

## MUNICIPAL OVERVIEW: THE TOWN OF BOONTON

### **“PER INDUSTRIA PROSERAMUS” (PROSPERING THROUGH INDUSTRY)**



**TOTAL SQUARE MILES: 2.7**                      **POPULATION: 8,496 (2000 Census)**  
**TOTAL SURVEYED HISTORIC RESOURCES: 69**

#### **SITES LOST SINCE 1986<sup>1</sup>:**

- 1401-0028, *Ebenezer F. Smith House*, 603 Fanny Road. Razed 6/19/95 for road construction.

**ENDANGERED SITES:** Per The Heritage Review (Fall 2003), Morris Canal sites throughout Morris County are #9 on Morris County’s ten most endangered sites list, and “need increased local awareness and designation in master plans as sites worthy of protection.”

#### **RESOURCES DOCUMENTED BY HABS/HAER/HALS:**

- 1401-0001, *Miller-Kingsland House*, HABS NJ-193 “Adam Miller House at Powerville, Powerville, Morris County.” File contains 7 drawings (measured 8/13-8/14/1935, drawn 8/22-10/2/1935), 2 photos dated 3/8/1938, and 2 data pages.

#### **RESOURCES LISTED IN OR DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER BY NJHPO: 9**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Boonton Historic District (Main, Church, Birch, Cornelia, and Cedar Streets)<br>SHPO ID# 2085, NR ID# 80002509  | Jersey City Water Works District (Washington and Greenbank roads)<br>SHPO ID# 3915 |
| Boonton Public Library (619 Main Street)<br>SHPO ID# 2086, NR ID# 72000804  | Miller-Kingsland House (445 Vreeland Avenue)<br>SHPO ID# 2088, NR ID# 73001120     |
| Boonton Railroad Station AKA Delaware Lackawanna & Western Railroad Station at Boonton (Myrtle Ave, Main and Division sts.)<br>SHPO ID# 2087, NR ID# 77000889 | Morris Canal, Existing and former bed<br>SHPO ID# 2784, NR ID# 74002228            |
| Boonton Main Street Historic District (Main Street between Myrtle Ave. and Oak St.)<br>SHPO ID# 2089  | Rockaway River Bridges (NJ Transit Boonton Line, Milepost 29.43)<br>SHPO ID# 243   |
|   | Boonton Forge and Grounds (Archaeological Site)<br>SHPO ID# 4615                   |

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

The Town of Boonton is in Region “B”, with 8 sites:

- B1** James Holmes House - 619 Main Street.
- B2** Methodist Church - 515 Main Street. (Demolished between 1976 and 1986 for Post Office construction)
- B3** “Miller-Kingsland - 445 Vreeland Avenue.
- B4** Morris Canal
- B5** Morris Canal Lock # 12
- B6** 211 Cornelia Street (Octagon House)
- B7** 244 Cornelia Street (Octagon House)

<sup>1</sup> 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.

B8 St. John's Episcopal Church - Cedar Street.

**MUNICIPAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION:** Yes.

**LOCALLY DESIGNATED/REGULATED RESOURCES:**

- Ironworks Residential District
- Main Street Commercial District

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT IN MUNICIPAL MASTER PLAN?** Yes

**HISTORICAL SUMMARY:** Known at various times as “Bonetown,” “Booneton,” or “Boonton,” the area was named by David Ogden (an early iron mine owner) in 1761 to honor colonial governor Thomas Boone. Boonton became autonomous in March 1867 when it broke from Pequannock Township. Both the Morris Canal and the local iron industry heavily influenced the town’s development. Several iron works in Boonton supplied the Continental Army with supplies during the American Revolution. Today, Boonton is largely composed of three distinct neighborhoods: The Hill, the oldest part of town which lies north of Main Street; the Park, designed in the style of Calvert Vaux, lying south of the Rockaway River; and the Flats, lying between the Jersey City Reservoir and the railroad line.

**ADDITIONAL FACTS:**

- First Library: 1890
- First Police Department: May 20th 1867
- First Fire Department: July 30, 1891

**LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Yes

*The Boonton Historical Society and Museum (The John Taylor Building)*  
[www.boonton.org/historical/](http://www.boonton.org/historical/)



**MUNICIPAL WEBSITE:** [www.boonton.org](http://www.boonton.org)

**GRANTS RECEIVED FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION:**

Boonton Historical Society and Museum \$2000.00 for operating costs (2003).  
Boonton Holmes Public Library \$2500.00 for operating costs (2003).

**SOURCES:** Boonton website ([www.boonton.org](http://www.boonton.org)), Acroterion, HABS, Boonton Police Department, NJ Historic Preservation Office website ([www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/1identify/lists/morris.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/1identify/lists/morris.pdf)), Morris County Department of Planning, Development, & Technology, KSK Survey.