

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

270

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Silver Lake Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Blue Mill Road, Dickson's Mill Road, James Street,... not for publication

city or town Harding Township vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Morris code 027 zip code 07976

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 1/5/99
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

[Signature]
Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

3/5/99

Silver Lake HD
Name of Property

Morris Co., NJ
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
80	42	buildings
23	0	sites
5	5	structures
		objects
108	47	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/field

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/field

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: East Jersey cottage

COLONIAL REVIVAL

FRENCH RENAISSANCE [REVIVAL]

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, brick

walls weatherboard, brick

roof Asphalt shingles, cedar shingles

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Silver Lake HD
Name of Property

Morris Co., NJ
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

CONSERVATION

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1904 - 1947

Significant Dates

1904

1922

1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Polhemus & Coffin

Lindeberg, Harrie T.

Henderson, Walter

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Harding Township Historical Society

New Vernon, NJ

Silver Lake HD
Name of Property

Morris Co., NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1089 acres

Morristown & Chatham Quads

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	Zone	Easting	Northing

3	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet W. Foster, Director

organization Acroterion, L.L.C. date October 1997

street & number 382 Springfield Avenue, Suite 414 telephone (908) 273-2964

city or town Summit state NJ zip code 07901

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 2 Page 1

Silver Lake Historic District
NJ Morris Co.

Additional Streets

Red Gate Road
Spring Valley Road
Van Beuren Road

Additional Zip Code

07960

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 1

The Silver Lake Historic District comprises over one thousand acres of gently rolling terrain in the watershed area of the Pine Brook (photo 1), lying within Harding Township, Morris County, New Jersey. The Silver Lake Historic District includes the valley of the stream, and the rolling hills to the north, extending nearly to the municipal boundary between Harding Township and Morris Township. To the south, the district ends where a change in lot sizes and land use signals the beginning of Green Village. To the east, the district extends from the municipal boundary with Chatham Township and the Hartley Farms Historic District (listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991). The western boundary includes property on the ridgeline which divides the watershed of the Pine Brook, running east, from the watershed of the Sand Spring, flowing to the west and south.

Within this district, the landscape is wooded with some remaining open farm fields providing the appropriate context for the oldest farm-related dwellings. There has been modern subdivision of the larger farms and estates, but large-lot zoning and a decided preference for traditional styles of architecture has kept the district's appearance evolving along traditional patterns, rather than showing a sharp break between old and new types of development. Traditional landscaping devices, such as rail fences and hedge rows (photo 2) emphasize the rural, historic qualities of the district, and are found consistently throughout. Beyond the boundaries of the district, a far higher number of newer buildings, which would be considered "non-contributing" because of their recent age, are found, and thus the "historic district" is defined, in part, by its surviving historic architecture.

The Silver Lake Historic District is identifiable as a distinct place through its geographic setting, its concentration of historic buildings, and through a shared historical experience, culminating in the 1928 restrictive covenants of Harding Township's founders. It was through a variety of deed restrictions and gentlemen's agreements that the area now identified as the Silver Lake Historic District became the core of a "preservation area" in the mid-20th century. The recognition of special qualities of place, which focused on a highly cultivated "rural" landscape and its attendant historic buildings, was apparent in the 1920s, and efforts were put in place to preserve them which lasted into the 1970s. At that time, the deed restrictions were replaced by local zoning laws, which perpetuated the scenic qualities valued in Harding Township for over fifty years.

Designation of the Silver Lake Historic District as a National Register Historic District is modern bureaucratic recognition of a setting, character, and associations long recognized by the community. Individual building descriptions follow:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 2

1. Blue Mill Road at James Street - "Willowbrook Farm"

**Block 16, lot 19
1906 / 1929**

**Contributing buildings: 2
Photo # 3**

The old house on the property is a vernacular style 2 1/2 story frame house with clapboard siding, gable roof, and block-and-wing plan. The main portion of the house is a three-bay, side-hall plan house with entry marked by a shed-roofed portico. A lower wing is set to the east side, containing small knee-wall windows below the eaves. Windows on the main section of the house are 2/2 sash, flanked by shutters; those on the wing are 8/8 sash, also flanked by shutters. A broad brick chimney rises from the main part of the house; the foundation is fieldstone. This building is now the tenant house to the property. The main house dates from 1929, and is a two-and-a-half story clapboard Colonial-style dwelling, with a two-story "Mt. Vernon" porch across the east elevation, and an attached garage wing. The center-hall plan house uses high-quality materials in its details - leaded transom over the front door, heavy wood cornices, and appropriate multi-paned wood sash windows. This house sits well back from the road and is partially screened by landscaping from the right-of-way.

Setting/Outbuildings: The old house is set back from the road behind a field currently used for pasturing horses. A small frame shed shelter for horses stands on the property nearer the road. The pasture in front of the house, extending to the intersection of Blue Mill Road and James Street, is visually important and long-standing landscape attribute of the "gateway" to this semi-rural section of Harding Township.

Significance: This traditional house was built at the turn of the century, remarkable evidence of the persistence of the vernacular building tradition in rural areas. It was built for George Fennimore; an announcement in the Morristown paper of March 2, 1906 documents its owner and construction date. The larger house on the property, now the principal residence, was built by Helen Enger Connett, who purchased the property from Fennimore in 1928 .

**2. James Street and Blue Mill Road
Block 19, Lot 7.02
18th century and 1994**

**Contributing site
Non-contributing building**

On the Blue Mill Road frontage of this "L" shaped lot are the foundations of the 18th century farmstead of the Ledyard-Stephens-Halliday family. It is best known as the Drinkwater House, for Levi Drinkwater, a sea captain from Maine, who retired to this old farm in 1861 after living in East

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 3

New York. The house stood until the 1940s, remaining in the Drinkwater family until that time. The stone foundation walls are still visible above ground, and presumably intact below ground. This lower portion of the lot is undeveloped, and the wooded landscape provides an appropriate setting for this intersection "gateway" into the historic district. The upper portion of the lot, facing James Street, now includes a large single-family house, built in 1994 in a Neo-Tudor revival style. The house is set well back from the road and is largely screened from the right-of-way by landscaping.

3. 501 James Street
Block 19, Lot 7
Ca. 1940; additions 1996

Contributing buildings: 1

A large 2 1/2 story Colonial Revival style house set well back from the road at the end of a tree-lined driveway. The white-painted brick house has a seven-bay facade, with a center entry under a pedimented portico. The end gables rise above the roofline to form parapet walls which extend into massive end chimneys, flanked by quarter-round attic windows. The gable roof is covered with synthetic slate shingles. Below the roofline, a broad cornice with classical triglyph decoration distinguishes the house. Story-and-a-half brick and clapboard wings telescope from the north gable end of the main house, in a manner consistent with the additions found on local vernacular colonial dwellings. The wings include a garage. There are no outbuildings.

4. James Street
Block 19, Lot 7.01
1996

Non-contributing building

Set back from the road, with open meadow in place of a manicured front yard, a large brick Neo-Colonial house stands in a former field. The house's traditional design is compatible with the architectural styles used in the district historically.

5. 353 James Street
Block 19, Lot 6
House: ca. 1890, outbuildings, early 20th c.

**Contributing buildings: 3
Photo # 4**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 4

A 2 1/2 story frame house, with gambrel roof, and three-bay facade typical of the area's vernacular Federal-period architecture. The main block of the clapboarded house has a dentil cornice at the eaves and a first floor shed-roofed porch on square columns. The main block is flanked on either side by 1 1/2 story wings. The stone foundation of the center section is an additional clue to its age; the north wing may be 19th century, the south wing is new (1996).

Setting / Outbuildings: The house is set well back from the road, atop on a low ridge, and reached by a long, tree-shaded driveway. The spacious yard surrounding the house still gives a sense of its original, farm setting. To the rear of the house are a gambrel-roofed, 2-story barn, now used as a garage, and a smaller, gable-roofed frame outbuilding.

Significance: This property was part of the Drinkwater farm (see site # 2) in the late 19th century, and the house was probably built about 1890, when Howard Drinkwater, son of Levi Drinkwater, bought this lot from his father's estate. In 1909, Drinkwater sold it to farmer James Parcels. It is another example of the longevity of traditional architectural forms, known since the 18th century, but used in local construction well into the 19th century. The property was briefly owned by Leon Freeman, one of the founders of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement, which allowed him to attach the restrictive covenants regarding property use and development to the farm.

**6. James Street & Sand Spring Lane
Block 19, Lot 5**

Contributing site

A small sliver of land between Lot 6 and Sand Spring Lane; the vacant field is beginning to fill in with walnut trees. The open space contributes to the setting of the district.

Sand Spring Road, running along the north side of the property, was made a public road in 1928, but before that it served as a driveway and farm road. The exceptionally narrow, tree-lined allee contributes to the historic, rural character of the historic district.

**7. 337 & 339 James Street - Wexford Farm
Block 22, Lot 4.01
1912**

**Contributing buildings: 4
Photo # 5**

A shingled-sided, gambrel-roofed English-type barn dominates the property, both in size and proximity to the road. The barn was built in 1912, after a fire destroyed the previous barn on the property. The high stone foundation wall, the shingle siding, and its multi-pane windows are

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 5

traditional elements, and transcend any "style". Beside the 3 1/2 story barn is a smaller, 2-story barn with garage doors inserted in the side. The house to the south end of the property, a small, shingled bungalow has more explicit Colonial Revival style detailing. A second tenant house stands behind the barn. It is a simple version of the Dutch Colonial Revival style, its gambrel roof echoing the barn.

Significance: The barns and tenant houses are part of the large farm known now as "Wexford Farm". The main house is now on adjacent Lot 4, described below.

**8. James Street - Freylinghuysen Estate
Block 22, Lot 4**

**Contributing buildings: 2
Photo # 6**

Late 18th century and later; 1920s Colonial Revival renovations

A Federal-style house with considerable renovations in the early 20th century Colonial Revival style. The main block, a characteristic 2 1/2 story, three-bay dwelling, with step-down side wing, has a gable roof and clapboard siding. Wings and additions extend off this historic core in similar style and materials, to produce a large, comfortable gentleman's farm house.

Setting / Outbuildings: Two-story, traditional frame outbuilding stands south of the house, and has been adapted to a garage. The open fields surrounding the house add immeasurably to its appearance and integrity as a rural dwelling.

Significance: Historic maps identify this house as home of the Cross family in the mid-19th century, and later the Morris family. It was the centerpiece of the early 20th century Ransom Thomas estate. Thomas, head of the New York Stock Exchange at the time, was one of several rich entrepreneurs who moved to the area in the early 20th century, transforming it to a landscape of gentlemen's farms (like this one) and estates. The house was moved back from the road in 1925 and renovated, true to its 18th century origins, when the Freylinghuysen family purchased the property. The well-maintained house is typical of late-18th houses of prosperous merchants and farmers in Morris County.

**9. 305 James Street
Block 22, Lot 5
18th century with later alterations**

**Contributing buildings: 1
Photo # 7**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 6

Although covered with aluminum siding, and using replacement vinyl windows, the 18th century origins of this house are clear in its box-like massing with gable eaves close to the house wall, in the high knee-wall above the first floor, and large end chimneys. Sited close to the road, and facing due south, the center section of the house with its center entry and flanking windows may be mid-18th century. Enlargements to either side of this simple core maintained the vernacular building tradition of the earliest portion. A mid-20th century garage is attached to the eastern gable end of the house. **Significance:** The Goble family, early settlers of the area, lived here from the 18th century through the early 20th century. The Harding Township Historical Society has a deed to property on James street to a Goble, dated 1731. The house is a rare example, within the district, of an 18th century house which was not subsumed into or made a secondary wing of a larger 19th or 20th century house.

**10. James Street (at tributary to the Pine Brook)
County Bridge 553
Late 20th century**

Non-contributing structure

The bridge along historic James Street is completely modern in appearance and construction. The bridge has poured concrete abutments and a metal guard rail above. Any traces of a historic bridge at this location are gone. However, the narrowing of James Street to approximately 20 paved feet, after the much wider paved area in Morris Township to the north, is important in establishing the rural character of Harding Township and of this historic district.

**11. 300 James Street
Block 7, Lot 1
ca. 1945**

**Contributing building
Contributing site
Photo # 8**

Near the Morris Township line, in the northwest corner of the property stands a modest frame house, a modified Cape Cod style dwelling dating to about 1945. It sits close to the road, but is screened from it by a fence and landscaping.

Setting/ Outbuildings: This 143-acre tract of open land, with ponds and streams which form the headwaters of the Pine Brook, which feeds Silver Lake farther south, is a beautiful rural landscape which provides a distinct buffer between Harding Township and the far more suburbanized Morris Township directly to the north. From James Street, the view east across

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 7

the meadows and down the rolling hill to the next hill on the opposite side of Pine Brook is quietly pastoral, and shows few traces of modern life.

12. James Street

Contributing Site

Block 5, Lot 1.01

Open meadows contribute to the setting of the historic district. This land is part of the Goble family's 18th century farm (see site # 9).

13. 360 James Street

Non-contributing building

Block 7, Lot 4.01

Ca. 1980

Gambrel-roofed Colonial Revival house of one story, faced with brick, and a second story within the high gambrel. The first floor facade has five bays, with a center entry. A garage wing extends from the main house. The house is well-screened from the road by a roadside berm and extensive plantings.

14. Private Road off Van Beuren Road

Non-contributing building

Block 7, Lot 4.02

ca. 1985

French Provincial-style house with hipped roofs over a five-bay center block and symmetrical two-story wings.

15. Private Road off Van Beuren Road

Non-contributing building

Block 7, Lot 4.03

ca. 1985

Colonial Revival style house with hipped roof, clapboard siding, center entry with columned portico, multi-pane sash windows, and facade bay windows.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 8

**16. Private Road off Van Beuren Road
Block 7, Lot 4.04**

Contributing site

Vacant, wooded lot that contributes to the setting of the district.

**17. James Street (at corner of Blue Mill Road)
Block 7, Lot 4.05**

Contributing site

Meadow, beginning to fill in with young trees. The open space contributes to the setting of the district. See Significance portion of site # 19.

**18. James Street
Block 7, Lot 4.06**

Contributing site

Meadow, beginning to fill in with young trees. The open space contributes to the setting of the district. See Significance portion of site # 19.

**19. James Street - "Meadowbrook Farm"
Block 7, Lot 4
First half of the 19th century, later renovations**

**Contributing buildings: 1
Non-contributing buildings: 1
Photo # 9**

The contributing building is an old banked barn, which has been restored and refurbished, but which retains several characteristic original features, including a high rubble stone foundation, vertical siding on side elevations, and small 6/6 sash windows. The gable roof is corrugated metal; new shiplap siding covers the gable ends of the barn. The barn is laid out on an "L" plan with an extension to the "downhill" (west) side of the banked structure.

A new (ca. 1990) Post-Modern shingled and clapboard house stands behind the barn, barely visible from the road. It is non-contributing to the historic district.

Significance: Now a separate lot, the barn was part of an extensive farm owned by Spencer Weed, one of the founders of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement, which included sites # 17,18,19 and 20. Prior to that, this was the site of the Oliver Farm, which is the identification of the property on all three 19th century maps of Morris County. The barn

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 9

still shelters horses, and for much of the 20th century, the farm was known for its horse breeding and training. Harding Township's modern identity is closely allied with horses - bridle paths have been maintained, and traditions of a local "hunt" are carried on - even as suburbanization of surrounding communities makes it more difficult to ride distances to any extent.

20. Blue Mill Road - "Kings' Grant", now Toravell Farm
Block 7, Lot 3
19th century and 1928 with later alterations

Contributing buildings: 1
Photo # 10

The main house, set well back from the road in the midst of level lawns, is a 2 1/2 story frame Colonial Revival style house with dormered gable roof, large end chimneys, and a center entry in a wide, five-bay facade. This incorporates the original 19th century house, which was moved back from Blue Mill Road and extensively remodeled in the 1920s. Two story wings flank the main house. The center section of the originally clapboarded house was faced with brick ca. 1990, giving it the appearance of a southern colonial plantation. Remnants of the foundation and walkways for the 19th century house on the property are visible on the southwest corner of the property, set close to Blue Mill Road.

Significance: Now set in the middle of a 12-acre lot, until 1928 the farmhouse stood nearer the corner of Blue mill Road with James Street (now Block 7, lot 4.05); old photographs show it to have been a classic East Jersey cottage vernacular-type dwelling. It was part of an extensive farm owned by Henry Berghorn in the early 20th century (see site # 19). Prior to that, this was the site of the Oliver Farm, which is the identification of the property on all three 19th century maps of Morris County. In 1925, Leon Freeman, one of the founders of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement, bought the farm for his country estate, and began an extensive renovation and enlargement of the house, moving it back from the road and extending it on each side. The Freeman family gave the property the name "King's Grant". With professional farm managers, King's Grant was a model farm, particularly noted for the horses raised here. Many long-time residents remember that horses were always grazing in a field by the road. Leon Freeman was himself a noted horseman and active with local steeplechases and hunt clubs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 10

**21. Blue Mill Road
Block 7, Lot 2
ca. 1950**

Non-contributing building

Modified Cape Cod style house with clapboard siding, large brick end chimneys, a projecting enclosed front portico, and stepped-down side and rear wings.

**22. Van Beuren Road
Block 7, Lot 1
ca. 1925**

Contributing buildings: 4

Colonial Revival style house, using additive, vernacular dwellings as the model rather than formal, Georgian-inspired colonials. The 2 1/2 story frame, clapboarded house is arranged in an open plan, creating a welcoming courtyard effect. The gable roof is broken by wall dormers and massive brick chimneys. Screened porches extend from the sides of the main house.

Setting / Outbuildings: Located on a large property bordered on the east by the Pine Brook, the main house is complemented by a simple clapboard garage, a small clapboard box-like structure with gable roof, apparently built contemporaneously with the main house. Two other outbuildings appear to be 19th century; a small barn with clapboard siding, sliding vehicle bay door, gable roof, and multi-paned sash; and another single-story, gable-roofed box-like storage building.

Significance: The house was designed by Polhemus and Coffin, a New York architectural firm active in the 1920s to '40s, with many close ties of business and blood with Morristown-area society of the day. The firm specialized in the design of residences with an informal, additive, vernacular quality. This house is very representative of their work. It was built for Jeanette Colgate, who owned the property from 1919 to 1932.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 11

23. Bridge at Van Beuren Road over Pine Brook

**Non-contributing structure
Photo # 13**

Steel "I" beams form the decking and railings, and concrete forms the abutments of this bridge. The abandoned stone abutments of an earlier, historic bridge are located to the downstream side of the existing bridge.

**24. Van Beuren Road - Plough Penny Hill
Block 5, Lot 2
ca. 1925**

**Contributing buildings: 3
Photos # 14, 15**

Colonial Revival gentleman's farm, with a main house set well back from the road down an apple-tree-shaded driveway. It is a 2 1/2 story brick center-hall plan dwelling, flanked by irregular clapboarded wings. The house has a gable roof, and 6/6 sash windows flanked by operable shutters.

