

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

**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 New Vernon Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Lee's Hill, Village, Mill Brook and Glen Alpin Roads N/A not for publication

city, town Harding Township N/A vicinity of congressional district 5th

state New Jersey code 34 county Morris code 027

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name (Multiple Ownership) Less than 50 owners

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hall of Records

street & number Court Street

city, town Morristown state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1975 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 type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

The village of New Vernon was a small 18th-19th century agrarian oriented crossroads community which grew due to its proximity to Morristown. Still a very small crossroads community which continues to project a 19th century atmosphere, New Vernon Historic District contains 32 buildings of which 10 were built in the last half of the 18th to early 19th century, 10 are mid to late 19th century, 4 were built at the turn of the century, and 8 are of modern construction. Located on secondary roads, the converging streets are Blue Mill Road (to Morristown), Lee's Hill Road (to Bernardsville and Basking Ridge) and Village Road (to Madison).

New Vernon was called variously South Hanover and Morristown by its earliest settlers. Abraham Canfield, among the most prominent of the village's earliest settlers, personifies these first residents. Of English stock, Canfield migrated from Connecticut, by way of Newark, and settled in New Vernon about 1740. There he established a country store, blacksmith shop, and cider mill.

The first reference to the town of New Vernon was found in an obituary in the Palladium of Liberty (Morristown, April 7, 1808). The name New Vernon became popular soon after the revolution. And by 1834 New Vernon was described as a "post town of Morris Township, Morris Co. 4 miles S.W. from Morristown, 217 NE from W[ASHINGTON] C[ITY] and 51 from Trenton; contains a store, an academy, and four dwellings." (Gordon. Gazetteer of New Jersey. 1834.) According to other sources, however, New Vernon may have had at least a dozen houses at this time.

Later nineteenth century development in New Vernon was very limited, a direct result of its isolation from turnpike and railroad routes. Only in the 20th century with the advent of the autocar was the town to expand significantly. Suburban development, however, threatens the current existence of the village of New Vernon.

The buildings within the district are as follows:

1. Block 49, Lot 8. Lee's Hill Road. Late 18th century. This is a two story rectangular frame structure with asbestos shingles. Three bay front facade. Altered, additions. Possibly barn of Joseph Fairchild; renovated into house in 1921. Carriage House, late 19th century. (Photo #1)
2. Block 49, Lot 7. Lee's Hill Road. Joseph Fairchild House Ca. 1750. This house is a simple 1 1/2 story frame and clapboard dwelling with a 3 bay, side hall, front facade. Single gable end chimney at the peak. (Photo #2)

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 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 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 N/A Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The New Vernon Historic District depicts an 18th-early 19th century crossroads village whose focal point was nearby Morristown. Its basic early house type - the small 1 1/2 story three-bay frame house - represents the culture of its 18th century English settlers. These English settlers stayed briefly elsewhere (a generation in New England or Long Island) before settling in Morris County. The house type suggests an English vernacular house modified for new world conditions and can be found in other English settled areas in Morris, Essex, Monmouth and Union counties. In New Vernon, this house type persists through the 19th century.

This vernacular English culture is further manifested in the New Vernon Presbyterian Church, a fine example of a meeting house form with Gothic and Federal detailing and a focal point of the District.

New Vernon's earliest annals are somewhat enshrouded in mystery. The county, including this part of it, was an unbroken wilderness at the beginning of the 18th century. It was around 1700 that the county probably first saw white inhabitants. The honor of first settling it goes to the Dutch, who in 1695 bought from the Indians a large tract of land lying between the Passaic on the south and the Pompton on the north, and between the mountains on the east and west, and who actually settled the northeastern portion of it at Pompton Plains about five years later. In 1710 Hanover was settled and shortly afterwards Morristown-both by New England People. New Vernon then was doubtless a desolate wilderness, covered by forests.

The New Vernon area was settled shortly after Morristown-indeed was part of Morristown. At the time of the Revolution there were only two hundred and fifty inhabitants in the village of Morristown. Travelers from the south were really in Morristown when they reached New Vernon and could be as well entertained at the Conger Tavern, as the Arnold Tavern in the center of the village of Morristown. New Vernon was at first part of Hanover Township, and when Morristown broke away from Hanover, New Vernon went with it. Both places were surveyed at the same time-Morristown for John Kay and New Vernon for John Alford and James Bullen. John Alford, of Midford in Middlesex County in the Province of New England, had a proprietary title to most of the land on which the village is located.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 46
 Quadrangle name Bernardsville & Chatham

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	5	4	2	2	1	0	4	5	1	0	5	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	8	5	4	2	8	2	0	4	5	1	0	3	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	8	5	4	2	8	2	0	4	5	1	0	1	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	8	5	4	2	2	1	0	4	5	1	0	1	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

