

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Monmouth
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE SEP 5 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Navesink Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *Both sides of Monmouth River from Mulberry Ln. to 600*  
See Continuation Sheet page 5 *E of Browns Dock Rd. N. part of Hillside and Grand avenues.*

CITY OR TOWN: Middletown Township

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third

STATE: New Jersey

CODE: 34

COUNTY: Monmouth

CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Various

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: County Clerk's Office, Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER: East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Freehold

STATE: New Jersey

CODE: 34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton

STATE: New Jersey

CODE: 34

STATE: New Jersey

COUNTY: Monmouth

ENTRY NUMBER: 1975

DATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

There are 49 buildings in the Historic District. At least 33 are 100 years old or older. Many of the others are at least 50 years old. There are no major encroachments in the district.

A review of some of the houses in the district are as follows:

1. Navesink Baptist Church, 1832, Monmouth Avenue  
 One story rectangular building with a fieldstone foundation. The walls are gray wood shingle and the windows are triple sash, twelve over twelve over twelve. There is a portico porch in front with two square columns. There are two separate doors in front, both six panelled with a four inch overhang, and six over six windows above the doors. Roof is medium gable with interior ceiling of painted metal to resemble decorative plaster. There is one outside left end chimney with a lovely fireplace in working condition inside.

This building was built as a Mission in 1832, on land deeded by William Leonard, and in 1853 the congregation organized as an individual church with 55 members, known as the "Second Middletown Baptist Church". In 1877 the name was changed to "The Navesink Baptist Church". In 1893 the congregation joined with the Atlantic Highlands Church and the building was no longer used as a Church. From 1914 to 1917 it was the home of the Navesink Library, the first library in Middletown Township. It was then bought by the William Raouls, and now stands empty.

2. Van der Veer (Godzak) House, c. 1820, Monmouth Avenue  
 This is a rectangular one and a half story clapboard house with a full fieldstone cellar. Windows are six over six downstairs with ~~new~~ wall windows up. The two outside end chimneys are of old brick. There is a gallery porch with two doors in front, four glass (lights) over two wood panels. Roof is medium gable.

Carpenters who worked on this house said the kitchen is the oldest room, then the dining room, then front rooms, so it is probable that portions of the house predate the nineteenth century. This house was at one time the Navesink Post Office. It is also reported by local residents that it was used as slave quarters at one time.

3. C. L. Luffburrow (Zeller) House, c. 1820, 123 Monmouth Avenue  
 One and a Half story building with rectangular layout, shed roof kitchen on side, and rear wings added. Foundation is fieldstone and rubble. Medium gable roof with gallery porch across front that has turned ornamental columns. There are two inside end chimneys, and one in center of rear wing, and a fourth on end of rear wing. Original (front)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 18-19th century

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic            | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Commerce

From the time of Hudson, the Dutch claimed the right to this region, but surrendered it to England in 1663. Subsequently the English negotiated with the Indians for the purchase of the land, and in 1665 Governor Nichols issued to a group of men a patent to cover their purchases. The first settler came in the spring or summer of 1664, and by 1665 over 100 families had arrived in the township. Richard Hartshorne, arriving in 1669, established his homestead in the area and bought 2,320 acres which included much of Navesink. Portions of the Hartshorne property remained intact well into the 1800's.

Development of the Navesink Village increased during the first part of the nineteenth century. In the 1800's, Navesink became the largest town in the area, and as such, was the shopping center for the surrounding area. It contained at least three general stores, a feed and grain store (where the present Post Office is), a saw mill, a grist mill, an ice cream parlor, three barbers, several taverns, two hotels, two black smiths, a wheel wright, a shoe store and a stage coach proprietor. The steamboats from New York to Red Bank stopped at Brown's Dock and Mount's Dock on the Navesink. Coal barges brought coal to the docks at Gravey's Pond area.

The establishment of a mill in Navesink in 1762 did much to encourage the growth of the town as a business center. Atlantic Highlands did not yet exist. People throughout the area would come to use the mill, located at the head of Claypit Creek. This was a convenient location for the export and import of goods. Since people traveled to the area to use the mill, it was logical that a trading center would develop nearby. Although other settlements, such as Middletown, existed, shopping centers were apparently not established there.

