through road. U.S. 206, which is a north-south artery, is located about a quarter-mile west of the Borough boundary; Washington Street crests at about 140' above sea level near the western boundary of the Borough, then travels downhill (in nearly a straight line) to the Millstone River bridge about 5600' to the east and about 100' lower in elevation. Intersecting Washington Street are both ends of Crescent Avenue (which was part of a main east-west road until 1820), Princeton Avenue (an 18th century road which used to continue north of Washington Street, and over the River to connect with the Georgetown Turnpike) and Montgomery Avenue, built in 1819-1820. The River Road to Kingston intersects Crescent. There are only two other historic streets in the district, and no modern ones.**

*Numbers refer to individual building numbers as listed below and as appear on the district map.

**In the 1960's several new streets were built to the northwest of the village center, generally off Montgomery; that area is not included in this nomination.

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The village is surrounded by open land on the south and east, although a quarry is located to the southeast. To the west U.S. 206 is primarily commercial in nature, and to the north is a modern residential area. Thus, while its surroundings have changed, the village center remains a cohesive, intact area.

In nearly textbook fashion, the Borough exists today as a series of concentric areas: at the core is a small, well-defined public area consisting of the Post Office (#41), Rocky Hill Inn (#44), and a small number of other commercial uses. Nearly every resident (and visitor) would be expected to identify this as "the center of town," as it fulfills the public, "meeting place" roll so important to village life.

Surrounding this is an irregularly shaped area of historic residential neighborhoods, stretching from the top of the hill on Washington Street to the river (interrupted by the commercial area); out Montgomery Street to the former school; River Road to the brook; and on Princeton Avenue nearly to Hickory Court. All of Crescent Avenue is included in this area. Houses, as in any village, range from grandiose to average to, in a few instances, modest. Scattered in the residential section are the public buildings (including those now in private use) such as the former school on Washington Street, the former Borough Hall, and the churches, especially the Reformed Church, the dominant architectural landmark in the village which is discussed in more detail below.

Landscaping, street furniture, and architectural ornament also distinguish the commercial from the residential sections of the village. In the commercial area, buildings are generally closer to the street, and landscaping is minimal. Residential neighborhoods are differentiated by their greater setbacks of buildings (to accommodate front lawns) and mature shade trees. Hedges and fences also separate the public ways from the private lawns, a distinction which is not necessary in a wholly public area, (such as in front of the Post Office).

The other feature which sets off the residential areas is the amount and quality of exterior woodwork attached to the buildings. This ranges from elaborate porches, such as those at 98 Washington Street (#30), 6 and 8 Montgomery Avenue (#'s 106, 107), and 10 Crescent Avenue (#98), to simple bargeboards on otherwise plain structures. Between these two extremes are porches with turned posts and balusters; elaborate gable screens (one of the best and probably least-noticed is on #322); fancy patterned wood shingle siding; and vertical board and batten work such as #72. All these features combine to unify and enliven the public facades of the structures.

The third area which defines the village is the open land which surrounds it and helps delineate the edges. It is this open land which marks the visual boundaries of the village by its contrasting use. The effect of the loss of this edge is seen on Washington Street and Montgomery Avenue, where the suburban houses were built in the 1960's. The loss of an open buffer area visually binds the new houses to the historic village center in a way that masks the distinction between Rocky Hill Borough and Montgomery Township. Fortunately the disruption in scale and placement is not overwhelming, but in these two areas the line separating the village from "everyplace else" has been blurred.

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Where they remain, these open lands are considered vital to the retention of the village as a discrete entity. Most important are the few places within the built-up area where the open land is visible, such as on the south side of Washington Street (next to #5) and the north side of lower Washington Street (next to #30).

The village today demonstrates its early beginnings, in some of its larger early 19th century houses, but primarily represents the period of rapid growth around mid-century. Like any town, it has continued to evolve into the 20th century, although only a very few post-World War II buildings exist.

The town's three use patterns - the town center or community gathering area, the surrounding open land, and the interspersed and integrated residential/institutional areas between - represent a continuation of plan which has been in existence since at least the middle of the last century. A map of 1850 shows a hotel and store near Princeton Avenue, the former school at Washington and Montgomery, a cluster of houses on Washington east of Princeton Avenue, and several outlying farms. By 1860, when another map was published, the Dutch Reformed Church had been built, Crescent Avenue had been developed west of Princeton Avenue, and the south side of Washington Avenue had been heavily developed. The north side of Washington, however, contained only two buildings (#30 and 57) between the school and Skillman's Grain Store (#63). Similarly, the village edge on the south was Crescent Avenue, which contained only five buildings on its south side. A map of 1873 clearly shows that most buildings were between Washington and Crescent, with the exception of the industrial area at the river and canal. The Inn, at Princeton Avenue, was adjacent to one blacksmith's shop (and a wheelwright). The Post Office was in Mount's Store, north of Washington and near his mills. The residential area was extending up Montgomery, and Vanderveer's and Skillman's houses (#127 and #30, respectively) were at the edge of town.

Today, there are several buildings which stand out against the background matrix of more vernacular structures. Among these is the house at the corner of Washington Street and Crescent Avenue (historically identified as J.J. Suydam in 1873 and J. Skillman in 1869), now 179 Washington (#62). The house is 2 1/2 stories high and five bays wide, of frame construction with clapboard siding. The ridge of the gabled roof is parallel to Washington Street, and there are two interior end chimneys. Windows are 6/6; those on the second floor (except the central window) have louvered shutters; those on the first floor are panelled. In the central bay of the first floor is the entry (within a one-bay, one-story porch), consisting of an 8-panelled door flanked on each side by two pilasters divided by a four-light sidelight above a panel. Above this is a full-width, eight-light transom. The rear section of the house is probably earlier; it is also frame, with clapboard siding, and is 1 1/2 stories high. Its ridge is perpendicular to that of the main block. Since Washington Street was put in no earlier than 1820, the front section was built after that date. The rear section could be considerably older, as Crescent Avenue was part of the old road to Princeton laid out in 1712. There is a reference to a tavern on this site in a 1796 will, and it is conceivable that that was the present ell.

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The Clark House at 98 Washington Street (#30), also known as the Stout House, is listed on the 1873 map as T.J. Skillman; in 1860 it was owned by Isaac Stout's estate. The owner of a 106-acre parcel (including this house), Stout had died in 1856. He was the owner, and possibly the builder, of what is now the Rocky Hill Inn, believed to date from c. 1830 since he received a tavern license in that year which he kept until 1846.

The house, however, does not seem to be as early as the Inn; Stout bought the land in 1842. It is transitional between the Greek Revival and Italianate styles; construction is frame, with clapboard siding, three bays wide and two stories high. The nearly flat roof is actually a very shallow hip, surrounded by a bracketed cornice. There is a full porch on fluted columns, also with brackets. The central doorway is more emphatically Greek Revival, and includes sidelights and a transom. Windows are 6/6, with small bracketed cornices. On the right (east) are three porches, the most notable of which has elaborate sawn inchboard Italianate ornament. The Italianate elements were probably added after 1864 by Thomas J. Skillman. The property also includes outbuildings and a large fenced open space to the east of the house.

The Murphy House at 60 Princeton Avenue (#143) was the home of A.O. (Abraham) Voorhees in 1850. He was a prominent citizen of the village, attested by the fact that his name appears on an 1857 tavern petition and by his involvement with the Dutch Reformed Church (four of his seven sons were ministers), the Delaware and Raritan Canal, and the Rocky Hill Railroad. His house was originally a three-bay, two story frame structure with clapboard siding and a gabled roof. The entry, in the right (west) bay, is noteworthy for its large flanking pilasters, sidelights, and transom, above all of which is a denticulated frieze en ressaute topped by a cornice. Windows are 6/6, and three (of four) chimneys remain. Early in the 20th century a smaller, recessed two story wing was added on the west (right) in a compatible style. The house has been carefully rehabilitated to retain its original character. This stewardship has extended to the grounds, which still contain a one-story stone milk-house, a remnant of the property's farming use.

The Vanderveer House at 11 Princeton Avenue (#127) is another exceptional building. Built in the 1850's for Abraham Vanderveer, the design and setting make this a landmark structure. It is sited on a large tract and is set well back from Princeton Avenue, accomplishing the transition from open land (to the south) to the village (to the north). The main block of the house is a nearly cubical mass, three bays on a side, two stories with flat roof and broad cornice carried on sawn brackets. The windows are full-height 2/6 on the first floor and smaller 2/4 on the second, imitating casements. Window surrounds are most unusual and are best described as shouldered peaked cornices. The entry, in the north bay, is within a 1-bay, one story flat roof porch supported by modified Greek Doric columns. The entire house is clapboarded. Outbuildings and fence contribute to the semi-rural character of the property.

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Montgomery Avenue contains an outstanding pair of nearly identical houses (#106, 107). Constructed in 1862 by a local builder named Bastedo and with similar massing (and some detail) as 77 Washington (#22), they appear to be in nearly original condition on the exterior. The houses are both gable-end, clapboarded structures, three bays wide and 2 1/2 stories high. Perhaps the feature most noticed by the casual observer is the ornate sawn inchboard Italianate porch which wraps the front and left facade of each, a feature also displayed at 82 Crescent Avenue (#74). The porches are important components of the Montgomery Avenue streetscape, and it is to Rocky Hill's benefit that both houses (known locally as "the twins") are well maintained.