1	8	5	4	2	0	6	0	4	5	0	9	9	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

1	8	5	4	1	8	8	0	4	5	1	0	1	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

1	8	5	4	2	1	6	0	4	5	1	0	2	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

1	8	5	4	2	1	3	0	4	5	1	0	5	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

name/title Terry Karschner, Historic Preservation Specialist
 organization Cultural & Environmental Services date 6/1981
 street & number 109 West State Street telephone (609) 292-2028
 city or town Trenton state New Jersey 08625

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 date 2/22/82

title _____ date _____
 For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Entered in the National Register date 7/8/82
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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

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

New Vernon Historic District, Harding Township,

Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey

Item number 7

Page 1

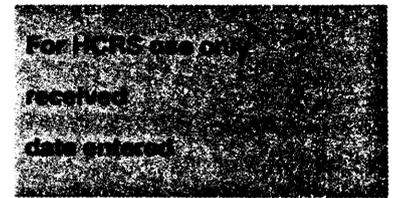


Description (continued)

3. Block 49, Lot 6. Lee's Hill Road. Agur Lindsley House. Ca. 1825. Nearly square (24' x 26'), this 1 1/2 story frame and clapboard dwelling has a three bay front with side hall. The entrance door has a narrow transom light. The first floor windows are 9/6 sash with louvered shutters. The windows on the attic level are knee-wall. The roof is gable with no return. There is a wide chimney on the east gable end which divides into two flues for the separate rooms. A modern brick chimney climbs the exterior gable end alongside the older chimney. The floor arrangement is a side hall with two rooms front and back. The hall is 78 inches wide, but does not go through to the other side. The front room is 17' x 14' with fireplace. The back room is 24' x 12' with a fireplace. The second floor has two 12' x 12' bedrooms, a large open hallway area, and a modern bathroom. In the rear of the building is appended a modern one story frame kitchen and utility room. (Photos #3, #4)
4. Block 49, Lot 5. Lee's Hill Road. Ca. 1920-30. 2 1/2 story rectangular frame dwelling with full-length one story enclosed front porch. Gable roof with pent. Exterior brick chimney. Roof raised in the rear. Two car garage in rear of property. (Photo #4)
5. Block 49, Lot 4. Lee's Hill Road. Modern small one story frame dwelling. Probably originally a garage, now a residence. (Photo #5)
6. Block 49, Lot 3. Lee's Hill Road. Ca. 1890. 2 1/2 story frame and clapboard residence. Queen Anne style with intersecting gables, multiple porches with turned posts, fishscale shingles, and random windows. Built by Presbyterian Church as a parsonage. (Photo #6)
7. Block 49, Lot 2. Lee's Hill Road. Simion Lindsley/G.W. Beers House, ca. 1850. This frame structure with asbestos shingles has a 2 1/2 story, 3 bay front facade with center hall. There is a small early 20th century porch over the front door. The windows are 4/4 double hung sash. The roof is gable with a return. Each gable end has double brick chimneys. The interior has a simple through hall with side stairway and two rooms front and back to either side of the hall. A small one story two-car garage appends to the east gable end. (Photo #7)

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

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



New Vernon Historic District, Harding Township,
Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey Item number 7

Page 2

Description (continued)

8. Block 49, Lot 1. Lee's Hill Road. New Vernon Presbyterian Manse. Simple 1930's 1 1/2 story brick Tudor residence. (Photo #8)
9. Block 49, Lot 1. C.E. Building. Lee's Hill Road. Large modern L form 1 1/2 story brick structure with church tower and spire. (Photo #9)
10. Block 49, Lot 1. First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon. Lee's Hill at Glen Alpin Roads. 1833. Good example of combined Federal/Gothic Revival style influences. The rectangular meetinghouse form, the pedimented roof, symmetrical lines, three entrance doors with rectangular transom are all Federal motifs, but the pointed arch and the tower with pinnacles are Gothic. (Photo #10)
11. Block 17, Lot 55. Abraham Canfield property. Lee's Hill Road. 2 1/2 story, 5 bay, center hall plan clapboard dwelling with balustraded roof. Pedimented entranceway with flanking 6/6 windows. Lateral wing with bay window. Colonial Revival appearance, although possibly earlier with extensive modifications.
12. Block 17, Lot 56. Corner Lee's Hill Road and Village Road. Wm. C. Tunis House and Store. Reputed to be 1760, 1820. This house has two major units. The largest, built around 1820, is a 2 1/2 story rectangular and clapboard dwelling. The front facade has 3 bays and a side entrance. There is a porch across the entire front dating from about 1920. The windows are 6/6 sash all with louvered shutters. The roof is gable with no returns. The east gable end has the interior chimney at the peak. The west facade has a chimney also. A one story modern unit has been appended on the rear. The second portion is a 2 story 18th century four bay unit on the gable end of the 2 1/2 story portion. Tailoring shop in 1860's; operated by Wm. C. Tunis. Both foundations are stone. (Photo #12)

The barn back of the Tunis house is an early 19th century rectangular form frame barn with second level threshing bay and flanking animal pens. The foundation on the first level is stone. The sliding center bay door was paneled over with clapboard. The barn roof is gable. The structure is hewn oak with mortise and tenon framing. Stone foundation. The barn was converted into a studio/dwelling in 1929. There is also a one story frame wagon shed on the property. (Photo #11)

