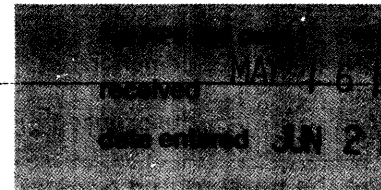


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Lamington Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Both sides of Lamington Road (Route 523); Black River Road; Rattlesnake Bridge Road; and Cowperthwaite Roads. ~~NA not for publication~~  
city, town Bedminster Twp. Lamington vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state New Jersey code 034 county Somerset code 035

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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>NA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple--see continuation sheet

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Recorder of Deeds

street & number Somerset County Courthouse

city, town Somerville state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical and Architectural Inventory of Lamington has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Bedminster Township Planning Board, Municipal Building

city, town Bedminster state New Jersey

---

## 7. Description

---

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

Lamington is a primarily linear district consisting of 10 houses, one store, one school, one church and two cemeteries, all surrounded by open land. Settled by 1740, the district contains a few 18th and 20th century buildings but primarily represents the mid- to late 19th century. All the buildings are frame (although one has been stuccoed), and, except for the church, all are one and a half to two and a half stories. Several have undergone modifications of one kind or another, although these date from the 19th century in some cases and contribute to the district's character. Only one building, #14, has been significantly altered but its historical associations warrant its inclusion. The district includes significant amounts of open land which is historically linked to existing buildings, and two cemeteries, one of which relates to the 19th century black community in Lamington.

Located in Bedminster Township in Somerset County, the land is gently rolling and generally slopes away from more hilly areas north and west. Agriculture has been the traditional economic activity, with trade, specialized services and social gatherings taking place in central locations such as Lamington. Other such settlements in the Township include Pluckemin, Pottersville, Bedminster (formerly Lesser Crossroads) and, more than a century ago, Greater Crossroads.

Significantly, the rural character of the district--as an identifiable residential, trade, and meeting place, surrounded by open land--has survived. Unlike many 19th century settlements whose edges have been blurred by the encroachments of 20th century development, Lamington's appearance today is largely unchanged from what it was in 1885. Two buildings have been replaced and two others constructed, but there have been few removals.

The open land surrounding Lamington is as important to its definition as are the dominant central buildings. It provides a sense of that which is not a part of Lamington, thus creating by contrast a stronger coherence among the buildings. Approaching on any of the four paved roads which intersect nearby, the traveler is first aware of the steeple of the Presbyterian Church, visible for some distance, indicating the existence of a place distinct from the surrounding farms. Closer approach reveals the small cluster of structures, distinguishable as non-farm buildings by their close proximity to the road and small outbuildings. When the church is reached it is apparent even to a stranger that one has arrived at the heart of Lamington.

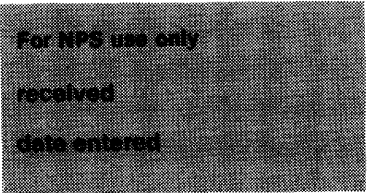
The land which helps delineate the district, aside from its visual significance, is historically linked to Lamington events and practices (see Statement of Significance). However, its visual role cannot be overstated.

Architecturally the district's buildings are not unlike those found in other 19th century rural communities in northern New Jersey. The influences of major styles are felt, most notably in the the Greek Revival aspects of the church and the the Queen Anne massing of two of the houses (#s 4 and 8). On the whole, however, buildings are vernacular expressions, interpreting very broadly the historical and stylistic forces which influenced them.

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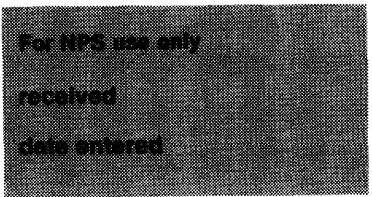
6. continued

Upper Raritan Inventory  
1981 Regional

Office of New Jersey Heritage  
CN 402  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

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7. Cont'd

Based on an architectural/historical survey of Lamington, all resources were placed in one of the categories of Key, Contributing, Harmonizing, or Intrusion. (There are no Intrusions). The following definitions were used for these terms:

Key resources are those which, because of location, type, style, age, or integrity, are visual landmarks within the district.

Contributing resources are those which date from the period of Lamington's historic and/or architectural significance. A structure which has undergone minor exterior alterations would still be considered to be in this category. The contributing buildings form the background matrix of historic structures against which the key buildings stand out.

Harmonizing buildings are either historic but altered so as to seriously diminish their visual contribution to the district, or modern buildings which, through massing, materials, scale and setback, are compatible with the contributing and key structures.

Intrusions, although the name may be a bit harsh, are buildings which detract from the historic character of Lamington. This may be due to style of construction, severity and nature of exterior alterations, or the compatibility factors mentioned above.

The components of the Lamington Historic District are as follows (numbers refer to attached sketch map):

1. David Nevius House Block 12 lot 10

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Harmonizing  
c. 1950

Frame Cape Cod (asbestos shingle), five bays, 1 and one-half stories, gabled roof (asphalt shingle), center entrance, two gabled roof dormers, one exterior end chimney. Although not historic, the house is sympathetic in massing and setback to the other buildings in Lamington.