The tenant house, set close to the road, is a New England-inspired Colonial Revival style structure, in a saltbox shape, with central brick chimney, 6/6 sash windows, clapboard siding, and an enclosed projecting entry portico. This house, too, is made to look additive, with a two-bay main section and a stepped-down single bay.

Setting / Outbuildings: The open fields still used by sheep, ringed by mature oak trees, create a picturesque rural setting for the house, and a visual centerpiece for the district. The "L" shaped barn complex on the property is clapboard, with over-sized side-hinged doors, a gambrel roof, and cupola. The property lies beside the Pine Brook north of Silver Lake.

Significance: In the 1920's, the property was owned by Katherine Vail Marsters, one of the signers of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement, and the property was covered under the terms of this agreement. Mrs. Marsters lived in a larger house next door (site # 26). The house may have been built for Henry Clifford Brown.

**25. Van Beuren Road - Crestley
Block 5, Lot 4
1921-22 with additions ca. 1960**

**Contributing buildings: 4
Contributing site
Photo # 16**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 12

The main estate house at Crestley is a French-inspired Eclectic Revival house designed by Boston architect Walter P. Henderson, and built in 1921-22 for Mr. and Mrs. Aurthur Marsters. It is notable for its exceptionally high quality detailing. The hipped-roof house is covered with thick slate, and features casement and multi-paned sash windows, brick walls with low-arched window openings, and limestone trim around the wing to the rear.

Setting / Outbuildings: This secluded brick house is perched on the side of a steep hill, and it looks west over the upper valley of the Pine Brook. The stone gateposts at the end of the long (1/2 mile) driveway leading up to the house bear a metal plaque with the name Crestley cast into it. The landscaped grounds were designed by the firm of Frederick Olmsted, and include a small golf course and a tree-lined driveway.

Near Van Beuren Road stands a tenant house and two barn/garages. The tenant house is a 1 1/2 story frame East Jersey Cottage type vernacular dwelling, with gable roof which extends to form an integral front porch across the facade. The five-bay, center-entry house appears on local maps between 1853 and 1868, when it was the property of A. Sayre. It is believed to have been built in 1798 as the home of Peter Birmingham. It was extensively restored in 1922, as part of the creation of the Marster's estate, and it has recently been restored again.

Behind the tenant house is a large, stucco-covered gambrel-roofed barn cupola on top. The small, high banked windows indicate that this was built as a dairy barn, probably in the early 20th century when this tract was part of the F. L. Lippman farm.

Behind the barn is a long, low single-story garage, with stucco walls and five bays of paired, side-hinged doors with panels below small, high windows.

Significance: The small farmhouse now serving as the gate house is the evidence of the property's earliest use, as a family farm belonging to the Birmingham and Sayre families. The transition from family farm (Sayres) to specialized dairy farming in the early 20th century (Lippman family) to estate (Marsters) paralleled the general development of much of southern Morris County between 1850 and 1920. Frances Lippman operated a dairy farm between 1887 and 1920, and the large barns the property are testimony to the extent of the operation.

The land was purchased for an estate by Mrs. and Mrs. Arthur Marsters in 1921. He was Secretary of American Telephone and Telegraph, and she was the niece and adopted daughter of Alfred Vail, who built AT&T into a 20th century corporate giant. They named their secluded French manor house "Sundown" for its westerly views across the fields and woods of the Frelinghuysen property and upper valley of the Pine Brook. The estate was renamed "Crestley" in 1959 when it was purchased by Ann and Lewis Kirby.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 13

26. Van Beuren Road - "Sunset Farm"
Block 5, Lot 3
1929

Contributing building
Photo #17

Eclectic Revival style Norman-French chateau, with a prominent corner tower. A metal weathervane marks the main entry and a steep slate gable roof shelters the gray stucco walls. Sash windows, casements and tall french doors, are irregularly placed in the walls. The house opens up on the west elevation to take advantage of spectacular views from the hillside across the valley of the Pine Brook. It is closely allied in style and setting to the larger "Crestley" adjoining it.

Significance: This was part of the Castles estate, assembled in the 1920s. This house, built for Mr. Castle's sister, and the stable block (site #28) were in the French style, while another house on the estate (site #27) was Colonial Revival in style. These two architectural styles were both used by the estate builders in Harding Township, although the Colonial Revival was clearly preferred.

27. Van Beuren Road - "Tyvan Hill Farm"
Block 5, Lot 5
1929

Contributing building

Colonial Revival style manor house with an over-sized, pedimented entry reminiscent of "Westover", the famous Virginia plantation house. The main block of the brick house has a center entry and five bays under a slate gable roof.

Setting / Outbuildings: The house is sited on a hilltop, at the end of a long driveway. Fenced pastures and a pond on the property near Van Beuren Road contribute to the rural setting of the house and the district. The stable for the house (#28) is now a separate property.

Significance: This house was part of the 1920s estate assembled by Mr. John Castles, whose sister lived on the nearby Sunset Farm (site # 27). He chose a Colonial Revival style of architecture, although his sister's house and the large stable block on the property were in the French style.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 14

**28. Van Beuren Road - "Acacia"
Block 5, Lot 6
1929, with later alterations**

**Contributing buildings: 4
Photo #18**

The Norman Revival style stable complex was built as part of the John Castles estate (sites #26, 27). It has brick walls with low-arched wall dormers, and arched bays for the former vehicle bays on the first floor. Paired cupolas with conical towers crown the steep slate gable roof. The "U" shaped complex was transformed from a stable/garage to a single-family residence about 1950 with minimal alterations to the exterior appearance of the building.

Setting / Outbuildings: Up a gentle hill to the north side of the property is a 2-1/2 story stuccoed tenant house. This vernacular farmhouse has a gable roof with gable end returns, and multi-paned sash windows on a three-bay, side-hall plan. The house faces south toward the barns barn complex of two small, 1-1/2 story, frame structures with gable roofs and clapboard siding. The barns have wooden doors with cross-bracing opening to a fenced barnyard.

Significance : The barns and tenant house are survivors of the turn-of-the-century gentleman's farm owned by Charles Mitchell. These outbuildings were absorbed onto the estate created here in the late 1910s. In 1927 the property was bought by New York lawyer and banker John Castles, who enlarged the estate and had the French Revival style house (site 26) and stable built. Castles included his property in the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement, to preserve its rural character and historic buildings.

**29. Van Beuren Road - Van Beuren Farm
Block 5, Lot 7.03
19th century (1844?) and later alterations (ca. 1900, 1987)**

**Contributing buildings: 4
Photo #19**

The farmhouse at the core of this large Colonial Revival style dwelling may be discerned as the north end of building, which bears exposed stone firebacks in the gable end and the small, steep-roofed form typical of early farmhouses of the area.. Stone has replaced the original clapboard facade of the classic East Jersey Cottage main block, which was typical

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 15

of the area's traditional architecture of the 18th and 19th centuries. There is a clapboard addition to the east side of the main block.

Setting / Outbuildings: Behind the house are a series of frame outbuildings dating to the 19th century. There are two barns, each two-stories tall, and two smaller, 1-1/2 story, gable-roofed structures on stone foundations.

Significance: The house is shown on the 1857 map of Morris County as the property of J. Ogden. On maps of 1868, 1887, and 1910, it is shown as the property of the VanBeuren family. The Van Beuren's were from New York, and first used the farm as a summer home. Van Beuren daughters Josephine and Louise later lived nearby on large estates.

**30. Off Van Beuren Road - Seth Thomas Estate
Block 4, Lot 14
1918**

**Contributing building
(Illustration - following
photographs)**

Seth Thomas, Jr., a member of the famous clock-making family, had this Colonial Revival style house built in 1918 to plans by Harrie T. Lindeberg, a prominent architect of country houses. The main block of the house is rubblestone with brick quoins, gables and window surrounds. The tall, 2-1/2 story structure has a gable roof punctuated by pedimented gables and tall end brick chimneys. The front door frame is limestone with a carved surround of oak leaves and acorns, a symbol of longevity and a reference to the grove of oak trees nearby. The second floor center bay of the five-bay facade is a projecting oriel window. A two-story wing extends from the southeast gable of the house; a single story covered walkway leads from there to a small rubblestone outbuilding, and creates an "L" plan courtyard in front of the house. A raised flagstone terrace on the rear (south) side of the house is reached by French doors.

Setting / Outbuildings: The house is set well back from the road in the center of a level lawn, with oak trees in the front yard. The original estate has been subdivided into smaller building lots, so that the Seth Thomas house is now on a flag lot, surrounded by newer houses, although careful landscaping obscures most of these houses from view. The original barn/stable complex for the Thomas estate lies to the east, outside the historic district boundaries. The stable was extensively remodeled to a residence in the 1960s, removing most historic fabric and architectural integrity.

Significance: The Seth Thomas house is a fine example of New York architect Harrie Lindeberg's work. The house was published in *Architectural Record*, (Vol. LV, 1924,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 16

pp. 333, 335, 337, 368, & 371) in 1924, several years after completion of the building, because Lindeberg preferred to publicize his buildings in mature landscapes.

31. Off Van Beuren Road
Block 4, Lot 14.07
Ca. 1985

Non-contributing building

Contemporary styled house with clapboard siding, multiple cross-gables in a hipped and gable roof, with large anodized windows in a variety of over-sized arches.

32. Van Beuren Road - Brownbriar
Block 4, Lot 14.04
Ca. 1975

Non-contributing building
Contributing structure

French Provincial style house with brick walls, forming arched window openings. The symmetrical, hip-roofed two-story main block is flanked by lower wings. Along Blue Mill Road stand the conical concrete gateposts which marked an entry to the Seth Thomas Estate during the 1920s and '30s.

33. Van Beuren Road - Willow Pond
Block 4, Lot 13
Ca. 1975

Non-contributing building

Hip roofed brick house of 1-1/2 story height. The house is set well back from the road and so thoroughly screened by trees as to be invisible.

34. Van Beuren Road
Block 6, Lot 1

Contributing site

Hillside land bordered by trees, currently in use as a corn field. The open space and its agricultural use make it an important part of the rural setting for the historic district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 17

35. Van Beuren Road
Block 6, Lot 11
Ca. 1940

Contributing building

Brick Colonial Revival style house with an irregular, "L" shaped plan. A carved fanlight sets off the front door. Wall dormers break into the gable roof. A decorative wooden cornice extends across the facade. Brick walls enclose a "forecourt" containing the pool, and the brick wall merges with a small, square, hipped roof outbuilding. The heavily wooded property makes the house invisible from the road.

36. Van Beuren Road
Block 6, Lot 11.01
Ca. 1970

Non-contributing building

A simple 1-1/2 story brick house lacking stylistic associations. The hipped roof and austere brick walls form an almost-square plan, with a deeply undercut entry. The rear of the house opens up with large sliding glass doors to take advantage of a view across an open meadow.

37. Van Beuren Road
Block 6, Lot 11.02, 11.03

Contributing site

Open lots on the west bank of the Pine Brook. They are heavily wooded, and slope toward the water. Along the water is the right-of-way for an actively-used bridle path. The open space contributes to the setting of the historic district.

Significance: These recently subdivided lots were the part of the Morris County Poorhouse, which operated here and at the neighboring briefly farm (site # 38) during the second quarter of the 19th century. There is no above-ground trace of any structure this side of the stream.

38. Van Beuren Road
Block 6, Lot 9.01
Ca. 1900

Contributing buildings: 2
Contributing site
Photo #20

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 18

This frame farmhouse of the turn of the century is typical of the vernacular architecture of the era. It is 2-1/2 stories tall, with the gable end facade arranged in three bays. The gable roof is punctuated by a center chimney. The house is finished with shiplap siding, and a simple porch, now screened, runs across the first floor facade.

Setting / Outbuildings: The house faces a curve in the road, and is set on land just east of the Pine Brook. A clapboarded, two-car garage of mid-20th century date stands south of the house.

Significance: This house is identified on the 1910 Mueller Map as part of Gustave Stoble's farm, which had barns across Van Beuren Road, and fields continuing over to James Street. (site #11). The house may have been built for workers on Stoble's extensive farm. Henry Colgate owned the property in the 1920's as part of his estate "Holly Hill" (site # 41), and the house was used by his estate supervisor and chauffeur, Mr. Ponck. When Colgate sold his estate in the 1950s, he excluded this tenant house and some outbuildings and sold them to his long-time employee.

Prior to its use as tenant cottage, a farm stood on this property, owned in the 1850s by William Conklin. In November 1850, an advertisement appeared in *The Jerseyman*, Morristown's newspaper, noticing a sale by William Conklin at the Old Poor House Farm near Beaupland's Mill. This Morris Township Poor House stood somewhere near the Pine Brook from 1822-1839, and it may be that it is the Poor House's stone foundation which the owner of this property can still identify.

39. Holly Hill Court
Block 6, Lots 9.02, 9.03, 9.04, 9.05, 9.06
1995-6

Non-contributing building: 4

These new houses dominate their 3-acre lots and the low hillside they occupy. Each incorporates different styles and diverse historicizing elements of domestic architecture. One lot remains undeveloped.

40. Van Beuren Road and Blue Mill Road
Block 6, Lot 10

Contributing buildings: 3
Photo #21

Late 18th century (?) with later additions; moved from original location 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 19

The main house on this property originally stood very close to the intersection of these two roads. It was moved back into the corner lot in 1989 in order to preserve the historic structure, and its residents, from traffic just a few feet from the front windows. The core of the house is a three-bay, side-hall plan dwelling, with gable roof. It is decorated in a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style, with a Greek Key patterned cornice and entry portico on Doric columns. A stepped-down wing adjoins the original house off the gable end. After being relocated, larger additions were made to the old house, so that the original is now just one end of a very large, Neo-colonial dwelling. The architect for the additions was Ed O'Brien of Oldwick. The irregular rooflines and broken massing suggest a vernacular farmhouse, although one considerably larger than anything constructed in the 18th or 19th centuries.

Nonetheless, the original building has been preserved and restored inside and out.

Setting / Outbuildings: The 4-acre corner lot is heavily treed on the Van Beuren Road side, opening in the rear to a wide lawn where the house is now located. The former carriage house, ca. 1910, which stood behind the house in its original location, is now in front of the house. It is a simple two-story frame structure with gable roof and a broad shed dormer across the facade, over two vehicle bays.

A small cottage, with gable-roof, clapboard siding, and multi-paned sash windows dates from the mid-20th century.

Significance: According to local historians, in the 19th century this was part of the Tomkins-Allen-Hendrickson family farm, along with the property adjoining to the east. The road-side building was a general store, operating as far back as the late 18th century. Stylistic details suggest that the present house was actually constructed in the 1840s. On the 1910 Mueller Atlas of Morris County, the house and its carriage house are shown as the property of Lucy Allen. It was part of Henry Colgate's estate, Hollyhill, in the 1920's and '30s. The preservation of these small, vernacular buildings is evidence of the ideals of Colgate and other founding members of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement.

**41. Blue Mill Road - "Hollyhill"
Block 6, Lot 9**

Late 18th century with later additions, esp. Colonial Revival ca. 1926

**Contributing building
Photo #22**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 20

The farmhouse at the core of this now-rambling Colonial Revival style dwelling was a grand house for its time and place. The clapboard-sided house is characterized by a generous three-bay, side hall plan, and gable roof. This main block appears to be an early 19th century addition to the smaller, early house. The front door is set off by a Colonial Revival style portico on slender columns. Round-arched windows are set under gabled dormers; round-arches are repeated in a large multi-paned window at the rear, over the staircase. Two-story additions to the sides and rear repeat the basic vocabulary of local vernacular architecture - 6/6 wooden sash windows in simple frames, gable roofs, and simple molded cornices.

Setting and Outbuildings: The house is heavily screened from the road by tall, thick hedges and holly trees. Dense, overgrown shrubs surround the house as well, obscuring most of the architectural details. Outbuildings, which must have supported this house when it was the center of a working farm, are now gone. The stable for the Colgate estate is now a separate property (site # 42).

Significance: A building is noted at this location on the Erskine maps that were made to guide the Continental Army during the American Revolution. The dwelling shown may well be the small 1-1/2 story unit at the core of the now-much-enlarged house. A Jacob Tompkins purchased the property in 1799. The Allen family are shown as owners of the house on all 19th century maps of the area. The road was realigned in the 1920s away from the house; part of the driveway occupies the original right-of-way for Blue Mill Road. In the 20th century, the house was part of the Colgate Estate, and frequent house guest Cole Porter is said to have composed several of his popular songs while visiting. Mr. Colgate was one of the original partners in the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreements, and his interest in retaining the character of the area is reflected in his decision to renovate and add on to the old house, rather than to build a new one.

42. Blue Mill Road - Colgate Stable
Block 6, Lot 8
1924 with later alterations

Contributing building
Photo #23

This Georgian-Revival style stable has a gambrel-roofed center section, flanked by gable-roofed wings extending at right angles to form a sheltered courtyard. The center of each wing is crowned with a cupola; that on the 2-story gambrel-roofed section has a domed top. The gambrel roof is pierced by shed-roof dormers; walls are clapboard. The stable was converted to a residence in the 1950s, but the form and feeling of the original building was preserved.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 21

Setting / Outbuildings: Wooden fencing extending from the courtyard conveys the sense that this is, indeed, a very elaborate stable rather than a residence. A bridle trail does extend through the property, where it meets the Pine Brook.

Significance: The picturesque "U"- shaped stable compound was built in the mid-1920s when the Colgates (see Block 6, Lot 9) purchased the Hendrickson Farm and proceeded to turn it into an estate. It exemplifies the change in Harding Township's agricultural interests in the 1920s from farming and dairying to horses and leisure.

**43. Blue Mill Road
Block 6, Lot 7
1920s**

**Contributing building
Photo #24**

Colonial Revival style house imitative of the James River plantations. The expansive five-bay center block is flanked by symmetrical wings. The hipped roof, gabled dormers, multi-pane sash, and carefully detailed front pediment are all emblematic of Colonial Revival style. Brick walls extend the facade to enclose a service yard and attached 1-1/2 story brick garage.

Setting / Outbuildings: A large lot over-looking the western shore of Silver Lake. The manicured yard is dotted with specimen trees.

Significance: The house and its 27-acre setting were part of George Jenkins' land he named "Silver Lake Farm" in the early 20th century. He sold this tract to the Heald family in 1920. They had the house built, and later incorporated the property into the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement.