A comparison of Navesink's Housing Pattern, today with the development mapped out in Beers Atlas of 1873, indicates the town has similar settlement groupings today, as in the past. Most of the structures in the Historic District that were used as stores, hotels, etc., are still there. Some, like the general store, are being used as they were originally intended. Others, like Deginring's Hotel, have been adapted to use as family dwellings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ellis, Franklin History of Monmouth County, R.T. Peck, 1885.

Lee, Francis Bazley New Jersey as a Colony and as a State, Publishing Society of New Jersey, 1902.

Leonard, Thomas Henry From Indian Trails to Electric Rails, The Atlantic Highlands Journal, Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, 1923.

**Deeds**

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	40 ° 24 ' 06 "	74 ° 02 ' 27 "				
NE	40 ° 24 ' 06 "	74 ° 01 ' 57 "				
SE	40 ° 23 ' 54 "	74 ° 01 ' 57 "				
SW	40 ° 23 ' 54 "	74 ° 02 ' 27 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **35 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Staff of Historic Sites Section: Nancy Israel**

ORGANIZATION: **Department of Environmental Protection** DATE: **October, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Box 1420**

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: David J. Bardin  
**David J. Bardin**

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: October 21, 1974

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
**Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

Date: 9/5/75

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register  
**Keeper of The National Register**

Date: SEP 4 1975

UTM REF  
 18/S8210/4772930  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
 18/S8210/4772930

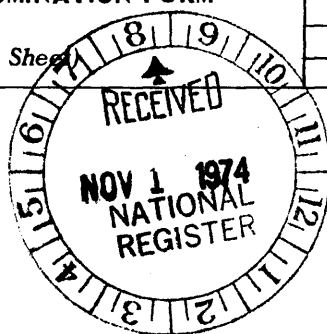
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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1 (Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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Monmouth	
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Navesink Historic District  
Middletown  
Monmouth County 025  
New Jersey 34



7. Description (cont'd.)

part of house is little changed. Windows in first story are six over six with panelled shutters; those in upper story are four over two, two over two, with a variety of modern sash and casements in newer wing. Entrance is a panelled Dutch door having plain moulding with one-inch shelf overhang. Exterior finish is white weatherboard with beaded eave and corner mouldings.

4. Rice Hatsells Store, c. 1830, Navesink Avenue West  
 This is a fine example of an early nineteenth century general store. It is a two story structure with a second floor porch supported by columns in front. The walls are ship lap with wood shingle in the attic area. The structure was built into a hill, two rooms deep, with the store on the ground floor and living quarters above. There are rectangular bay windows on first floor used for display purposes. Roof is medium steep gable with decorative brackets under one-foot roof overhang on sides.

In 1830 a merchant by the name of Rice Hatsell came to Navesink and opened a store. He extended a great deal of credit to the none too wealthy villagers, and when hounded by his creditors, he left town in great haste. The people in appreciation named the town Riceville, the name which it bore until 1866.

5. Obadiah S. Davis House, Monmouth Avenue. (Ellis)  
 This is a typical Greek Revival, side hall house with two parlors on one side with a lower wing (which is now the dining room) and a more recent kitchen wing. The foundation is of fieldstone, and the house has weatherboard siding with kneewall windows and louvered shutters, and two inside end chimneys. The three panel front door is flanked by three lights on each side and four light transom. House is surrounded by very old hollies and boxwoods.

6. W. Davis House (Herbert), c. 1812, Monmouth Avenue  
 This Greek Revival house finished in white weatherboard is rectangular with a center entrance and one and a half story shed addition in the rear. There are two inside end chimneys and one in addition. Foundation is of fieldstone and brick; windows are six over six, with louvered shutters

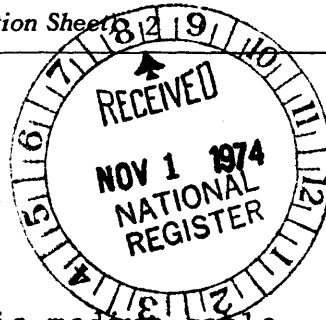
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7. Description (cont'd.)

on upper story; roof is medium gable. Rafters and floor joints are full round. Interior includes wide board floors, open beam ceilings on first floor, classic fireplaces, Greek Revival staircase. This house has been restored and is in excellent condition.

