

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 8 1979  
DATE ENTERED AUG 1 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Neshanic Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

Amwell and Zion Rds.

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Neshanic Hillsborough--Township  
VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 13th

STATE New Jersey CODE 34

COUNTY Somerset CODE 035

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT
- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED
- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO
- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER County Office Building

CITY, TOWN Somerville

STATE New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE 1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Section/Department of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN Trenton

STATE New Jersey

# DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

John Barber and Henry Howe's Historical Collection of the State of New Jersey, published in 1844, describes the Township of Hillsborough as being about 12 miles long, 5 miles wide, and is bounded North by Raritan River, separating it from Bridgewater, South by Montgomery, East by Millstone River, dividing it from Franklin, and West by Amwell, Hunterdon County. It goes on to state; "Weston, Flaggtown, Blackwell's Mills, South Branch, and New Shannack, contain respectively a few buildings, and the latter a Reformed Dutch Church, which has been in existence about a century."

However, James Snell provided a better and detailed description in his 1898 History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, N.J.: "Neshanic is situated at the northwest declivity of Neshanic Mountain. It contains (1881) one Reformed (Dutch) Church, one hotel (temperance), a district school, two stores, and some twenty-five dwellings. The country around (Neshanic) is undulating and beautiful."

Presently Neshanic still conforms to its mid 19th century form - most of the structures dating from the 3rd and 4th quarters of the eighteenth century to the mid nineteenth century.

All of the buildings in the historic district are in generally a good state of repair.

There are thirty properties within the district. Of these 3 are 18th century, 5 are early 19th century, 8 are mid-19th century, 1 is 3rd quarter 19th century, 3 are late 19th century, 3 are early 20th century, and 3 are modern.

### Distinctive Qualities and General Description of District During Period of Significance

Modernization, as we know it today, has never really come to the village of Neshanic. This small country hamlet, settled in the early seventeenth hundreds, still retains the flavor of a late 18th and early to mid 19th century village. The community life centered around the church, the school, and the grist mill. The old school stood behind the church nearer to the road than the second school which is presently the church chapel and was built approximately 1750.

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Description (continued)

There were also several grist mills in the immediate vicinity of the village. One of these, built by Bergen Huff, was the first mill at Neshanic, and stood below the one presently referred to as Neshanic Mills. Huff's structure was erected about 1770, and reerected in the 1870's. (National Register)

There was a tannery on the farm of a local resident which was supplied with water from a nearby pond. Much of the leather was used by the inhabitants of the village and the remaining amount was marketed in nearby New Brunswick.

In addition to the mills and the tannery, Neshanic at one time included a harness, blacksmith and wheelwright shop, a shoe shop, and a cabinet maker's shop. There was also a coffin maker in the village.

General Description of Natural and Man-Made Elements in District

The historic district of Neshanic encompasses approximately thirty-two acres and thirty structures within its boundaries. This constitutes a density of 0.9 structures per acre.

The present land use to be found within the district is single-family residential, multi-family residential, institutional, and open space.

Some of the prominent geographical features to be found in Neshanic's district are: the gentle undulation of the ground; the moderate rise in the land to the eastern end of the district; small outcroppings of rock; a sharp drop in the land at the western end of the district.

The properties included in the Neshanic Historic District are inventoried and described herein (The inventory number corresponds to the map and photographs):

1. Main Road, Block 11, Lot 1, Early 19th century. Two bay, 2 1/2 story frame dwelling with smaller two bay wing. Aluminum siding. Concrete foundation, probably covering fieldstone. Built into a bank.

