

MUNICIPAL OVERVIEW: DENVILLE TOWNSHIP

“THE HUB OF MORRIS COUNTY”



TOTAL SQUARE MILES: 12.6
Census)

POPULATION: 15,824 (2000

TOTAL SURVEYED HISTORIC RESOURCES: 81

SITES LOST SINCE 1986¹:

- 1408-0015, Hathaway House, 321 Palmer Road. The office building that now occupies the lot was built in 1989.
- 1408-0017, J.S Lyon House, 360 Franklin Road. House demolished and site overgrown, but a well remains.
- 1408-0030, Denville Train Station, Estling Road, demolished.
- 1408-0042, Savage Road Bridge. Bridge was replaced 1992-1993.
- 1408-0059, Bush Road Bridge. Bridge was replaced in 1995.
- 1408-0060, Bush Farm, Bush Road. Park Meadow Estates subdivision was constructed between 1993 and 1999.
- 1408-0061, 27 Old Boonton Road. House was demolished in 2004. New construction documented in 2005.
- 1408-0064, Pocono Road Bridge. Bridge was replaced in 1989.

RESOURCES DOCUMENTED BY HABS/HAER/HALS:

- 1408-0062, Peter Cook House, HABS NJ-642 (19 drawings, 5 black and white photos dated 1/17/1940, 6 data pages)

RESOURCES LISTED IN OR DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER BY NJHPO²: 7

Ayres Farm (Knuth Farm) (25 Cooper Road)
SHPO ID# 378, NR ID# 98000598

Peer House and Store (218 Diamond Spring Road)
SHPO ID# 2106

Denville Interlocking Tower (NJ Transit
Morristown Line, Milepost 37.30)
SHPO ID# 240

St. Francis Health Resort (Diamond Spring Road)
SHPO ID# 3379

Denville Railroad Station (Estling Road)
SHPO ID# 239

Old Main Delaware, Lackawanna and Western
Railroad Historic District (Morris and Essex
Railroad Right-of-Way, NJ Transit Morristown
Line, from Hudson, Hoboken City to Warren,
Washington Township and then along Warren
Railroad to the Delaware River)
SHPO ID# 3525

Estling Lake Bridge (NJ Transit Morristown Line,
Milepost 34.58 over Estling Lake)
SHPO ID# 239

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

The Township of Denville is in Region “B”, with 2 sites:

B13 Ebling House, Openaki Road (West shore of Lake Openaki)

B14 Morris Canal, Lift lock #8 East (Intersection of Diamond Spring and Boonton Roads)

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.

MUNICIPAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION: No

LOCALLY DESIGNATED/REGULATED RESOURCES: None

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT IN MUNICIPAL MASTER PLAN? No

HISTORICAL SUMMARY: Denville was originally settled by Dutch and English colonists as early as 1713. The Franklin and Union Hill sections of Denville represent the township's agricultural villages of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The establishment of the Morris Canal and the Morris and Essex Railroad in the 19th century influenced the development of Denville's central commercial core, located at the intersection of Main Street, Broadway, and Diamond Spring Road. Industries such as iron mining, farming and ice harvesting spurred the Township's growth in the 19th and 20th centuries. Denville emerged as a summer resort town in the early 20th century, establishing several lake communities and hotels, such as Indian Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Cedar Lake, St. Francis Health Resort and the Diamond Spring Inn. These developments and institutions drew in seasonal residents from surrounding urban areas. Capitalizing on its new popularity, Denville became autonomous in 1913. While Denville has a rich history, today most of its remaining historic fabric primarily dates to the late 19th - to early-20th centuries.

ADDITIONAL FACTS:

- Four American Presidents have visited Denville:
 - 1) **George Washington** had his horse re-shod at a blacksmith shop on Casterline Road
 - 2) **Grover Cleveland** enjoyed dinner at The Denville Hotel (now known as The Wayside Inn.)
 - 3) Either **Warren G. Harding** or **Herbert Hoover** visited friends who owned Diamond Spring Lodge (now known as NJ Foundation for the Blind)
 - 4) **George Bush, Sr.** visited Dean Gallo in St. Clare's Hospital
- Reaction Motors, which was located in Denville until the early 1970s, developed the engine used in the X-15 piloted by **Chuck Yeager** when he broke the sound barrier.
- Rocker **Ozzy Osbourne** has occasionally rented an estate in Denville.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Yes

Denville Historical Society and Museum
P.O Box 466
Diamond Spring Road
Denville, NJ 07834

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

SOURCES: Denville Township website (<http://www.denvillenj.org/>); Acroterion; HABS; Denville Historical Society, 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*The Encyclopedia of New Jersey*; American FactFinder (http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en)