

MUNICIPAL OVERVIEW: MINE HILL TOWNSHIP



TOTAL SQUARE MILES: 3.0 **POPULATION:** 3,679 (2000 CENSUS)
TOTAL SURVEYED HISTORIC RESOURCES: 31

SITES LOST SINCE 1986¹:

- 1420-0008, “Barns belonging to farmhouse,” only stone pillars remain.
- 1420-0012, Dr. Jenkin’s House. Site is now the Atrium Professional Building.
- 1420-0013, 120 Randall Avenue.

RESOURCES DOCUMENTED BY HABS/HAER/HALS: 0

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

Bridget Smith House (124 Randolph Avenue)
SHPO ID# 3387, NR ID# 98000099

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

Mine Hill Township is in Region “F”, with 1 site:

- F8** Mahlon Dickerson Mansion (Resource destroyed in 1964)

MUNICIPAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION: No

LOCALLY DESIGNATED/REGULATED RESOURCES: None

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT IN MUNICIPAL MASTER PLAN? No

HISTORICAL SUMMARY: As indicated by its name, Mine Hill was one of the most productive mining areas in Morris County during the 19th and 20th centuries. Mine Hill’s largest site, the Dickerson Mine, was owned by New Jersey Governor Mahlon Dickerson and produced a significant portion of the ore used in the Revolutionary War. Mine Hill remained largely undeveloped during the 19th century due to lack of direct access to the Morris Canal and main railroad lines. Mine Hill Township was formed from Randolph Township and incorporated in 1923. By the end of its mining history, the municipality produced a total of over 6,083,000 tons of ore. While many Morris County towns reinvested in other forms of production after the decline of the mining industry, Mine Hill continued to struggle economically through the 20th century. Mine Hill, as seen today, retains little visible elements of its mining past. Most development dates to the early 20th century. It now serves as a suburban area with direct access to major thoroughfare Route 46.

ADDITIONAL FACTS:

- First Fire Department: 1915
- **Mahlon Dickerson** (4/17/1770-10/5/1853) Dickerson was a prominent citizen of Mine Hill. After flourishing as a mine owner, he later went on to hold virtually every political office in New Jersey. On the national scene, Dickerson served as Secretary of the Navy under Presidents Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren. A naval destroyer was commissioned and named in his honor; The *USS Dickerson* was sunk following an attack by a kamikaze fighter April 4, 1945.
- **The Dickerson Mine** has been referred to in some sources as the oldest mine in the United States.

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.

- **American Legion Post 391, Mine Hill** was the first post in New Jersey to sponsor the American Legion's Riders Association. This group of motorcycle enthusiasts participates in parades and holds riding events benefiting several charities.
- Mine Hill's native son, **Army Specialist Ryan E. Doltz** was among the first fatalities of New Jersey National Guardsmen in the Iraq War.
- 1420-021, 100 Irondale Road, originally documented in Mine Hill by Acroterion, is actually in Wharton. The new inventory number is 1439-0060, and the data can be found with the Wharton materials.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Yes

Ferromonte Historical Society
The Bridget Smith House
124 Randolph Avenue
Mine Hill, NJ 07803

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

SOURCES: Township of Mine Hill (<http://www.minehill.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; *The Encyclopedia of New Jersey*; American FactFinder (<http://factfinder.census.gov>)