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Description (continued)

2. Robinson Homestead, Block 8, Lot 10, 469 Main Street, 3rd quarter 19th century. 2 1/2 story frame and clapboard dwelling. Main unit has a 5 bay, center entrance form. First floor has 4/4 floor to ceiling windows, not generally found in this rural area. Center doorway is recessed and has fanlights and transom. The first floor has projecting full length flat-roofed porch with turned and sawn posts and sawn bracketing. The second floor has 3/4 sash. The roof of the main unit is gable with brackets under the eaves and a large center cross-gable dormer with window. There is a chimney at each gable end on the roof peak. Rubble stone foundation with concrete facing. Small two story frame and clapboard wing with end chimney on the south gable end of main unit which is fronted by a modern one story enclosed porch. There are two outbuildings on the property-one is currently a garage but may have originally functioned as a mill, the other is now a small house which has a rubble stone foundation.
3. 208 Amwell Road. Block 8, Lots 11,12. Early 19th century. Two story frame and clapboard dwelling. 5 bay, center entrance form. Built into a grade traverse along the peak of the gable roof. Victorian 2/2 sash. Late 19th century wing added to the rear. Modern one story enclosed porch covering center three bays.
4. 210 Amwell Road. Block 8, Lot 13, Early 20th century. Two story, four bay, side entrance, frame dwelling with aluminum siding. Second floor windows are 6/6 sash, but first story has modern casement windows. Stone and brick foundation. Gable roof with return.

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Description (continued)

5. "Sunny Hollow". 266 Amwell Road. Early 19th century. Farmhouse with several units arranged linearly. Western unit is a 2 1/2 story frame and clapboard dwelling with a 3 bay, side entrance, front facade. The entrance has sidelights and transom. The first floor windows are 9/6 sash; the second floor windows are 6/6. Stone foundations. Gable roof. The central unit is also 2 1/2 stories with clapboarding and has 6/6 and 2/2 sash. The roof is gable with an east gable end chimney. The final unit is a small single bay frame portion with 2/2 sash and a flat roof. Outbuildings on the property include an English-form barn, a traditional corn crib and miscellaneous foundations.
6. 267 Amwell Road. Block 8, Lot 9. Mid-19th century. Typical New Jersey farmhouse. Main (west) unit is 2 1/2 story, 3 bay, side hall form. Frame construction. Doorway is recessed with simple Greek Revival characteristics. The windows of this section are 4/4 sash. The foundation is stone. The roof is gable with paired gable end brick chimneys on the west end. Off the east gable end is a smaller 2 1/2 story kitchen wing of the same date of construction. Although smaller, the front has four bays. Windows are 4/4 sash. Foundation is stone. Gable roof with brick chimney on the east end. A modern porch projects over this kitchen section. Added onto the kitchen is a small modern wing. There are a number of outbuildings including a 1 1/2 story shed with vertical batten board siding, an English form barn, a 20th century silo, and other assorted farm outbuildings.
7. Shed. Corner Zion Road and Amwell Road. Late 19th century. Two story (second story is loft) frame and clapboard structure. Entrance on linear facade. East gable end has a lean-to addition.

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Description (continued)

8. The Neshanic Hotel. Block 174, Lot 1. 135 Amwell Road. Mid-19th century. 3 story frame and clapboard building. 5 bay, center entrance. First and second floors have 6/6 sash windows. The top floor, however, has 3/3 sash. The roof is a low-pitched hip having a slight overhanging eave with scroll bracketing. There is a brick chimney at each end. Presently a small porch protects the entrance way but at least at the turn of the 20th century a full length portico projected over the front facade. The foundation is random fieldstone. The interior framing is 10" x 10" hewn beams in the basement. To the east is a small one story simple gable roofed frame section of which at least the foundation is 19th century, but has been seriously altered to now appear modern. Visible on the property is an early 20th century garage; a small square outbuilding of stone and frame construction; and a laid stone wall.
9. Dutch Reformed Church. Block 11, Lot 16. Corner of Main and Amwell Roads. 1759-72, 3rd quarter 19th century. The Neshanic Dutch Reformed Church is a rectangular random coursed fieldstone structure. One story with gallery. The roof is gable. The gable is frame above the eaves with a tower and belfry in the front. The linear facade has 3 bays. Fenestration is Gothic arch stained glass windows of a later 19th century period. The entrance facade also has 3 painted arched stained glass windows at the gallery level below which are double doorways. The center entrance, however, has sidelights. There is a brick chimney to the rear.
10. Chapel. Main Road, Block 11, Lot 16. Modern. In the rear of the church property this one story frame structure with hip roof and projecting center gable has a one story flat-roofed frame unit attached to the front.