7. Julia Stillwell (O'Grady) House, c. 1900, Navesink (Grand) Avenue

This house is a Salt Box with a shed addition to one side and dormer in the rear. There are two chimneys' one outside end and one inside. Windows are six over six with panelled shutters. Foundation is fieldstone, walls are weatherboard, door has recessed panels with three lights and large knocker. Roof is gable, wood shingle covered with asphalt shingle. House has fourteen inch wide board floors which have been covered with hardwood floors in the living room.

8. J. M. Johnson (Lenzing) House, c. 1840, Monmouth & Navesink Avenue

This Early Victorian rectangular, center-hall house, is sided in white weatherboard. There is a four-column porch in front with decorative brackets beneath the eaves. Windows are two over two with arched mouldings and louvered shutters. The front door is double hung with arched panels, and arched transom and moulding above. There is one outside end chimney and one inside on center wall. The living room has a decorated plaster ceiling. Outbuildings include a barn, pig sty, well, and the foundation of the drug store which was operated in the 1800's by J. M. Johnson.

9. Plitnik House, c. 1815, Navesink & Hillside Avenues

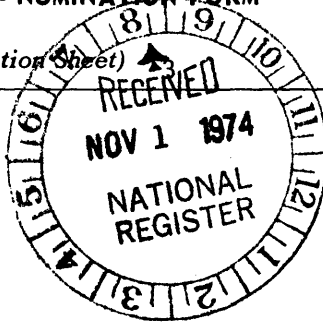
This one and a half story, white clapboard house is rectangular in layout with a shed extension in the rear. The foundation is of fieldstone and rubble, and there is one outside end chimney. Windows are 6/6 downstairs and 3/3 up. There is a four panel door with plain moulding, panelled shutters downstairs and louvered shutters upstairs. The porch is a peak over the doorway with posts, and the roof is medium gable, shingled.

In the interior hall hangs a lamp from the Sandy Hook Lighthouse.

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7. Description (cont'd.)

10. Tucker House, c. 1830 (possibly much older), Navesink Ave. This one and a half story red clapboard house has a part-fieldstone, part-brick foundation. It is rectangular in layout and was originally one-room deep with later side and back additions. There is an outside end chimney, which is a later addition and the foundation of an old chimney in the

N.W. corner of the cellar. Windows are 6/6 in front, 2/2 in back, with three decorated pediment dormers in front. There is a six panel door with two light windows over door. Roof is medium gable. Construction of the house is mortise and tenon with no ridge pole.

Records in County deeds office indicate that this house was owned by Joseph Leonard prior to 1860. A store was located at the corner of the lot at that time. The house served as the Methodist-Episcopal parsonage from 1862-1878. In the early twentieth century it was owned by the Linzmayers, who were truck farmers and vegetable peddlers. At that time, they used one of the front rooms to sort their vegetables, and there was a shoe store in the other front room.

This village reflects a number of distinct architectural periods. Basically the architecture of the 18th and first half of the 19th century reflects a community of low economics. The homes are simple and small. The architecture has only the simplest of decorative detail; essentially it is a vernacular architecture.

The late 18th century houses, about 8 in number, are quite similar to each other. All except one are 1 1/2 stories with a high knee wall, many with eyebrow windows. The early 19th century houses up to about the mid century number about 12. These too are simple. Several of the earlier of this group resemble the 1 1/2 story 18th century farms. The remainder are 2 stories. In many instances the popular Greek Revival elements are introduced at the entrance door with simple sidelights and pilasters.

It was the second half of the 19th century that shows an improvement in economics. During this period about 16 houses were added. Several modest Victorian houses were built. The last quarter of the 19th century saw a great increase in house con-

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New Jersey 34

7. Description (cont'd.)

struction. Of these, most (13 in number) were done with wood shingle exterior walls. Seven 20th century houses have been added to this district.

Basically the village still reflects its earlier vernacular character, clustered on a cross roads and served by two 19th century churches and two 19th century stores.





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New Jersey 34

8. Significance (cont'd.)

The enclave at Navesink is unusual and significant. It remains an almost completely intact example of a town where the workingmen of the late 18th and 19th century lived. It is unusual for such a town to retain this integrity in face of growing development in the area.