2. Presbyterian Parsonage Block 12 lot 9  
Contributing  
Probably pre-1826, with late 19th century alterations

Frame, vernacular Federal house, clapboard siding, four bays, two and a half stories, gabled roof, entrance in interior bay. Raised-panel frieze; cornice returns, 2/2 windows; one-story front (south) and side (west) porch supported by chamfered posts on pedestals, with sawn brackets. Leaded transom over entry. Modern sympathetic one-story rear ell.

Believed to have been the home of Lamington's ministers since 1826, the house and over 28 acres were sold by Reverend W.W. Blauvelt to the church in 1883. The acreage, generally north and west of the house, was farmed (or gardened) by the ministers to supplement their income, presumably even after it was sold.

The house undoubtedly earned its role as the parsonage even while in private ownership. Rev. Blauvelt became Lamington's minister in 1826, a position he held until death in 1888. In 1873 he recalled the construction (also in 1826) of the church, and said (referring to himself in the third person) that during construction, services were held in "... an outbuilding.. on the lot where he now resides."<sup>1</sup> This implies that the house was standing in 1826, and this is consistent with the house's appearance.

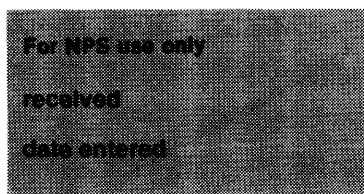
3. Lamington Presbyterian Church Part of Block 12 Lot 9  
Key  
Constructed 1826, steeple and portico added 1854; moved, refurbished, and rear room added, 1885; rear addition 1969.

The single most important building in Lamington historically and architecturally, the church is the dominant landmark as well as a principal building for its cultural associations. It is frame, Greek Revival with some

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Gothic Revival elements, with clapboard and flushboard siding. The main block is four bays deep (windows are stained glass), and the front (south) gable-front facade is divided into three main areas by the distyle in antis pedimented portico with corner pilasters. Above the fluted Doric columns is a projecting bay with two pointed arch stained glass windows. The square steeple, centered on the ridge near the front of the building, has paired louvered segmentally-arched portals on each facade; above the bell chamber is a square-section tapering spire topped by a finial and weather vane.

Attached to the rear (north) of the church are the 1885 Founders' Room and, to that, the 1969 office ell. When the church was built across the road (near the cemetery) in 1826, it replaced the original 1740 structure. The steeple and portico were added in 1854. The moving of the building, accompanied by a general refurbishing and the addition of the Founders Room, occurred in 1885, at which time the two rows of small windows on each side facade were enlarged into one row of tall windows, in which stained glass was installed. Ash pews trimmed in walnut were added, as were carpeting and pew cushions. The pulpit, pulpit platform and wainscoting, also ash, were replaced or added.<sup>2</sup> The walls and ceiling were "tastefully frescoed in warm pleasing tints."<sup>2</sup> The organ, located in the balcony, is an 1879 Hook and Hastings, restored in 1969.

4. Ten Eyck House                                  Block 12 lot 8  
Contributing  
c. 1890, based on style

Frame, vernacular Queen Anne, clapboard and wood shingle siding, gable front with two crossgables; three bays wide, four irregular bays deep. Entry, within one-story porch on south and west (front and left) facades, is on the south facade of ell projecting to west. Patterned wood shingle siding in gable peaks. Windows are 1/1 and 4/4 (gable peaks).

5. Anthony's Store                                  Block 12 lot 7  
Key  
c. 1895, replacing earlier store

<sup>1</sup>A.V.D. Honeyman, ed., Our Home, vol. 1, 1873, p. 172.

<sup>2</sup>"Lamington Church Dedicated" in Unionist-Gazette, January 28, 1886.

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The store, now vacant, is one of the three public buildings in Lamington. It is frame with clapboard siding, two bays wide on its gable front (south) facade. It is two and a half stories high. Second floor windows are 2/2 while the first story contains two large original display windows above panelled bases, flanking the central embrasured entry. The full width of the first floor of the front facade is sheltered by a shed-roof porch on turned posts with sawn brackets. As is common in 19th century storefronts, the steps extend the full width of the porch and there is no railing.

The building is otherwise rather severe stylistically, but some highlights are apparent. The ridge chimney is capped with a terra cotta pot. The doors of the principal entry are double-leaf and each contains a large pane above of small panel, reflecting the display window design. The roof is slate.

To the right (east) of the building, implanted in the ground, are two tapered cast-iron posts, I in section and pierced with circles and quatrefoils in the web. Cast into the web near the base is: (illegible, possibly SOVEX) METAL HITCHING POST PAT APD FOR EXCEL MFG. CO. POTTERSVILLE, N.J.

In 1850 this building and another immediately east labeled "W.S." were shown as belonging to E.B. Hoagland. He and his family were in Lamington by 1839, when their daughter was buried in the church cemetery. In the 1850 census Hoagland was shown as a wheelwright, but by 1860 he had become a storekeeper.

John Skillman was in Lamington in 1866, and in 1870 was listed as a dry goods merchant. When the Lamington Post Office opened in 1872 he was the first Postmaster, and his name appears on the 1873 map at this site.