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Description (continued)

11. Parsonage. Block 174, Lot 2. 136 Amwell Road. Early 20th century. L-form frame and clapboard dwelling. Main unit is a 2 1/2 story structure with 3 bay front. A Victorian one story porch with turned posts protects the entire front and most of the west facade. The roof is gable with no return. The windows are 2/2 sash. On the east facade is attached a 2 story unit with a projecting 2 story bay. And at the rear (south) gable end is a 2 story wing. All foundations are concrete.
12. 137 Amwell Road, Block 174, Lot 3. Mid-19th century. 2 1/2 story, 3 bay, rectangular frame and clapboard dwelling. Windows are 6/6 sash. Gable roof with no return. Gable end chimneys. One story front porch projecting out over front facade. Concrete foundation facing, possibly stone beneath.
13. Neshanic Dutch Reformed Church Parsonage. 138 Amwell Road. Block 174, Lot 4. c.1780, 1850. Original parsonage of church. 18th century section is center unit and eastern wing. The exterior appearance is misleading, but this 2 bay, 2 story frame unit with one story lean-to wing atop a random fieldstone foundation has hand hewn oak beams, cross-braced construction and brick and earthen-clay nogging. Western addition is mid-19th century, 2 story, 3 bay, side hall, frame unit. Windows are 6/6 sash. Roof is gable with exposed rafters. The entire building is covered with asbestos shingles. One story shed on property.
14. 139 Amwell Road. Block 174, Lot 5. Modern one story frame dwelling.
15. Carriage House. Block 174, Lot 4. Late 19th century. Small two story rectangular frame barn with vertical board siding. Currently a dwelling.

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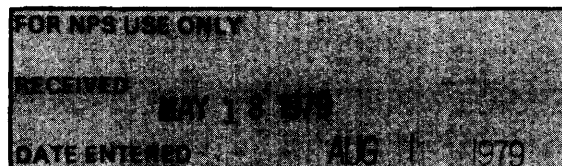
Description (continued)

16. 140 Amwell Road. Block 174, Lot 6. Modern one story frame ranch house with cellar garage.
17. 141 Amwell Road. Block 174, Lot 7. Mid-19th century. Rectangular 2 1/2 story frame and clapboard dwelling. Gable roof with central cross gable. Return on roof with brackets. 5 bay, center hall. Windows are 2/2 Victorian sash with first floor windows extending from floor to ceiling. Double center door with round arch molding. Full length one story porch. Resting on a knoll.
18. Palko House. 142 Amwell Road. Block 174, Lot 8. c. 1790. 2 1/2 story frame dwelling. 5 bay. Windows are 6/6 sash on second floor, 2/2 sash on first. One story lean-to wing on west gable end. Asbestos shingles. Gable roof with asphalt shingles. Foundation is random fieldstone with hand hewn oak timbering and brick nogging. Two late 19th century sheds on premises.
19. 143 Amwell Road. Block 174, Lot 9. Mid-19th century, 2 story rectangular frame dwelling. Four bay front. Gable roof. Windows are 2/2 sash. Attached wing on west gable end is a 2 story flat-roofed unit. Both sections have a fieldstone foundation. Two story carriage house on property.
20. Davidson House. 144 Amwell Road. Block 174, Lot 10. 1840. Rectangular two story frame dwelling. Asbestos shingles. Gable roof. Gable end front facing street with 3 bay, center hall. Windows are 6/6 sash. Concrete faced foundations. Modern outbuildings.



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Description (continued)