13. Block 17, Lot 57. Village Road. Modern 2 1/2 story structure. Real estate office. (Photo #13)

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

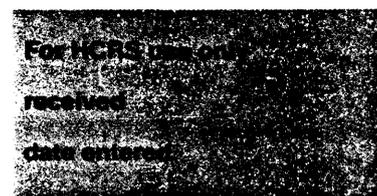
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

New Vernon Historic District,, Harding Township,

Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey

Item number 7

Page 3



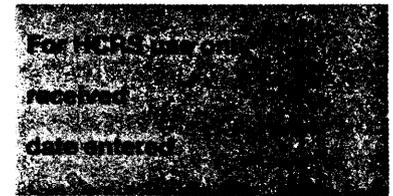
Description (continued)

14. Block 17, Lot 58. Village Road. Bedell/Ballentyne House. Ca. 1860. This small 2 story frame and clapboard dwelling has a 3 bay, side entrance front facade. The windows are 6/6 sash on the first level and 3/3 sash knee-walls on the second. The roof of this house is gable with overhang and exposed rafters. There is a chimney on the north gable end. The foundation is stone. Across the front facade is a later 19th century one story porch with turned post supports, simple wooden railings and sawn scroll brackets. In the rear are small additions. (Photo #14)
15. Block 17, Lot 59. Village Road. Early 20th century 2 1/2 story frame craftsman house. Concrete foundation. Windows are 2/2 sash. Large enclosed porch at the front. Hip roof with single dormer on each pitch. (Partial view in Photo #14)
16. Block 17, Lot 61. Village Road. Ortman's Garage. 1916. The earliest part of this garage is a one bay concrete structure with a stepped gable commercial front. In 1924 the owner expanded the garage by adding a large rock-faced block structure with stepped gable front. This new unit has a one car bay and office bay. (Photo #16)
17. Block 17, Lot 61A. Village Road. Blacksmith Shop. Late 19th century. Leaning against Ortman's Garage is a 2 story frame structure with vertical board siding. Presently converted into a two-car garage, the building was originally a blacksmith shop and later possibly a polling place. (Photo #16)
18. Block 17, Lot 62. Village Road. J. Onderdonk House. Built 1863 on foundation of older structure. This building is a 2 1/2 story frame house with a 2 story frame wing. The entire house has been encased in asbestos shingles. The larger unit, with gable end front, has 3 bays, and a side entrance. The windows are 2/2 sash, with louvered shutters and modern storm wings. Over the doorway is a modern porch with pent. The wing has two bays and the windows are 2/2 sash. This section has an exterior brick chimney. (Photo #18)
19. Block 17, Lot 1. Village and Millbrook Roads. Mitchell-Tunis-Ellicks House. Built before 1793, wing added 1838. The Tunis-Ellicks House is a typical example of a late 18th and early 19th century New Jersey farmhouse. Like most, it has undergone many changes.

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

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

New Vernon Historic District, Harding Township,
Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey Item number 7



Page 4

Description (continued)

The house consists of two sections; one, which is known as the kitchen section ; and the other, the larger main house. Examination of these discloses that the main section is the oldest, built about 1790-1810, and the kitchen, an addition about 1820-30 as evidenced by the following:

In the second floor, or garret, above the kitchen an examination of the framing of the main section discloses signs of nails, weathering of former weatherboarding indicating that this was originally an exposed wall. The framing of the kitchen against this wall shows no sign of being an exterior wall, i.e. weathering, nail marks of weatherboarding, etc. In addition, the nails in the kitchen section are of the 1830's type, completely machine made. In the larger section, the nails are either hand wrought or of the first 1790-1800 type of partly machine cut and hand head-hammered or the type made in two machine operations.

The cellar only extends under the larger section and remains of two original fireplace supports are evident. In the larger section marks of former partitions show in the floor joists. The closing up of the original staircase is also evident, giving proof that the house originally faced west. Some window openings are original, sash is later.

When the kitchen unit was built the fireplace in the larger section was removed and this raises the question of whether the partitions and stairway were removed at this time and the area opened into one large room.