**44. Blue Mill Road - Silver Lake
Block 6; in parts of Lots 3, 3.01, 5, 6, and 7
Ca. 1750**

**Contributing site
Photos #25, 26**

This man-made lake, at the heart of the Historic District, is a telling remnant of the water-powered mills which operated here, and which was necessary to the development of the prosperous farming community in the 18th century. The high (approximately 12 feet) stone walled dam has been repaired many times over the years, and now has concrete abutments to each side and a concrete cap along the top. There is no visible trace of the eponymous mill which once stood below the dam, beside Blue Mill Road.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 22

Significance: A grist mill began operating here as early as 1765, and may have been operating even twenty years earlier, as one of the first needs of a community would have been a way to transform the wheat and other grains they grew into a usable and salable commodity. The grist mill and its accompanying pond are well documented by the last quarter of the 18th century, and it seems to have been a profitable venture for most of its owners up to the late-19th century. As early as the 1850s, however, the recreational aspects of the large body of water were being praised. Ice skating in winter and swimming, boating, and picnicking along the shores in summer are mentioned in several sources at this time, although all still refer to it as a mill pond. As water-powered mills became obsolete, and the industrial function of the dam ceased to be a concern, the pond was named first Crystal Lake, and then later, Silver Lake, and it was maintained as a recreational site until about 1930. By that time, the old road which originally hugged the south and west shores had been relocated, and private owners made access to the lake more difficult. The Blue Mill, which gave its name to the road, was still standing (and blue) in 1909, but the vacant building gradually deteriorated until it was washed away in floods in 1953.

45. Blue Mill Road

Non-contributing structure

**Bridge over Pine Brook just below Silver Lake dam
1995**

Photo #27

The historic bridge at this important crossing of the brook, below the dam, has been completely rebuilt. However, the rubblestone walls and restrained width are compatible with the historic nature of the area. Original stone abutments remain in fair to poor condition just downstream of the present bridge.

46. Blue Mill Road and Red Gate Road

Non-contributing building

**Block 6, Lot 6
1950**

A modest, frame house with a two story, two-bay main block, and telescoping additions to each side. The first floor facade is brick; other walls are clapboard. A large picture window is on the facade, and the attached garage has a cupola on top.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 23

**47. Red Gate Road
Block 6, Lot 5
Ca. 1929**

**Contributing building
Photo #28**

Eclectic Revival style house with Norman French influence. The two-and-a-half story stone structure has a steep, slate-covered gable roof, tall stone chimneys with decorative pots, and a round stair tower with conical roof placed in the front of the "L" plan house. The round-arched front door with exaggerated strap hinges and decorative ironwork on vertical plank doors looks appropriately medieval.

Setting / Outbuildings: Nestled against a wooded hillside, on the northeast shore of Silver Lake, the house has a very private view of the lake and is not visible from the road.

Significance: This house was the center of David Heald's estate during the 1920s and '30s. He was a partner in the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreements, which were created to preserve the rural character of Harding Township.

**48. Red Gate Road
Block 6, Lot 3.01
Ca. 1980**

**Non-contributing building
Photo #29**

Contemporary 2-1/2 story frame dwelling of natural-finish clapboard, with gable roof, irregularly disposed windows on the facade, opening up to nearly all glass on the rear overlooking Silver Lake. The house has a very private view of the lake and surrounding wooded hills, but it is set on an interior lot, reached by a long private driveway past open meadows, and it is not visible from any public right-of-way.

**49. Red Gate Road
Block 6, Lot 3**

Contributing site

Comprised of open fields and meadows, with hedge rows and distant woods, this rolling tract of 48 acres in the heart of the historic district maintains the rural feeling and historical agricultural setting of the entire area. It is threatened by encroachment from large-lot zoning requiring construction of ever-larger, more dominant suburban houses. This farmland was part of the Seth Thomas estate in the 1920s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 24

50. Red Gate Road - Red Gate Farm
Block 6, Lot 4
House Ca. 1870 and 1995; Barns Ca.1900

Contributing buildings: 3
Contributing structure (gates)
Photos #30, 31

The farmhouse on this property is an Italianate style plan-book type of vernacular dwelling. The three-bay, gable-end facade, is marked by bracketed eaves, and a bracketed porch. The simple 2/2 sash windows, and bay window on the south elevation are both hallmarks of mid-19th century construction. The Italianate-style farmhouse was attached to an earlier, 18th century story-and-a-half frame East Jersey Cottage. The house faced south toward Silver Lake; only with the 19th century construction did the house face the road. The original house had a steep, broad roof, interior end chimney, and the high knee wall characteristic of the area's early vernacular building tradition. The 18th century house has been obliterated in a huge addition made recently.

Setting / Outbuildings: The open fields surrounding the house, and the large, well-maintained barns preserve the sense of a rural, agricultural landscape. The two-and-a-half story banked barn has a slate-covered gable roof crowned with a pyramidal cupola, large sliding doors on the upper side, and clapboard siding. An extension to the rear of the barn creates an "L" plan with a sheltered, south-facing barnyard at the lower level of the barn. The two-story frame, slate-covered gable-roofed stable stands beside the barn. Its centered cross gable includes a large clock in the ship-lap sided walls. A wisteria-covered pergola extends across the front of the stable above the first floor level. Four vehicle bays have been adapted as garage doors.

The counter-balanced gates at the driveway to the property are the "Red Gates" which gave the road its name in the 1920s. Their mechanism was specially patented.

Significance: This lovely site off the northwest corner of Silver Lake includes one of the earliest documented farms in the district. A 1789 deed to the property notes "the plantation whereupon the said Tichenor lives"(Daniel Tichenor being the seller of the property at that time). Another sale in 1795 also notes the presence of a house on the property. The "plantation" may not have been a grand house, but the use of the word suggests a substantial farming operation.

This is one of only two farmhouses in Harding Township (the other well outside this historic district) to employ decorative motifs from the Italianate style, which was nationally popular between 1850 and 1870. The Italianate-style section of the house was built by Theodore Badgley, who inherited the property from his father, who had purchased it in 1846. Theodore's farming ventures included establishment of a stock farm, hatching

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 25

fish to stock Silver Lake for recreational purposes at the turn of the century. The farm was incorporated into the Seth Thomas estate in 1915, and continued to be farmed by tenant farmers. It was from this farm that Seth Thomas produced his prize-winning poultry. Thomas, one of the original founders of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement, and of the Morris County Board of Agriculture, included this farmstead in the covenant to preserve the rural character of the area.

**51. Red Gate Road
Block 6, Lots 2, 2.01**

Contributing site

In the heart of the historic district, the rolling, partly wooded land on these properties has already received subdivision approval for two single-family houses. Currently undeveloped, however, it enhances the rural feeling of the entire district.

**52. Red Gate Road
Bridge**

Contributing structure

A small stone bridge across the raceway leading from the pond on the farm property. It is a good example of a simple rural stone bridge with concrete caps over the rubblestone walls.

**53. Red Gate Road
Block 4, Lot 12
Ca. 1865**

**Contributing buildings: 5
Photo #32**

A small farmstead, with a main house of 2-1/2 stories, covered with clapboard. The five-bay facade has 6/6 sash windows, and a center entry, sheltered by a screened porch which extends across the center bays. Above the porch, the second floor is marked by a shed dormer in the gable roof.

Setting/Outbuildings: The farmhouse is surrounded by a lawn now filled with mature trees. To the rear of the property stands a two-story frame barn with gable roof, board-and-batten siding, and sliding vehicle bay doors. Two gable-roofed sheds are located nearby. A wooden corncrib, with open slat sides, is located near the barn. A type of small, utilitarian

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 26

outbuilding that was once ubiquitous on local farms, this is now the only standing example in the historic district. An open vehicle shed with shed roof and open bays also stands on the property. The land, which includes a small pond, is still farmed.

Significance: The house is not shown on the 1853 map, but does appear on the 1868 map of Morris County. On all the historic maps of the area, from 1868 through 1910, the farm is shown as the property of the Parcels family. The Parcels were relatives of the Munsons who lived next door (site # 54); family lore suggests that Ellis Parcels built this house when he married Estelle in 1865. The land has been owned by the family since 1836, and remains a working farm in the hands of descendants of the original owners.

**54. Red Gate Road
Block 4, Lot 11
18th century and 1994**

**Contributing building
Non-contributing building
Photo #33**

A traditional frame dwelling in the area's own vernacular style, this five-bay, center-entry, story-and-a-half house was a classic example of its type. Its end brick chimneys, at either end of a steep gable roof which sat flush with the gable end walls, topped the snug clapboard house with the characteristic high knee wall. The building was extensively remodeled and enlarged in 1994. The form of the East Jersey cottage is still visible, as is the five bay facade. The center entry has a transom window above the paneled, Greek Revival style doors. The house is considered contributing to the district for its historical connections to the 18th century settlement of the area.

Setting / Outbuildings: Set on top of a hill, the house has a commanding view to the south, toward the Pine Brook. A two-story frame barn with vertical siding on the first floor and clapboard at the second floor is a new structure, used as a garage with two garage doors fitted in the gable end, but appropriate to the rural context of its setting.

Significance: It appears to be of late 18th or early 19th century construction, and all 19th century maps ascribe the farm to the Munson family. Although the names have changed, the farm remains in the ownership of descendants of the Munson family. The Munsons are noted in 18th century road returns, so the house may well be associated with them from an early date. Oral history in the family cites Lemon (pronounced Lem-OWN) as the builder of the house; he lived from 1797 to 1877; a deed of 1877 refers to "Lemon's farmhouse". At Lemon's death, the farm was transferred to Mr. and Mrs. Caleb J. Conkling. Ten years later, the property still known as the Munson Farm was purchased by Peter Hellrigel, and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 27

it is in his name in the 1910 map of this part of Morris County. By the 1920s, the owners name was Walling. As was typical of the vocational farmers and long-time residents of the community, the Wallings refused to sign the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement. The property continues to be used as an active farm.

**55. Red Gate Road
Block 4, Lot 9**

Contributing site

Open meadowland traversed by a periodic stream rises to a wooded ridge line in this nine-acre lot which contributes to the rural feeling and agricultural setting of the historic district.

**56. Red Gate Road
Block 4, Lot 8
Ca. 1985**

Non-contributing building

A 2-1/2 story Colonial Revival style house with prominent center marked by a Palladian window at the second floor over the front door.

**57. Red Gate Road
Block 4, Lot 7
Ca. 1970**

Non-contributing building

A 2-1/2 story Garrison Colonial with a stone first floor and wood shingled upper floor. The three-bay center section is marked by two large multi-paned bay windows flanking the center door. The gable roof is covered with slate shingles. Symmetrical 1-1/2 story wings extend to each side of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 28

**58. Red Gate Road
Block 4, Lot 6
1968, addition 1990**

Non-contributing building

Colonial Revival style house in the vernacular vocabulary. The massing of the two-and-a-half story house is broken up to suggest an additive farmhouse, with a fieldstone main section and flanking clapboard wings. The house is set back from the road and fronted by rail-fenced meadow used to pasture horses. The land on which the house is built was part of Marcellus Hartley Dodge's holdings in the 1920s and '30s, and was thus covered by the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement.

**59. Blue Mill Road
Block 4, Lot 26
1963**

Non-contributing building

Dutch Colonial gambrel-roofed house with shingle siding. A heavily wooded flag lot insures that the house is not visible from the public right-of-way.

**60. Blue Mill Road
Block 4, Lot 27
Ca. 1965**

Non-contributing building

Contemporary expanded Ranch style house of 1-1/2 stories, with brick and clapboard siding. The house is screened from the road by its heavily wooded lot.

**61. Blue Mill Road
Block 4, Lot 5
Ca. 1857**

**Contributing building
Photo #34**

Frame, two-story vernacular house composed as a four-bay block, with a broad front porch and knee-wall windows above. The gable roof is flush with the end walls of the clapboarded house, and accented by end brick chimneys. Windows are 6/6 sash. A shed-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 29

roofed addition extends off the west gable end of the house; a modern garage addition with gable roof has been appended to the east end.

Setting / Outbuildings: The house sits well above the roadway, and a rubblestone retaining wall and picket fence face the road. The rural setting of the house is enhanced by its location adjacent to the Hartley Farms Historic District.

Significance: From 1858 to 1915, was the farm of Pierre Ruhier (1827-1913) and his wife, the former Miss Marie Magdalene Bailey (who had lived next door, see site # 62). Ruhier emigrated from Alsace in 1846. The house does not appear on the 1853 map of Morris County, so the family story that Pierre Ruhier built the house for his bride seems true. Stylistically, the small house is a simple vernacular dwelling typical for the late 18th to mid-19th centuries. The house and its lot were at one time part of the Dodge estate, and then sold off again in the mid-20th century.

62. Blue Mill Road
Block 4, Lot 4
Ca. 1851

Contributing building
Non-contributing building
Photo #35

A simple, vernacular, "L" plan house with a gable roof, clapboard siding, and 2/2 sash windows. The front-facing gable is 2-1/2 stories tall and the wing beside it only two stories tall; a simple porch fills in the corner of the "L". A brick chimney rises from the center of the house. Operable louvered shutters flank the windows.

Setting / Outbuildings: The house is nearly hidden by the large evergreen trees in the front yard. There is a modest frame outbuilding hidden in the rear of the property, of no historic significance, and an additional small storage shed.. The rural setting of the house is enhanced by its location adjacent to the Hartley Farms Historic District.

Significance: Identified on historic maps as the property of the Bailey family, the house was built by Jean Baptiste Bailey in 1851-52. The Baileys - despite their Irish-sounding name - were French, part of a group of French immigrants who settled in the Madison area in the first half of the 19th century. This section of Blue Mill Road became a small enclave of French families after their fellow country-man, Beaupland, purchased and began operating the Blue Mill between 1842 and 1863.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 30

**63. Blue Mill Road - Crystal Spring Farm
Block 4, Lot 3
Mid-19th century**

**Contributing building
Photo #36**

An East Jersey Cottage, with high knee wall in front, broad gable sides, and story-and-a-half form makes up the earliest section of this additive dwelling. A two-story addition to the rear and to the east side considerably enlarged the tiny original house, but continued the same architectural vocabulary of vernacular forms, including 6/6 sash windows, clapboard siding, and gable roofs with simple molded cornices. A shed-roofed porch extends across the facade and is now partially enclosed. A wooden fence incorporating a simple gate, extending along the road frontage, is an appropriate touch.

Significance: This is identified on historic maps as the property of the Lindsley family. The Lindsleys were an old Harding Township family, but they also intermarried with the Ruhiers and Baileys, who were neighbors (site # 61, 62). A 1921 Morristown newspaper article refers to the "Misses Lindsley of Crystal Spring Farm", a name which refers to the late-19th century name of the mill pond now known as Silver Lake. The property was included in the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement in 1928.

**64. Blue Mill Road
Block 4, Lot 2
Ca. 1960**

Non-contributing building

This Ranch-style house with clapboard siding is set well back in the lot, and the field-like setting of the property contributes to the rural setting evident at this "gateway" to the historic district.

**65. Blue Mill Road and Spring Valley Road
Block 9, Lot 13
19th century and Ca. 1940**

**Contributing buildings: 2
Non-contributing building
Photo #37**

Although historic maps from 1853 do not indicate a house on this corner property, the small rubblestone springhouse by the side of Spring Valley Road is certainly of 19th century

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 31

date or earlier. It is embanked into the low hillside, with an entry door in the south-facing gable end. The building has a gable roof, whose eaves extend well beyond the walls. It may have been built in connection with a long-vanished house which stood across Blue Mill Road and is shown on the 1853 Map of Morris County.

The main house on this property is a Colonial Revival style house of 2-1/2 stories, with a five-bay facade, clapboard siding, and a one-story wing to each side. The center entry is flanked by sidelights. An end brick chimney rises from the gable roof.

A two-car frame garage with gable roof and clapboard siding stands west of the house.

**66. Blue Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 12
Late 19th century and 1988**

**Contributing structure
Non-contributing building
Photos #38, 39, 40**

The main house on the property faces Blue Mill Road. It is a contemporary "Traditional Farmhouse", 2-1/2 stories tall, in an "L" plan with front-facing gable, and clapboard siding. The multi-paned windows and steep gable roof with wood shakes make the house compatible with its historic neighborhood.

Setting / Outbuildings: At the rear of the property, facing Spring Valley Road, are the brick and concrete foundations and partial walls of ruined greenhouses.

Significance: A range of greenhouses stood on this site in the early 20th century, the property of Jefferson Doremus, whose house stands across Spring Valley Road, although in Chatham Township. Greenhouses, especially those used for commercial rose growing, were an important part of the local economy in the years 1890 to 1950. Roses from several nearby communities were shipped by train-car loads to florists in New York, earning Madison the name "The Rose City". Doremus' rose-growing business was small, but the remains of his greenhouses are an important remnant of a now-vanished industry.

**67. Blue Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 11
Ca. 1960**

Non-contributing building

A five-bay, center entry Cape Cod style house, with shingle siding, 6/6 sash windows, and a center chimney. The garage is attached to the house with a roofed walkway.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 32

**68. Blue Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 10
Ca. 1960**

Non-contributing building

A Ranch-style house adorned with Colonial-style details, including the door surround with frieze and molding, the shake-covered gable roof, a massive square chimney, and an attached garage with cupola on top and doors with decorative "strap" hinges.

**69. Blue Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 9
Ca. 1960**

Non-contributing building

An "L" plan Ranch house with broad, front-facing gable. The clapboard siding lies over stone facing below the window sill level. There are large multi-paned picture windows, and an attached garage.

**70. Blue Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 8
Ca. 1960**

Non-contributing building

A simple "L" plan Ranch with brick and clapboard siding. The windows include 1/1 sash and jalousies. A square chimney rises from the gable roof. The house has an attached garage.

**71. Blue Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 6
Ca. 1865, ca. 1900, ca. 1920s, and 1986**

**Contributing building
Photo #41**

The original house was a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, gable-fronted house, typical of vernacular dwellings of the last third of the 19th century. An historic photograph of the house belonging to the Harding Township Historical Society shows the building when

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 33

new, confirming that the original front porch has been removed. The house was greatly enlarged and remodeled in the early 20th century, and its Victorian-era origins were subsumed to a Colonial Revival image. A pedimented portico replaced the front porch; multi-paned sash were installed in the old house, and used throughout large gable-roofed additions which made the former gable-end facade look like a pedimented bay in a long, rectangular, clapboarded building. The round-arched attic window in the front-facing gable and the heavy molded window lintels, both characteristic of the Italianate style in which the house was first built, survive.

Significance: The house was built about 1865 for the Olmstead family. It was sold to the Stulls by 1887, according to local maps. Mr. Stull, a miller, also rented boats to the public for outings on Crystal Lake. The 1910 Mueller Atlas shows the property still owned by the Stulls, and the footprint of the house on the map indicates that the original rectangular building stood side-by-side with an addition equal to the size of the original house. The house was enlarged yet again to its present size, and renovated in the Colonial Revival manner, probably in the 1920s.

**72. Blue Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 5**

**Contributing site
Photo #42**

An irregularly-shaped lot of privately-owned but publicly accessible land, which includes the bridle trail which runs between Dickson's Mill Road and Blue Mill Road.

Significance: Formally established bridle trails were created in 1911 through Harding Township for the convenience of local families. Riding across property lines was by "gentlemen's agreement" and all paths were on private property. Large stables were kept by many residents of the area, and riding associations and the Spring Valley Hunt were established in the years before World War I. In the 1940s the Morris County Bridle Path Association was established to accept deeds for the trails. This meant trails could be maintained without fear of closure because of development or an unsympathetic new owner, and owners were cleared of liability from riding accidents. The preservation of bridle trails through Harding Township is part of the unique legacy of the development of the area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 34

**73. Blue Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 4**

Contributing site

An irregularly-shaped lot of privately owned but publicly accessible land, which includes the bridle trail which runs between Dickson's Mill Road and Blue Mill Road.