Many of the remainder of the buildings in the district are simple, two and two and a half-story, wooden houses, most commonly three to five bays wide, with their roof ridges parallel to the street. There are also a number of three-bay houses whose gable ends face the street. These buildings are well within the mainstreams of 19th century American architectural styles, usually in vernacular adaptations. Style is generally expressed through details; for example, while the Italianate tower is rare, the sawn porch ornament in foliated forms is fairly common.

The other, non-architectural component of the district is the former industrial area east and immediately west of the Millstone River, today containing only two buildings. Although the banks of the river have seen a multitude of small-scale, 19th century structures (as revealed by documentary evidence), they have been subsequently filled on the west side to a depth of about eight to ten feet. The filled area is believed to have been the result of the construction of a power generating station early in this century. The station is no longer extant (A-7). Of the Brearly-Mount mill complex (west of the river and north of Washington Street), only a portion of the grist mill survives as a pottery shop and gallery (#69). Despite its alterations and the filling in of its associated raceways, it is the most visible vestige of the industrial heritage of the village.

The remainder of the archeological area (on the east bank of the river) has been walked several times, most recently in early 1981 with historic maps in hand. This revealed one foundation north of the site of the Canal Basin, possibly the structure shown on the 1860 map as D.H. Mount's store house (A-2); a portion of a foundation believed to have been Mount's home, west of the river on the south side of Washington Street (A-1); the foundation of a smokestack (from the power plant mentioned above) near Mount's mill (A-7); and the remains of the railroad tracks east of the Canal and north of Washington Street. Of the mills, engine house, railroad station, lumber yard, sash and blind factory, no surface traces were found. A low wet area marks the location of the canal basin. Remains of two structures believed to have been a part of Henry McFarlane's flax factory were found, however, near the foot of Park Street (A-4). Remains of the Canal House, which burned in the 1960's, are said to exist east of the Canal and are included in the Delaware and Raritan National Register Historic District.

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The paucity of surface remains is not taken as an indication of the absence of archeological resources. No subsurface testing was carried out, although areas of fill (the former island and its western raceway) were noted. Because of the location of these fill areas, it seems most likely that should any subsurface remains exist, they would be in the area of the grist, saw, and plaster mills shown on the 1873 map (beneath the fill). Part of the grist mill is believed to form the basis of the pottery studio, but the major portion of the grist mill burned and was removed in this century. The section of the raceway beneath the building is said to be extant although access to it is blocked by modern machinery in the studio.

Buildings and sites included in the Rocky Hill Historic District are listed below. Each structure was placed in one of the following categories on the basis of a pedestrian survey conducted by an architectural historian:

1. Pivotal; buildings which possess distinct architectural and/or historical significance, and which act as landmarks (visual or cultural) against the architectural matrix of the district.
2. Contributing; buildings which date from the period of the district's significance which have some architectural/historical importance. They are generally only slightly altered (if at all), and, as a group, create the streetscape's characteristic of the district.
3. Harmonizing; buildings dating from the period of the district's significance which have undergone more extensive alterations, changing their character, or newer buildings which are architecturally compatible with the buildings in the two categories above.
4. Intrusions; buildings which detract from the historic character of the district.

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1. Merritt Insurance, 5 Washington Street
Contributing

Of unknown date, but probably late 19th century with Colonial Revival Doorway. Frame (clapboard), 2½ stories, 3 bays, with 3-bay rear section, gabled roof.

2. 13 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Early to mid-20th century Cape Cod, frame (clapboards), 3 bays, 1½ stories, projecting center crossgable with entry, gabled roof with dormers.

3. 15 Washington Street
Harmonizing

C. 1940 ranch, frame (clapboard), one story, projecting ell, gabled roof.

4. 17 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Early to mid-20th century Cape Cod house, frame (clapboard), 1½ stories, gabled roof (slate), cross-gabled entry.

5. Scassera House
25 Washington Street
Contributing

Adjacent to cultivated field; c. 1860. Frame (clapboard), 3 bays, 2½ stories, bracketed cornice, gabled roof with stamped metal shingles, round-arch louver in central crossgable. There is a 3-bay, 1½-story clapboarded tenant house to the rear.

6. 33 Washington Street
Harmonizing

C. 1930 Colonial Revival, 2 stories, 2 bays plus recessed ell. Frame (clapboard), paired 6/1 windows, central door with segmental hood on consoles, pent roof, gabled roof. From Montgomery Ward catalog.

7. 37 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Gable-front, early 20th century; 2 stories, 2 bays wide, shingle siding. Single stick brackets support projecting gable at street end.

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8. Vreeland-Hayden House, 38 Washington Street
Pivotal

Set on a large lot which is the remnant of the Vreeland Farm (there are still farm buildings and a silo on the property), the house is believed to have been built in three phases. It is presently 5 bays wide, 2½ stories high, of frame construction with primarily clapboard siding. There are 3 interior end chimneys on the gabled roof. There is a very broad crossgable with paired round-arch windows in the peak. The eastern 3 bays of this section, including the central entry (with round-arch panelled door, transom, and sidelights), were built first (c. 1840), with the western 2 bays and the crossgable added c. 1880. To this was added (c. 1930) a 1½-story recessed eastern wing, with porch, gabled roof, and chimney,

To the east and north of the house are a gabled stone spring house, two barns, and a 2-story, 2-bay gabled tenant house.

9. 41 Washington Street
Contributing

Transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, c. 1900. Frame (clapboard with wood shingle in gable peak), 2½ stories, full-width porch, one-bay west ell, steeply gabled roof, paired 2/1 windows.

10. 45 Washington Street
Pivotal

C. 1889-90. Stylistically unique in Rocky Hill and unusual in the region, the house is a stuccoed late Italianate structure with square hip-roofed tower and paired round-arch windows in larger round-arch surrounds. Two bays wide, 2 deep, crossgabled roof (fish-scale slate). Design taken from Plate 35 of The Architect, by William Ranlett, published 1851.

11. 49 Washington
Contributing

Two stories, 3 bays, gable front, full-width porch, aluminum siding. Appears to be c. 1900.

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12. 55 Washington Street
Contributing

Gable front, 3 bays, 2½ stories, frame (clapboard siding), 2/2 second floor windows, stick-style ornament in peak. New front door.

13. 57 Washington Street (corner of Crescent Avenue)
Harmonizing

C. 1950 frame Cape Cod style (clapboard siding), 1½ stories, gabled roof, 2 gabled roof dormers, 3 bays, center door.

14. 54 Washington Street
Intrusion

Split level, part of 1960's housing development. Frame, gabled roof.

15. 56 Washington Street
Intrusion

Split level, part of 1960's housing development. Similar to #14.

16. 61 Washington Street
Contributing

Bungalow, c. 1928, 1½ stories, gable front, 3 bays wide, full-width porch, clapboard siding.

17. Rocky Hill Community Center
62 Washington Street
Pivotal

Frame (clapboard), 2-story, 3-bay, side-hall with recessed 1½-story ell (right). Gabled roof, 8-panelled door. Believed to have been built for Dr. J.A. Grey, town's first physician; c. 1840; restored for public use.

18. Mary Jacobs Memorial Library
64 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Contemporary brick structure, gabled roof, set back on treed lot. Although constructed in the early 1970's, the building's design and siting do not detract from the village's historic character.

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19. 65 Washington Street
Contributing

Probably a mid-19th century building now sheathed in aluminum. Frame, with brick nogging on the first floor. Five bays, 2½ stories, center hall, gabled roof.

20. 69 Washington Street
Contributing

Frame (now sheathed in vinyl), 2 stories, 3 bays, side hall, gabled roof, 6/6 windows, rear ell, later 1-bay front porch shelters entry with sidelights and transom. Possibly dates from early 19th century, definitely pre-Civil War.

21. 73 Washington Street
Contributing

Of unknown date; 2 stories, 2 very broad bays, frame (asbestos shingle siding), gabled roof. Although either of fairly recent construction or recently rehabilitated, the house continues to contribute to the streetscape.

22. 77 Washington Street
Contributing

Gable front, 2½ stories, 2 bays wide, 2 deep. Frame (clapboard), box cornice with panelled frieze; cornice returns with paired sawn brackets. Round-arch louver, gable peak. Chicago window installed on first floor, although building appears to date from 1860's. Compare basic house form and cornice and gable details duplicate 6 and 8 Montgomery Avenue *(built 1862).

23. 81 Washington Street
Contributing

Apparently built early in the 20th century (pre-1915); shingle style/Bungalow elements. Frame (clapboard and shingle), sweeping gabled roof, irregular plan, Queen Anne and 1/1 sash, 1½-2 stories.

24. 85 Washington Street
Contributing

Early 20th century Bungalow. Three bays, 1½ stories, sweeping gabled roof, frame (shingled), central shed dormer.