The kitchen section, dated 1820-30, is nearly intact; fireplace, small rooms, windows, door and staircase. This section could be restored with accuracy. The building is presently undergoing restoration. (Photo #19)

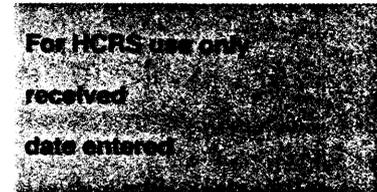
**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

New Vernon Historic District, Harding Township,

Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey Item number 7

Page 5



Description (continued)

20. Block 16, Lot 3. Village Road. 19th century. This rectangular frame and clapboard dwelling has five bays and a center entrance. The building is two stories with chimneys on each gable end. The roof is gable with a return. The windows are variously 9/6, 6/6, and 2/2 sash. (Photo #20)
21. Block 16, Lot 29. Mill Brook Road. Guerin/Miller/Woods House. Late 18th century. This 1 1/2 story dwelling has three bays. Frame with asbestos shingles. Central interior brick chimney. Gable roof with no return. The window frames are hand-pegged and replaced with Victorian 2/2 sash replacements. A small one story gable roofed unit is appended to the gable end. A small one story flat-roofed enclosure is on the rear. Two interior rooms on first level with unfinished garret. (Photo #21)
22. Block 18, Lot 10. Village and Blue Mill Roads. William Holliday House. Mid-19th century. This is a 2 1/2 story frame and clapboard building with gable end front facing Village Road. The windows are 2/2 Victorian sash. Side hall. Gable roof with two chimneys and tin sheathing. Holliday was postmaster of New Vernon 1849-50.
23. Block 18, Lot 9. Village Road. Modern residence. (Photo #23)
24. Block 18, Lot 8. Village Road. Early 20th century. two and 1/2 story turn of the century dwelling. Gable roof. Two bays, side entrance with protected porch. (Photo #23)
25. Block 18, Lot 3A. Village Road. Modern one story ranch house. (Photo #25)
26. Block 18, Lot 3. Village Road. New Vernon Academy. Late 18th century. This rectangular frame building is 2 1/2 stories and has a five bay, center hall front facade. The windows on the first level are pegged but have Victorian 2/2 sash while the second level has 6/6 sash. Projecting out over the center three bays is a one story porch. Covered with shake shingles. The roof is gable and covered with tin. The foundation is stone. There is a one story leanto wing off the gable end. Original location was at the corner of Village-Glen Alpin-Lee's Hill-Blue Mill Road and shown on Robert Erskin's Revolutionary Maps, 1780-81. Moved in the 1850's. (Photo #26)

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

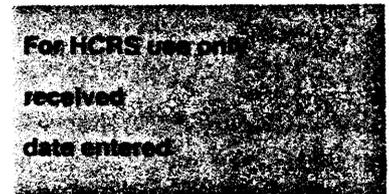
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

New Vernon Historic District, Harding Township,

Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey

Item number 7

Page 6



Description (continued)

27. Block 18, Lot 4. Village Road. Modern 2 1/2 story residence with overhanging second story. Three bay, center entrance. There is an enclosed porch on the gable end.
28. Block 18, Lot 5. Village Road. D.L. Delavan House. Circa 1868. This is a 2 1/2 story frame and clapboard dwelling with a three bay gable end front (side entrance) facing the street. The windows are all 2/2 sash. The roof is gable with a small square chimney at the peak in the center. One story front porch with five posts and sawn scrollwork. Presently the American National Bank. (Photo #28)
29. Block 18, Lot 6. Village Road, Harrison House. 1820's. This 1 1/2 story frame and shingle dwelling has a three bay, side hall front facade. The windows are primarily 2/2 Victorian sash on the first level. The second floor has three-pane knee-wall windows. The roof is gable with a wide brick chimney on the gable end. The firebacks are exposed. The foundation is stone. Excellent visual appearance. (Photo #29)
30. Block 18, Lot 7. Village Road. Post Office. Built 1860-63 by Andrew Bailey. This building has 2 1/2 story and a gable end front. One story front porch. Moved in 1910, along with General Store. Became Post Office in 1962.
31. Block 18, Lot 8. Village Road. New Vernon General Store. Dates to 1830's, moved and second story added 1910. 2 1/2 story frame and clapboard structure. Two bay front. Windows are 2/2 sash. Prior to 1840 this was the Elias Hedges Tavern. Then became a store and Post Office. Moved and second story added in 1910.

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

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

New Vernon Historic District, Harding Township,

Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey

Item number 7

Page 7

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date entered

Description (continued)

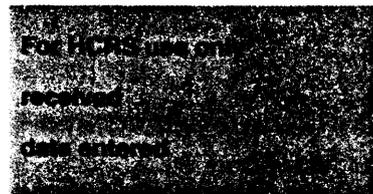
32. Block 21, Lot 10. Glen Alpin Road. Wilson Farm. "Willow House Farm." Third quarter 19th century. This 2 1/2 story Mansard roofed frame farmhouse has a three bay, center entrance front facade, but indications are that this fenestration is not original. More likely, the original front facade was uniformly four bays with an offset center entrance. The Mansard roof is slate with an octagonal pattern and two dormers on each roof plane. Off the west facade of the house is a one story flat-roofed frame addition with exposed rafters. There is also a modern addition in the rear. At the rear of the property and west of the house are three attached frame outbuildings. The westernmost structure is a two story hay and animal barn and the easternmost a two story carriage barn. Connecting both is a single story shed. (Photo #33).