**74. Blue Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 3.01
Ca. 1970**

Non-contributing building

A Contemporary style house composed of four single-story hipped-roof pavilions, set in a square pattern and linked by flat-roofed, rustic wood sided connectors.

**75. Blue Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 3
Ca. 1980**

Non-contributing building

A French-influenced modern Eclectic Revival style house, on an irregular plan, with slate gable roof, a brick first floor, and shingled and half-timbered upper floors. The round-arched main door and casement windows offer a very European feeling to the house. The garage/service wing extends at right angles to the main block to create an entry courtyard.

**76. Blue Mill Road - Dearfields
Block 9, Lot 2
Ca. 1940**

**Contributing building
Photo #43**

A mid-20th century "Country House" combining modern function with the simplest of details in the Classical Revival style. A 2-1/2 story center block of white-painted brick is flanked by frame story-and-a-half wings, one incorporating the garage. The center entry has a pedimented surround; large picture windows on either side accent the three-bay facade.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 35

Setting / Outbuildings: The house is set well back from the road, down a long driveway. The part of the property nearest Blue Mill Road is planted with an apple orchard, creating a contemporary landscape reminiscent of the agricultural one which existed here in the 19th century. The property is edged with a split rail fence, which adds to its rural charm.

**77. Blue Mill Road and Dickson's Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 1
Ca. 1790 with later additions**

**Contributing buildings: 2
Non-contributing building
Photo #44**

A 2-1/2 story, frame, three-bay, side-hall plan house representative of a long-lived vernacular type in the area. The main house is extended with stepped-down additions to the side and rear. A broad gable roof, gable end chimneys, small-paned windows, and clapboard siding are characteristics of the original house type which are evident. The original front entry has been removed, and primary access is now from the former side entry.

Setting / Outbuildings: Two small outbuildings stand south of the house. Both are frame, gable-roofed structures. Although they look like agricultural accessory buildings typically found in a rural community a century ago, they house modern uses - a garage and a home office. The garage is a traditional outbuilding, with clapboard siding, adapted for a modern use. The office, although it looks like a part of the traditional landscape, dates to 1994.

Significance: Traditionally this was the miller's house for the grist mill which stood across the road between 1765 and 1953. Some mill owners were actually mill operators, others owned the mill and adjacent land, and offered the house to the miller who did the work for them. Under the ownership of George Jenkins, who held the property as Silver Lake Farm from 1904 to 1924, the old mill was abandoned as an working operation but the house was renovated for its colonial associations and became a residence without relationship to the workings of a mill. The property east of the house, near the stream, may contain archaeological evidence of earlier bridges which stood in this vicinity, as well as relics of the mill.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 36

**78. Blue Mill Road and Dickson's Mill Road
Block 8, Lot 1
1900**

**Contributing buildings: 2
Photos #45, 46**

A pair of barns, one of which has been adapted to residential use, occupy this corner lot. The brick, banked barn closest to Blue Mill Road was adapted to residential use well before 1940. It is two-and-a-half stories tall on the road side, and three-and-a-half stories tall on the southern barnyard elevation. It has paired, multi-paned windows, and simple cross-braced wooden doors, under a broad, slate-covered gable roof. A two-story frame wing attached to the downhill side employs the most basic vernacular vocabulary. The second barn is an "L" shaped structure, positioned so as to form a three-sided courtyard with the adjacent house/former barn. A story-and-a-half stable wing, with intact interior fittings, has a high stone foundation and patterned, light gray slate walls. The broad gable roof is covered with red rounded-end slate. A hexagonal cupola sits on top. The two-story wing of the barn has the same red slate on its hipped roof, cupola, and light gray slate walls.

Significance: The barns were constructed as part of George Jenkins' "Silver Lake Farm", operated between 1904 and 1924.

**79. Blue Mill Road
Block 8, Lot 1.01**

Contributing site

Open pasture, still in use as a grazing area for horses. It is enclosed by a wooden split rail fence and contributes to the setting of the historic district.

**80. Blue Mill Road
Block 8, Lot 11
Ca. 1945**

Contributing building

A two-and-a-half story brick house with French influence in the arched window openings, and the recessed front entry. A hipped roof, broken by wall dormers, covers the irregularly-massed house. The house sits on a wooded ridge, and has no outbuildings or service structures. It is still the property of the original owner.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 37

Significance: Although not Colonial in style, the house reflects the traditional styles preferred throughout Harding Township through the mid-20th century. The house lot was purchased in 1945, but in 1928, Marcellus Hartley Dodge had purchased the land, attached the conditions of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement, and then re-sold the property.

**81. Off Blue Mill Road
Block 8, Lot 5.01**

**Contributing site
Photo #47**

Open space, containing the right-of-way of an abandoned 18th and 19th century road. The rutted track of the former roadway is still visible between the trees. This glimpse of the past, as well as the open space, contributes to the setting of the historic district. The land was part of George Jenkins' "Silver Lake Farm" in the early years of the 20th century

**82. Blue Mill Road
Block 8, Lot 9.01**

Contributing site

Publicly-owned open meadow, edged with trees, which contributes to the rural character of the historic district. The grassy meadow is not under cultivation. It is not quite deep enough, or screened with trees enough to block out a view of the new subdivision to the south. More plantings at the edge of the meadow would help maintain the illusion that the historic district remains untouched by late 20th century development.

**83. Dickson's Mill Road
Block 8, Lot 2**

**Contributing site
Photo #48**

Undeveloped land, including open fields surrounded by woodland. The open space contributes to the setting of the historic district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 38

- 84. Off Dickson's Mill Road, head of Cherry Lane** **Non-contributing building**
Block 8, Lot 5 **Photo #49**
Ca. 1950

This rambling, 2-1/2 story Colonial Revival house is located at the end of a winding drive. Two-story frame wings flank the main body of the house, which also contains a separate garage. A slate roof caps the building and the fenestration is composed of multi-pane sash.

- 85. Cherry Lane** **Contributing buildings: 2**
Block 8, Lot 3.01 **Photos #50, 51**
Late 18th century

The main house has a saltbox profile and is sheltered amongst the trees behind a wooden split rail fence. Shakes cover the roof and the exterior is sided with shingles. The facade contains two doors and the fenestration consists of 9/6 and other multi-pane sash, and both shed and gabled dormers. A large chimney rises from the center of the gable roof. On the south-facing elevation is a porch carried on simple Doric columns with a square-section balustrade.

The former banked barn for this small farmstead is now a residence. This is a small, two-story frame structure, with a shake roof and clapboard siding. Multiple additions extend to the sides.

Significance: The house appears on all three 19th century maps of the area, and its first mention in a deed is in 1850 as the "homestead lot" of the late James Wood. The house is a well-preserved example of an early vernacular type, and may date to the early 19th or even late 18th centuries. It is sited in typical 18th century fashion, with its gable end to the road and a south-facing facade. It is across the road from the Pine Brook, and the 19th century location of a large mill pond for the lower, or Roberts-Dickson Mill.

- 86. Dickson's Mill Road** **Non-contributing structure**
County bridge #489

A short, simple bridge with painted iron posts and cross bars.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 39

87. **Dickson's Mill Road** **Contributing building**
Block 8, Lot 3 **Photo #52**
Ca. 1930

This Eclectic Revival style brick house, located on a hilltop site, consists of a main block and a wing. The building has a Norman French feeling, characterized by the thick slate roof, which is pierced by tall stone chimneys. Stone quoins frame each elevation and the main entry is located at the center of the facade. The window openings are arched over multi-pane sash and the main door is arched within a pedimented surround. The "cornice" is marked by corbeled brick and the service wing and garage are enclosed with a brick wall.

88. **Dickson's Mill Road** **Contributing site**
Block 10, Lot 15.01

An undeveloped, wooded lot on a hillside, which contributes to the setting of the historic district.

89. **Dickson's Mill Road** **Non-contributing building**
Block 10, Lot 15.03
Ca. 1970

Located on a hilltop, this modern house is capped with both gable and shed roofs, has skylights, vertical wood siding and a massive chimney.

90. **Dickson's Mill Road** **Non-contributing building**
Block 10, Lot 15.02 **Photo #53**
1989

The stark white Grotta House, designed by noted architect Richard Meier, dominates its hillside site. Counterbalancing the two-story half-cylinder of the main house with the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 40

rectilinear, single-story wing at the rear, it is a fine example of modern architecture at its most pristine. The meadow setting enhances both the house and the district. The house is the cover photograph on a monograph of Richard Meier's works, and was selected in a 1995 New York Times article as one of the ten houses most admired by contemporary American architects.

91. **Dickson's Mill Road - Miller's House**
Block 10, Lot 19
Early 19th century and ca. 1930

Contributing building
Non-contributing building
Photo #54

Located on a heavily wooded, hillside lot, this embanked house has a 2-1/2 story, south-facing facade. The double-pile clapboard house consists of a main block with additive telescoping wings to the side. A single-story embanked wing includes stone sides and rear, with a clapboard facade. The house is comprised of five irregular bays, with small multi-pane windows. The gable roof is of a low pitch with flared eaves. The replacement chimney and Colonial Revival style door enframingent suggests alterations ca. 1930.

Setting / Outbuildings: A separate garage is constructed to the east of the property. It is a simple, two-car garage with gabled roof of mid-20th century date. The house is sited close to the road, and looks across it to the Pine Brook.

Significance: There is evidence that a mill was operating across the road from this house, farther south along the Pine Brook than the well-known Blue Mill, by the end of the 18th century. In the mid-19th century, the house was owned by the Roberts family, who were the owners and operators of the sawmill which operated on the lower Pine Brook across the road from this house. At the turn of this century, the Dickson family's extensive cider mill used that same mill site, and the Dickson's lived in this house. Although the house has earlier importance as a house associated with a mill, it also exhibits the familiar Harding Township pattern of changing from a working farm or mill-owners house to a gentleman's country house. It was purchased and remodeled by Spencer Weed in the 1930s. A wealthy owner of a chain of supermarkets, he was also one of the creators of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement, and in restoring this modest house and its setting, helped advance the rural landscape preservation ideals of the group.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 41

92. **Dickson's Mill Road
Bridge over Pine Brook**

**Non-contributing structure
Photo #55**

A modern steel bridge with concrete walls, with no design relationship to the historic district. There is no remaining evidence of the historic bridge which stood here in the 19th and early 20th century.

93. **Dickson's Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 27
Ca. 1940 and 1995**

**Non-Contributing building
Photo #56**

A small, streamside Colonial Revival style house which incorporated elements of the earlier 19th century mills in its first story stone walls. The gable-roofed, three-bay house has a pedimented center entry flanked by multi-paned bay windows. The low second floor with narrow windows is finished with clapboard siding. Recently, extensive additions have been made to the little house, and little remains of the old house except stone walls. **Setting/Outbuildings:** The house sits at a curve in the road, and faces the bridge over the Pine Brook. A large garage wing is attached to the house at right angles, forming a courtyard in front.

Significance: The early 20th century Dickson's cider mill operated in several buildings along the stream, including a small stone one which was incorporated into the body of the house. The stone building may well have been constructed earlier, when the Roberts family ran a sawmill just upstream from this site.

94. **Roberts-Dickson Mill Site
Dickson's Mill Road
Block 9, Lot 32**

**Contributing site
Photos #57, 58, 59, 60**

A thirty-acre tract including the Pine Brook below Silver Lake, and the adjacent meadows and woodland. The land includes the remains of a stone dam, and also of an earlier earthen dam associated with the early 19th century Roberts sawmill, and early 20th century Dickson's cider mill. The open meadow still traces the outline of the mill pond, and the location of races and mill foundations may be discerned, particularly when the water is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 42

low. This land is now preserved under the auspices of the Harding Land Trust. Because of this open space, Dickson's Mill Road, winding beside the brook, is a beautiful, scenic drive.

Significance: The first dam may have been established here as early as the late 18th century. This "lower mill", downstream of the "Blue Mill" site, was used primarily as a sawmill, while the upper mill was used exclusively as a grist mill. The Roberts family ran the sawmill, prior to the Civil War specializing in wheel rims (felloes). In 1884, the Roberts family lost the mill in a bankruptcy sale, and it was purchased by Joseph Dickson, an Irish immigrant working as a coachman. He was primarily a farmer, and converted the sawmill to a cider mill, processing local apples into a less-perishable, and more profitable commodity. The Dickson's operated the Cider Mill until 1927, when it was closed down in a Prohibition raid, and a large quantity of "hard" cider was discovered. In 1930, the Dickson's sold their 78 farm, including the mill site, to Spencer Weed, one of the founders of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive agreement. The mill was destroyed in 1933, although ten years later the road was renamed Dickson's Mill Road in its honor.

95. **Dickson's Mill Road**
Block 10, Lot 15
Ca. 1980

Non-contributing building
Photo #61

A Contemporary-style house using elements of local vernacular architecture for a clearly modern residence. The 2-1/2 story house has clapboard siding, large wall dormers and gable roofs, and sash windows. It incorporates an old barn which stood on the site, but nothing remains visible of that old building. The house is enhanced by its setting in a picturesque valley, on the western side of the Pine Brook.

96. **Spring Valley Road**
Block 9, Lot 17
Ca. 1860

Contributing buildings: 2
Photo #62

An unusual example of a two-story, Mansard-roofed cottage. The five-bay, center-entry house has paired front doors under a transom, and 2/2 sash windows. The full-length front porch has bracketed eaves and modillioned cornice, echoed in the decorative treatment at the main eaves and in the low-arched dormers. The dormers are notable for the fanciful scrolled enframements. The Mansard roof has a gentle concave flare; a central chimney

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 43

rises from the center of the house. Although now a uniform facade, the house was almost certainly constructed in sections, with the earliest being the two most southerly bays, possibly dating to 1750. The house was remodeled with the help of architect Paul Drake of Summit in 1939. These and later additions, low in scale and compatible in style to the original, extend to the northeast side of the house.

Setting / Outbuildings: A 4-car garage from the first half of the 20th century, with shiplap siding and low-pitched gable roof stands at the eastern edge of the property. The poured concrete foundation with visible form marks, and the large-aggregate concrete suggest a date before the 1920s. A dry-laid stone wall fronts the property at the street.

Significance: The Second Empire style was not popular in Morris County, making this a rare example. The house is simply, but appropriately detailed, although the basic form is one of the standard vernacular house types used in rural areas through the 18th to mid-19th century. A newspaper account of a fire at the house in 1902 asserted that the buildings was known to be over 100 years old at that time. The French "accent" of the house is interesting given the cluster of French émigrés who lived in the Spring Valley Road-Blue Mill Road area in the latter 19th century. The Second Empire style roof could well have been the repair for the house at the turn of this century.

97. **Spring Valley Road
Block 9, Lot 16
Ca. 1930**

**Contributing building
Non-contributing building
Photo #63**

A white-washed brick Georgian Revival style house notable for the over-sized swan's neck pediment over the front entry and the large Palladian window above it. This center entry is flanked by large multi-paned picture windows in projecting bays. Asymmetrical additions extend to each side of the main block, each with a hipped roof. An open, single-story porch shelters the west gable end of the house, and a two-story service/garage wing extends to the east.

Setting / Outbuildings: The house is set well back in a deep, wooded lot which is bordered on the front by a dry laid stone wall. A separate, modern 3-car garage stands to the rear of the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 44

98. **Spring Valley Road
Block 9, Lot 15
Ca. 1937**

**Contributing buildings: 2
Photo #64**

Colonial Revival style house with shingle siding and a slate gable roof. The five-bay, 2-1/2 story main block is extended with a 2-story wing off the east gable end. The wing has narrow knee-wall windows at the second floor level; other windows throughout the house are 6/6 or other multi-paned configuration, set in simple frames. A blocky dentil cornice marks the front of the house. The center entry is slightly recessed into the house, and marked by a projecting portico with flared, standing seam metal roof.

Setting / Outbuildings: A single-story garage, matching the house in style and materials, stands behind the house.

Significance: The house was built in 1937 for William Potter, an employee of the Prudential Insurance Company in Newark. The property was owned by Marcellus Hartley Dodge from 1928-1937, and the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement was attached to the land in this way.

99. **Spring Valley Road
Block 9, Lot 14
Ca. 1840 with alterations ca. 1875**

**Contributing buildings: 2
Photo #65**

This 2-1/2 story frame house, built on a fieldstone foundation, is sided with clapboards and contains 1/1 windows with louvered shutters. The Mansard roof has bracketed eaves; it is pierced by three gabled dormers on the facade. A porch with chamfered posts and brackets wraps around the house, and the entry includes the original double door topped by a transom.

Setting/Outbuildings: An additive cluster of frame outbuildings extends north of the house and fronting the road. The largest is now used as a garage. The sheds and barns, one-and-a-half to two stories tall, with vertical board or clapboard siding and gable roofs, probably include the cider pressing building known to have stood on this property. Sliding wooden doors and 6/6 sash windows accent the barns and sheds.

Significance: This house was built in 1840 by N.C. Geoffrey, another member of the French community in Harding Township. Geoffrey was listed in 1840 as a basket

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 7 Page 45

manufacturer in New York City, and in an advertisement from 1857 he put out a call for apples to be pressed at the "cider mill of the subscriber". Although the house appears on the 1853 and 1868 maps, the Mansard roof was probably added during a major renovation in the 1880s. It is a rare example of the Second Empire Style in Harding Township.

**100. Spring Valley Road
Bridge over un-named stream**

Contributing structure

A small stone bridge, over a very small stream which feeds into the Loantaka Brook. The stone walls are capped with sloped concrete tops; the stone abutments are intact. A "W" section steel guard rail has been placed in front of the old stone walls, and extends well beyond them on either approach. This bridge, though small, is worthy of preservation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 46

Introduction and Summary

The Silver Lake Historic District encompasses the major portion of the land that in the 1920s was the subject of the New Vernon Restrictive Agreement, a pioneering effort in land conservation and rural historic preservation that was unmatched in New Jersey, and which successfully perpetuated a rural landscape in Harding Township for decades after its demise in adjacent communities. Most of the voluntary participants to this compact lived within this district, and their efforts also led to the incorporation of Harding Township in 1922. The district meets National Register Criteria C as a historically significant and visually distinguishable area, the evidence of the success of the New Vernon Restrictive agreement in preserving rural character. The district has statewide significance under Criterion A for the importance of the Agreement to conservation in New Jersey, and local significance under Criterion A for its community development associations.