* #'s 106 and 107

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25. Dutch Reformed Church
Washington Street (corner Reeves Road)
Pivotal

Numbered among the most important buildings in Rocky Hill, the church is an outstanding example of the Carpenter Gothic style and would qualify for individual nomination to the National Register. Although the congregation dates from 1817, planning for this structure did not begin until 1855. Abraham Vandever (see #127) and Samuel Brearly (partner with David H. Mount in the Brearly-Mount mill complex) led the solicitation, and Isaack Vanderver (Abraham's Brearly, and Henry Vreeland selected the site. In June of 1856, the land son) was purchased from Isaack Vanderver and Thomas J. Skillman. Henry W. Laird (or Leard) of Princeton was selected as builder, and Brearly and Mount were the design committee. Laird was undoubtedly known for his carpentry for the recent work on Princeton's Nassau Hall under architect John Notman. Work was carried out between August and December of 1856.

The body of the church is 5 bays deep, with board and batten siding. Each bay, containing paired diamond-pane, lancet windows in a lancet surround, is articulated by a buttress.

Centrally engaged in the front (north) facade is a 3-tier tower. The tall buttressed first stage is square, sheathed in flushboards, and contains two doors with label molds, and oversize examples of the paired lancet windows. This element terminates in a blind arcade, above which is a course of blind quatrefoils and a cornice.

The belfry contains louvered paired lancet openings on each face, with label moldings. The topmost element is a tapering octagonal spire.

Attached to the church at the rear (south) is a chapel, built in a compatible style before 1865. Beyond this is a church school, built in 1966 to harmonize with the earlier buildings.

The interior of the sanctuary was refurbished in 1951.

The church is both literally and figuratively the center of the village. Because its steeple is the tallest structure in town, the church provides a visual focal point for the entire community; because it is among the oldest and best preserved public buildings in the Borough, it has become a symbol of the "old town".

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26. Former school
86 Washington Street
Pivotal

Built in 1847-48 and used as a school until construction of the larger brick building on Montgomery Avenue in 1908 (#115), the school has been altered at least twice in its role as a residence but retains much of its original exterior form. With the adjacent Dutch Reformed Church, it marks the center of the village.

It is frame (clapboard), 2½ stories, with gabled roof facing Washington Street. It is 2 bays wide, formerly with central entry beneath a gabled stick-style hood on brackets (the entry is now in a later ell to the west). Originally 3 bays deep, a fourth bay has been added to the rear.

Old photos show a small square belfry at the front of the ridge, much taller windows on the second floor, and corner pilasters supporting a flushboard pediment. Of these, only the latter Greek Revival ensemble remains.

27. 90 Washington Street
Contributing

Bungalow, constructed in 1920, similar to #24 above. Frame (aluminum siding), 1½ stories, broad gabled roof, 3 bays wide, shed dormer front center.

28. 93 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Probably built early in this century; modified Cape Cod, 5 bays, 1½ stories, frame (aluminum), center entry, gabled roof, central gabled roof dormer.

29. 94 Washington Street
Contributing

Built c. 1900-1910, transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival. Frame (clapboard and shingle), 2½ stories, hipped roof with front and side crossgables, 3 bays, full 1-story porch on Tuscan columns.

30. Clark House
98 Washington Street
Pivotal (see page 3 of Description)

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31. 97 Washington Street
Contributing

Bungalow, c. 1920. Frame (clapboard and shingle), broad gabled roof, 1½ stories, full width shed dormers front and back.

32. 101 Washington Street
Contributing

Built late in the 19th century; 2 stories, stucco and cut shingle exterior, gable front, 3 bays, ornate porch front and right (north and west). Elaborate sawn, turned, and shingled screen in front gable peak, with finial.

33. 105 Washington Street
Contributing

Probably dating from around mid-19th century; frame (clapboard), 2 1/2 stories, 5 bays, center entrance in 1-bay porch; gabled roof sheathed in pressed metal. Broad frieze, denticulated cornice supported by paired brackets.

34. 109-111 Washington Street
Contributing

Four-bay, 2½-story duplex; frame (clapboard), gable end to street, one-story full porch on turned posts with sawn brackets. Central attic window with peaked lintel and small bargeboard.

35. 113 Washington Street
Contributing

Probably of late-19th century construction; 3 bays, 2½ stories, gable end to street, side hall plan; frame (asbestos shingle), peaked central attic louver; small saw-tooth bargeboard on front eave.

36. 117 Washington Street
Contributing

Possibly an early 19th century structure altered in the third quarter of the century. L-plan, 1½-2 stories, frame (clapboard), left (east) section is 3 bays, one eyebrow window above. Right section is 2 bays, 2 stories. Bargeboards on gable ends, rafter tails exposed at eaves.

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37. 118 Washington
Contributing

This house and its similar neighbor to the east (122 Washington) were built c. 1910-11 for members of the Lewis family, prosperous merchants, by Edward Stout from "mail order" plans of P.T. Maclagan of Newark. Both are Colonial Revival with a hint of Queen Anne irregularity of massing. The owner of this house retains a copy of the plans.

The house is 2½ stories with flaring hipped roof and gabled roof dormers. Construction is frame with clapboard siding. It is 2 very broad bays wide and features a 3-part, 2-story projecting bay, a large Palladian window, elaborate door surround with sidelights, and a front and left side (south and west) porch supported by paired Ionic columns.

38. 122 Washington Street
Contributing

Similar to #37 above. Frame (clapboard and shingle), 2½ stories, hipped roof, engaged octagonal tower, semi-octagonal roof dormer, Palladian window; porch supported on square piers.

39. 121 Washington Street
Contributing

Probably built c. mid 19th century. Frame (clapboard), 5 bays, 2 stories, entry with 2-light transom and modern 1-bay porch. Windows are 6/6 with louvered shutters.

40. 127 Washington St.
Harmonizing/intrusion

Modern appearance is the result of 1960's reconstruction of Lewis' General Store. Gable front, 2½ stories, 4 bays, brick and frame.

41. Post Office
130 Washington Street
Harmonizing/intrusion

Gable front, 2½-story, 4-bay frame structure with one-story brick veneer extension to front. Attached to right (east) is 2-story brick veneer modern commercial/office structure.

42. 131 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Believed to be an early (pre-1860) house at rear (frame, clapboard siding, gable

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end to street) with one-story 1979 clapboard/vertical board front extension. Rear section, although hardly visible, continues to harmonize with street despite alterations; front section does not.

43. Peppi's Custom Hair Design
133 Washington Street
Intrusion

Modern mansard-roof addition, 1975, attached to c. 1850 house of which only shell remains.

44. Rocky Hill Inn
137 Washington Street (corner of Princeton Avenue)
Pivotal

Now presenting the appearance of a Queen Anne structure which has been sheathed in aluminum, deed and tavern license research and old photographs reveal it to be a c. 1825-30 building which has been remodelled several times in its continuing tavern/hotel use.

Washington Street was laid out in 1820; Isaac Stout was granted a tavern license in 1825 (which he held until 1846) at this site. Old photographs of the building show it to have been plausible for a c. 1825 structure. It was 2½ stories, frame with clapboard siding, 5 bays with central entry, and a gabled roof.

Late in the 19th century the third story was added, the roof orientation changed, and the corner tower and porch added. The result was the boxy Queen Anne-like structure which was refurbished in mid-20th century.

It is now 5 bays wide and 3 deep, with crossgabled roof and 1/1 windows. Engaged into the northeast corner is a 3½ story polygonal tower slightly taller than the 3½ story main block of the building. The porch remains, though simplified; the first floor has been veneered with brick.

The building's importance lies not so much in its present (possibly restorable) appearance, but in its conspicuous massing and location and long associational history. It is, after all, nearly as old as Washington Street itself and has served the traveler for nearly 160 years.

45. 138 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Twentieth century brick veneer Cape Cod house, 1½ stories.

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46. 142 Washington Street
Contributing

Probably dates from last quarter of the 19th century; 2 stories, 5 bays, center entry, gable roof with central crossgable, frame (clapboard and shingle), sawn gable screen.

47. 143 Washington Street
Contributing

Mid 19th-century; owned in 1860 by W. Morris, who also owned the nearby Rocky Hill Inn. Two-bay, 2-story gable front main section, with 1½-story, 2-bay ell to left (east). Entire structure is frame (clapboard).

48. 145 Washington Street
Contributing

Vernacular gable front house. 2½ stories, 3 bays on first floor (side hall); frame (clapboard), 2/2 sash, 1-story projecting bay on right (west). Restoration in progress.

49. Rocky Hill Rescue Squad, intrusion. Cement block and stucco, one story, 20th cent.

50. Skillman Avenue, contributing. Five-bay, 2-story, gabled roof, central entry. Moved to this site from Washington Street.

51. 146 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Formerly used as an A&P market, now a residence: 1½ stories, 2 bays, gable end to street, frame (clapboard and German siding). Apparently of early 20th century construction.

52. 149-151 Washington Street
Contributing

Originally probably a 5-bay center hall house, now 3 bays plus projecting flat-roof semi-hexagonal bay. Two stories, frame (aluminum), gabled roof, paired central entrances. Chicago window, first floor. Construction date unknown but possibly as early as mid-19th century.