The boundaries conform generally to the rear property lines and were selected to convey a unified small 19th century village concept. Further east on Village Road is predominantly recent development and agrarian farmland. South along Millbrook is primarily recent development. There is nothing of significance to the north of Millbrook Road and there are no evident cultural resources along Glen Alpin Road besides the Wilson House. Along the south curb of Lee's Hill Road are modern ranch houses.

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

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

New Vernon Historic District, Harding Township,
Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey Item number 8



Page 1

Significance (continued)

In 1715 John Reading (later a Royal Governor of the State) surveyed a good part of New Jersey and, according to one of the oldest discovered deeds in the area, the land of John Alford. Reading was Alford's attorney for the transaction.

There were various attractions, real or imaginary, that drew the early settlers to this wilderness, and those who came laid claim to everything in and out of sight. The deed from Alford to Lindsley, mentioned the following as included in the conveyance: "Mines, Minerals Woods, Underwoods, Timber Trees. Pastures feeding Way Waters Watercourse Springs Swamps. Marsh Land. Meadow Ground, fowling, fishings, huntings, hawkins and all other Royalties franchises Powers Emoluments Commodities Hereditaments and appurtenances."

John Lindsley, Jr. was one of the first settlers of New Vernon. He was the oldest son of John Lindsley, who, with his father Francis Lindsley and forty other families founded Newark in 1664. Francis Lindsley had been an officer in Cromwell's army. The Lindsley landholdings were located in the general vicinity of New Vernon, although there do not appear to be any buildings extant.

Adjoining the Lindsley farm on the north was Stephen Tuttle's land, bought on 4th of October 1727. John Lindsley's name appears as witness on Stephen Tuttle's deed and Stephen Tuttle as a witness on John Lindsley's. Stephen Tuttle was probably the third son of Stephen Tuttle and Ruth Fitz Randolph, who settled at Woodbridge in 1695, coming from Connecticut. Stephen Tuttle, Jr., did not remain in New Vernon long, but returned to Connecticut. There he married a Sarah Stanley in 1735, and six months later was killed by lightning.

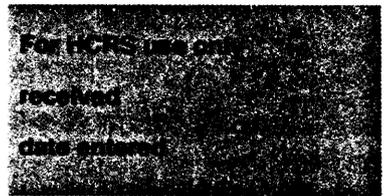
Other Tutttles of the same family, though not the same branch, moved to New Vernon later. Among these was Joseph Tuttle, grandfather of Dr. Joseph F. Tuttle, President of Wabash College. Joseph Tuttle was a blacksmith and left a record humble yet honorable. None of the standing buildings in the district are associated with the Tuttle lineage.

Another family here in an early day was the Fairchilds. Caleb Fairchild's name first appears in 1730 as a witness on a quit claim deed from Jotham Clark to John Lindsley. He certainly lived in this neighborhood shortly afterwards, as is evident from deeds and church records. There is some uncertainty but he appears to have been the father of Joseph Fairchild. Joseph Fairchild, born in 1724, was a carpenter and probably built the dwelling in which he was recorded living in 1771-72. (Building #2) Adjacent is possibly the Fairchild barn, converted into a house in 1921 (Building #1)

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

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

New Vernon Historic District, Harding Township,
Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey Item number 8



Page 2

Significance (continued)

At least as early as 1743, the Conger family settled nearby and soon built a house which was long known as the Conger Tavern. No longer extant, the Conger Tavern was located at the intersection of Blue Mill Road and Sand Spring Road, just east of the village.

The Canfields owned property just about where the village stands. Abraham Canfield came from Newark and settled in New Vernon in the mid-18th century. He came as a young man and married shortly before or after his arrival. The house in which he lived, and probably built, was in ruins as early as 1893, but foundations of this building are still in evidence. (Building #11)

Abraham Canfield kept a country store, a blacksmith shop and a cider mill. B.O. Canfield, a merchant of Morristown, and a grandson of Abraham Canfield, stated before his death that his grandfather "traded in iron and iron ore, hammering out bar iron, blooms and octagon iron. He brought in the iron ore from Dover, carrying it in raw hides on pack horses, and that the ore was made into iron by the forges of the neighborhood." (Murgatroyd, Rev. E.R. Annals of the village and of the Presbyterian Church of New Vernon, New Jersey, 1893, p. 11.)

It is possible New Vernon was called Passaic in the mid-18th century. Reverend John Gano, minister of the First Baptist Church of Morristown about 1752-56, spoke of having appointments to preach at Morristown, Basking Ridge, Mendham and Passaic. In all likelihood Passaic was the New Vernon area. The place of worship was probably in a private residence since there was no Baptist Church nearby. The name of Passaic was afterwards dropped and property located here was considered to be in Morristown, and people living here considered themselves living in Morristown. No distinction seems to be made in records of the 18th century.

Although farmsteads were scattered throughout the area from the Mid-18th century, New Vernon probably did not develop as a village until the turn of the 19th century. The name New Vernon may have been designated shortly after the Revolution. If there was an academy here as early as Abraham Canfield's time (1789, date of his death), and a store and a tavern, and one or two blacksmith shops, it is most likely the name was applied then. It is not a nickname, but one plainly chosen by the people, apparently in commemoration of Washington's presence during the revolution.