21. 145 Amwell Road. Block 174, Lot 11. Mid - 19th century. 2 1/2 story frame and clapboard dwelling. Irregularly spaced 3 bays, side hall. Greek Revival doorway. 9/6 sash windows. Gable roof with slight overhang and return. Cross gable. Paired brackets under the eaves. Fieldstone foundation. East gable end chimney. On east gable end is a 2 story two bay frame unit. Stone foundation with concrete facing. Probably original to main unit. Appended to the east gable end of this section is a one story 20th century lean-to addition. Modern outbuildings.
22. 146 Amwell Road. Block 174, Lot 12. Early 20th century. 2 story frame dwelling. Projecting enclosed porch. Concrete foundation. Barn on property.
23. 171 Amwell Road. Block 11, Lot 21. Early 19th century Two story frame and clapboard dwelling. Gable roof, end chimney. 3 bays originally. Windows are modern one/one sash. On the west gable end is appended a two story wing. On the east gable end is a leanto addition and garage.
24. 172 Amwell Road. Block 11, Lot 20. Early 20th century. 2 1/2 story clapboard and shingle L-form dwelling. Gable roof. 2/2 windows. Concrete foundation.
25. 173 Amwell Road. Block 11, Lot 19. Mid-19th century. Rectangular 2 story frame dwelling. 3 bay, center entrance. Windows are 6/6 sash. Simple Greek Revival doorway. Gable roof with slight overhang and return. Simple brackets under the eaves. Stone foundation. On the east gable end is a 2 story frame flat-roofed one bay addition. The portion also has 6/6 sash windows and a stone foundation suggesting a 19th century construction date.

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Description (continued)

26. 174 Amwell Road. Block 11, Lot 8. Mid-19th century. Main unit is a 2 1/2 story frame and clapboard, 3 bay, side hall dwelling. Gable roof. Victorian porch protecting first floor. Windows are 6/6 sash. Stone foundation. On the east gable end is a 1 1/2 story frame addition with 3 bays. Simple form. Gable roof. Outhouse on property.
27. Schoolhouse. 175 Amwell Road. Block 11, Lot 17. Early 20th century. 1 1/2 story frame and shingle building. Appears to have been an education building. Altered.
28. Hills Over Farm. 180 Amwell Road. Block 11, Lot 15. Early 19th century. 2 1/2 story frame 4 bay, center entrance farm dwelling. Gable roof. Paired gable end chimneys. Windows are 6/6 sash. Doorway has transom. Full front facade one story porch. On the gable end is a 2 story, 2 bay flat-roofed unit. Outbuildings.
29. Amwell Road. Block 11, Lot 15. 20th century. 1 1/2 story frame dwelling.
30. Concrete Bridge. Simple flat concrete bridge with wing walls over narrow stream. Built in 1914 by James E. Gano.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Neshanic is a well preserved 19th century agrarian village in Somerset County, New Jersey. Located at the northern base of the Sourland Mountains near the South Branch of the Raritan River this mid-19th century community has very few intrusions and clearly projects a 19th century atmosphere.

The township of Hillsborough in Somerset County was, up until the mid-20th century, primarily rural with business and industry generally oriented to agrarian pursuits. Consequently, several small distinct villages were established in the area, many of which still continue to an aura of an earlier environment.

### Religion/Philosophy

The Dutch Reformed Church of Neshanic was formed Aug. 25, 1752, by Bernardus Verbryck and his wife, Abraham Dubois, Sr., Abraham Dubois, Jr., Albert Low and his wife, William Low, John Dumont and his wife, and John Montfort and his wife -- eleven persons dismissed from the North Branch Church for the purpose of forming a new congregation. Bernardus Verbryck and Abraham Dubois were chosen elders, and Johannes DeMott and William Low deacons. The record which gives the date of the organization of the Neshanic Church and the members of the first Consistory was written by Dominic Johannes Frelinghuysen.

On the 11th of October of the same year, a site for the church was determined to be on the Amwell Road, between the residences of Lawrence and John DeMott, on the knoll on the north side of that road. The next record is dated May 21, 1757, and refers to the election of the Consistory under the direction of Rev. John Leydt, of New Brunswick, at the house of Andreas Ten Eyck. John DeMott was chosen elder, and John Montfort deacon; and then it is stated that they were ordained on the 13th of January the following year, in the church at North Branch, by Dominie Romeyn.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Beers, F.W. Atlas of Somerset County, New Jersey New York 1873  
 Barber, John W. and Howe, Henry, Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey Newark New Jersey 1844 (p. 154-6)  
 Snell, James P. History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey 1893  
History of the Two Hundred Years of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Neshanic 1952

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.07

UTM REFERENCES

A | 18 | 523600 | 4483210  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C | 18 | 524290 | 4483140

