

MUNICIPAL OVERVIEW: MOUNTAIN LAKES BOROUGH



TOTAL SQUARE MILES: 2.9 **POPULATION:** 4,256 (2000 Census)
TOTAL SURVEYED HISTORIC RESOURCES: 49

SITES LOST SINCE 1986¹:

- 1425-0004, 31 Cobb Road. Demolished after 2004.
- 1425-0021, 321 Morris Avenue. Demolished in 2004.
- 1425-0035, 77 Cobb Road. House gutted by fire and demolished in 2005.

RESOURCES DOCUMENTED BY HABS/HAER/HALS: 0

RESOURCES LISTED IN OR DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER BY NJHPO²: 3

Fanny Road Bridge (Demolished)
SHPO ID# 2210

Mountain Lakes Historic District
Roughly bounded by NJTransit train tracks,
Fanny Road, Eldock Avenue, Rock Lane, North
Pocono Road
SHPO ID# 3632, NR ID# 05000963

Grimes Farm (Jonathan Grimes Homestead)
Craven Road
SHPO ID# 2211, NR ID# 77000900

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

The Borough of Mountain Lakes is in Region "B", with 5 sites:

- B52** Community Church, 46 Briarcliff Rd.
- B53** John Grimes Homestead, 45 Bloomfield Avenue
- B54** Lake Drive School, 10 Lake Drive
- B55** Mt. Lakes Railroad Station, Woodland Ave and Midvale Road
- B56** Righter House, 99 Pocono Road

MUNICIPAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION: Yes
Mountain Lakes Historic Preservation Committee
400 Boulevard, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046
<http://www.mtnlakes.org/Borough/HPC/>

LOCALLY DESIGNATED/REGULATED RESOURCES: 0

The Mountain Lakes Historic Preservation Committee has a mission to educate the community about historic preservation and provide assistance. There are currently no historic preservation regulations in Mountain Lakes.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT IN MUNICIPAL MASTER PLAN? Yes

HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The land now known as Mountain Lakes was originally owned by the Righter, Grimes, Ball and VanDuyne families. During the early 20th century suburban planned developments became a popular trend for upper-middle-class New York City families looking to settle in more rural settings. In 1910,

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.

Herbert J. Hapgood capitalized on this growing trend and established a residential community that incorporated well-crafted, local materials, reminiscent of Gustav Stickley's Arts & Crafts Movement. Residences were laid out on large, elevated lots. The community's curvilinear design, lake construction, and railroad station opening in 1912 provided an easily-accessible paradise from bustling and crowded New York City. Seeking to control the size of the growing development, Mountain Lakes Borough became autonomous in 1924, splitting from Hanover and Boonton Townships. Today, Mountain Lakes is primarily comprised of the Hapgood development, older 19th-century residences along Intervale Road, and a segment of the Lake Arrowhead development to the south (primarily in Denville). Much of Hapgood's original development has still been preserved, and was augmented by the Belhall Company after Hapgood declared bankruptcy in the 1920s.

ADDITIONAL FACTS:

- In 1964, you could rent a 3-bedroom Mountain Lakes home for \$225.00 a month.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Yes

The Mountain Lakes Historic Preservation Committee also serves as the town's historical society.

MUNICIPAL WEBSITE: <http://www.mtnlakes.org/>

SOURCES: Mountain Lakes website (<http://www.mtnlakes.org/>); Acroterion; 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 Survey; American FactFinder (<http://factfinder.census.gov>)