The store was moved or burned around the turn of the century, and this structure is the result of the rebuilding. By at least this time, and possible as early as 1887, it was known as Anthony's Store, the name by which it is still known.

6. Anthony House Block 12 lot 7  
Contributing  
c. 1890 (main block); ell possibly earlier.

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Frame (aluminum siding), three bays wide on gable-front main block three-bay perpendicular ell to right (east); both sections two and a half stories. Entry in middle bay of each section, within full-width one-story porch on turned columns with sawn brackets. Windows are 2/2, roof is slate. Peak of main block contains attic window with peaked lintel, and plain stickwork ornament.

The house has traditionally been associated, and in common ownership with, the store immediately east. This situation has existed since at least 1850.

While what is now the main block displays stylistic features of c. 1890, the massing of the ell suggests that it may be the building shown on this site on the 1850 map.

7. John Lutes House                      Block 12 lot 1 (part)  
Contributing  
c. 1870

Very plain frame house with clapboard siding; three bays wide, two deep; gabled roof, two interior end chimneys. Central entry on main (west) facade within added shed-roof enclosure. Windows are 2/2.

John Van Nest, who owned what is now the Richards house north of the church, deeded a quarter acre to Sarah Lutes in 1890 and a smaller strip four years later; based on its appearance the house probably dates from that period. John Lutes was a wheelwright whose shop was just west of the Eick house (#9) on Lamington Road, and he later moved it up near the house. Census records place him in Lamington by 1880. His son, Archie, was also a wheelwright as well as a wagon painter.

8. Frederick Braun House              Block 11 lot 2  
Contributing  
c. 1890's

Frame, Queen Anne elements, clapboard and wood shingle siding; L-plan with additional projecting semi-hexagonal cross gable (to east). Four bays wide, three deep. Two and a half stories, imbricated slated gabled roof. Door with Queen Ann light in south facade of major ell, within one-story porch with turned posts and square-section balustrade and valance. Windows



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are new 1/1. Patterned wood shingle siding in gable peaks. Cornice with returns. One-story ell to rear with rebuilt chimney and barn-type track door.

According to local tradition (which is not contradicted by any known documentation) the house was built in the 1890's by Frederick Braun, a blacksmith who came to Lamington from Germany by way of Lebanon (N.J.). Braun may also have built a blacksmith shop here, although George Anthony (see #'s 5 and 6) was smithing at this site in 1873.

9. Hezekiah Eick House                      Block 38 lot 1  
Contributing  
Possibly c. 1820-30, with additions and alterations in fourth quarter of 19th century and first quarter of 20th.

The house is stucco (over clapboards) and patterned wood shingle (in gable peaks), two bays wide and two deep, with slate gabled roof. Windows are 1/1 with the exception of a Queen Anne window in a front gabled roof dormer. The front and right (north and west) first floor facades are wrapped by a one-story porch supported by turned Tuscan columns on rusticated cement block piers. To the left (east) is a two-story brick addition.

In 1850 the house was shown as "N. Larzelier". He appears in the 1830 census and again in 1850, in the latter instance as a 60-year old blacksmith. In 1873 Hezekiah Eick was the owner, a young farmer with \$11,000 worth of real estate. His son Firman had the house moved a short distance to the south in 1914, when Lamington Road was realigned. He also added the kitchen to the rear and applied the stucco.

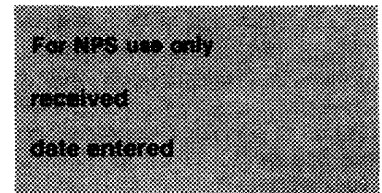
Evidence for the c. 1820-30 date is circumstantial. Nicholas Larzelier joined the Presbyterian Church in 1822 and was heading a household by 1830 (at which time he would have been about 40). His real estate in 1850 was valued at \$4,830. It is thus conceivable that the house was built by or for him, and the massing of the main block is not inconsistent with this date.

Although the visible alterations are late Victorian in appearance, they may have all occurred as part of the 1914 rehabilitation. A photo taken the previous year includes the house in the background and, while indistinct,

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it seems to show none of the Victorian features (nor the porch). Furthermore, the eave line was about midpoint in the second floor gable windows; now it is above, indicating that the present roof structure in its entirety may date from 1914.

Eick owned the 17-acre field opposite the church; it was his peach orchard, and occasionally (under cover of darkness) provided fruit for the minister's table.

10. Presbyterian Cemetery                      Block 38 lot 2  
    Key  
    1740 (earliest known burial)

Adjacent to the former site of the Presbyterian Church (prior to its move in 1885), the cemetery holds the remains of several noteworthy Lamingtonians including Hephzibah Jones (d. 1740, wife of one of the first church committee members); 35 Revolutionary War veterans including John Honeyman the noted spy; and three ministers of the Presbyterian Church including the first, Rev. Peter McCrea (father of Jane McCrea, Revolutionary martyr).

11. Schoolhouse                                      Block 38 lot 3  
    Key  
    1915

Frame, clapboard siding, vernacular Renaissance Revival. Three bays wide, three deep, one-and-a half stories above high basement. Hipped roof. Projecting central tower on front (north) facade contains double-leaf doors on ground level and tripartite neo-Palladian window above.