2. Location (continued)

Beginning at a point 600' west of Monmouth Avenue and Brown's Dock Rd. intersection, proceed north 300'. Thence proceed northeast 1500' including the corner building. Proceed southeast 1100' to middle of the street. Thence proceed south along the street 750' projecting a line beyond the street to the back property line of the south part of Monmouth Avenue. Thence proceed parallel to Monmouth Avenue across Locust Road to Brown's Dock Road. Thence proceed northwest to the point of beginning.



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8. Significance

The Claypit Creek was once navigable further north than it is today. To the best of local people's knowledge, no part of the creek has been covered over.

Research indicates that Brown's Dock was across from where the present Brown's Dock Road ends at the Navesink River. This, however, has never been fully substantiated.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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PAGE

Navesink Historic District  
Middletown Twp.  
Monmouth County 025  
N. J. 34

7 Description

The area included in the proposed historic district has the largest concentration of historic buildings in the Navesink area. The sections of Navesink that were excluded have a large percentage of intrusions that visually diminish it's historical integrity.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Middletown Twp.  
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N.P. 34

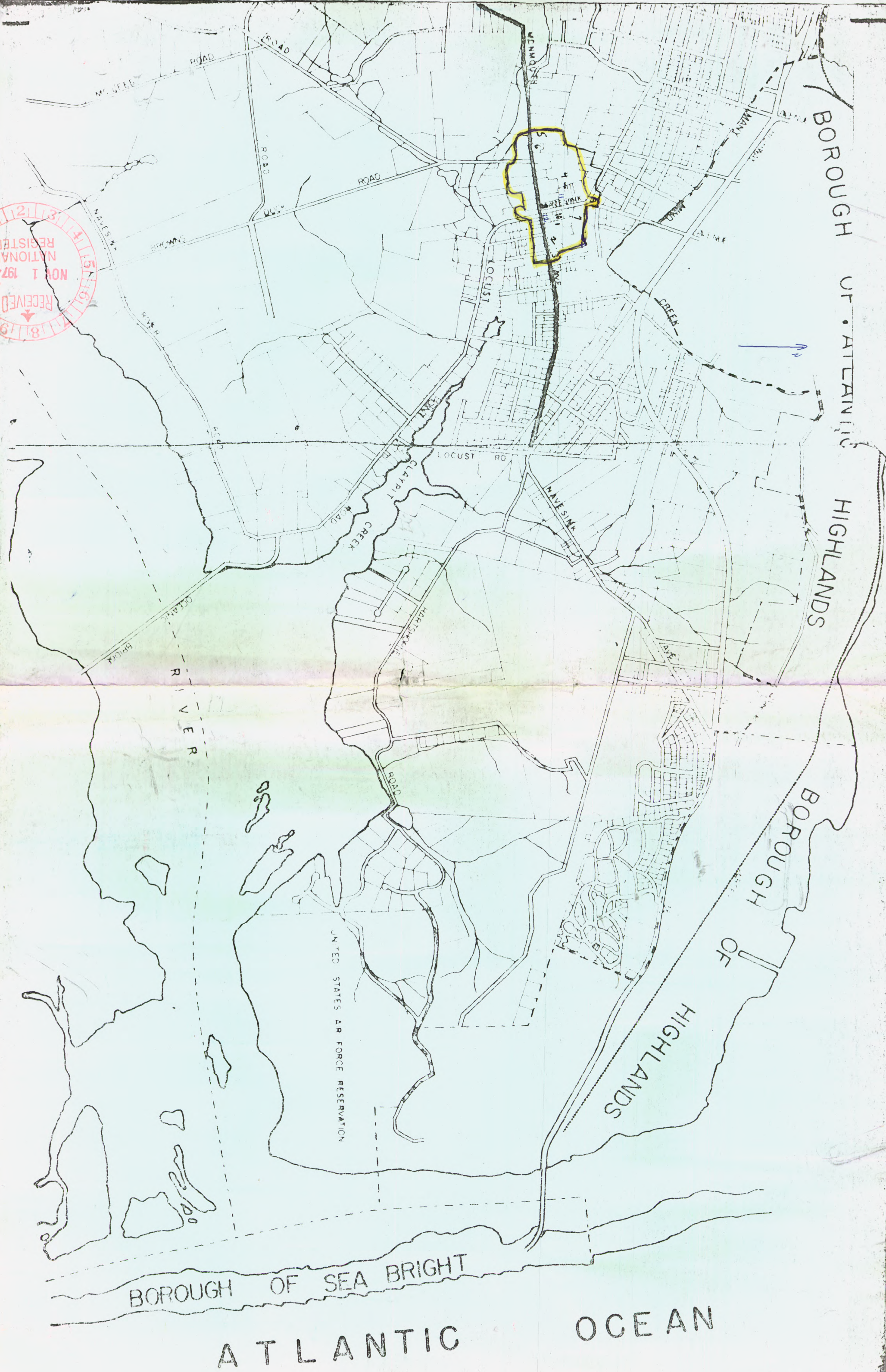