B | 18 | 523670 | 4483100  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D | 18 | 524260 | 4483100

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of the north bank of Amwell Road and the southeast property line of property Block 8, lot 14 proceed N along the property line 630 feet to its NE corner; thence proceed NE in a direct line to the point where the brook divides; thence proceed SE along the east branch of the brook to the point directly west to the northern point of Block 11, lot 14; thence proceed across the road to this point; thence proceed SE along this property line to the SE corner line; thence proceed SE to the NW corner of Block 11, lot 17; thence proceed E along

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY:

(Terry Karschner, OHP, Trenton 609-292-2023)

NAME / TITLE Wayne T. McCabe  
 ORGANIZATION Consultant - Historic Preservation DATE February 1975  
 STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 478 TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY OR TOWN Newton STATE New Jersey

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL X

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 National Park Service.

Deputy  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *[Signature]*  
 TITLE Deputy Commissioner DATE 10-9-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]* DATE 8.1.79  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: Jane H. Gilmore DATE 7/30/79  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Significance (continued)

The deed of the land for the church was given on March 1, 1760. Three black oak "sapleins" marked the south-easterly corner of the land. The deed was signed and sealed by John DeMott and Lawrence DeMott in the presence of Cornelius Lott and Abraham Voorhees.

In style, the church is a mixture of the Classic and Gothic which is common to many of the churches of this area. The church steeple and belfry, built at a later date than the rest of the structure, is of the Federal style of architecture and is a close copy of the steeple atop the "Old Queens" building at the old campus of Rutgers College, in New Brunswick (NHL).

Erection of the church building began in 1759 and was completed in 1766. Minutes from the first meeting, written by Reverend John Frelinghuysen, and the original deed are still in the possession of the church historian.

During the history of the Dutch Reformed Church there have been a total of four separate parsonages used as the local residences of the ministers of the church.

While buildings apparently did exist nearby on Amwell Road prior to its erection, the church became the most recognizable landmark along the Neshanic River and remains as such today.

Settlement

In 1683, John Bennett purchased an irregular plot of land at the northwestern tip of Hillsborough Township, embracing what is presently (1978) known as Neshanic and Clover Hill. The tract of land included several hundred acres, extended to the division line between East and West Jersey, and was bounded on the north by the South Branch. Neshanic tavern was kept by the Bennet family and it was here that most of the village gatherings took place.

Some of the earliest settlers were the Lows, Lotts, Huffs, Coersens, Ryersons, Ten Eycks, Terhunes, Posts, Middaghs, Nevius, Wyckoffs, Hagemans, Bergens, Van Arsdales, Strykers, Voorhees, etc.

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Significance (continued)

Bergen Huff built the first mill at Neshanic, about 1770. It stood some distance below the present one, and was abandoned about 1810. There were other mills erected in the year 1810. In 1836 these mills were purchased from Cornelius and Peter Beekman by Judge Corle, and were then after referred to as Corle's Milles. They were again sold several years later by Judge Corle, and were owned by at least six more parties.

On August 25, 1752, a petition was drawn up and presented to the North Branch Reformed Church requesting the creation of a Dutch Reformed Church in Neshanic. On October 11th, of that same year, after having received approval for the creation of the new church, a site was selected. It was determined that it would be "on the Amwell Road between the residences of Laurence and John DeMott, on the knoll on the north side of said road." It is doubtful that any kind of temporary building was erected in these first few years of the church's life, as the work on the existing stone structure was begun in 1759, only seven years after the church's organization. The structure was completed in 1772. In 1821 the members decided that the Neshanic Church should have a full-time minister. The Rev. Gabriel Ludlow came to Neshanic in that year and his salary was \$580 per year plus 15 cords of wood.

By the middle of the nineteenth century the village of Neshanic was a thriving rural community. Not only did it have a church that was already one hundred years old, but also a school, a saddle-and harness-maker (John Allen), a tanner (John Minor), and a still owned by a Mr. Low. There was also a general store operated by J. B. Lane which, until 1918 when it was destroyed by fire, sold everything from canned goods to carpenters tools. In addition there was a blacksmith and wheelwright shop, a shoe maker and a cabinet maker's shop, and a hotel.