This is the second public school on this site; the first, date unknown but probably c. 1840-50, appeared on the 1850 and 1873 maps. The present structure was built in 1915 and served until the 1930's. In 1963 it was purchased by the Presbyterian Church and rehabilitated for use as a Sunday school, its present function. Its predecessor on the site was moved to a nearby farm in 1917, where it is said to remain.

12. Black Cemetery, Cowperthwaite Road      Part of Block 38 lot 9  
    Contributing



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Note on photo captions: The entry in each photo caption for Direction of View (and denoted by N, S, etc.) is understood to mean the direction in which the camera is facing.

# 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
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<input checked="" 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 (in one paragraph)

The Lamington Historic District illustrates the founding, growth, and maturity of an 18th century settlement which achieved essentially its present appearance toward the end of the 19th century, and which has not experienced any substantial growth since. With suburban encroachment increasingly common in North Jersey (to which Bedminster Township is not immune) the existence of traditionally isolated communities, surrounded by open land, is becoming more and more rare, as is the view of a vanished way of life they provide. While the district's 13 individual buildings are not considered architecturally outstanding, the grouping retains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and together embody the distinctive characteristics of a period (the late 19th century). Socially, the district was home to free blacks prior to the Civil War, and sites related specifically to both black and white history are included in the district. Finally, the district has some historical significance which goes beyond purely local interest, through associations with Reverend Heinrich Melchior Muhlenburg, the founder of Lutheranism in America.

The name Lamington is derived from the native word Allametunk, meaning "place of paint clay." Other versions which have appeared in historical records include Lamintunk, Lamentunk, Lametunk, Allamatunk, Alamatunk, and Laomatong.

Precisely when the earliest settlers, who were Scotch-Irish, arrived is unknown, but the first appeal to the Presbytery of New Brunswick for a preacher was in 1739. This indicates that not only were people living here, but they were settled enough to have need of a minister. Services were reportedly held in a barn which "probably occupied the same site" where Hezekiah Eick's barn stood (#13).<sup>1</sup> A church was built in 1740 by Israel Ross, a carpenter, for £134. This building was adjacent to the present cemetery (#10), the first burial in which was the same year.

The first permanent minister was Reverend Peter McCrea. The murder of his daughter, Jane, by Indians in upstate New York is a well-known tale of the Revolutionary era. He served in Lamington from 1740 to 1766; other early ministers included Reverend Jeremiah Halsey (1770-1780) and Reverend William Boyd (1784-1807). All three are buried in the cemetery (#10). Boyd, who lived in a stone house on the Eick property (no longer standing) conducted a classical academy in his home.

The road which forms the longer axis of the district was laid out in 1745, creating a framework for later development. However, there has never been any construction east of the school (#11) on the south side of the road (west of the brook).

(see continuation sheet)

<sup>1</sup>Dr. W.W. Blauvelt, "Our Older Churches--Lamington" in Our Home, A.V.D. Honeyman, ed., vol. 1, 1873, p. 168.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Addresses on the Semi-Centennial of the Pastorate of Rev. Wm. W. Blauvelt, D.D. ...  
 August 9th, 1876. (Somerset, NJ: Honeyman & Rowe, Publishers, 1876).  
 A.W.M. (most likely Augustus W. McDowell). "The Old Presbyterian Church at Lamington,  
 N.J.: Rev. William Boyd, Third Pastor of the Old Lamington (see continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property ±84

Quadrangle name Gladstone

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

### UMT References

A 

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

B 

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

C 

1	8	5	2	3	6	2	0	4	5	0	1	2	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	8	5	2	3	4	6	0	4	5	0	0	8	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

1	8	5	2	3	5	2	0	4	5	0	0	6	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

1	8	5	2	3	9	4	0	4	5	0	0	5	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

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 n/a code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles H. Ashton

organization Heritage Studies, Inc. date Rev. 12/82

street & number RD 4 Box 864 Mapleton Road telephone (609) 452-1754

city or town Princeton state NJ

## 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 National Park Service.

Deputy  
 State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Gregory Marshall*

title Deputy Director, Division of Parks and Forestry

date May 7 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
 National Register

date 6/21/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

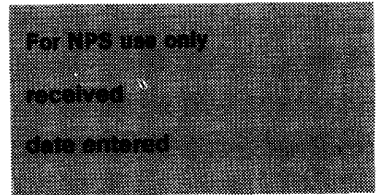
date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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8. continued

Lamington began its best-documented period in 1826, with the appointment of Reverend William Warren Blauvelt to the local pulpit. His pastorate lasted until his death in 1888, and events such as his semicentennial provided opportunities for the publication of reminiscences. Also in 1826, construction began on the present church, like its predecessor near the cemetery. When completed, however, it had no steeple or portico, stained glass or curtains; the only ornament was some crimson cloth draped around the pulpit.

Reverend Blauvelt owned and lived in what is now the Parsonage (#2). He also owned nearly 29 acres generally north and west of the house, the northern edge of which forms the district boundary. This land was used by later ministers (and presumably by Reverend Blauvelt as well) to raise food as a supplement to their salary.