53. 150 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Apparently of 20th century construction; 1½-story Cape Cod house oriented east. Gabled roof, 3 bays, 2 gabled roof dormers.

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54. Rocky Hill Fire Department
Washington Street
Contributing

Brick, 2 truck bays, 3 bays above, two stories, flat roof with central gable in parapet. Terra cotta trim, medallion, and sign manufactured locally at Atlantic Terra Cotta works. Building erected 1925.

55. The Place
153 Washington Street
Intrusion

Brick, 1½ stories, mansard roof. Conversion in 1970's of WWII-era house.

56. 157 Washington Street
Contributing

L-plan, 2½ stories; frame (aluminum siding), intersecting gables, 4 bays wide. One-story porch on eastern part of front facade, one-story projecting bay in gable-front ell. Pre-1860.

57. 158 Washington Street
Contributing

Shown as "I. Stout Est." on 1860 map; present appearance is of rehabilitated c. 1890 house. Frame (aluminum), 2½ stories, hipped roof with gabled and shed dormers; front crossgable. Porch, front and right, on turned posts with turned balusters.

Adjacent to the house (to east), 2-bay frame structure, formerly a barbershop. Probably early 20th century; harmonizing.

58. 161 Washington Street
Contributing

Three bays (side hall), 2 stories, frame (clapboard) with broad frieze; full porch on turned columns; 6/6 and 2/2 sash; louvered blinds, second floor. Possibly Isaac Stout's first house, although little decorative detail exists.

59. 165 Washington Street
Contributing

Built before 1898; served as early Post Office, now residential. Frame (aluminum, formerly clapboard and shingle), 2½ stories, 2 bays, crossgabled roof. One-story porch added, fenestration altered.

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60. 169 Washington Street
Pivotal

In many respects nearly identical to its neighbor to the east (179), this was the home of merchant T.J. Skillman (Isaac Stout's son-in-law) in 1860. Five bays, 2½ stories, frame (clapboard), center entry in one-bay porch has 10-panelled door, paired pilasters divided by 5-light side lights over panels, and 7-light transom. Broad panelled frieze, 6/6 sash, later 1-story projecting semi-hexagonal bays on east and west facades. Probably built in 1840's.

61. 170 Washington Street
Contributing

Bungalow, 1½ stories, hipped roof, frame (clapboard), 3 bays, central jerkinhead dormer. c. 1920.

Skillman House

62. 179 Washington Street
Pivotal (see page 3 of Description)

63. 174 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Formerly a hay press and grain store (1860 map), now residential. Frame (aluminum, formerly clapboard), 2½ stories, 2 bays wide, gable to street. Front central door and shopwindows removed, building now oriented to west (left). Although thoroughly rehabilitated, massing contributes to streetscape.

64. 178 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Probably of late 19th century construction, rehabilitated. Two bays, 2½ stories, frame (aluminum), gable front. Full-width 1-story porch.

65. 182 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Formerly T.J. Skillman's general store, now residential. Skillman lived across Washington Street at 169 until 1864 when he moved to the Stout house (#30). His partner was John Williamson after 1870, and following Skillman's death in 1881, A. VanZandt Griggs, Williamson's son-in-law, was also his partner.

Gable front, 2½ stories, frame (permastone first story, modern shingle second, staggered-butt wood shingle in gable peak), 2 bays; round-arch 2/2 attic window. Thoroughly rehabilitated.

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66. 186-188 Washington Street
Contributing

Asphalt-shingle sided duplex, 6 bays, 2½ stories; entries end bays, central one-story projecting bay; shed roof. Old photos show it to have been a triplex, probably industrial housing, with third entrance where projecting bay is now. Important as residential element of village's industrial past.

67. 190-192 Washington Street
Contributing

Frame (now asbestos shingle), shallow gable end to street, 4-bay duplex. Full-width porch on Tuscan columns. Probably late 19th century industrial housing.

68. 194 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Probably built late 19th century as duplex industrial housing; thoroughly rehabilitated 1980 including new siding and fenestration. Was 4 bays (now 2), frame (textured plywood), 2½ stories, gable front. Late 19th century sawn porch brackets were the only indication of age, but were removed in the late summer, 1981.

69. Clayphernalia
200 Washington Street
Pivotal

Only remaining building from mill complex originating in early 18th century, although this building is a probably a remnant of Mount's grist mill. L-plan, 1-1½ stories, flat roof, stone and cement block. Interior bears no signs of age, but raceway said to exist beneath building. Other uses of structure have included power plant, early 20th century; laboratory, mid-20th century. Mill burned, 1930's, causing removal of upper stories. Of vital importance to village as remnant of industrial heritage and as visual edge.

70. Husing house
Washington Street
Pivotal

Part of Brearly's mill complex as drawn in 1860 and 1873 located near the raceway; probably was fulling mill. Uncoursed fieldstone, 2 stories, 2 bays, gabled roof, casement windows in segmental arch surrounds. Converted to residence c. 1930.

Also on property to north of house is one-story, uncoursed fieldstone and frame structure; date and original use unknown.

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As the only fully extant remnant of the sizable mid-19th century mill complex, it should be considered as important to the Borough as the pottery studio across Washington Street because of its historical associations with the development of Rocky Hill.

71. 94 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Frame (asbestos shingle) 2-2½ stories, L-plan, gable end to street (main block); exposed rafter tails and full-width porch on main block. Probably built shortly after middle of 19th century; known to have been owned by the manager of MacFarlane's mill

72. 90 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Frame (aluminum), 2 stories, 3 bays, side hall plan, gabled roof parallel to street, porch on turned columns. Building appears on this site on 1873 map (L. T. Covert).

73. 86-88 Crescent Avenue
Pivotal

Located on axis with River Road, at top of hill; due to siting, the building is crucial to the character of the village revealed by the initial glimpse when approaching via River Road. Frame (aluminum), 2½ stories, 5 bays, paired modern doors in central bay. Believed to date from late in the 19th century.

74. 82 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Outstanding Vernacular Carpenter Gothic cottage. Frame (board and batten), 2½ stories, 2 bays; ornate sawn porch identical to, but on smaller scale than, porches at 6 and 8 Montgomery (#106, 108) possibly indicating the work of Bastedo. Round-arch attic window, remnants of bargeboards on raking eave.

75. 78 Crescent Avenue
Harmonizing

C. 1950 Cape Cod-style house; 1½ stories, frame (clapboard), gabled roof, 2 roof dormers, central entry.

76. 74 Crescent Avenue
Harmonizing

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Although there is some speculation that the house dates from early in this century, its present appearance is of a c. 1955-60 structure. Frame (modern shingle), 2 stories, 2 bays with center entrance, hipped roof. The west section is the earlier.

77. 68-70 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Frame (aluminum over clapboard), 2½ stories, 4 bays, gabled roof. Duplex; entries paired at center, in 1-story full width porch on turned posts. Possibly late 19th or early 20th century construction.

78. 66 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Frame (aluminum over clapboard), 2½ stories, gabled roof, 4 bays, handsome Italianate porch on square posts and pedestals, with sawn brackets. Probably third quarter of 19th century (appears on 1860 map).

79. 64 Crescent Avenue
Harmonizing

Mid-20th century Cape Cod; frame (asbestos shingle), 3 bays, 1½ stories gabled roof, central entry.

80. Eisenmann Roofing
53 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Formerly the town's first auto dealership. Frame and masonry (terra cotta units), 2 vehicular bays, gable front, 1½ levels. Apparently early 20th century.

81. 50 Crescent Avenue
Intrusion

Mid-1960;s ranch house, 1 story, frame, gable to street.

82. 48 Crescent Avenue
Harmonizing

Cape Cod-style house; 1½ stories, 3 bays, frame (aluminum). Although constructed in 1979, the house maintains the neighborhood elements of scale and massing.

83. 49-51 Crescent Avenue
Intrusion

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One-story, double gable, vertical siding contemporary duplex, constructed in early 1960's. Esthetics aside, it does not relate to neighboring structures in materials, massing, or fenestration.

84. 46 Crescent Avenue
Harmonizing

Believed to date from second quarter of this century; moved from original site (corner of Princeton Avenue) in 1947. Frame, gable (off-center ridge) to street, 3 bays, 1½ stories. Used as ice cream parlor at former site.

85. 45 Crescent Avenue
Harmonizing

Cape Cod, 1950's; 1½ stories, frame, gabled roof projecting dormers.

86. 42-44 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Frame (asbestos siding) duplex, 5 bays, 2½ stories, gabled roof; paired entrances, center bay, in 1-story gabled 1-bay porch on turned posts. Believed to be building labelled "H. Dey" on 1873 map.

87. 37 Crescent Avenue
Intrusion

Ranch, c. 1950's; 1 story, frame (aluminum), gabled roof.

88. 36 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

L-plan, pre-1873 house; frame (clapboard), 2 stories, 5 bays; 2/2 windows have cornices; gabled roof has shaped rafter tails and sawn bargeboards. Projecting one-story polygonal bay, right (east) section. One-story porch apparently enclosed. Owned by a P. Silcox in 1873.