The first documented reference to New Vernon was the Palladium of Liberty, a newspaper printed by Jacob Mann of Morristown. The reference was in a death notice in the issue of Thursday, April 7th, 1808, and reads "At New Vernon, on Wednesday the 6th ultimo, Mrs. Mary Sturgis. Aet, 41 years." There is an interval of four years

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

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

New Vernon Historic District, Harding Township,

Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey Item number 8

Page 3



Significance (continued)

and New Vernon is mentioned again, on Thursday, April 2, 1812: "On Friday last, by the Rev. Samuel Fisher, Mr. Ebenezer Lindley of New Vernon to Miss Phebe Byram near this town." Then it begins to appear in documents in the possession of people living here as; in 1815 in an inventory of the effects of Abner Fairchild; 1816, in the diary of Uzal Tomkins. Soon afterwards it became the usual designation.

Gordon in his Gazetteer in 1834, wrote "New Vernon, post town of Morris Township, Morris Co. 4 miles S.W. from Morristown, 217 N.E. from W.C. and 51 from Trenton; contains a store, an academy, and 4 dwellings." That was somewhat incorrect, as they omitted the church, built 1833, and oral accounts indicate as many as 14 houses.

As early as 1789 the educational needs of New Vernon were met by the building of an Academy (Building #26). There was a saw mill, just below Daniel W. Tunis' house where the water was dammed back and an artificial pond formed. The fall of water obtained in this way was employed for running a turning mill. There was a cabinet-making shop and several cooper shops scattered around. In connection with this was a weaving establishment. On the Daniel Tunis place, opposite the house, was a shoe shop and tannery. A tannery was also located on the manse property. There were blacksmith shops and forges at the head of Silver Lake. There was a cider mill or distillery opposite the manse.

Before the organization of the New Vernon Presbyterian Church the people went to church in Basking Ridge, Morristown, or had occasional meetings in the academy (ca. 1789). Reverend Albert Barnes of the Morristown Presbyterian Church considered the place of sufficient importance to make a regular appointment here; and in the upper room of the academy building, the people on hard benches, the young preacher read to his audience from the Bible and expounded its doctrines.

As a result of a general population increase and religious revivalism the New Vernon Church was organized on the 26th of June, 1833, with thirty-three members. The Hon. S. B. Axtell, in his History of Passaic Township, wrote "With good academies at New Providence, Basking Ridge, New Vernon and Morristown, it is not

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

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



Continuation sheet New Vernon Historic District, Harding Township,
Morris County, New Jersey Item number 8

Page 4

Significance (continued)

surprising that the people of this township should be exceptionally intelligent," and, speaking of the academy at New Vernon, added "where was long kept up of the best schools in this section of the State." The New Vernon Academy is still extant (Building #26) although no longer on its original site.

Construction of the Presbyterian Church in 1833 and the Methodist Church (no longer extant, originally located at site #15) in the 1850's stimulated limited growth in New Vernon, but the village did not burgeon as did many communities benefiting from the railroads. While the lack of a railroad was the primary factor in the retardation of New Vernon's growth in the 19th century, the village organized the New Vernon Land Company in 1920 which insured a continuance of the rural atmosphere considered desirable by the local inhabitants.

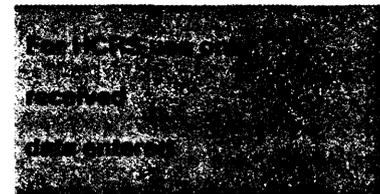
Consequently, the development of Harding Township, did not seriously affect New Vernon until the 1950's when its maximum growth period commenced. Still a small 19th century crossroads village, the rural atmosphere is being constantly challenged as Harding Township goes through the last quarter of the 20th century. Historical designation should provide some degree of protection and pride in those residents trying to maintain its integrity.

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

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

New Vernon Historic District, Harding Township,

Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey Item number 9



Page 1

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1853.

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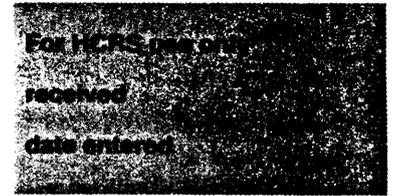
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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