By 1850, according to a map published that year, Lamington consisted of the church, a school immediately east (where the present school, #11, is located), a wheelwright shop, a blacksmith shop, (both gone), and the Parsonage (#2), Anthony house (#6), and the Eick house (#9). The Anthony house was then owned by Edward B. Hoagland, and an unidentified building to the east was presumably the predecessor of the Anthony Store (#5). Hoagland was a wheelwright, according to census records, and Nicholas Larzelier, who owned the Eick house, was a blacksmith.

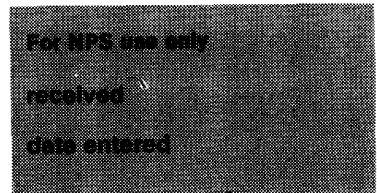
In 1860 Hoagland listed his occupation as storekeeper, so the store definitely existed by that time. In the 1870 census John Skillman was the storekeeper (although he had been in Lamington since at least 1866) and George Anthony was the local blacksmith. Hezekiah Eick was a farmer with \$11,000 worth of real estate.

These circumstances are verified by a map published in 1873 which, in addition, locates (but does not identify as such) the black cemetery east of Lamington. Skillman owned two buildings corresponding to the store and adjacent house (#s 5 and 6), Anthony was at the site of what is now the Braun house (#8) and Rick had replaced Larzelier at #9. The Van Nest tenant house (south of #7, now gone) had been constructed between publication of the two maps. The Leake and Henry houses (#s 14 and 15) were identified as "R. Hurling" and "J. Pool" respectively.

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When the Lamington Post Office opened on March 13, 1872, Skillman became its first Postmaster.

In 1882 Reverend Blauvelt retired from active preaching, and took the pulpit only a few times again before his death in 1888. He had been the local preacher for 56 years, or for the entire second half of the first century following the signing of the Declaration plus a few years more. Reverend John T. Kerr became co-pastor in 1882; at age 29, this was his first congregation following his graduation from Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1883 the church purchased nearly 29 acres from Reverend Blauvelt, including the Parsonage (#2); the next day most of the land--primarily that away from the road--was sold to George Anthony. In 1885 the church was moved to its present site using a horse, many wooden timbers and a generous amount of soap. At the same time the church was refurbished.

The reason for moving the church is not recorded. The traditional explanation has been that by 1885 Reverend Blauvelt was unable to comfortably walk across the road to the church, so it was brought closer to his residence. Although the devotion to him evidenced in surviving documents makes this explanation almost plausible, it seems unlikely, as Reverend Kerr had taken over the majority of the pastoral duties by this time, and was probably living in the Parsonage (#2).

Reverend Blauvelt moved in with a son-in-law shortly after his retirement, and later with a daughter, in whose home he died; each move was farther from the church. The moving of the church seems to have been unrelated to its proximity to Reverend Blauvelt, but was possibly done for the convenience (or at the behest) of Reverend Kerr.

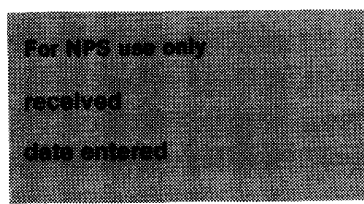
There is a great temptation for the historian to perceive interpersonal relationships in historical documents where they may not exist. It may be a reflection of the public response to these real estate dealings under the "new" minister that a newspaper article in 1886 describing the service to rededicate the church on its new site does not name the pastor. The only reference to him in the account states that "The dedicatory prayer was offered by the pastor of the church."<sup>2</sup> Clearly Reverend Blauvelt's tenure, by then over 59 years, would have placed any successor in a difficult position.



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Starting at about this time Lamington began to take on its present appearance. The steeple had been added to the church in 1854, as had the portico, and the refurbishing at the time the building was moved included changes to the windows and the installation of the stained glass, as well as interior changes. The Ten Eyck house (#4) appears to date from the 1880's, roughly contemporaneous with the porch on the Parsonage (#2). Near the turn of the century a new store (#5) was built. By the end of the 19th century Hezekiah Eick was raising peaches in the 17-acre field across from the Parsonage, and he had removed the remains of Reverend Boyd's stone house. The minister was still raising crops behind the parsonage. In 1915 the present school was built, a year after the Eick house was moved a few feet and covered with stucco.

The present appearance of Lamington is in part the result of a fundamental change in land use in the area which began around the turn of the century. Land which had been continuously farmed for 150 years or more was wearing out, and the orchards (especially peaches) were facing virtual extinction from the San Jose scale. Farms in the immediate vicinity were consolidated and converted to large estates, resulting in fewer individuals to be served by local institutions such as the church, school, store, and post office. All of these but one are now closed or in a new use. The indirect results of this were that agriculture--in the traditional sense of the small-scale, independent family farm--was dwindling, and that Lamington was exposed to minimal development pressure for many years.

Another result (but one which was also influenced by other social forces) was the virtual disappearance of what seems to have been a sizeable black community. Blacks (presumably free) were joining the Presbyterian Church at least as early as 1812; the year of largest enrollment (9) was 1823. At one point there were as many as 25 black members, but there are no indications that Lamington was a model of racial equality. The black members sat in the gallery, and there are historical references to a Cuffee Barnet who preached among his people. In 1857 the Presbyterian Church purchased the black cemetery (#12) although it is not know if it was then in use as such.