89. 34 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Five-bay, 2½-story, frame (asbestos siding), gabled roof of stamped metal shingle; cornice carried on paired brackets; central entry in 3-bay porch on turned posts consists of outstanding Victorian double-leaf doors with stained glass panels. Appears to date from late 1870's.

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90. 29-31 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Dutch Colonial Revival duplex, built 1905. Frame (clapboard), 2½ stories, gambrel roof, 2 gabled roof dormers, open porch on left (east), enclosed on right. Compare with 25-27 Crescent below. (#91)

91. 25-27 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Very similar to #90 above, also built 1905. Frame (asbestos shingle), gambrel roof, 2 gabled roof dormers. Left (east) porch open, right porch enclosed.

92. 24 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Probably built early in second quarter of present century. Frame (clapboard), 1½ stories, 4 bays, hipped roof. Projecting one-bay segmental portico on Tuscan columns. Left (west) bay probably added. Similar to a house type marketed early in this century by Sears and Roebuck, of which the house next door at 22 is a more typical example.

93. 22 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Colonial Revival/Cape Cod style, 3 bays, 1½ stories, gabled roof, central entry sheltered by one-bay portico on paired Tuscan Columns, with cornice returns and barrel-vault ceiling. Related stylistically to 24 (to east) and extremely similar to a house widely advertised early in this century by Sears and Roebuck.

94. 21 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Believed to date from c. 1870. Frame (modern cedar shingle), 2 stories, 3 bays, gabled roof, central entry. Appears on 1873 map ("H. Lott"), not on 1860 map.

95. Reformed Church Parsonage
20 Crescent Avenue, Pivotal

With the Dutch Reformed Church (#25) immediately adjacent (to the north), the house calls attention to itself from 3 streets as a fine early Victorian structure. It was built in 1858 by Joseph Gibson (who built the chapel at about the same time). The house is T-shaped, 2½ stories, 5 bays (the center 3 bays from the stem of the T), with gabled roof. Siding is clapboard. Windows (4/4) have label molds. The

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entry, in the left bay of the stem, includes retarditaire sidelights and transom. On the north side is a 1-bay porch with ornate sawn trim; old photos show the front (Crescent Avenue) facade to have had a similar but larger porch. In each gable peak are paired round-arch lancets, also with label molds. Compare with #8 (Vreeland-Hayden House); Jacob Vreeland Jr. was on the Parsonage Committee.

96. 17 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Frame (asbestos shingle), 2½ stories, 3 bays, side hall plan, gable end to street. Broad eaves with exposed rafter and purlin-ends. Built prior to 1850, as evidenced by appearance on map of that date.

97. 14 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Bungalow, early 20th century, 1½ stories, gabled roof, presumably frame (permastone siding), central hipped dormer, 3 bays, central entrance.

98. 10 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Rocky Hill's only French Second Empire style house; T-plan, frame (clapboard), imbricated slate mansard roof with gabled dormers; 2½ stories, ornate sawn period porch similar to that on Parsonage (#95 above). Probably built in early 1870's; shown as F.P. Voorhees on 1873 map.

99. 8 Crescent Avenue
Contributing

Of the same general style as 82 Crescent Avenue (#74) and built before 1873, when it was owned by A. Cruser. Frame (board and batten), 1½ stories, 3 bays, barge-boards; central entry in 1-story, 1-bay porch with turned spindles and posts.

100. International Hydromics Complex
Harmonizing and intrusion

Complex of industrial buildings and structures designed and built starting in 1951 by Richard Young, developer of a strong light plastic used in rockets. Young constructed this complex following his occupancy of the former mill on Washington

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Street (#69); as Rocky Hill's only plant, it continues the industrial tradition begun at the river over 200 years earlier.

Of the complex, the only building of architectural interest is the northernmost, the 1-story office building. Its horizontality is emphasized by its flat roof and ribbon windows; characteristic of the International Style, its exterior surface is smooth stucco, painted white. Breaking out from the plane of the front facade is a projecting entry with cantilevered roof. Outside corners, where they occur, are curved rather than right-angled. While the building architecturally is inconsistent with the materials, style, massing, function, and setback of the majority of the structures in the district, it is noteworthy for this contrast. Its massing is unobtrusive to the view of the open land beyond it, and in this manner it accomplishes the transition from village to farmland. Its "harmonizing" qualities are thus more a product of its historical associations and its function as a marker of the edge of the village than of its visual relationship with the bulk of its neighbors. Other buildings in the complex are utilitarian, non-stylistic structures.

101. 2 Crescent Avenue
Harmonizing

Strongly related to adjacent plant complex (#100)! Designed by Richard Young, built 1955. Like plant office building, it is 1 story, flat roofed, smooth stucco finish; cantilevered cornice, ribbon windows. With its "edge of town" site it relates to, and contrasts with, the village in the same fashion as the office building, and the two visually reinforce each other.

102. 1 Montgomery Avenue
Contributing

Bungalow, constructed in 1926; frame (clapboard and shingle), 3 bays, 1½ stories, center entrance, broad gabled roof, porch with Tuscan columns, small central shed dormer.

103. 3 Montgomery Avenue
Contributing

Although superficially altered, this is one of the earliest houses on the street; it appears on the 1873 map as "T.J. Skillman", owner by then of 98 Washington Street (among other properties). Oral histories identify this as the home of Skillman's hired hands.

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It is frame (now with asphalt shingle siding), 2 stories, gable front, 2 bays. Rafter tails and purlin ends are exposed, and the door is sheltered by a 1-story, 1-bay shed-roof porch on turned posts.

104. 4 Montgomery Avenue
Contributing

Frame (clapboard), gable front, 2 bays, 2 stories, porch on turned posts across front and left (east and south) facades. Small sawn bargeboard on gable end, shaped rafter tails at eaves. Rear addition c. 1900; main block may date from last quarter of 19th century.

105. 5 Montgomery Avenue
Harmonizing

Appears to date from early in this century; stucco exterior over block, 2 stories, hipped roof, 2 bays, enclosed hipped front porch (asbestos siding). Terra cotta medallion, rear facade.

106. 6 Montgomery Avenue
Pivotal

One of an outstanding pair of nearly identical houses, both built in 1862 by William Bastedo, local builder in the 19th century. Compare basic form of house with 77 Washington Street (#22), and porch with that of 82 Crescent Avenue (#74).

Frame (clapboard), 2½ stories, 3 bays, gable front, side hall plan; round-arch attic window with billet molding; panelled raking frieze; cornice and returns supported on paired foliated consoles. Porch on front and left (east and south) facades with intricately sawn brackets and paired inchboard posts. Cornices over all windows; door has 4 panels, upper pair round-arched. Shown on 1873 map as "W. Bastedo".

107. 8 Montgomery Avenue
Pivotal

With # 106 (please read) the house forms an impressive grouping. Major difference from it is orientation of porch steps. Built 1862 by William Bastedo, local builder. Listed on 1873 map as "J. Bastedo".

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108. 7 Montgomery Avenue
Contributing

Built in 1900; frame (clapboard); 2 stories, gable on hip roof, 3 bays, center entry under full-width one-story porch on turned posts. Previously a garage (oral history)

109. 9 Montgomery Avenue
Contributing

Altered by enclosing of front porch, this appears to be an early 20th century bungalow originally similar to others in Rocky Hill. Frame (asbestos shingle), 1½ stories, broad gabled roof, 3 bays, central shed dormer.

110. 10 Montgomery Avenue
Contributing

Molded cornice returns, massing, and slope of roof gable indicate possible 19th century construction date, although present appearance indicates extensive rehabilitation work. Presumably frame (aluminum siding), 3 bays, 2 stories, gabled roof.

111. 11 Montgomery Avenue
Harmonizing

Twentieth century Cape Cod-style house with steep crossgable at central entry. Frame (clapboard), 1½ stories, gabled roof, 3 bays.

112. 12 Montgomery Avenue
Contributing

Two stories, 3 bays, frame (clapboard), gabled roof, central entrance with modern gabled hood. Relatively plain except for broad frieze with paired brackets. Probable construction date in 1860's.

113. 13 Montgomery Avenue
Harmonizing

Three-bay, 1½-story Cape Cod house, gabled roof with 2 gabled roof dormers; central entrance. Age indeterminate.

114. 14 Montgomery Avenue
Pivotal

Similar to 6 and 8 Montgomery, but built by Joseph Gibson who also built the chapel and parsonage of the Reformed Church. Frame (clapboard), 2½ stories, gable end to street, 3 bays wide; paired foliated consoles, including raking cornice;

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full-length first floor windows; second floor windows have cornices on consoles. Paired round-arch windows in gable peak. Porch on front and left (east and south) sides contains Gothic Revival detail, brackets with drops, and square chamfered posts on pedestals.

115. Rocky Hill Borough Hall, (former school), Montgomery Avenue
Pivotal

Constructed in 1908 to supersede the school at the corner of Washington Street and was used as such until 1962. Its large mass and contrasting materials, as well as the presumed historical associations of village residents, make it a landmark building.