The Pine Brook is a small waterway running northwest to southeast in southeastern Morris County, rising in the hills at the northern part of the historic district and flowing toward Green Village. Eighteenth century settlement of the area was initially focused on Pine Brook, valued for its ability to power the water-driven machinery of grist and saw mills. The mills established along the stream were an important part of the predominantly agricultural community, but they did not form a nucleus for a village here; instead, New Vernon, about two miles west of the Pine Brook, became the center for shops, a school, and church.¹

Having been bypassed by turnpike and railroad construction, two major impetuses for commercial and residential growth in nineteenth century Morris County, life in the Pine Brook-Silver Lake area changed little. The small family-owned farms that characterized this era are still evident in some of the remaining houses and outbuildings in this district.

It was precisely because the area was ignored for much of the nineteenth century that its rural scenery attracted a new kind of development in the early years of the twentieth century. Wealthy businessmen from New York, interested in acquiring country estates, began to assemble large

¹ "New Vernon Historic District", National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1975.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 47

tracts of land. Some built new "manor" houses, installing themselves as local gentry, with French and English architectural influence to proclaim their status. However, many came to the area filled with respect for the well-known history of nearby Morristown as "Military Capital of the Revolution", and sought to create associations with early American history and the patriot-heroes of the Revolution. They did this by renovating or imitating authentic early American houses, barns, and farmsteads. The professed goal of both types of estate owners was to retain the unspoiled rural atmosphere of the area as a setting for their homes and social lives, while maintaining a comfortable commuting distance to New York City, where their money was made. This goal was largely realized with the incorporation of the New Vernon Land Company in the 1920s.

The interests and concerns of the large land-owners and gentlemen farmers were quite different from those of long-time residents of what was then known as Passaic Township. This was remedied in 1922, when the gentlemen farmers of the northern part of the township succeeded in the creation of a separate township, which they named for President Warren G. Harding, then in office. Throughout most of this century Harding Township remained an area of magnificent estates, and it was not until the 1970s that the area began to see significant new residential construction.

The text for this significance section owes much to the records kept by the Harding Township Historical Society and in particular, to the remarkably detailed research and eloquent writing of Mary Prendergast and Dorothy Adey. Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

Pine Brook and the Development of Silver Lake, 1715-1900

In tracing the growth of the Silver Lake Historic District, it is perhaps most effective to record the history of the local mill complex, for the early progress of the community was directly connected

to the fortunes of its water-powered industries. The Pine Brook gristmill was constructed soon after English and New England-born settlers arrived at the rich stretch of land between the steep hill known as Mt. Kemble and the Great Swamp. As the number of local farms grew, the mill complex prospered.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 48

Records show that one John Alford took title to 1250 acres including the land surrounding Pine Brook in 1715. The Harding Township Historical Society owns a deed for land sold in 1731 to the Goble family. The Gobles lived along what became known as James Street for two centuries; one of their family houses (site # 9) is perhaps the oldest surviving structure in the district. Two other houses near the Pine Brook are clearly 18th century in origin (sites # 85, 91), attesting to the importance of the stream as a locus for earliest settlement. Because a mill for grinding grain and sawing lumber was a critical need for early settlers, one which often took precedence over schools, churches and stores, a construction date within a generation of first settlement would not be surprising. Henry Pilch, a local attorney and expert on old deeds, was able to trace the dam as far back as 1744.²

The mill dam on the Pine Brook was undoubtedly created by 1765, as an advertisement in the New York Gazette of that year publicizes the sale of Morris County property located "about a quarter of a mile from Mr. Philips' Mill".³ In 1765 the gristmill was owned and operated by Jonas Philips. He was the son-in-law of Jacob Ford, Senior, who was a pioneer in the New Jersey iron industry and one of Morristown's most influential citizens. Ten years later Philips was a businessman of sufficient means to act as guarantor of a loan received by Ford from the Continental Congress to build a powder mill on the Whippany River near the Ford Mansion. In January of 1777 Philips assumed control of the Whippany mill while continuing operation of the Pine Brook gristmill some miles distant. By June of that year, perhaps suffering from the strain of maintaining two separate operations, Philips sold the Pine Brook gristmill lot and surrounding land to Gerardus Duyckinck, Jr.⁴

Within a year Duyckinck had significantly expanded his business. Located on the side of Pine Brook nearest to New Vernon was the gristmill that produced meal from the locally grown grains, while on the east bank a new sawmill was in operation. Gerardus, who became a relatively wealthy man, lived across the road in a house which still stands (site # 77).

² *Ibid.*

³ *The New York Gazette*, May 2, 1765. From the files of the Harding Township Historical Society. Cited in a memo from Mary Prendergast to David Budd, January 1993.

⁴ *Morris County Deeds*, Book B, p. 93-96, cited in Prendergast, 1993.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 49

By July 1791, Gerardus Duyckinck had left the Pine Brook to become a merchant in New York City, having sold 114 acres including the mills and another 3-acre parcel "overflowed by the upper end of said Phillips Mill pond", to John McComb, Senior. McComb was a well-known mason and builder from New York and the Morris County farm served as his retirement home. In 1802 McComb paid \$95.90 for repairs to the mill dam. At the time of his father's death in 1811, John McComb, Jr., architect of such notable buildings as New York's City Hall, Montauk Lighthouse and the Princeton Theological Seminary, auctioned the mill and property in order to pay his father's debts.

From 1812 until 1841 the mill lot changed hands numerous times, and during this period the sawmill ceased operation. The old gristmill continued in business until the end of the century when it was superseded by a much more modern establishment located in the nearby town of Madison. The sawing of lumber was taken over by second mill, built downstream of the old mill by the Roberts family. Now known as Dickson's mill site, for a late-19th century owner, the stone dam walls and raceways are clearly visible, though the dam has been breached and no mill pond remains (site #94). At about the same time, new activity was taking place upstream from the old mill and mill pond. Morris Township purchased an 85-acre tract (site #38) along the Pine Brook for the location of a Poor House. The Township Poor House seems to have been on the site from 1822 - 1839; no building remained by the time of the 1853 map of the area.

In 1842 the mill property was purchased by Van Schal-Kwyck Beupland, the son of Vincent Boisaubin, the French nobleman who built the house that is named for him which still stands in Chatham Township.⁵ During the second quarter of the nineteenth century the Silver Lake area, which was then still part of Morris Township, witnessed the arrival of numerous French émigrés, many of whom came from the region of Alsace-Lorraine. This seems in part to be related to Vincent Boisaubin's arrival in the area, although connections between Boisaubin and the new arrivals are unclear.

The census of 1840 lists three Bailey families (originally spelled Bally), carpenter John Absalom, the Schnell family, the Geoffroy family with 63-year old Cecilia Leguin, and Peter Cucuel (who

⁵ "Boisaubin", National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1974.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 50

would later hang for stabbing his wife to death), all of whom had emigrated from France.⁶ In 1846 Pierre Ruhier from Challonville, France arrived in Morris County, and Jean Baptiste Balley moved to this rural township from Nancy, in France in 1851. These families appear to have been entirely assimilated into the community and have left behind no architectural traces of their heritage. Historic maps show that the families concentrated through the third quarter of the nineteenth century, along Blue Mill Road (sites #61,62, 71), the direct route to Madison, where the French-affiliated St. Vincent's Roman Catholic Church stood.

While the local census records of the nineteenth century show a small number of skilled workers living in the Pine Brook-Silver Lake section of Morris Township, primarily masons and blacksmiths, the overwhelming majority of area residents listed their vocation as "farmer" or "laborer".⁷ It is not surprising, therefore, to find that throughout these years the gristmill continued to flourish, and local farmers, French- or American-born, would have brought grain to the old mill. Beaupland remained in the gristmill business until 1863, during which time the lake came to be called "Beaupland's mill pond". Others knew it simply as the gristmill pond, among them young Samuel Brant of Green Village who wrote in his diary:

Dec. 22nd 1859. I went a skateing up to the gristmill pond.
There was 7 of us on the pond that night...This was the first time
I ever went a skateing on the gristmill pond.⁸

The mill and pond were sold in 1863 to Henry M. Olmsted, who rented the property rather than running the operation himself. In 1884, activities upstream in connection with providing water for Morristown caused Olmsted to fear that the water level at the lake would drop and mill operations would be adversely affected. On June 13, 1884, *The Jerseyman* (Morristown's newspaper) reported:

⁶ United States Census of Population, 1840. Microfilm record available for viewing at Morristown and Morris Township Free Public Library, Local History Room

⁷ United States Census of Population, 1840, 1850, & 1860. Microfilm record available for viewing at Morristown and Morris Township Free Public Library, Local History Room.

⁸ From the files of the Harding Township Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 51

Mr. Olmsted, who owns a water power and grist mill on the stream, and who consequently, will be affected by the Aqueduct's use of the water, applied for a writ of certiorari on the 3rd of June to remove the proceedings to the Supreme Court. The writ was granted and works for the present, as an injunction on the commissioners, who cannot act until the matter shall have been settled in the Courts.

On November 7 another article appeared reporting that Mr. Olmsted had lost the case, but noted that an appeal would immediately be taken to the Court of Errors and Appeals. The Morristown Water Company prevailed, and a reservoir and engine house were built far upstream, near Sand Spring Road. The demands of the growing urban population of nearby Morristown were not surprisingly considered more important than the water rights for the owner of a century-old wooden grist mill.

The gristmill continued in operation after the municipal water system was established, but its economic importance was clearly on the wane. By the 1880's the mill was being operated by Mr. Stull, "the gentlemanly miller" as reported by *The Jerseyman* in the "Green Village" column. Just as the new name "Crystal Lake" was more poetic than just 'the old mill pond', so too was the use of the water becoming less utilitarian. The article mentioned that Mr. Stull had "a number of good boats for public accommodation, one of them large enough to bear a dozen or more", and continued,

You may have your choice of boats, and if you are fortunate enough to have your choice of companions you may have a delightful row on these waters. You are man enough, I hope, to bring some lady with you to share the pleasure which such a pastime affords. Her presence will lend a charm to the occasion which the diversified scenes of earth, sky and water cannot impart, and her voice will give a sweeter music to the rippling oar.⁹

⁹ *The Jerseyman*, 1884; as cited in Prendergast 1993.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 52

Crystal Lake, which was the scene of frequent picnics and social gatherings during the summer months, was also the local source of ice in the winter. In January 1881 *The Jerseyman* reported that blocks of ice "thirteen inches thick and clear as water" had been taken from the lake and were being stored in the abandoned Pleasantville school house.¹⁰

By 1890, the Stulls, who had been hauling grain from the railroad depot in Madison to the mill on Crystal Lake, (or Silver Lake as it was beginning to be called as well), only to return the ground meal to Madison for sale, decided to move their entire operation into town. They constructed a steam-powered mill near the Madison railroad station, effectively abandoning the old mill on Pine Brook. It sat empty for years before finally being destroyed by floods in 1953. Older residents remember that the gristmill had been painted blue in the early part of this century, which no doubt inspired the name of Blue Mill Road. When this color was first applied is not known, but it was in place in 1909, as there is a reference that year in Passaic Township Committee minutes to a meeting at "Blue Mills" to discuss road maintenance.¹¹

The Great Estates, 1900-1930

Ironically, the area's isolated state and economic obsolescence prompted a series of developments in the early twentieth century that would affect the area for years to come. Throughout the preceding half-century many wealthy businessmen had chosen Morristown as the location for their summer homes and the four mile stretch between the county seat and Madison subsequently came to be known as "Millionaires Row". During the early years of this century, other wealthy businessmen and their associates began to turn their eyes toward the unspoiled farmland immediately to the south, since 1868 known as Passaic Township. Interested in the rural lifestyle

¹⁰ Local schools in the latter 19th century stood in the village of New Vernon to the west, or in Green Village to the south. Pleasantville is now the name of a section of Harding Township miles to the west and south of the Silver Lake area. It seems unlikely that ice would be hauled all the way to the area now known as Pleasantville; perhaps another long-vanished building bearing the name "Pleasantville School" stood somewhat closer to the old mill pond.

¹¹ From the files of the Harding Township Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 53

of the gentleman farmer, men like Seth Thomas, Jr., Marcellus Hartley Dodge, Charles Scribner and Henry Colgate began to buy up large tracts of land, often competing with one another in an effort to amass the largest parcels.¹²

In 1904 the property surrounding the "Blue Mill" was acquired by George Jenkins who was the husband of Helen Hartley Jenkins, daughter of Remington Arms president Marcellus Hartley and aunt of future company president, Marcellus Hartley Dodge. Jenkins himself acted as chief executive of Remington Arms until "Marcy" Dodge was old enough to assume those responsibilities, and it was during this period that Jenkins owned the mill lot. He owned property surrounding the old mill pond, which was still very much farmland. In addition to maintaining the old miller's house opposite the dam, he built two large new brick barns for horses (site # 78), and then called the whole place Silver Lake Farm.

Besides George Jenkins and Marcellus Hartley Dodge, the area's new residents included Seth Thomas, Jr., a scion of the famous clock manufacturing family, who was president of the company from 1915 until his untimely death in 1932. Seth and his wife Josephine, who was a member of the locally prominent Van Beuren family, established "Red Gate Farm", a 200 acre working farm, (site # 50) and lived nearby in a Colonial Revival mansion designed by noted New York architect Harrie T. Lindeberg (site # 30).

Another newcomer to the area was Henry Auchincloss Colgate, a partner in a New York investment firm, vice-president of Colgate-Palmolive, Trustee of Colgate University and for many years Chairman of the Board of the Seeing Eye. Colgate purchased "Holly Hill Farm" on Blue Mill Road and constructed a new, three-story home around the existing early-nineteenth century farmhouse (site # 41).

Although these men and others like them came to the Pine Brook area because of its unspoiled, pastoral setting and apparent isolation, the region was, in fact, convenient to New York via nearby train stations at Morristown, Madison, and Convent Station. Having been born into, or, more typically acquired large fortunes, they could well afford to establish lavish estates. But

¹² Dorothy Adey, Harding Township 1922-1982. Published by the Harding Township Civic Association, 1982.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 54

unlike the millionaires whose fanciful mansions lined "Millionaires Row" between Morristown and Madison, the men attracted to the Silver Lake area were searching for land, not just a house lot. There was an emphasis on acquiring and maintaining the rural landscape, and many estates were created by incorporating existing farms and farmhouses into larger tracts. The large, more imposing houses of the new owners were simply grafted onto the older landscape.

In their attempt to preserve the bucolic atmosphere of the Silver Lake area, these wealthy newcomers unwittingly wrought a series of dramatic social changes in the area. Although the countryside remained largely rural, for that was its appeal, the local farms underwent significant transformations during the early twentieth century. Men like Jenkins, Colgate and Thomas were seldom concerned with the type of farming that had been the primary means of support for local farmers for over a century. Instead, these gentlemen had the resources with which to purchase the highest quality stock and the most modern equipment, and pursued farming as an expense-generating hobby, not a revenue-producing livelihood. They hired qualified farm managers with experience in the field of animal husbandry and agricultural management to oversee their operations. George Jenkins utilized his acreage to breed and improve a large herd of quality dairy cattle. Seth Thomas, who helped form the Morris County Board of Agriculture and was the head of the Farm Service Exchange, raised a flock of prize-winning Rhode Island Reds at Red Gate Farm. Ransom Thomas, head of the New York Stock Exchange, bred horses on his estate (site # 8) for riding and recreation.

The small, family-owned farms that had dotted the lanes around Pine Brook became increasingly scarce in the first decade of the 20th century. A perceptive article published in the Newark Evening News on March 20, 1912, describes the recent spate of land acquisitions and the resultant problems.

The farms are sold by the former owners for good prices, sometimes very high prices. Some of the farmers purchased farms in other localities, but most of them go into the nearby towns, purchase houses and take up some new line of work, or live entirely upon the returns from the sale of their lands.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 55

The new owner razes the poorer structures and erects a fine house. Many acres which formerly produced crops disposed of in the towns are turned into lawns...The estate requires more labor to keep it up than did the plain farm, and to get this work done the foreign-born laborer is employed.¹³

As a result of the influx of population, the towns took on the burden of housing and educating the families of former farmers. At the same time, local farm products began to disappear from the town market, which caused food prices to rise. The article describes additional negative effects caused by the buy-up, including the decimation of the local construction trades due to the smaller number of buildings on the vast estates requiring maintenance, and the decline of country churches due to the subsequent loss of membership.

Once started, however, the trend could not be reversed. With the 1909 opening of the Hudson Tubes linking New York City with New Jersey, train access between Morristown and New York was faster than ever. The increasing popularity of the automobile as a commuter tool, and not just a toy, also made the Pine Brook area more readily accessible and desirable. Smaller estates filled in the open land between the large ones, and fewer family farms remained in operation. The value of farm land, after reaching a high point in 1920, began to decline and newcomers with large fortunes made possible by success in the stock market, were able to purchase land at low prices when local farmers were forced to sell. In many cases, owners who wished to remain on their property were encouraged to sell with an offer of lifetime rights or employment on the new estate.

Wealthy landowners on estates concentrated in the northern half of Passaic Township were frequently at odds with the residents to the south, and more often than not, automobiles were the cause of the trouble. In the early years of the twentieth century, roads were scraped with a horse-drawn scraper, and the bad spots given a layer of crushed stone. Road overseers varied, and some did little or no work. If a resident appeared at a township committee meeting, it was invariably to beg for some repair on his road which was usually described as "almost impassable".

¹³ "The Big Estate Problem" *The Newark Evening News*, 29 March 1912, p. 11.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 56

From 1907 until 1922 roads were the primary topic of discussion in every meeting of the Township Committee.¹⁴

In 1908, in an effort to combat the problem, George Jenkins, then president of Remington Arms, took matters into his own hands. He accepted an appointment as road overseer, and used his own money, as well as township funds, for improvements to his section of road. Two years later, Jenkins agreed to spend two dollars for every dollar of township money, and in 1911 Fanny L. Tiers spent her own money on improvements to Sand Spring Road (site # 6). During the next four years several local families complained to the township committee about the condition of the roads and reported heavy expenditures of their own funds on repairs.¹⁵

In order to pursue a more influential role in local affairs, several of the estate owners ran for election to the township committee, beginning with William Blackwell in 1915. McAlpin Pyle (whose fortune came from a popular laundry soap, Pyle's "Pearline") was elected township committee chairman in 1917, and the first course of action was to authorize bids for 1,000 tons road stone "for use in and around New Vernon", followed by an increase in taxes of 10 percent¹⁶.

The Creation of Harding Township, 1922-1945

During the ensuing years, strife between the northern and southern sections of the township continued to grow. At that time the taxes from one estate in the northern section equaled the total collected from twelve properties in the southern portion, and dissension centered around the proper allocation of tax money for road repair. Several prominent members of the community determined that Marcus Northrup, a respected friend of Seth Thomas and a long time friend of William Mackay, President of the New Jersey State Senate, should represent their cause on the Passaic Township Committee. Northrup ran in 1920 and lost by four votes. In an oral history made nearly sixty years later, Mr. Northrup said, "Mr. Seth Thomas, Mr. Bates, Mr. Kinney,

¹⁴ Dorothy W. Hartman and Mary A. Prendergast, Harding Township History: Early Schools, 20. (Not yet published, used with permission of the authors).