Oral histories suggest that blacks were employed on the area's farms, and that around the turn of the century when agriculture was waning (and the lure of the cities increasing) young blacks simply left the area. Older residents continued with the farmers, and as they died off the black community slowly diminished. Today the cemetery is the only physical

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reminder of this part of Lamington's history: some of the stones refer to the race of the deceased.

The vision of Lamingtonians reached beyond their immediate surrounds, however. Several local men fought in the Revolution and are buried in the Presbyterian cemetery (#10), as is John Honeyman, who moved to the area from Griggstown after his Revolutionary role as a spy. Information supplied by Honeyman is credited with encouraging Washington to cross the Delaware and attack the Hessians at Trenton in 1776.

There was also some intellectual activity at Lamington. Reverend Boyd, as previously mentioned, offered classical instruction, as did Reverend Blauvelt. Andrew Leake, a mill owner and resident of #14, was a friend and frequent host of Reverend Heinrich Melchior Muhlenburg. The latter, a learned man and a major influence in the history of American religion, recorded in his journals that he often arranged to spend evenings in "edifying conversation" with Leake, and in 1760 borrowed from him a book on the emerging phenomenon of electricity.<sup>3</sup> Clearly, if Lamington could not be classified as a major center of learning it could not be dismissed as an isolated backwater, either.

It was rural, though, just as it is today. In its role as the social and economic center for the surrounding neighborhood Lamington was intimately linked with the nearby farms and residents, and agriculture--as the economic activity which provided its raison d'etre--was crucial to its survival. Agriculture, of course, implies the existence of sizeable unbuilt tracts, which in turn suggest vistas of fields and woodlots.

This traditional setting for the district remains today, visually if not functionally. The southern portion of the district (opposite the church) is a cultivated field (formerly an orchard). North of the church is also open land, a portion of which is included in the district because of its associations with individuals and institutions significant to the district, namely Reverend Blauvelt and the Presbyterian church (see Boundary Justification). West of the district is additional open land, while to the east the land rises and is more wooded.

<sup>2</sup>"Lamington Church Dedicated" in Unionist-Gazette, January 28, 1886.

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The effect of this setting is to maintain the district's buildings more or less in their traditional relationships with the surrounding land. Although agriculture is not as widespread now as in the last century, the associational values of the buildings are much stronger because of the presence of the open land.

If the setting enhances the district as a whole, it is also appropriate to the individual buildings. None of the structures can be called high-style, including the church (even though it comes closest to embodying a particular style). The architecture of the district represents the continuation of vernacular traditions--wood frame construction, gabled or hipped roofs, porches or other entry shelters--with the imprint of the various passing styles. Queen Anne aspects of massing appear in two houses, for example, and the church is primarily Greek Revival, but the three-to five-bay facade with the entry near the center, shows its tenacity throughout the district.

The church has clearly been the object of great care and attention throughout its history. The alterations in 1854 and 1885 (particularly the first) were done by persons familiar with current stylistic trends, resulting in a building which included many Greek Revival features. Among these are the entry in antis, the flushboard siding, and the fluted columns. All were (and are) painted a traditional sparkling white in the de rigeur imitation of marble. The subsequent (1885) modifications significantly affected the integrity of the 1854 appearance (including, of course, the integrity of location) but these changes have since accrued significance in their own right.

Thus, Lamington's appearance--and perhaps more important, its ambience--is little changed from what it was 75 to 100 years ago. The road has been moved slightly and paved, and wires have been strung, and of course the two shops related to horse-drawn transportation are gone. But the essentials remain: a small cluster of houses surrounding a church, school, and store, all of which are themselves surrounded by rolling fields and combine to convey its historical role as the center of an agricultural community.

<sup>3</sup>Quoted in Austin, Gabriel, ed., Four Oaks Farm (Somerville, NJ: 1967), p.

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Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the district were selected to encompass those features, man-made and natural, which visually and historically embody the sense of Lamington in the period when it attained its significance.

Two of the boundary choices possibly subject to question are those to the north and south. North of the district's buildings an extensive open field begins at the rear lot lines and continues back (away from the road) more than 2000', to the former Aaron Longstreet house (Block 12 Lot 1.1). Placing the boundary at the rear lot lines of the district buildings, to the north of the 2000' expanse, were both considered and rejected as not adequately satisfying the above criterion. A boundary was needed which would include sufficient open land to convey a sense of time and place, but which was not simply open land per se.

To the north the land included has a direct historical connection with Lamington. Deed research revealed a description of the plot of 29 acres which Reverend Blauvelt sold to the church in the 1880's, which included his own house (#2) and what was to become the future site of the church following its 1885 move. The northern line of this plot, which no longer exists as a discrete parcel, snakes through the openland, fulfilling the need for its inclusion, and the district boundary thus created is not arbitrary: it was associated for 57 years with the home of the individual probably most influential in Lamington's past. A short line of convenience, running generally east and west, was required at the western end of this historic property line to connect it to Black River Road. Thus a small piece of Block 12 Lot 1.1 is included in the district, but this piece contains only a driveway and no buildings.