It is brick (Flemish bond) with tinted mortar, 2 stories, hipped roof with octagonal louvered belfry; 7 bays wide. Central entry in neoclassical enframing including pediment with full entablature, on paired consoles, and sidelights. Basement and first-floor windows topped with flat arches and keystones.

Now in municipal use, it retains the appearance of an early 20th century Colonial Revival School building.

116. 16 Montgomery Avenue
Harmonizing

Cape Cod house, built in early 20th century.

117. 2 Park Street
Contributing

Appears on 1860 map as "Voorhees". Frame (asbestos shingle), 2 stories, flat roof with broad bracketed cornice, 5 bays, central entrance. Full-length first-story windows and overall massing refer to the Italianate style.

118. 4 Park Street
Contributing

This is a post-1873 industrial structure related to Henry MacFarlane's rubber works; lot (but not building) appears on 1873 map. Stone (first floor) and stucco (second), 4 bays, flat roof; first floor windows segmentally arched. Shed-roof porch, front (west). Construction technique of house is somewhat similar to #70 above, on Washington Street.

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119. Trinity Episcopal Church
Park Street
Pivotal

Although not a large building, its site on a rise above River Road makes the church complex one of the first structures visible when approaching from Kingston. It serves to introduce the character of the village in much the same fashion as does the Merritt Agency on Washington Street.

Designed by architect Harry Stone of New York, nephew of local industrialist Henry MacFarlane, the church was built in 1864 in the Carpenter Gothic style. It is one level, 3 bays deep and 3 wide, with its gable end to the street. Siding is aluminum which imitates the original board and batten. Windows are pointed arches, divided by buttresses. There is a gabled central entry, and on the ridge at the front (east) of the building is a small belfry. Attached to the rear (west) of the church is a 4-bay, clapboarded library/education building added in 1924. The church is (and has been since its founding) a mission of Trinity Church in Princeton.

120. 4 Grove Street
Contributing

Frame (asbestos shingle), 2 stories, 4 bays, gabled roof.
Historic maps indicate it was built between 1860 and 1873.

121. 10 Grove Street
Contributing

Although the L-plan and jerkinhead roof give the appearance of a late 19th or early 20th century house, the right (east) wing may be the house shown in 1850 as "Doughty". In 1860 and 73 it was owned by Van Dykes.

It is frame (asbestos shingle), 1½-2 stories, 4 bays. The only exterior feature indicating an early date of construction for the wing is its 1½-story massing with an eyebrow window.

122. 1 Princeton Avenue
Contributing

Although one of the smaller buildings in the village, this structure (now a residence) was, according to various sources, a butcher shop, kerosene store, and harness shop. Oral history dates it to 1890.

It is frame (asbestos), gable end to street, 3 bays plus 1-bay wing, 1 story. Its importance lies in its associational value as well as its contribution to the scale of the village.

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123. 2 Princeton Avenue
Contributing

Probably built late in the 19th century, this house is 2½ stories, 2 bays, gable front to street. Like its neighbor across Princeton Avenue, it maintains the character of the street and of the village.

124. 3-5 Princeton Avenue
Contributing

An important building which helps define the only true 4-corners in the village. Stylistically it appears to have been built much earlier than its first appearance on a map, in 1860. At that time it was the home of D. (Delmarah) Hughes, carriage maker. If this suppositional construction era is true, the house was remodelled later in the century, possibly in the late 60's or early 70's.

It was a 5-bay, center hall (now 6 bays) structure, 2 stories, gabled roof; frame (aluminum). The entry includes sidelights and a transom, and the roof cornice is now supported by paired sawn brackets. The sixth (northernmost) bay was added in this century.

125. Voorhees Hall (former Borough Hall)
Pivotal

Like the present municipal building (115 above), the scale and former uses of the structure increase its significance. In addition, like the adjacent house at 3-5 Princeton Avenue, it defines the intersection.

It is 2½ stories, frame (clapboard and wood shingle), 5 bays wide with gabled roof. There are two symmetrically placed projecting gabled wall dormers at the attic level, front facade. The central entry includes pilasters, sidelights, and a shed hood on massive consoles.

The building dates from the late 19th century, when the Borough was formed. In style it is transitional from the medieval irregularities of the Queen Anne style to the more formal and restrained Colonial Revival.

126. Lyric Hall (former Methodist Church)
Contributing

Built in 1870 as the Methodist Church, the building has since been used as a movie theater, factory, and (now) warehouse and residence. Alterations have occurred but seem to be relatively minor in nature. The building is frame (modern shingle

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siding) originally one level, gable end with pediment toward street, 3 bays wide and 4 deep (with 4-bay rear addition). Windows originally were tall, segmentally arched, probably with 36 panes; however the middle third has been covered, leaving, in each bay, a segmental 12-pane over a rectangular 12-pane. Roofing is stamped metal shingle. The double-leaf door is centrally located in the west facade, beneath a hood with stick brackets.

127. Vanderveer House
11 Princeton Avenue
Pivotal (see page 4 of Description)

128. 16 Princeton Avenue
Intrusion

Ranch house, probably built 1970's, 1-story, 3 bays, brick facade.

129. 18 Princeton Avenue
Intrusion

Ranch house, built 1979, 1-story, 3-bay, brick and frame.

130. 3 Grove Street
Intrusion

Modern ranch house, c. 1965.

131. 12 Grove Street
Harmonizing

Four-bay, one-story house of indeterminate date, very plain.

132-134. 20, 22, 24 Princeton Avenue
Harmonizing

Group of three small houses, all frame and built before WW II; all have gabled roofs, are 1 or 2 stories, and together are important to the transition from open land to village. Nos. 133 and 134 are similar one-story gable front houses; 132 is two stories.

135. 30 Princeton Avenue
Intrusion

Recent rehabilitation has transformed the exterior of this house to a modern appearance. Siding is board and batten, roof is gabled (with clerestory). Age of original house unknown.

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136,137. 32 and 34 Princeton Avenue
Harmonizing

Although both are modern houses, they do not intrude on the character of the street because they are set back deeply on landscaped lots.

138. 35 Princeton Avenue
Contributing

Surrounded by open fields, this house has few exterior features readily ascribed to a particular period of construction. It is 2 stories, 4 bays, frame (clapboard), and a later 19th century front porch. The roof of the house is gabled.

139. St. James Church, Princeton Avenue
Contributing

Built in 1908 in a rural Gothic mode, this small church is frame (German siding), 4 bays deep and 3 wide, with central entry in the gable end within a gabled projection. The double-leaf door is in a pointed-arch surround, matching the 9/9 windows. On the roof is an open belfry with spire.

140,141. 54 and 56 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Two modern 2-story, 5-bay frame houses which, because of their massing and siting very deeply on their lots, do not detract from the character of the street.

142. 58 Washington Street
Harmonizing

Modern 5-bay, 2-story frame colonial house set closer to the street than its easterly neighbors and at an angle to the road.

143. Voorhees House
60 Princeton Avenue
Pivotal

For complete description see page four of Description. The architectural presence the house carries with it is sufficient to overcome any negative aspects of the newer houses to the east. The house and its owners have historically been associated with the village; Voorhees was associated with the Canal, the Dutch Reformed Church, and the railroad. James Sweeney, a later owner, was a benefactor of St. James Church.

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144. Mount-Stavola House
southeast corner of Old Georgetown Pike and Canal Road
Contributing

Stone and frame, 2 stories (built into slope), gabled roof. Date unknown, appears on 1860 map ("D.H. Mount") and was doubtless part of Mount's industrial activities, possibly as a workers' house; possibly built earlier in 19th century or late 18th.

145. McClusky-Stavola House
northeast corner of Old Georgetown Pike and Canal Road
Contributing

Similar in scale, materials, and massing to #143. Little is known about McClusky (the 1860 owner), although both houses appear to be of similar date. Stone first story (basement), frame second, gabled roof.

Archaeological Sites within the District:

Documentary research followed by a field inspection (without subsurface testing) revealed the following sites with some archaeological promise:

A1. Portion of the foundation of D.H. Mount's house, south of Washington Street, west of #70 above. Visible remains consist of a short section of stone wall, probably foundation, exposed about 9". Wooded site with ground cover.

A2. Foundation, possibly "D.H. Mount Store Ho." on 1873 map, east of former Canal Basin. Cement steps, broken brick, some shards and glass. Building apparently burned.

A3. Lower portion of south wall of MacFarlane's flax factory shown on 1860 map. Stone and mortar. Until mid-20th century a 2-story brick wall, laid in 6-course American bond, stood on the foundation.

A4. Small foundation also probably associated with flax or rubber company.

A5. Site of building shown as "Rubber Co." on 1860 map, at southeast corner of Crescent Avenue and Princeton Avenue. No visible remains except level area in sloping field. Building type and function unknown.

A6. Remains of stone and plank dam in Millstone River. Believed to date from early 20th century (although possibly with industrial associations).