New Vernon Historic District, Harding Township,

Continuation sheet Morris County, New Jersey Item number 10

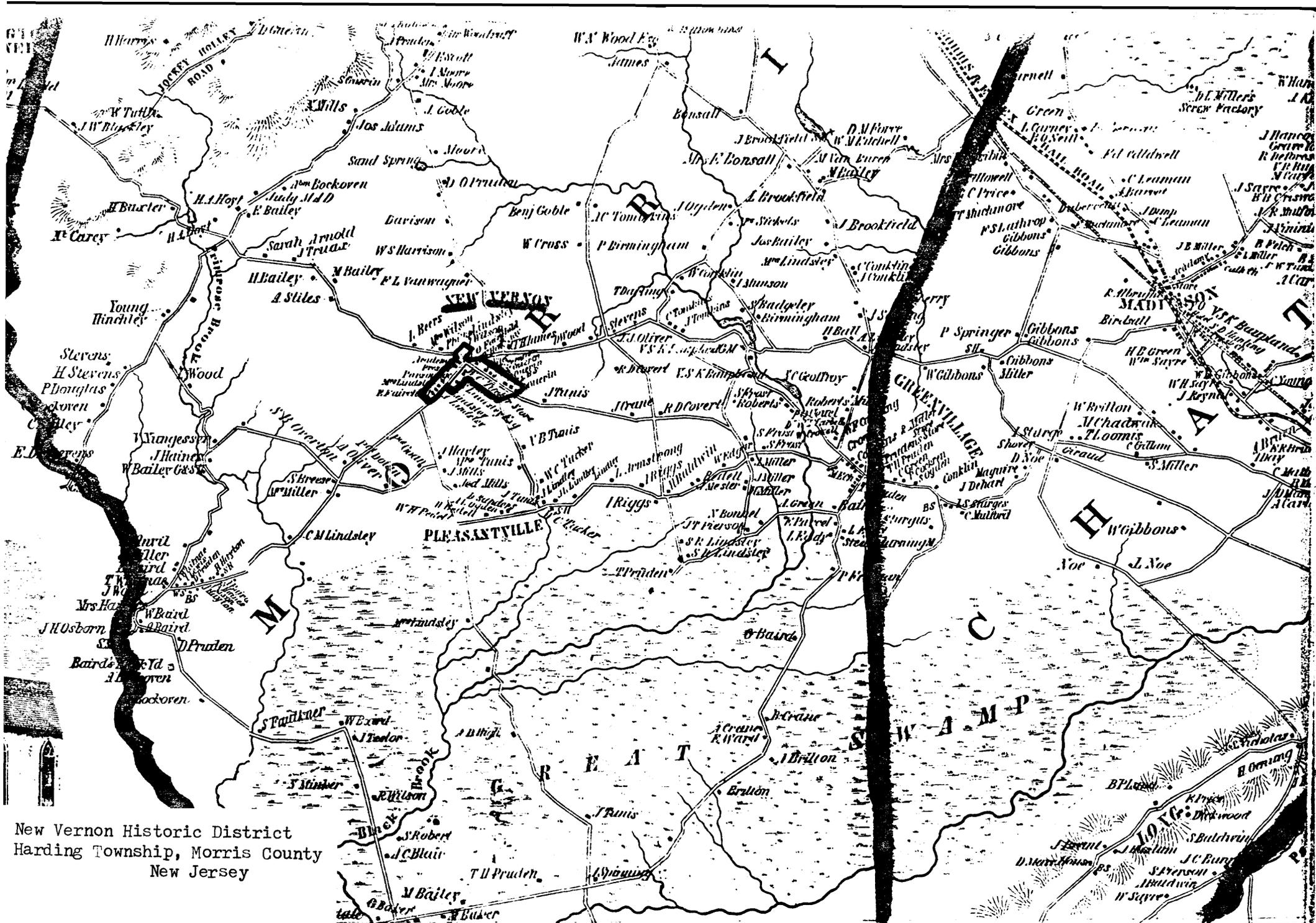
Page 1



10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the southwest corner of Block 49, Lot 8 on Lee's Hill Road proceed northeast along Lee's Hill Road to the southeast corner of Block 49, Lot 2. Thence, proceed east to the northwest corner of Block 17, Lot 55 and follow said property line to the southwest corner of Block 17, Lot 56. Thence, proceed to the rear (south) property line of Block 17, Lot 58. Thence, proceed southeast along the rear property lines of those properties fronting Village Road to the northwest corner of Block 17, Lot 1. Thence, proceed southeast along said property to its southeast corner of Millbrook Road. Thence, proceed to the northeast corner of Block 17, Lot 1 at the intersection of Millbrook and Village Roads. Thence, proceed northeast across the street and to the southeast corner of Block 16, Lot 3 and north to the northeast corner. Thence, proceed to the northwest corner of Block 16, Lot 2 and the northeast corner of Block 16, Lot 29. Thence, proceed west to the northwest corner of Block 16, Lot 29 and cross Millbrook Road to the property line of Block 18, Lot 5 and continue to the north corner of said property. Thence, proceed southwest to the northeast corner of Block 18, Lot 3. Thence, proceed northwest along the rear property lines of the properties fronting Village Road to the Blue Mill Road. Thence, proceed southward along the property line of Block 18, Lot 10 to Village Road. Thence, proceed due west across the Village and Glen Alpin Roads intersection to the northeast corner of Block 49, Lot 1 (Presbyterian Church). Thence, proceed westward along said property to a point due south of the southeast corner of Block 21, Lot 10. Thence, proceed across Glen Alpin Road to said corner. Thence, proceed to the northeast, northwest and southwest corner of said property and continue east along Glen Alpin Road to a point due north of the northwest corner of Block 49, Lot 1. Thence, proceed south to said corner and continue southward along said property to the northeast corner of Block 49, Lot 2. Thence, proceed southwestward along the rear property lines of those properties fronting Lee's Hill Road to the northwest corner of Block 49, Lot 8. Thence, proceed south along said property to the point of beginning.