A similar problem existed for the southern boundary, in the area opposite the church. A cultivated field exists today where formerly stood a peach orchard associated with #9; the northern boundary of this now-discrete parcel is at the southern edge of the roadway. In the absence of any known historic lines bisecting the parcel, a decision had to be reached as to whether all or none of the parcel was to be included in the district, or whether an arbitrary line was to be drawn through it.

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The first option was selected because of the visual attributes of the field. Its southern terminus is not a property line, but a tree line extending along a drainage easement and a brook (the latter is part of the field's property boundary). Using these as the district boundary, an area conveying the historical setting of Lamington is included, and, as on the north side of the road, the field is historically linked to a district building.

As a consequence of going beyond the property limits of the field (which is Block 38 Lot 4), small portions of Block 38 Lot 1-1 and 1-2 are included in the district; these lots are cut by the drainage easement, and the portions which abut the field are within the district. There are modern buildings on each lot, but both are outside the district boundary (i.e., west of the drainage easement).

The eastern edge of the district could have been placed at the stream near the boundary of the south field (Block 38 Lot 4) and the black cemetery included as a discrete element, thus omitting #s 14, 15, and 16. The significance of the black cemetery to the local community, and to statewide black history, is undeniable, but subsequent research on the three buildings just named revealed historical associations sufficient to warrant inclusion of this area, although originally it had been rejected on visual grounds. As a result of this research, only one of the three additional buildings does not contribute to it (#16). Opposite this arm of the district, in the wedge formed by Lamington Road and Cowperthwaite Road, are three houses which all appear to date from the 20th century; no plausible reason could be found for including these.

A small rectangular parcel, defined by lines of convenience, is attached to the southwest corner of the district (see sketch map). This parcel contains the Eick barn site and no buildings. The barn was shown on a 1937 property survey, and the parcel under discussion has intentionally been drawn to give a wide berth to the locations of the building's walls as shown on that survey. This was done in order to afford the site some protection, as its archaeological potential has yet to be assessed in detail.

To reiterate: boundary decisions were based on the premise that the setting of the district's buildings is important to their comprehension, and that a

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certain amount of unbuilt land is necessary to convey the setting. Open land was not to be included without historical justification.

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MAPS:

Map of Somerset County, N.J. Entirely from Original Survey by Otley, Van Derveer & Keily (Camden: Lloyd Van Derveer, Surveyor, 1850).

Beers, Comstock and Cline. Atlas of Somerset County, N.J. (1873).



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10. Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Lamington Historic District is shown on the enclosed maps, and is described as follows: beginning at a Point A, the northeastern corner of Block 38 Lot 4 (as identified in Bedminster Township municipal records), thence proceeding generally northeast along a small stream, thus crossing Route 523, to Point B, the intersection with the extension in a southeasterly direction of a boundary of the land transferred by W.W. Blauvelt to the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Lamington by deed of April 4, 1883, recorded in Book Z-5 at page 496 et seq., being further described as the twelfth course described in said deed; thence continuing generally northwest, southwest, northwest and southwest along the first, second, third, and a portion of the fourth courses described in said deed, to Point C, the intersection with a line of convenience which runs generally east-west and is approximately 525 feet north of Route 523 at its intersection with Black River Road; thence generally west along this line, passing to the north of (and including in the district) the two tracts of land conveyed to Sarah J. Lutes by John Van Nest, recorded in Book 2 page 558 and Book I No. 9 page 489, to Point D, the intersection with the extension in a northerly direction of the western property line of Block 11 Lot 2, thence generally south along this extension and property line, crossing Black River Road, and proceeding along the extension of said property line in a southerly direction across Route 523 to Point E, the intersection with the northern boundary of Block 38 Lot 1; thence proceeding generally west along this property line and its extension in a westerly direction, crossing Rattlesnake Bridge Road, to Point F, the northwestern corner of the intersection of said road with Route 523; thence generally south along the western edge of Rattlesnake Bridge Road to Point G, the intersection with the extension in a westerly direction of the northern property line of Block 38 Lot 1-1 which intersects Rattlesnake Bridge Road; thence generally southwest along this extension for a distance of fifty feet to Point H; thence generally southeast, parallel to Rattlesnake Bridge Road, for a distance of seventy feet, to Point I; thence generally northeast, parallel to line G-H, crossing Rattlesnake Bridge Road, to Point J, the intersection with the western boundary of Block 38 Lot 1-1; thence generally north, east, and north along the boundary of said lot, to Point K, the intersection of this property boundary with the southern boundary of Block 38 Lot 2; thence generally east along this property boundary, and the southern boundary of Block 38 Lot 3, to Point L, the intersection with the western edge of a 50-foot drainage easement which

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crosses Block 38 Lot 1-1; thence generally south and southeast along this drainage easement, across Block 38 Lot 1-2, to Point M, the intersection with the southern boundary of the latter lot; thence proceeding generally northeast along said boundary, the southern boundary of Block 38 Lot 4 and the southern boundary of Block 38 Lot 5, to Point N, the intersection with the southern property boundary of Block 38 Lot 6; thence proceeding generally southeast along this line and the south property line of Block 38 Lot 7, to Point P, the southeast corner of the latter lot; thence proceeding generally east, across part of Block 38 Lot 9, to Point Q, the southwest corner of the cemetery described in a deed recorded in Somerset County Deed Book D, page 509, dated June 1, 1857 from Martin Kline to the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church at Bedminster in the Counties of Somerset and Hunterdon; thence proceeding generally east and north along the south and east boundaries of the cemetery to Point R, its northeast corner located in Cowperthwaite Road; thence generally northwest in Cowperthwaite Road and/or Route 523 to Point A, the point of beginning.