Although the primary industry of Hillsborough Township at that point-in-time was agriculture, the village of Neshanic had a good portion of the township's skilled tradesmen. Comparing those trademen of Neshanic (as previously mentioned) the township of Hillsborough in 1834

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

Significance (continued)

had a total of nine stores, one tannery, one pottery, one flour mill, six grist-mills, one linseed oil mill, ten schools. In the year 1881 the township had about the same number of stores, four grist-mills, two saw-mills, fourteen schools.

With the expansion of development in the early 18th century, Amwell Road was extended from Wood's Tavern (the northeast corner of the Harlingen tract) to Flaggtown and Neshanic in the early 1720's.

Concise Statement of Significance

In search of new farmlands settlers moved inland from New Brunswick along the South Branch of the Raritan River and branches to the outlying fertile regions of Somerset and Middlesex Counties. Consequently, by the mid-19th century most land, while perhaps extensive fallow farmland or timber, along the rivers was being utilized. Neshanic Village was the focus of such an area and has stood relatively undisturbed by modern development since the early 20th century. Neshanic played an important role in the early shipment of farm products to New Brunswick as it was a major point of the township for gathering and transporting goods from there. Excess local farmer produce was usually shipped on the South Branch to New Brunswick. Primarily, however, Neshanic and the nearby farms were self-sufficient. The village of Neshanic played a very important role in that it provided many residents of the township with certain services not otherwise readily available to them (i.e.: tanner, harness maker, cabinet maker, etc.). The variety of vernacular architecture within the district runs through the gamut of that experienced in the Northeastern region of the United States.

Restoration and Preservation Activities

There presently exists a very active Historic Commission that is playing a vigorous part in the decision making processes that have any effect on the historic districts within the township. The Township of Hillsborough has had historic district zoning for several years.

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Significance (continued)

Many citizens that reside within the historic districts take a great deal of pride in the fact that this area of the region has the history that it does and so make a special effort to maintain their properties in a historical and yet practical sense.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Neshanic Historic District  
Hillsborough Township  
Somerset County

New Jersey 0311

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

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UTM's Continued:

E 18 524190 4483080  
F 18 524240 4482960  
G 18 524170 4482860  
H 18 524100 4482940  
I 18 523640 4482800  
J 18 523660 4482720  
K 18 523520 4482650  
L 18 523500 4482740  
M 18 523190 4482830  
N 18 523 160 4482830  
O 18 523490 4483210

Verbal Boundary Description Continued:

the north property line of Block 11, lots 17, 18, 19, 20 to the NE corner of Block 11, lot 21, thence proceed S to the north bank of the road and west to the NE corner of Block 174, lot 12; thence proceed S and W along this property to Block 174, lot 11; thence proceed S along Block 174, lot 11 to the SE corner of said property; thence proceed W and NW along this property line to the SE corner of Block, 174, lot 8; thence proceed W along this property line to the SW corner; thence proceed W to the S corner-corner of Block 174, lot 3; thence proceed along this property line to the S corner of Block 174, lot 1; thence proceed to Zion Road crossing to the W bank of said road; thence proceed S along Zion Road to a point 400 feet S of the SW corner of Zion & Amwell Roads; thence proceed W 600 feet parallel to Amwell Road; thence proceed N to Amwell Road, crossing Amwell Road at a point 600 feet from the SW corner of Zion and Amwell Roads to the north bank of Amwell Road; thence proceed W along Amwell Road to the point of origin.

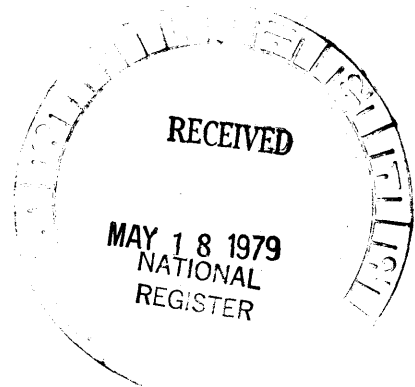
NESHANIC HISTORIC DISTRICT

Property owners.