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 57

Mr. Bayne were disappointed that I had not been elected and asked me to set up a group with the idea of breaking away from Passaic Township."¹⁷

Marcus Northrup was elected to the Passaic Township Committee in the fall of 1921. When his former opponent, John Weber, resigned in January 1922, McAlpin Pyle was appointed to take his place, as it had always been the custom to include two representatives from the northern section as they paid a higher percentage of taxes. At the February meeting Mr. Pyle read a resolution announcing that the Passaic Township committee would request the New Jersey State Legislature to set up an election to determine the issue of separation of the Township in two parts.

On February 6, 1922, Senate Bill #142 was introduced which stated that if passed by a majority of the voters, the Township of Harding would be created by a referendum on May 9 of that same year. Throughout the area, a door-to-door campaign was conducted to ensure a favorable result. Although the creation of a new township was primarily in the interest of the wealthy estate owners in the north, the notion did have the support of the long-time farming families. As local farmer and township clerk Harry W. Hardt explained for the local newspaper:

The reason given for the division is that the interests of the residents in the northern and southern sections of the present township are entirely different. Persons living in the northern part are devoted to farming and do not desire such improvements as sidewalks, electrically lighted streets and roads and other improvements such as are wanted by residents of the southern section, who live in towns, many of whom commute to the city to business.

On May 9, slightly over three months from the time the resolution was introduced at the Passaic Township Committee meeting, the referendum creating Harding Township was passed. Following the vote the local newspaper reported that:

¹⁷ From the files of the Harding Township Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 58

Everyone in New Vernon and the nearby vicinity were heartily in favor of forming a new township as was evidenced by the unanimous vote cast yesterday afternoon, when three hundred citizens of the northern district of Passaic Township, of which New Vernon is a part, cast favorable votes and not one was found in the ballot box against the proposition.¹⁸

Thus Harding Township was established on September 1, 1922, and on January 1 of the following year the first Harding Township Committee met.

The New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement, 1928

Although by far the most well-publicized action, the creation of a separate township was actually only the first action undertaken by the estate owners in their attempts to maintain the pastoral setting of the area. In 1928 the New Vernon Land Company was formed by these gentlemen farmers/businessmen who proceeded to adopt the "New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement", the primary purpose of which was to minimize local development by restricting commercial usage and subdivision of property until 1965.¹⁹ In this forerunner of the local zoning ordinance, any enterprise considered undesirable by the wealthy estate owners was disallowed, including buses, street lights and roadside concessions. A three-acre minimum was written into the agreement, but plots of at least ten acres were verbally agreed upon as the minimum subdivision size.

The New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement's first paragraph explicitly prohibits commercial uses, hospitals and other public facilities, religious institutions, "golf links", restaurants, advertising by billboard, skywriting, or search lights, and high-tension electrical transmission lines. The intent is clearly to maintain a residential enclave with the highest standards of privacy. Farming and other uses of the land was actively encouraged in the second paragraph of the Agreement. The terms encourage cultivation of flowers, trees, fruits, vegetables, grain and "other farm products" and the raising and breeding of animals, including fish and bees!

¹⁸ *The Jerseyman*, 16 May 1922.

¹⁹

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 59

The social position of the authors comes through in the description of buildings which may be permitted; including "private dwelling houses and buildings appurtenant thereto, such as garages, stables, gardeners' or other employees cottages, green-houses...boat house, tool houses, sheds and play houses". Farm buildings were required to be located at least 75 feet from a road and the same distance from property boundaries, but "secondary" structures such as a private hangar, a chauffeur's cottage, a private power house, gate house, or lodge were exempt from set-back requirements. This may be a reflection of the fact that many of the smaller, existing farmhouses in the Township were being absorbed into larger estates as employee cottages and gate houses, and the old buildings typically hugged the road rather than set back into the property.

The most prominent of the landowners who developed the New Vernon Agreement was Marsellus Hartley Dodge. Head of the Remington Arms Company, his considerable fortune had been significantly increased by the United States government during World War I. Dodge used his money to actively purchase property in order to bring it into the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement and thus to preserve the land. Years later he supported efforts to preserve the Great Swamp from development, and he is associated with many local conservation efforts of the mid-20th century. His own home stands just east of the Silver Lake Historic District; his farm is already listed on the National Register as "Hartley Farms".

In addition to Marcellus Dodge, other founders of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement included Francis Bangs, Howard Bayne, Henry Colgate, Earl Cutler, Thomas Debevoise, Leon Freeman William P. Jenks, Warren Kinney, Seth Thomas, Jr., and J. Spencer Weed. All but Jenks and Kinney lived or owned property within the Silver Lake District in the period 1920-1940. (For individual biographical summaries of each of these founders, see the appendix following this section).

From 1928 to 1932, twenty-three individual landowners, and five associations made up of these same individuals, signed deeds placing their lands under the terms of the Restrictive Agreement. While the founders were forming their plans to preserve open space, they also formed two companies - the Sand Spring Land Company, and the New Vernon Land Company - to develop the Township in a manner consistent with their vision. It was the same men who founded the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement who rotated the assignments of Chairman,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 60

Treasurer and Secretary of these companies. A plan was commissioned by the New Vernon Land Company for development of ten-to-twenty-acre lots, reached by roads planted with an attractive alley of trees. However, the stock market crash seems to have prevented the plan from becoming reality, and development within the Township was never centrally organized. By 1948, the Sand Spring Land Company had been dissolved, all its lands sold.²⁰ The New Vernon Land Company continued for another decade, ceasing its activities as the founding members passed away and modern zoning took over the work of regulating development in Harding Township.

Although the agreement is named for New Vernon, the nearby village, its impact was on the countryside east of the village, particularly around the old mill pond now exclusively known as Silver Lake. In New Vernon itself, and in the land west of the village, there was opposition to the restrictive agreements, and few of the land owners signed them. None of the working farmers remaining in the Township in the 1920s and '30's signed the agreement. It is estimated that approximately 2000 acres, located across northern Harding Township was included in a restrictive covenant or held by the Sand Spring or New Vernon Land Companies for a time in the mid-twentieth century. The contiguity of about 1000 of those acres around Silver Lake made it then, as now, the most consistently scenic area of the Township.

Development restrictions were not unknown in the 1920s, but most known examples applied to the uses, appearance, and ethnic and social make-up of a new development. There is no known example of restrictive agreements being put into place to preserve an existing landscape and slow or *prevent* its development. The circumstances leading to its creation are almost unique, and certainly not easily repeatable, so that the creation of "neighborhood agreements" backed by the deep pockets of the neighbors did not form a model for land conservation efforts elsewhere in the county. However, the notion that a historic landscape was valuable, and should be preserved rather than obliterated or honored by a single historic house or monument, may have had some effect on the thinking of landowners in Harding and Morris Townships when, in the 1930s, they turned over thousands of acres to the United States Park Service for the creation of the nation's first "Historic National Park" - Jockey Hollow.²¹

²⁰ Letter from Howard Bayne to Dr. Harold Hayward, September 28, 1948. From the files of the Harding Township Historical Society.

²¹ The development of the National Historical Park at Morristown is discussed in detail in Preservation Comes of Age, 1926-1949; by Charles B. Hosmer, Jr.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 61

Architecture and Zoning in Silver Lake

Although not put into writing until 1928, there is ample physical evidence that the guidelines of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement had already been informally enforced for many years prior to that. Ironically, for a municipality born with road improvements for automobiles in mind, only two service stations were ever constructed in the Township. One, occupying the site of an old blacksmith shop in New Vernon, was the natural extension of an existing business. But the wealthy estate builders did not encourage new commercial enterprises in their rural paradise. Nor did they encourage architectural experimentation. The taste for the Colonial style dominant among the founding members of the New Vernon Neighborhood Agreement seems to have been communicated to much of the population as well.

New farmhouses built in the early years of the 20th century did not follow the popular taste for Foursquares and Bungalows, but relied on the traditional 3-bay, side-hall plan with clapboard siding and gable roof that had been used in the area for over a century (sites # 1, 38). Although the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement never specifically cited "design guidelines", clearly Colonial Revivalism, in all its variations, was preferred. Within the Silver Lake district, there are brick Georgian-style "colonials" (sites # 24, 30, 43), clapboard "vernacular" colonials (# 22), and authentic old houses restored to more-than-colonial grandeur (# 8, 41). One of the area's few Italianate style house (when built) was remodeled in the early 20th century to the Colonial Revival style (site # 69).

The horror of foreign laborers expressed in the Newark Evening News article of 1912 found its antidote in the vision of colonial houses, occupied by men who could claim the patriots of the American Revolution as ancestors, and who would lead the community. If not actually descendants of early Americans (as were the local inhabitants who were being displaced in the estate-building years), these captains of industry perceived themselves as the rightful heirs to their farmsteads, houses and furniture.

In the 1920s, there was some deviation from this vision of the Silver Lake area as a colonial setting for modern men. Three new houses were built in the district in romantic, French-inspired styles (# 25, 26, 47). The largest of these is known as "Crestley", built in 1921-22 by Mr. and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 62

Mrs. Arthur Marsters. He was Secretary of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and she was the niece and adopted daughter of Alfred Vail, who built AT&T into a successful corporation in the early part of this century. The Marsters did not need to create the early-American homestead to give the family an appropriate lineage, as they already had a genuine one in Morristown, built by Mrs. Cutler's ancestors. The Marsters did however preserve and restore the old Peter Birmingham house, an 18th century farmhouse, at the foot of their driveway. It is the old farmhouse which is visible from the public roads, while the French-inspired chateau is out of sight.

The New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreements successfully limited development as long as the property owners signed onto it, but it was ineffective in enforcing compliance in those who did not want to sign. In 1930, following the division of several large properties into small building lots, the Township moved to enact zoning regulations which would affect every property owner. Herbert Swan, City Planner of New York City, drew up the Ordinance and Zoning map which established residential and business zones, and restricted commerce to New Vernon Center and Mt. Kemble Avenue, both of which are outside the boundaries of this historic district. Within the Silver Lake Historic District, the high percentage of original signers insured that this area of the township stayed closer to the vision of the founders than other areas of the township.

The founders of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement even found an echo of their own ideas in the famous 1929 treatise, "Regional Plan of New York and Its Environs". In an essay on "Problems of Planning Unbuilt Areas", the authors suggested that country estates should be encouraged as a way of providing scenic areas at the edge of a metropolitan region without the public expenditure of purchasing parkland or open space. The planning document went on to state that it was inappropriate for open space to be taxed for its potential use, when the preservation of open space or sparsely developed estate areas provided a public benefit.²²

Although the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreements helped to stave off development and preserve Harding's pastoral setting into the 1960s, the eventual collapse of the estates has resulted in much of the open farmland in this area having been subdivided into three to

²² Thomas Adams, Edward Bassett, and Robert Whitten. "Problems of Planning Unbuilt Areas", *Neighborhood and Community Planning, Regional Plan of New York and Its Environs*, Vol. VII, 1929, pp. 377-390.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 63

five acre building lots. Since the 1980s, and the increase in a new class of the new rich, there has been increasing development pressure. Large, newly-constructed houses which dominate their sites are highly visible from the road, and are rapidly encroaching on the rural character and scenic vistas which have historically characterized this area. Land preservation efforts, both public and private, have set aside some lots as open space, but not at the same rate that subdivisions are carving away at larger tracts. Development pressure leads to road widening and bridge rebuilding which further erode the small-scale, rural quality of the community.

However, the residents of Harding Township are aware of the unique nature of their built and natural environment, and have fiercely defended it from public and corporate encroachment. The placement of Silver Lake Historic District on the National Register is another chapter in the twentieth century battle to preserve and protect this environment.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 64

APPENDIX

Biographical information on the founders of the New Vernon Neighborhood Restrictive Agreement.

Howard Bayne (1879-1958), Columbia University, class of 1901; went into banking and worked for Columbia Trust Company, Irving Trust Company, Seaboard Bank, and Chase National Bank; where he was director as that institution expanded into Chase Manhattan Bank. Bayne, born in Ireland and brought to this country as a child, married Louise Van Beuren, daughter of a prominent local family. His wife's sister, Josephine, had married Seth Thomas, Jr., and lived off VanBeuren Road in a large mansion. Bayne served on the Harding Township Zoning Board and the Board of Education. He owned land in the Silver Lake Historic District at various times, but lived just beyond its border along Featherbed Lane.

Henry Auchincloss Colgate (1890-1957), Yale, class of 1913; director of the Colgate-Palmolive Company and partner in an investment firm in New York. On the Board of Directors for International Paper Company and Colgate University. Chairman and President of the Trustees of the Seeing Eye Foundation (1940-1957), and active with the local Boy Scouts of America. Lived at "Holly Hill" on Blue Mill Road (site # 41).

Earl Cutler (1890-1960), son of Charles Cutler, first President of NY Telephone and founder of the Morris Trust Company Bank. Served as tax assessor for Harding Township. He owned the property along Van Beuren Road now known as "Plough Penny Hill."(site #24).

Thomas Debevoise (1874-1958), Yale, class of 1895; New York Law School, 1897. He worked as an attorney at a large New York law firm, and served as a director of several banks and as director of the Debevoise Paint Company in Brooklyn, New York. In 1924 he became the personal lawyer for John D. Rockefeller. He owned property at the southern end of the Silver Lake Historic District (sites # .90,91,95), but his home is not within the district,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 8 Page 65

William S. Freeman (1877-1966), Founder and partner of Freeman and Company, a railroad equipment trust underwriter. He was a nationally ranked tennis player 1900-1910 and an active horseman, a member of the Spring Valley Hounds and the Essex Foxhounds. He lived on Blue Mill Road (sites # 17, 18, 19).

William Jenks (1853-1938), President of the Class of 1873, Yale University; industrialist and successful real estate speculator. He owned property west of the Silver Lake Historic District, near Glen Alpin Road.

Seth Thomas, Jr. (1877-1932). Heir to the famous Connecticut clock-making firm founded by his great-grandfather. He married Josephine Van Beuren Reynolds, of the locally prominent Van Beuren family, and built a large house off Van Beuren Road in the early '20s (site # 30). Thomas also owned "Red Gate Farm", (site #50) a showcase for his farming interests. He was a founding member of the Morris County Board of Agriculture, on the Board of Morristown Memorial Hospital, and an active member of the Harding Township government in its earliest years. He died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage on the train on his way to his New York office.

Spencer Weed (1880-1969), executive in the retail grocery business, beginning as a Vice President of the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, and then serving as President of the Grand Union Supermarket Chain from 1924 to his retirement in the 1940s. He was interested in horses and riding, and served as President of the National Horse Show from 1932-38. He lived on Blue Mill Road in an extensively remodeled old farmhouse he named "Kings Grant (site #19).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 9 Page 66

Bibliography

Books, Periodicals, and Archival Papers

Adey, Dorothy. Harding Township 1922-1982. New Vernon, NJ: Harding Township Civic Association, 1982.

Barber, John W. and Henry Howe. Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey. Published by Benjamin Olds for Justus H. Bradley, Newark, N.J., 1857.

Bernardsville News. 6 April 1922. "Will Vote on Division of Township."

"Boisaubin" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1974.

Cavanaugh, Cam. In Lights and Shadows. Morristown, N.J.: The Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township, 1986.

Diary of Samuel Brant, available at the Harding Township Historical Society.

Genius of Liberty, Morristown, N.J. weekly newspaper, various dates 1798 - 1810.

Hayward, Harold D. and Schroeder, W. Anita. A Beautiful and Historic Township. New Vernon, New Jersey, 1949.

Hoskins, Barbara. Morris Township, New Jersey: A Glimpse into the Past. Morristown, N.J.: The Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township, 1987.

Kimball & Kimball, Professional Planners. "Historic Preservation Element", *Master Plan, Township of Harding, Morris County, New Jersey*. October 1993.

Minutes of the Passaic Township Committee, various dates.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 9 Page 67

Munsell, W. W. History of Morris County, New Jersey, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Prominent Citizens and Pioneers, 1739-1882. New York: W. W. Munsell, 1882.

Newark Evening News. 29 March 1912, 11. "The Big Estate Problem."

"New Vernon Historic District", National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1975.

New York Gazette, May 2, 1765. From the files of the Harding Township Historical Society.

Palladium of Liberty, Morristown, N.J. weekly newspaper, various dates, 1808 - 1821.

Prendergast, Mary. "Land Preservation in Harding Township: The Past". Talk given to the Harding Land Trust Annual Meeting, April 23, 1997. Typed and annotated notes.

Prendergast, Mary. Untitled research paper on historic mills in Harding Township, prepared for David Budd and the Harding Township Environmental Commission in 1993; filed in Harding Township Historic Society.

United States Census. Population Schedule. Harding Township, Morris County, New Jersey, 1820, 1840, 1850, 1860.

United States Census. Products of Agriculture. Harding Township, Morris County, New Jersey, 1850, 1860, 1880.

United States Census. Products of Industry. Harding Township, Morris County, New Jersey, 1820, 1850, 1860, 1880.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 9 Page 68

Maps

Beers, F. W. Atlas of Morris County. Beers, Ellis, & Soule, New York, 1868.

Lathrop, J.M. and Thomas Flynn. Atlas of Part of Morris County, New Jersey. Philadelphia, PA: A.H. Mueller Company, 1910.

Lightfoot, J. and Geil, Samuel. Map of Morris County New Jersey. J. B. Shields, Publisher, Morristown, 1853.

Littell, John, A Map of the Passaic Valley. John Littell, Publisher. Lewis & Brown, Lithographers. New York, 1845.

Map of Morris County, 1936; collection of the Morristown and Morris Township Free Public Library.

Robinson, E. Atlas of Morris County. E. Robinson, New York, 1887.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris County, New Jersey

Section number 10 Page 69

Boundary Justification

The Silver Lake Historic District is centered on the waterway known as the Pine Brook, which arises from hillside springs in the northern reaches of the district, and flows south-southeasterly toward the Passaic River, some 10 miles away. It is the broad valley of the brook, from the water itself to the hilltops that enclose it, which defines the general boundaries of the historic district. The Pine Brook supported several water-powered milling operations in the 18th and 19th centuries, and thus served as a vital part of the farming community which grew up in the area. It is the largest of the man-made millponds along the stream's length, now called Silver Lake, which gives the district its name. Silver Lake is in the center of the district, both geographically and historically.

The Silver Lake Historic District is characterized by rolling terrain, with several parcels of undeveloped land providing a distinctly rural setting for the houses and farmsteads of the area. Lot sizes are a minimum of three acres in size, and houses are generally well set back from the roadways. The district encompasses land in the Pine Brook watershed from the northern reaches of the stream and the northern edge of the Township boundary, south to the point where the village of Green Village begins, with small lots and houses set close to the roadway and to each other. The demarcation between the village and the more rural qualities of the Silver Lake District is clear and distinct at this point. The core of Green Village is already listed on the State Register of Historic Places, but the boundaries do not extend to encompass the full extent of the village development.