# BEDMINSTER

Scale 300 Rods to the inch

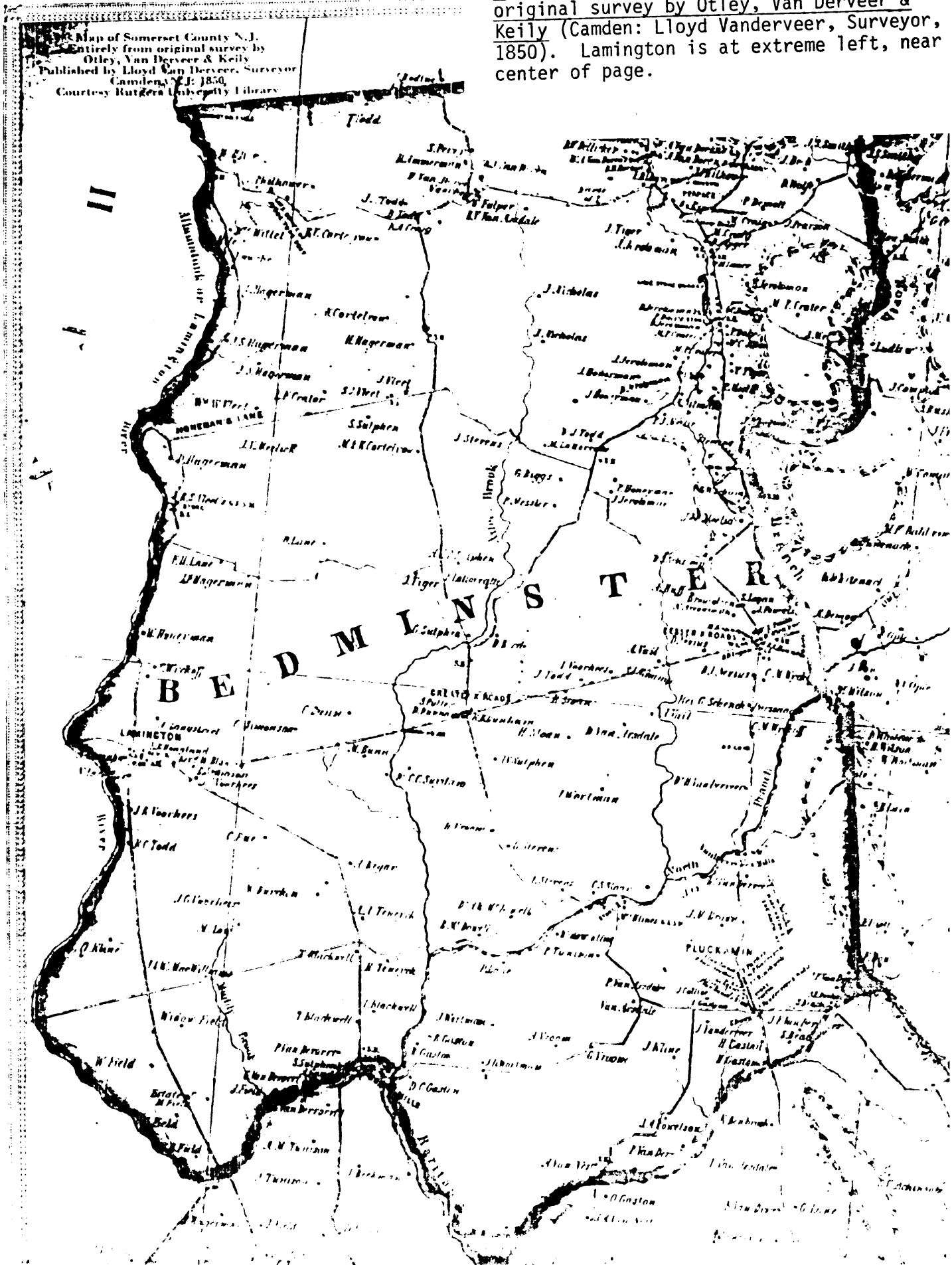
Beers, Comstock and Cline. Atlas of Somerset County, N.J. 1873.

Lamington is at lower left corner.

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Map of Somerset County, N.J. Entirely from original survey by Otley, Van Derveer & Keily (Camden: Lloyd Vanderveer, Surveyor, 1850). Lamington is at extreme left, near center of page.



LAMINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 BEDMINSTER TWP, SOMERSET CO., N.J.

- MODERN PROPERTY LINE
- - - DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- ..... DRAINAGE EASEMENT

12/1 BLOCK NO. / LOT NO.

1 BUILDING, WITH INVENTORY NUMBER

BASE MAP TRACED FROM  
 MUNICIPAL TAX MAP.  
 BUILDING SIZES, AND LOCATIONS  
 WITHIN LOTS, ARE APPROXIMATE