A7. Nearly circular stone and cement block foundation east of #69. Probably remains of brick stack built when site was used to generate electricity early in 20th century.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates N/A

Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Rocky Hill, located in southeastern Somerset County, New Jersey, grew from an early 18th century millsite to a thriving self-contained industrial village by the middle of the 19th century. As such, it was (and remains) a discrete, identifiable village center, bordered primarily by open land. While modern housing has been constructed adjacent to the village in one area, and the original (and subsequent) mills have mostly disappeared, the residential and commercial areas spawned by the industrial activities remain in a concentrated, intact area.

One of the earliest references to the area appears in the journal of Jasper Dankaerts, who passed through in 1679. He described being led by an Indian from the present site of Princeton "to the creek which was two or three miles distant over a very difficult rocky hill."¹

Although the name Rocky Hill was generically applied to the high ground east of the Millstone River, sometimes called Ten Mile Run Mountain, a settlement site had been established near the present village no later than 1712. In that year a road return for what is now part of Crescent and Princeton Avenues referred to "Capt. Harrison's Mill," a structure built sometime after 1702 when John Harrison petitioned the Proprietors of East Jersey for permission to construct a dam on the Millstone. Harrison had arrived from New York in the 1690's; the Captain (of the road return) was his son of the same name. The mill, no longer standing, was on the east side of the river in what is now Franklin Township.

Other mills were soon built. In 1729, George Willocks (partner of John Harrison, Sr.) bequeathed to his friend Francis Elrington, "halfe an Acre of Ground where it shall best suit him for the use to fix his mill damn to up on Millston River by a brook at the foot of Rockie Hill...." Elrington died the same year; his widow married Robert Lettis Hooper, son of the Chief Justice of the Province. Hooper's name appears on a 1745 map with a building downstream of the Crescent Avenue crossing (no longer extant), on the Rocky Hill (west) side of the river. In 1747 Hooper advertised "to be lett" a house "about one Hundred Yards from a Grist-Mill."² The same map shows, besides these two buildings, three other structures: one is undoubtedly another mill, Harrison's; one is Corle's Tavern, and the third is the Berrien House. Of these, only a part of the Hooper Mill or a successor exists in its original location, and the Berrien House (later known as Rockingham) has been moved twice and is now outside the nominated area. Part of it may have been the home of John Harrison, Sr.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SECONDARY SOURCES:

Engelbrecht, Vivian F., Rocky Hill, NJ 1701-1964. (Rocky Hill Tercentary Committee) (n.d.)
 (See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 176 (approx.)

Quadrangle name Rocky Hill, NJ

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	F	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
G	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Rocky Hill Historic District is shown as a dashed line on the enclosed map entitled, "Rocky Hill Historic District, Rocky Hill Borough and Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey." Scale 1'=300' (approx.), compiled from municipal tax maps.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

Revised by Candace Peck, Office of Cultural and Environmental Services

name/title Heritage Studies, Inc./Rocky Hill Community Group

organization _____ date May, 1981

street & number R.D. 4, Box 864, Mapleton Rd.
62 Washington Street telephone (609) 452-1754

city or town Princeton/Rocky Hill state New Jersey

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy
 State Historic Preservation Officer signature Laura Schmitt

title _____ date January 14, 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Alton Byer
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 7/8/82

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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A 1753 advertisement describes Hooper's holdings in Rocky Hill at that time; from it, the nature of the village can be discerned. He offers for sale

...a grist mill with two pairs of stones... the millhouse 50x33... a good stone dwelling house... and another stone house... and a large cooper's shop joining to the house, lying near the mills... Also a fulling mill dwelling house and shop... both of said mills lies on Millstone River, opposite to each other....³

The village apparently prospered through the rest of the century, the fame accruing to the area from George Washington's stay at Rockingham (August to November, 1783) no doubt contributing to local pride; as late as 1873, maps showed the location of "Washington's Headquarters." However, prosperity was based clearly on the strength of Rocky Hill's own qualities, not fleeting historical associations.

In 1820, what is now Washington Street (Route 518) was laid out as the Franklin and Georgetown Turnpike, eliminating the need for the old river crossing and the stretch of Crescent Avenue from Washington to the present Old Georgetown Pike. The new road bypassed many of the sharp curves and steep grades (which still exist) on the old road.

Growth accelerated, however, because of two major mid-19th century construction projects. The Delaware and Raritan Canal was constructed in the early 1830's, connecting Trenton and New Brunswick. Rocky Hill had a basin (the equivalent of a railroad siding), now filled in. The existence of the basin meant that Rocky Hill was a stop on the Canal, a port of sorts, through which freight in the form of raw materials and finished goods passed. By 1873 it was ringed by a lumber yard, store house, and sash and blind factory. At the same time, the mill complex across the river included a saw, grist, plaster, and woolen mill. The old Harrison mill is believed to have been removed by the construction of the canal.

The Camden and Amboy Railroad passed near Rocky Hill in 1839. However, it was rerouted to the east in 1864, and the Rocky Hill Railroad and Transportation Company was organized to build a spur line to the canal basin.

The canal and railroad immensely expanded the town's limits. Produce from the surrounding farms, as well as heavier, non-perishable freight, such as lumber and stone, were shipped much more easily and rapidly than was possible before.

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Quarrying was underway by 1860 at the present quarry site (outside the nominated area), although an 1850 map shows a quarry slightly to the west. Paving stones for Newark and Jersey City were taken from here, and crushing operations were added later. An undated lithograph, showing the east side of the canal south of Washington Street (including the railroad, dating it after 1864) contains views of at least five quarrying operations, all of which are in the general vicinity of the present quarry. Copper mining also took place nearby, to the northeast of the district, as early as 1765, at which time 14 dozen miners were employed.

Documentation for the growth of the village is more substantial by mid-century. In 1795, Rocky Hill was said to consist of a tavern and two houses. An 1834 gazetteer reported "grist and saw mill, a woolen manufactory, two stores, two taverns, and 12 or 15 dwellings."⁴ Ten years later, Barber and Howe's Gazette mentioned "a store, tavern, a grist, a saw, and a fulling mill, and about 20 dwellings."⁵ An 1860 map showed about 33 dwellings, a school, a Dutch Reformed Church and parsonage, a hotel, two blacksmiths, a wheelwright, three stores, a flax and cotton factory, a woolen factory, and saw, grist, and plaster mills. Commercial activity was heaviest between Princeton Avenue and the river, along Washington Street.

As would be expected, several names from this period recur in the documents, perhaps the foremost of which were David H. Mount and Samuel Brearly. Prior to 1850 they had acquired and expanded Hooper's mill property (a sketch of which appears in the margin of the county map of that year). By 1860 Mount owned additional property near the river and canal, and in 1872 he purchased the quarry.

In 1853, Henry MacFarlane arrived in Rocky Hill from London and was principal owner of the Clover Mill Lot, a 45 acre parcel adjoining River Road west of Van Horne Brook. MacFarlane operated the flax mill shown on the 1860 map, which, by 1873, was shown as a rubber company with an additional building on the southeast corner of Princeton and Crescent.

Not all the prominent names belonged to industrialists. Thomas J. Skillman kept a store on Washington Street at 182 and lived across the street at 169 from the 1830's to 1856, when he moved to 98 Washington. According to the 1850 map, Abraham Vanderveer owned 95 acres on the west side of Princeton Avenue; his house was at 11. Isaac Stout had 106 acres adjacent to his home at 98 Washington Street. Jacob Vreeland owned 38 Washington, part of a 125-acre tract on the north side of the street stretching from Montgomery Avenue to Route 206. Abraham O. Voorhees had 100 acres on the south side of Princeton Avenue which included his house at 60. All of these houses are still standing, and are among the most highly visible remnant of the village's past.

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With the growth of the community in the mid-1800's came a number of institutions, which testify to the presence of a population needed to sustain them. Planning for the Dutch Reformed Church got underway in the winter of 1855, although the Congregation traces its roots to 1817 when a Sunday School was organized in the home of Elias Conover, near Beden's Brook in Montgomery Township (outside the district). Abraham Vanderveer and his son-in-law, Samuel Brearly, co-owner of the mills with David H. Mount, led the solicitation effort for the new church building. Brearly, Isack Vanderveer (Abraham's son), and Henry Vreeland (Jacob's brother) selected the site of the present building on the south side of Washington Street. The land was purchased in June 1856 from Isack Vanderveer and Thomas J. Skillman (part of the former Isaac Stout estate), for \$300.00. Brearly, Skillman, and Westley Morris, the tavern owner, recommended Henry W. Laird of Princeton as the builder. Laird had worked with architect John Notman on Princeton's Nassau Hall. The design committee was composed of Samuel Brearly and David Mount.

Construction began in August 1856, with the spire completed on December 9, for a total of 127 working days. The total cost of the new church was \$4,741.75. The adjacent chapel, erected in 1865-72, cost \$2,500.00. It was built by Joseph Gibson in a Carpenter Gothic style compatible with Laird's church. The interior of the church and chapel were extensively altered in 1951, including the ceiling, walls, pews, woodwork, pulpit, and organ pipes.

The church parsonage on Crescent Avenue was built in 1858, one year after the church was completed. It, too, was built by Joseph Gibson of Princeton. The parsonage committee included David H. Mount, William Holmes, and Jacob Vreeland, Jr.. Mount, owner of the land to the west of the church lot, donated a 39 foot right-of-way called Church Street (Reeve Rd. since 1965, named for Dr. John Reeve). Holmes was the town's blacksmith by this date, and Vreeland, the son of Colonel Vreeland.