8. Significance

Although the mills at Claypit Creek and Browns Dock (mentioned previously) are not within the district, their proximity to the area did much to foster the growth of what is now the proposed historic district. Since a road (Monmouth Ave.) existed through this area that was convenient to people from many towns, business establishments grew up on this transportation route. Travelers would pass through the district before turning to the mill. Commercial enterprises such as the Haslet General Store (#4), The Foundations of the drug store (#8), The ice cream parlor, The Deginring'd Hotel, General Store and post office (#2,2), The Doctor's house (Carton House) and shoe store (#10) are all within the district.

The district is also significant, as mentioned above, because it serves as a good example of a workingman's residential area of the late 18th to 19th Century, remaining generally intact amid widespread modern development.



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NATIONAL REGISTER  
11 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



BOROUGH OF SEA BRIGHT

ATLANTIC

OCEAN

BOROUGH OF ATLANTIC CITY

HIGHLANDS

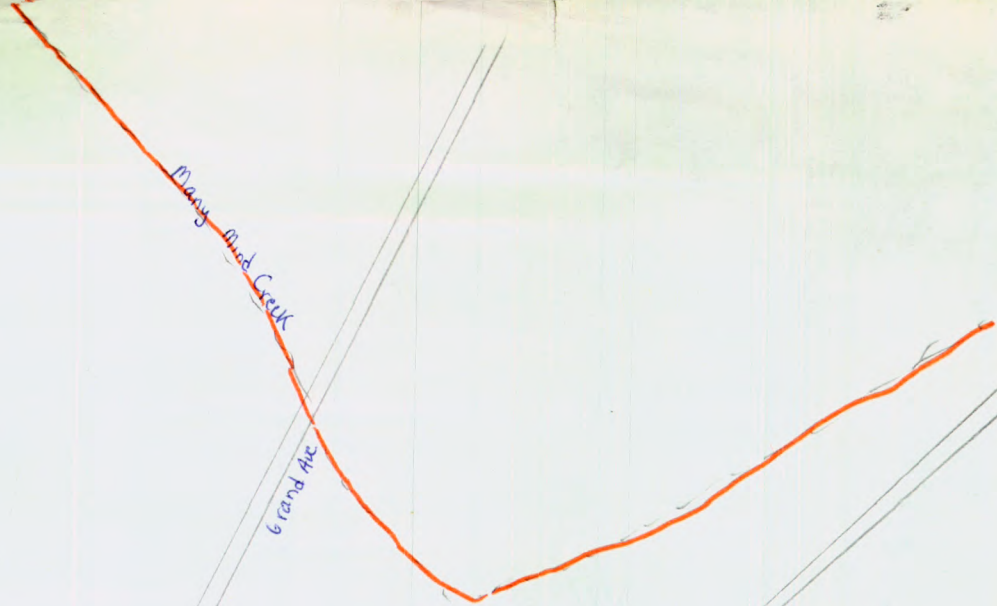
BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE RESERVATION

DELAWARE RIVER







- boundary line
- x historic houses not mentioned in nomination
- 1, 2, etc structures referenced in nomination and/or photographs
- structures outside district

Monmouth Ave

Hillside Ave.

Muddy Creek

Grand Ave

Walberry Lane

Browns Dock Road

Locust Ave.