To the east, the district extends along Spring Valley Road, marking the eastern boundary of Harding Township with Chatham Township. On the Harding Township side of the street, larger lots include many older houses, built to face south to take advantage of the light. Through the back of their lots, these properties are contiguous to the Pine Brook valley. On the Chatham side, smaller lots with predominantly newer houses present a different visual character, and the land begins to slope away to the east, putting these structures in a different geographical setting from the Pine Brook valley.

In the northeast corner of Harding Township, the Silver Lake Historic District abuts in some places the Hartley Farms Historic District, entered into the National Register in 1992. The two districts are closely linked in their early 20th century development, for Marcellus Hartley Dodge, who lived at Hartley Farms also owned a great deal of property included in the Silver Lake Historic District. He was also instrumental in establishing the zoning "covenant" which protected the area from most development through the mid-20th century, preserving the uniquely rural character of the landscape while neighboring Morristown, Morris Township, and Chatham Townships underwent rapid suburban expansion.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 10 Page 70 a

Verbal Boundary Description

Included in the Silver Lake Historic District are the following Block and Lot numbers:

Block 4 / Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 14.04, 14.07, 26, 27

Block 5 / Lots 1, 1.01, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.03

Block 6 / Lots 1, 2, 2.01, 3, 3.01, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 9.01, 9.02, 9.03, 9.04, 9.05, 9.06, 10, 11, 11.01, 11.02, 11.03, 12

Block 7 / Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 4.01, 4.02, 4.03, 4.04, 4.05, 4.06

Block 8 / Lots 1, 1.01, 2, 3, 3.01, 5, 5.01, 9.01, 11

Block 9 / Lots 1, 2, 3, 3.01, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 27, 32

Block 10 / Lots 15, 15.01, 15.02, 15.03, 19

Block 16 / Lot 19

Block 19 / Lots 5, 6, 7.00, 7.01, 7.02

Block 22 / Lots 4, 4.01, 5

Bridges: Spring Valley Road Bridge over un-named stream
County Bridge #553
Bridge at Van Beuren Road over Pine Brook
Bridge over Pine Brook below Silver Lake dam
Red Gate Road Bridge
Dickson's Mill Road County Bridge #489
Bridge over Pine Brook

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris Co., New Jersey

Section number 10 Page 70b

UTM References

1	18	544880	4512500
2	18	545300	4512100
3	18	545020	4511640
4	18	545680	4511120
5	18	546080	4511360
6	18	546200	4511260
7	18	545960	4510400
8	18	545720	4509940
9	18	545500	4509960
10	18	544940	4510040
11	18	543560	4510460
12	18	543260	4510780
13	18	543020	4511320
14	18	542890	4512160
15	18	543380	4512460

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris County, New Jersey

Section number 10 Page 71

PHOTO LIST

Photographs taken by Janet W. Foster
March 1995
Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township, Morris County, New Jersey

negatives in possession of Acroterion, Historic Preservation Consultants
27 Maple Avenue, Madison, New Jersey 07940

Photo Number	Site Number	Location / View Direction
1.	44	View of the Pine Brook below Silver Lake
2.	78	Rural intersection at heart of district
3.	01	View south from Blue Mill Road - Fernimore House
4.	05	View west from James Street - Cross-Morris House
5.	07	View west from James Street - Wexford Farm barn
6.	08	View west from James Street - Wexford Farm house
7.	09	View west from James Street - Goble farmhouse
8.	11	View east from James Street - upper Pine Brook valley
9.	19	View north from Blue Mill Road - Berghorn Barn
10.	20	View north from Blue Mill Road - Berghorn House
11.	22	View northeast from property off Van Beuren Road - house
12.	22	View west from Van Beuren Road - barn
13.	23	View west from banks of Pine Brook
14.	24	View west from Van Beuren Road - main house of Plough Penny Hill
15.	24	View west from Van Beuren Road - tenant cottage
16.	25	View northeast from end of driveway - Crestley
17.	26	View west from driveway
18.	28	View northwest from Van Beuren Road - Mitchell Estate outbuildings
19.	29	View northeast from Van Beuren Road - Van Beuren barns
20.	38	View northeast from Van Beuren Road - Stoble farmhouse
21.	40	View east from within property off Van Beuren Road

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris County, New Jersey

Section number 10 Page 72

-
- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| 22. | 41 | View north from Blue Mill Road - Hollyhill |
| 23. | 42 | View north from Blue Mill Road - Colgate Stable |
| 24. | 43 | View southwest from within property off Blue Mill Road |
| 25. | 44 | View of the dam at Silver Lake, view west from Blue Mill Road |
| 26. | 44 | View from the dam at Silver Lake, to site of "The Blue Mill" |
| 27. | 45 | View southeast from dam at Silver Lake |
| 28. | 47 | View east across Silver lake from dam to Heald House |
| 29. | 48 | View north across Silver Lake from dam |
| 30. | 50 | View west from Red Gate Road - Red Gate Farm - house |
| 31. | 50 | View south from pasture at Red Gate Farm - barns |
| 32. | 53 | View north from Red Gate Road - Parcels Farm |
| 33. | 54 | View east from Red Gate Road - Munson-Hellrigel Farmhouse |
| 34. | 61 | View north from Blue Mill Road - Ruhier House |
| 35. | 62 | View north from Blue Mill Road - Bailey House |
| 36. | 63 | View north from Blue Mill Road - Lindsley House |
| 37. | 65 | View northwest on Spring Valley Road, near intersection with Blue Mill Road |
| 38. | 66 | View east on property - ruins of Doremus Greenhouses |
| 39. | 66 | View west on property - ruins of Doremus Greenhouses |
| 40. | 66 | View north on property - ruins of Doremus Greenhouses |
| 41. | 71 | View south from Blue Mill Road - Olmstead House |
| 42. | 72 | View south from Blue Mill Road along bridle trail |
| 43. | 76 | View south from Blue Mill Road opposite Red Gate Road |
| 44. | 77 | View south from across Blue Mill Road, beside Silver Lake |
| 45. | 78 | View west from intersection of Blue Mill Rd. & Dickson's Mill Rd. |
| 46. | 78 | View north from Dickson's Mill Road - Jenkins' Barns |
| 47. | 81 | View northwest along abandoned 18th c. road |
| 48. | 83 | View northeast along Cherry Lane, with fields beside it |
| 49. | 84 | View southwest from head of Cherry Lane |
| 50. | 85 | View southeast from Cherry Lane - Cockrem-DeMotts house |
| 51. | 85 | View south from Cherry Lane - Cockrem-DeMotts barn |
| 52. | 87 | View southwest from driveway off Dickson's Mill Road |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris County, New Jersey

Section number 10 Page 73

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| 53. | 90 | View southeast from Dickson's Mill Road |
| 54. | 91 | View west from Dickson's Mill Road - Millers' House |
| 55. | 92 | View north along the Pine Brook at southern edge of district |
| 56. | 93 | View east from western bank of the Pine Brook at Dickson's Mill Rd. |
| 57. | 94 | View north from Pine Brook near Dickson's Mill Road - lower dam |
| 58. | 94 | View northeast from Pine Brook- close-up of lower dam |
| 59. | 94 | View northeast from Pine Brook near Dickson's Mill Road- upper dam |
| 60. | 94 | View northwest along Pine Brook in former millpond to upper dam |
| 61. | 95 | View west from east bank of Pine Brook at southern edge of district |
| 62. | 96 | View west from Spring Valley Road |
| 63. | 97 | View northwest from driveway off Spring Valley Road |
| 64. | 98 | View north from Spring Valley Road |
| 65. | 99 | View northwest from Spring Valley Road - barn |
| 66. | 30 | View of Seth Thomas House, as published in <i>Architectural Record</i> , 1925
South front |
| 67. | 30 | View of Seth Thomas House, as published in <i>Architectural Record</i> , 1925
North elevation - entrance |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris County, New Jersey

Section number APPENDIX Page 74

Index to Maps showing the Silver Lake Historic District

1. USGS Map, 7.5 minute series, Morristown Quad
2. USGS Map, 7.5 minute series, Chatham Quad
3. District map based on Harding Township Tax Maps, showing
 - contributing properties with site number keyed to Description section
 - non-contributing properties with site numbers
 - photo numbers and direction of camera view
 - township block and lot numbers
4. District map with non-contributing properties highlighted in cross-hatching
5. Portion of the 1887 map of Morris County, Passaic Township, with district outlined
6. Portion of the 1910 map of southeast Morris County, with district outlined
7. Overlay to the 1910 map with major property owners within district noted
8. Overlay to the 1910 map with major property owners of 1929 noted
9. Morris County road map of 1936 with major property owners noted; approximate area of district outlined

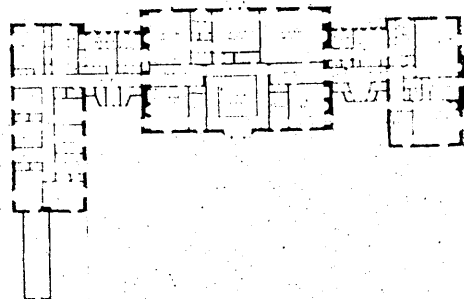


South Front

SETH THOMAS, ESQ.

MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

1925



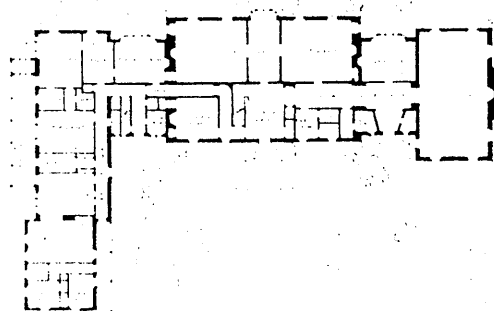
SILVER LAKE HISTORIC DISTRICT

PHOTO 66



Entrance Front

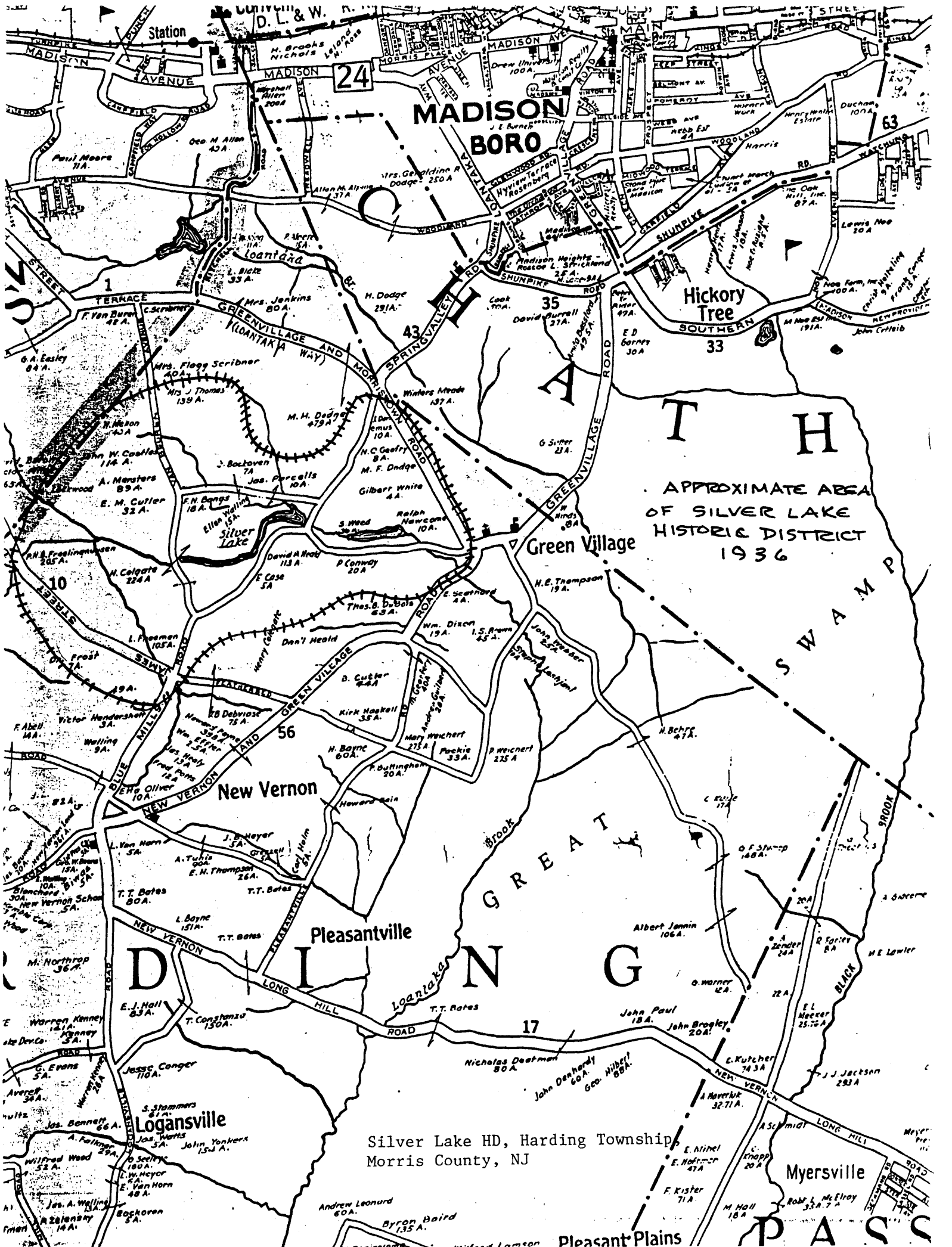
SETH THOMAS, ESQ.
MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY
1925



SILVER LAKE HISTORIC DISTRICT



PHOTO 67



MADISON BORO

T H
APPROXIMATE AREA
OF SILVER LAKE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
1936

New Vernon

Pleasantville

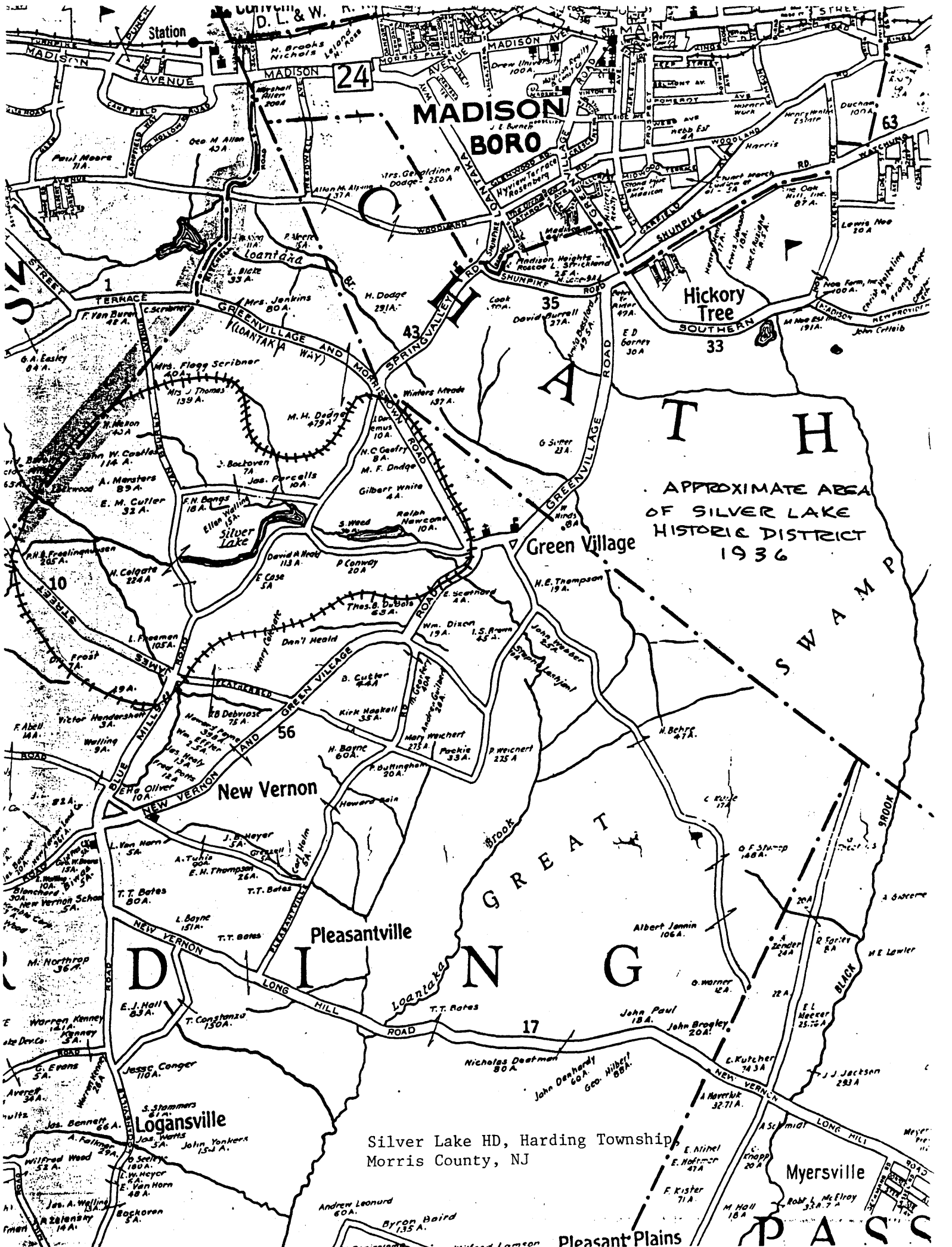
Logansville

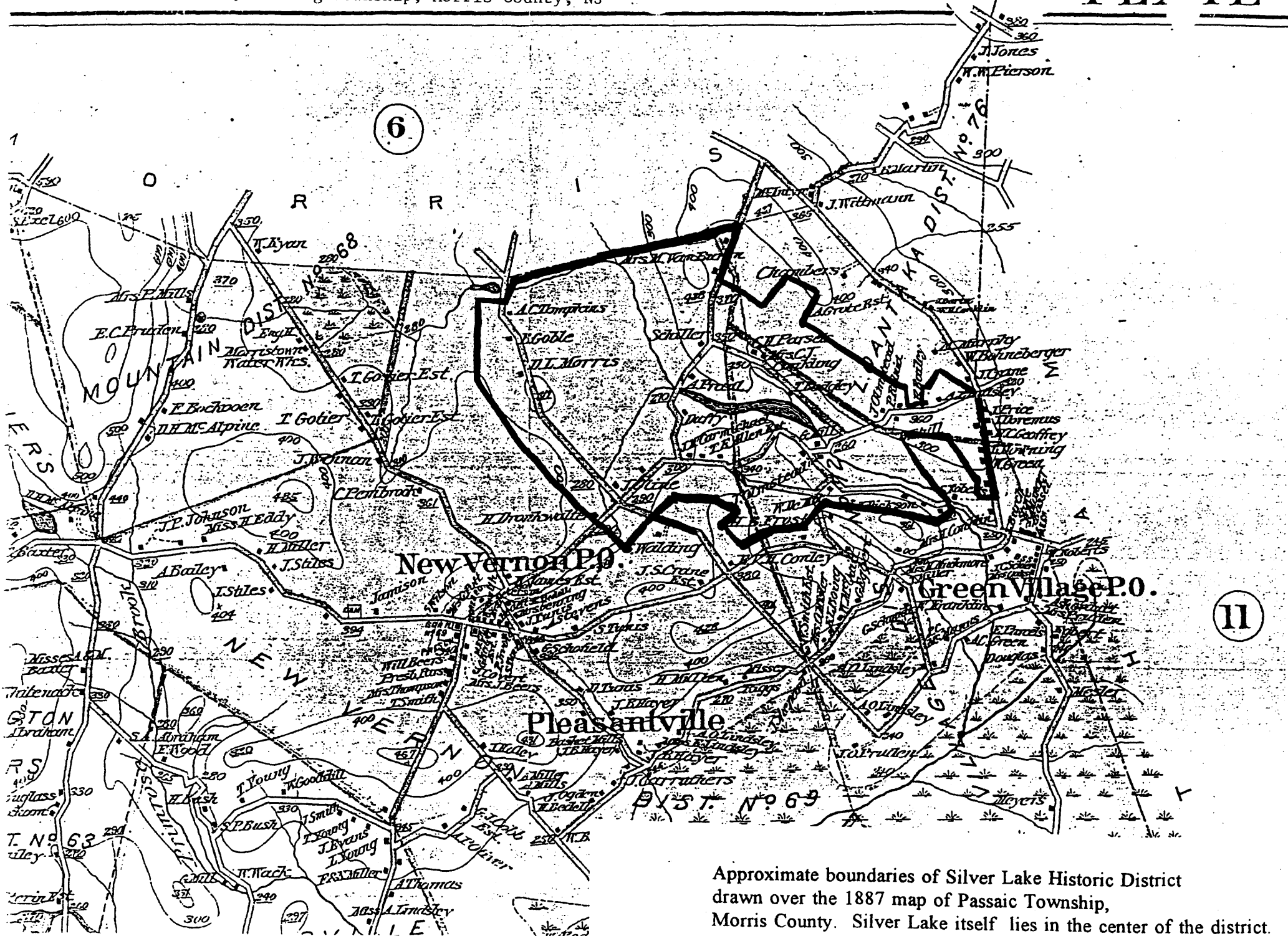
Silver Lake HD, Harding Township,
Morris County, NJ