Block 173

Lot 3 - Larry & Ruth Lane  
Amwell Road  
Neshanic, NJ 08853

Lot 4C- Donald & Arelene Church  
Amwell Road  
Neshanic, NJ 08853



Block 174

Lot 1 - Dorothy E. Zukowski  
Mt. Kimble Avenue  
Morristown, N.J. 07960

Lot 2 - Neshanic Reformed Church  
Amwell Road  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 3 - Joan F. Crum  
Amwell Road R.R. 1  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 4 - Carlton W. & R. Hinman  
R.R. 1 Amwell Road  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 5 - Carlton W. & Ruth E. Hinman  
Amwell Road R.D. 1  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 6 - Walter Wolinski  
730 East Frech Avenue  
Manville, N.J. 08835

Block 174 Con't.

Lot 7 - Katz Brothers & William Miller  
P.O. Box 938  
Somerville, N.J. 08876

Lot 8 - Lawrence G. & Arlene M. Palko  
R.R. 1 Amwell Road  
Box 142  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 9 - Edward & Ruth Berry  
R.R. 1  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 10 - Robert Davidson  
R.D. 1 Amwell Road  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 11 - P. & M. Hawkins  
Amwell Road  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 12 - David & Rounie Fitzpatrick  
1820 Amwell Road  
Neshanic, NJ 08853

Block 11

Lot 15 - Albert F. Sauter  
Box 175 Route 1  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 16 - Neshanic Reformed Church  
Amwell Road  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 17 - Thomas J. McElroy  
Amwell Road R.R. 1  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

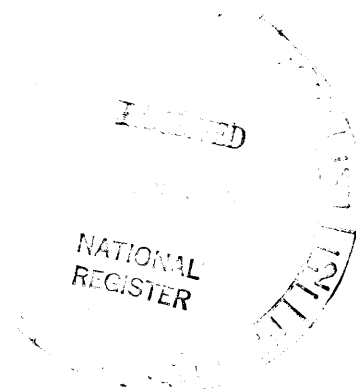
Lot 18 - Edward B. & Gail H. Martin  
Amwell Road  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 19 - David G. & Fran E. Oney  
173 Amwell Road  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 14 - Robert & E.M. Banarvage  
River Road  
Neshanic, NJ 08853

Lot 20 - Alexander Victor  
Box 172  
Amwell Road  
Neshanic, NJ 08853

Lot 21 - Maude Quick  
Amwell Road  
Neshanic, NJ 08853



Block 8 con't.

Lot 12 - Unkown  
Main Street  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 13 - August & Leslie J. Hiemstra  
R.D. 1 Amwell Road  
Neshanic. N.J. 08853

Lot 14 - Leon & Mabel Regiec  
Amwell Road  
Neshanic, NJ 08853

Lot 9A - Paul & Sandra McGill  
Amwell Road  
Neshanic, NJ 08853

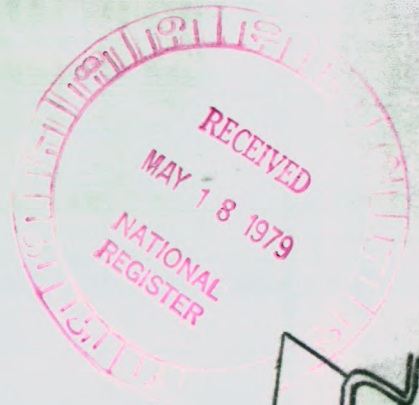
Lot 9 - J. Cyburt & Danave Firley Sr.  
567 Foothill Road  
Bridgewater, N.J.

Lot 10 - George J. & Anna T. Robinson  
Main Road  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853

Lot 11 - Laurence B. & Ruth Lane  
Amwell Road  
Neshanic, N.J. 08853







NESHANIC HISTORIC DISTRICT  
HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP  
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Map reference:  
Hillsborough Township Tax Map  
1959, revised to 1976.  
District Map prepared by Terry Karschper  
3/1979

- Legend:
- - Building identification
  - (thick red) - District boundaries
  - (thin black) - Property boundary line
  - Scale 1" = 100'
  - #-# - Block # - Lot #