New Vernon Historic District
 Harding Township, Morris County
 New Jersey

1853 Map of Morris County
 with district superimposed

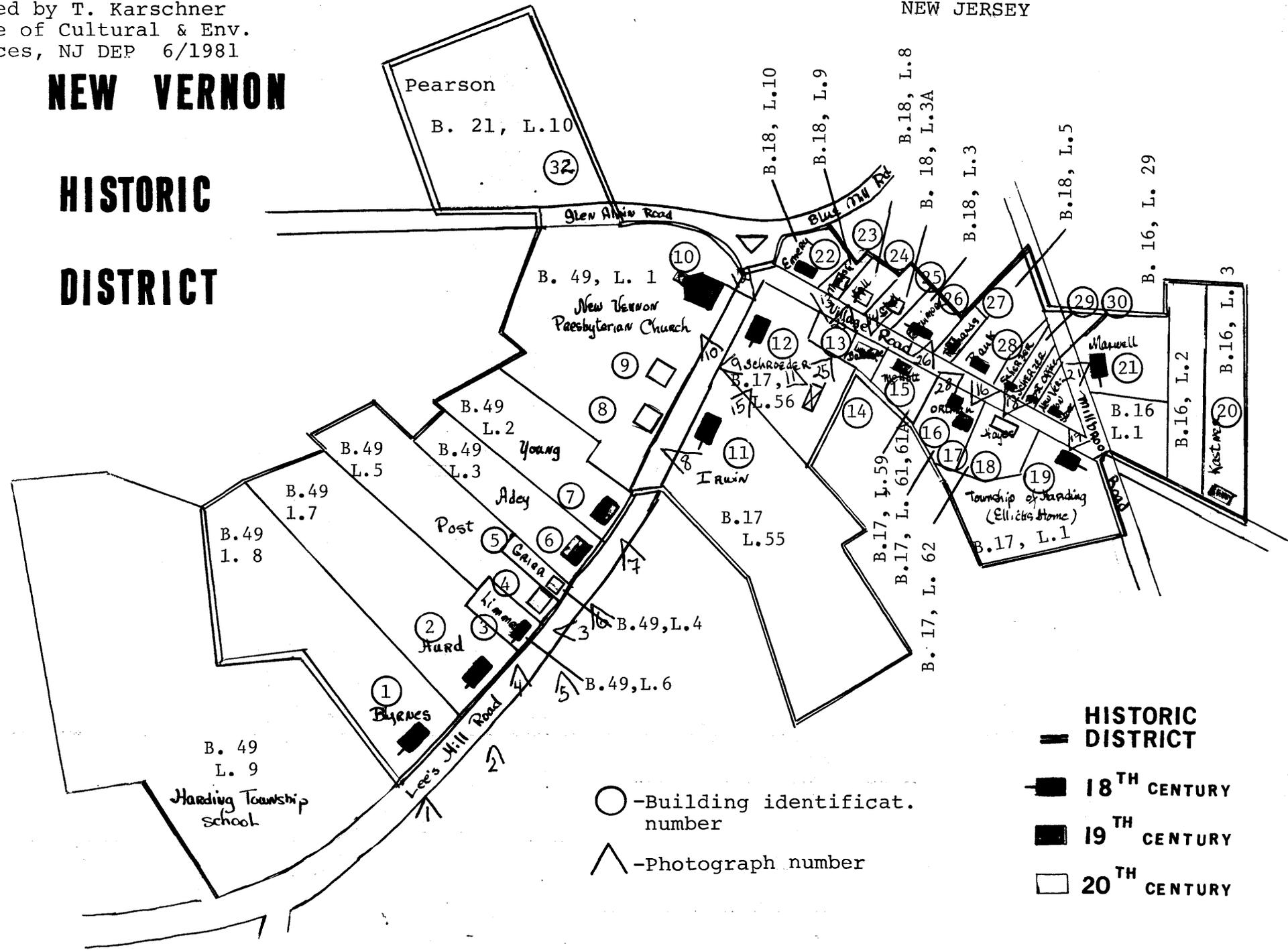
Map compiled from Harding Township Tax Maps.
 Harding Township Environ. Committee. 1979

Revised by T. Karschner
 Office of Cultural & Env. Services, NJ DEP 6/1981

HARDING TOWNSHIP
 MORRIS COUNTY
 NEW JERSEY

NEW VERNON

HISTORIC DISTRICT



- HISTORIC DISTRICT
- 18TH CENTURY
- 19TH CENTURY
- 20TH CENTURY
- Building identificat. number
- Photograph number