Pleasant Plains

Myersville

P A S S

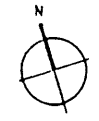
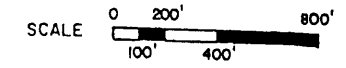




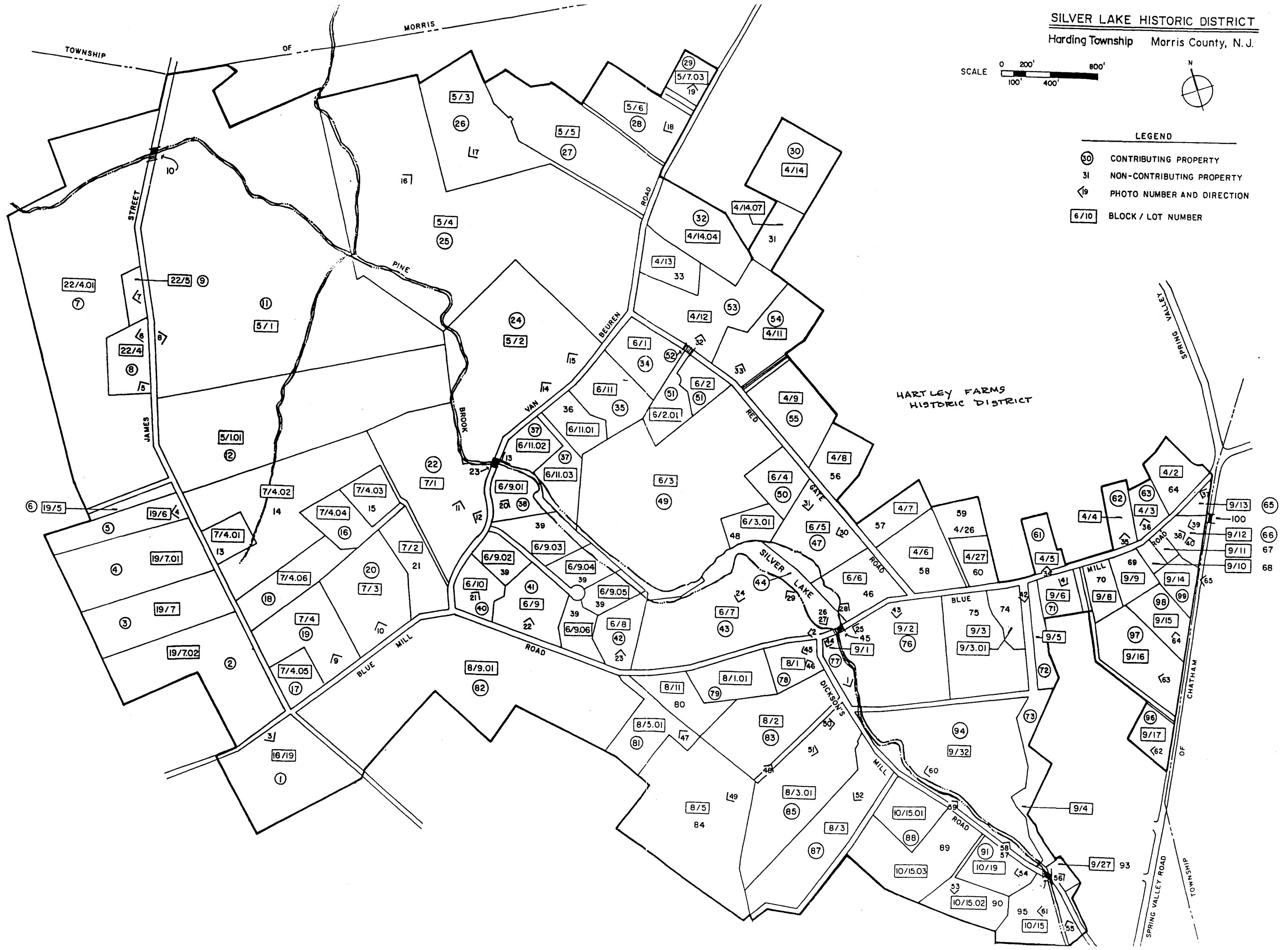
Approximate boundaries of Silver Lake Historic District drawn over the 1887 map of Passaic Township, Morris County. Silver Lake itself lies in the center of the district.

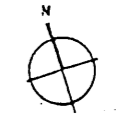
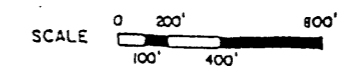
SILVER LAKE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Harding Township Morris County, N.J.







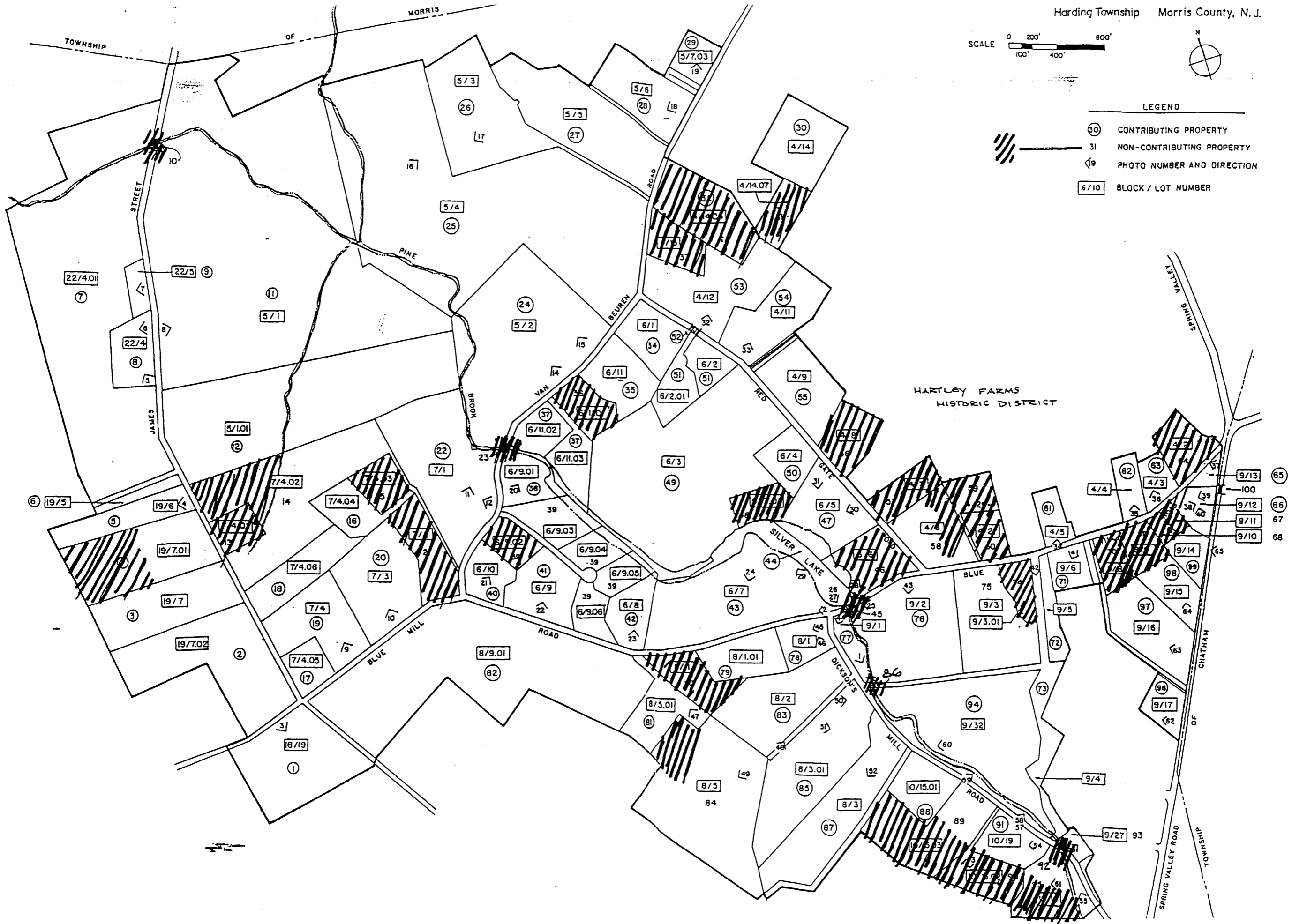
- LEGEND
- Ⓢ CONTRIBUTING PROPERTY
 - 31 NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTY
 - ↙ PHOTO NUMBER AND DIRECTION
 - 6/10 BLOCK / LOT NUMBER



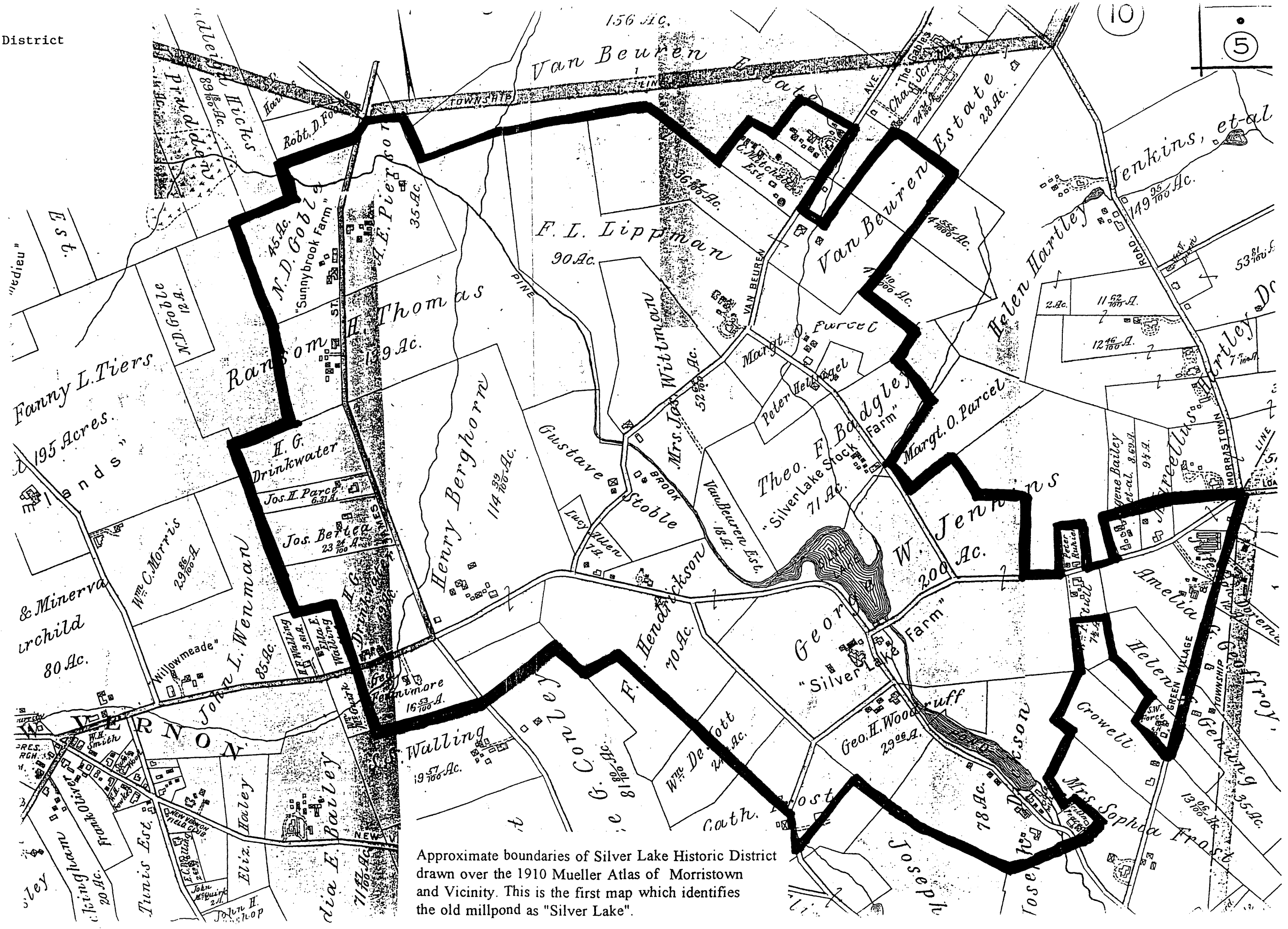


LEGEND

-  CONTRIBUTING PROPERTY
-  NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTY
-  PHOTO NUMBER AND DIRECTION
-  BLOCK / LOT NUMBER

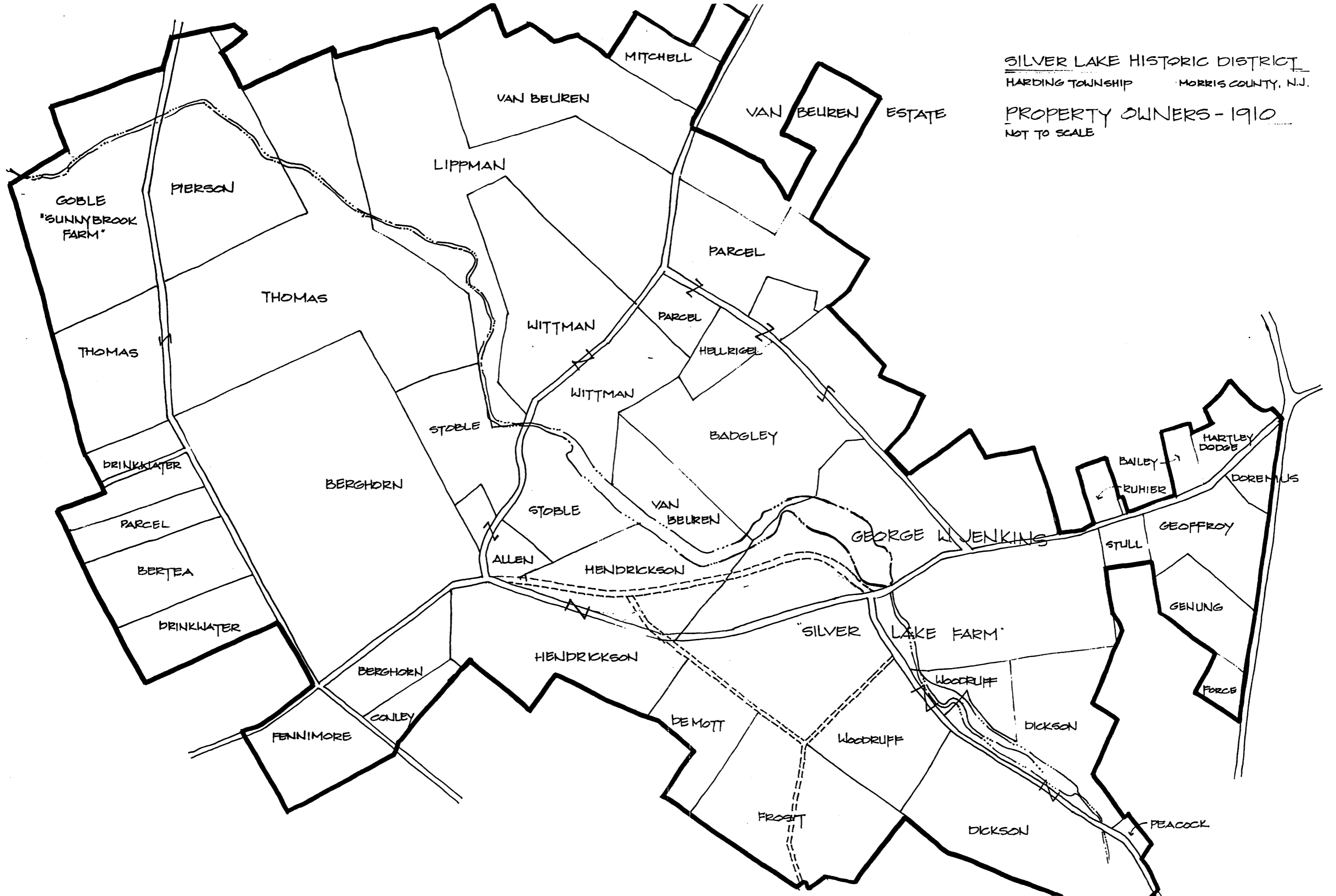


Silver Lake Historic District
Harding Township
Morris County, NJ



Approximate boundaries of Silver Lake Historic District drawn over the 1910 Mueller Atlas of Morristown and Vicinity. This is the first map which identifies the old millpond as "Silver Lake".

SILVER LAKE HISTORIC DISTRICT
HARDING TOWNSHIP MORRIS COUNTY, N.J.
PROPERTY OWNERS - 1910
NOT TO SCALE



SILVER LAKE HISTORIC DISTRICT
HARDING TOWNSHIP MORRIS COUNTY, N.J.

ESTATE OWNERS - 1929
NOT TO SCALE

