

MUNICIPAL OVERVIEW: BOONTON TOWNSHIP

“FROM THE WATERS OF THE ROCKAWAY TO THE PEAK OF THE TOURNE”

TOTAL SQUARE MILES: 8 **POPULATION:** 4,287 (2000 Census)
TOTAL SURVEYED HISTORIC RESOURCES: 57



SITES LOST SINCE 1986¹:

- 1402-0032, Vanderhuff House
- 1402-0036, P. Tucker House, 122 Powerville Road (old address). Demolished in 2002, replaced with new construction.

RESOURCES DOCUMENTED BY HABS/HAER/HALS:

- 1402-0014, Adam-Miller House, HABS NJ-193
- 1402-0026, Scott-Decamp House, HABS NJ-558, “William Scott Mansion House, Powerville Road, Powerville, Morris County, NJ.” File contains 29 measured drawings, 2 photos (interior only) 4/28/1939, and 6 data pages.

RESOURCES LISTED IN OR DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER BY NJHPO²: 9

Decker-Kincaid House (591 Powerville Road)

SHPO ID# 4054, NR ID# 05000126

Powerville Tavern (43-48 North Main Street)

SHPO ID# 9

James Dixon Farm (Rockaway Valley Road,
northeast of Valley Road)

SHPO ID# 2090, NR ID# 72000804

Morris Canal, Existing and former bed

SHPO ID# 2784, NR ID# 74002228

Rockaway Valley Methodist Church (Valley Road,
northwest of Washington Avenue)

SHPO ID# 2092, NR ID# 77000891

Vesco and Sudbury Historic Sites

SHPO ID# 4616

RESOURCES NOTED IN THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT MORRIS COUNTY (HPEMC):

The Township of Boonton is in Region “B”, with 4 sites:

- B9** Dixon Farm – 440 Rockaway Valley Road
- B10** Adam Miller House – 2 Farber Hill Road
- B11** James Miller House – 60 Rockaway Valley Road
- B12** William Scott Mansion – 199 Powerville Road

MUNICIPAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION: No

LOCALLY DESIGNATED/REGULATED RESOURCES: NO

Historic Sites are listed in the Township of Boonton’s Environmental Resource Inventory of 2001.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT IN MUNICIPAL MASTER PLAN? No

In 2005, Boonton Township adopted a Master Plan amendment, which contains a map of historic resources in the township.

¹ Documentation gathered, including completed investigative memorandum, can be found in the “Lost Sites Documentation” file, located at the Morris County Planning Office, Morristown, New Jersey.

² Resources with National Park Service and/or NJ Historic Preservation Office determination.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY: Once part of the area known as “Peaquannock,” a Native-American word meaning “cleared for planting,” the first settler of official record was Frederick Demouth. His original surveyed lot included the area that in future would contain the Stickle, Bott and Kincaid farms. Boonton Township was generally agricultural in nature throughout its history. However, the dense, southern section of Boonton Township, known as Powerville, grew as a result of the construction of the Morris Canal during the early 19th century. Powerville consisted of a hotel, worker’s housing, and schools in the vicinity of the Canal. In 1867, Boonton Township split from Pequannock Township to form its own municipality. The electronic instruments industry and the establishment of the Aircraft Radio Corporation heavily influenced the town’s development during the early 20th century. Today, Boonton Township retains much of its rural nature and still contains remnants of its industrial past.

ADDITIONAL FACTS:

- Felix DeWeldon, sculptor of the Iwo Jima Monument, is buried in the United Methodist Church graveyard.
- Lt. James “Jimmy” Doolittle tested navigation instruments developed by Aircraft Radio Corporation.
- Early movie making took place in Boonton Township, with local residents serving as extras. Vernon and Irene Castle, Mae Murray and Betty Compton were early stars that filmed in Boonton Township. A local ranch (Northwestern Ranch, owned by the Lindquist family) even advertised horses “*pecially trained for motion pictures with experienced cowboys to go out with all picture parties.*”

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Yes

Historical Society of Boonton Township
Marilyn Terhune (973) 627-2430

MUNICIPAL WEBSITE: <http://www.boontontownship.com/>

SOURCES: Township of Boonton website (www.boontontownship.com); Acroterion; HABS, NJ Historic Preservation Office website (www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/1identify/lists/morris.pdf); Morris County Department of Planning and Development, Preservation Trust; KSK, “Cultural Resources Inventory, Morris County, NJ, Phase II,” 2011; Jackie Bogart (local historian); Township of Boonton *Environmental Resources Inventory*; American Factfinder (<http://factfinder.census.gov>).