

MUNICIPAL OVERVIEW: VICTORY GARDENS

“FROM WORLD WAR II AND BEYOND”

TOTAL SQUARE MILES: 0.2 **POPULATION:** 1,546 (2000 Census)

TOTAL SURVEYED HISTORIC RESOURCES: 7

SITES LOST SINCE 1986¹: 0

RESOURCES DOCUMENTED BY HABS/HAER/HALS: None

RESOURCES LISTED IN OR DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER BY NJHPO²: 1

Victory Gardens Historic District

(Includes all of Victory Gardens Borough with the exception of a strip of recent residential development)

SHPO ID# 2254

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

Victory Gardens Borough is in Region “F”, with 0 sites:

MUNICIPAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION: No

LOCALLY DESIGNATED/REGULATED RESOURCES: None

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT IN MUNICIPAL MASTER PLAN? No

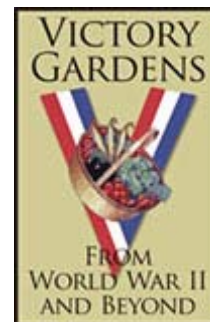
HISTORICAL SUMMARY: Two weeks after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Federal Government acquired 91-acres of Randolph Township to build emergency low-cost housing for defense employees working at nearby defense plants, namely Picatinny Arsenal. Coined Victory Gardens, the development was quickly constructed to provide basic, but functional, accommodations for defense workers. These one-story cinderblock homes were available in one-, two-, and three-bedroom options. The construction of Victory Gardens was completed in six months. The federal government offered subsidies to Randolph Township to provide services such as public education to Victory Gardens’ residents. After the war, the federal government cut Randolph Township’s subsidies to support the municipality. Unable to afford additional services, Randolph Township and Victory Gardens split, making Victory Gardens its own borough on June 20, 1951. The Borough still shares municipal services with surrounding authorities, such as school sharing with Dover. (Victory Gardens did have its own kindergarten, which met in the Municipal building court house. The class was moved to Dover permanently 1967.) Over the years, Victory Gardens has tried to consolidate with other municipalities; however, all attempts have been unsuccessful.

ADDITIONAL FACTS:

- All streets but four (South Salem Street, Victory Court, Highland Way, and Franklin Road) are named after United States presidents.
- Incorporated in 1951, Victory Gardens is the youngest and smallest of Morris County’s municipalities.

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.



LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY: No

MUNICIPAL WEBSITE: None

SOURCES: 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, "Cultural Resources Inventory, Morris County, NJ", Phase II (2011); *The Encyclopedia of New Jersey*; Debra Evans, Victory Gardens clerk.