The first school was located on the corner of Washington Street and the road to Conover's mills (now Montgomery Avenue). It has its origin in the early Church school sessions at Conover's. In 1847 Isaac Stout sold a piece of his farm on the corner of Washington Street and Montgomery Avenue for \$40 to the trustees of the school, John Skillman, Samuel Brearly, and Garret Schenck.

The two-story framed structure of Greek Revival design, topped by a cupola, continued to serve the town as its public school until 1908 when a four-room Flemish-bond brick building was constructed to the north on the east side of Montgomery Avenue. This school continued to serve Rocky Hill until 1962 when it was closed, and all children were bussed to Princeton schools. The original school is now a residence and has undergone some alterations; the second school is in municipal use.

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The Trinity Episcopal Church began in 1853 with the arrival of Henry McFarlane. Episcopal services were first conducted in various residences in the town, and in November 1862 services were scheduled regularly at McFarlane's house, (outside the district and destroyed by fire in the 1950's).

An Episcopal Church was constructed in 1864 by Harry Stone of New York, McFarlane's nephew. Although the church could accommodate 100 persons, the congregation was not large enough to support a full-time pastor. As such, it was considered a mission of Trinity Church in Princeton. Classrooms and a library were added to the small chapel in 1901, and a spacious kitchen-dining area in 1961.

A Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in the Spring of 1869 with 20 members. A building was constructed on the east side of Princeton Avenue near the Crescent Avenue intersection in November 1870; this facility seated 270 people. Services were discontinued in the early 1900's due to lack of membership funds, and the building was sold. It functioned as the Lyric Theatre, showing silent films in the early 1900's, and was later converted to a piece-goods plant. It is now a warehouse and, although altered, retains much of its original form.

The St. James Roman Catholic Church, a mission church of the Princeton Cathedral, was built in 1908 on a plot of ground on the eastern side of Princeton Avenue bequeathed by Mr. James Sweeney. Sweeney had owned the A.O. Voorhees house (#143).

The Borough was incorporated in 1889, from Montgomery Township. Although an 1881 account said of the canal basin area (in Franklin Township, east of the Millstone River) that "a village is beginning to grow up ... there are about a dozen dwellings, a store-house, a lumber-yard, a sash-and-blind factory, and the rail-road engine-house,"⁶ this area was not included in Rocky Hill Borough. Somewhat ironically, it was this area which had been among the primary causative factors in the village's existence.

Fortunately for Rocky Hill's architecture and ambience, the industrial base declined in the early 20th century, and the population stabilized at about 600 until the 1960's (when a nearby housing development added about 200 residents).

Today the village looks much as it did around the turn of the century. Although streets have been paved, trees and hedges have grown up, and some new buildings constructed and others drastically altered, for the most part, it conveys the sense of a residential area surrounding a small commercial core. Aside from the large homes and churches mentioned earlier, most of the remaining buildings date from late in the 19th century or early in the 20th. In addition, modern

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buildings are few, and many times were constructed to be sympathetic in scale with their neighbors. There are some notable exceptions, causing localized disruptions in the streetscapes, but the typical configuration is a cohesive, rhythmic progression of one to two story frame houses with front and side lawns.

Community interest in the preservation of Rocky Hill's own character (rather than as a suburb of Princeton) has been growing in recent years, starting with a village history in 1964 (the State's tercentenary). The Rocky Hill Community Group has played a leading role in sensitizing residents to their built heritage, and using volunteer effort, has completed a survey of the village. Concurrently, restoration/rehabilitation efforts are becoming increasingly visible. Besides the maintenance and renovation of residences undertaken by owners, municipal government has re-used the former school on Montgomery Avenue (the 1908 replacement for the 1847 building on Washington Street) as office and meeting space.

Taken together, the buildings of Rocky Hill, in concert with the amenities such as open spaces (especially those surrounding the village which define it), plantings, and fences reveal an early founding and prosperity at two periods in the 19th century. While the long-term preservation of this ambience is by no means assured, public awareness seems to be increasing.

Losses of buildings have occurred, both accidental and purposeful. Of the once thriving mill/basin complex, little remains: a part of Mount's mill is believed to be incorporated into a pottery shop and studio on Washington Street; and the two structures at the intersection of the Old Georgetown Pike and Canal Road (definitely standing in 1860 and possibly appearing on a 1777 map) are in residential use. The basin has been filled in, marked only by low ground and a large cast iron drainage pipe at the site of its inlet. The canal and towpath are extant, but the canal house has disappeared. Traces of the railroad tracks are visible, but the station and engine house are gone. The raceways serving the mills were filled in after c. 1938, although a portion of it may exist beneath the pottery studio.

Of the flax/cotton (later rubber) works, traces of two foundations are visible near Van Horne's Brook. The building which stood at Crescent and Princeton is marked by an area of level ground.

Traces of the building believed to have been D.H. Mount's house on the south side of Washington Street east of what is now Panicaro Park, are visible in the woods. The area of the woolen mill (and possibly the saw and plaster mills) has been filled to a depth of about eight feet, as has the site labelled "D.H. Mount" in 1870 south of Washington Street and immediately west of the raceway.

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Thus, in the last 100 years the village has slowly moved up the hill, ignoring or obliterating most traces of its industrial past while preserving and enhancing the residential area. While the nature of the actions taken near the river appears to preclude immediate restoration, it is conceivable that, should they be necessary, archaeological excavations may locate more precisely these lost structures.

As has occurred in many villages near a larger town or city, the automobile has encouraged the transition from self-contained town center to suburban bedroom community. However, Rocky Hill has recognized its identity as a discrete, historic community and is taking steps to preserve its heritage.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Rocky Hill Historic District were selected, based on pedestrian architectural and archaeological surveys and documentary research, to encompass an area which recognized both the existing architectural resources of the Borough as well as its industrial/archaeological heritage.

These surveys, conducted in 1980 and 81, provided answers to boundary questions which would not have been apparent if the district were approached on a political/cartographic basis. The central part of the district -- Washington Street from Montgomery Avenue to the river, and Crescent Avenue -- is easily justifiable based on existing architectural resources and the extent of development seen on historic maps. In the fringe areas, however, decisions were more difficult to reach.

Initially, consideration was given to placing the boundary at various locations on Princeton Avenue closer to Washington Street, based on visual characteristics of the streetscape (especially when viewed toward the village center). The presence of the Voorhees house (#143), however, the home of a large landowner in the 19th century, dictated that the house should be included for its historical associations as well as its physical character. Although a small number of new houses exist between this house and the visually dictated "natural" boundary they are generally compatible and, more important, set back from the road so as to be relatively unobtrusive.

The boundary was placed in the field south of Washington and Crescent and northwest of Princeton Avenue a sufficient distance to incorporate enough open land to retain the sense of a discrete village center. It was felt that this generally undeveloped area contributes strongly enough to the character of the village to warrant its inclusion, although the option of including the entire

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open area from the western municipal boundary to Princeton Avenue, Crescent and Washington was rejected. What was sought was the benefit of the open space, and this was secured without having to include the entire field.

The extent of the nominated area encompassed on the western end of Washington Street was determined by the structures present. On the south, the Merritt Insurance building (#1) (a house now in commercial use) is an important visual landmark, although the opposite side of the street was omitted because it is the southern edge of the 1960's housing development. Both sides of the street are not included until #38 Washington is reached. Although there is still a small number of "development houses" east of #38, their inclusion is justified by the latter.

The district terminates on Montgomery Avenue at the 1908 school, a building significant for its visual characteristics, location, and community associations. It is a large brick building, the last (northernmost) historic structure before the 1960's housing begins, and, having been used as a school until 1962, has strong ties to Rocky Hill's residents. The road widens here, changing its character.

On the east, the municipal boundary (Millstone River) was used as it forms a natural boundary, to include open space northeast of Montgomery Avenue. As described earlier, this area also contributes to cohesiveness of the village.

However, the river is not a completely adequate boundary due to the presence of canal and industry related construction east of it in the last 100 years. Thus, the boundary departs from the river to include a rectangular area in Franklin Township, including the area which formerly held the canal basin, for archaeological purposes. While a pedestrian survey of this area revealed little in the way of surface remains, the unfilled areas surrounding both may yield information about the nature and use of the basin area. It is unknown at this point what types of articles may have fallen or been thrown overboard from boats in the basin, and which may be present below the surface.

Similarly, the boundary is southeast of, and parallel to, Van Horne's Brook east of River Road, for archaeological reasons. Although no standing remains were found in this area, documentary sources indicate the possibility of subsurface remains.

For the remainder of the boundary Van Horne's Brook, the municipal boundary was used.

A portion of the district is already listed in the National Register as part of the Delaware and Raritan Canal. This is the area 100 yards to either side of the center point of the Canal. A revised D & R Canal National Register Historic District nomination is presently being prepared, and the two districts will overlap in Rocky Hill and Franklin Township, incorporating the archeological findings in both.

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