

## MUNICIPAL OVERVIEW: ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP

“FORGING AMERICA’S FREEDOM—MORRIS COUNTY’S IRON SPIRIT”

TOTAL SQUARE MILES: 46.0    POPULATION: 22,930 (2000 Census)  
TOTAL SURVEYED HISTORIC RESOURCES: 53



SINCE 1844

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

- 1435-0001, “Cobb House.” 1305 Green Pond Road (unconfirmed)
- 1435-0021, “Beach House” 195 Green Pond Road. The house served as “Metro Supply and Service in 1986. It has now been replaced with a multi-suite, 3-story office building. The “Vertical Barns” noted in the 1986 survey have survived. They now serve as “Metro Supply and Service.”

### RESOURCES DOCUMENTED BY HABS/HAER/HALS: 1

- 1435-0009, Split Rock Furnace, HABS NJ-553 “Split Rock Furnace, Split Rock, Morris County, New Jersey.” File contains 3 drawings, 7 photos dated 4/1/1939, and 8 data pages.

### RESOURCES LISTED IN OR DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER BY NJHPO<sup>2</sup>: 18

Ford-Faesch Manor House (Mount Hope Road)  
SHPO ID# 2239, NR ID# 74001184

Bed of the Mount Hope Mine Railroad (From ore loader at western embankment of Mount Hope Lake to Middletown)  
SHPO ID# 2243

Ground Bee Rockshelter Archaeological Site (28-Mr-220)  
SHPO ID# 2245

NARTS Area D Cold War Historic District (Picatinny Arsenal)  
SHPO ID# 4887

Hibernia Methodist Episcopal Church (Green Pond Road)  
SHPO ID# 2240

Hibernia Historic District (Parts of Green Pond, Main and Lower Hibernia Roads, Church Street)  
SHPO ID# 4015

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

Lake Denmark Road Historic Homestead Site  
SHPO ID# 2241

Looker-Lyon Farm  
SHPO ID#5045

Picatinny Arsenal Administration and Research District (Buffington Road, Joyces Lane, Parker Road)  
SHPO ID# 2244

Morris Canal, Existing and former bed  
SHPO ID# 2784, NR ID# 74002228

Picatinny Arsenal Navy Commander’s Quarters, Building 3250 (Main Road)  
SHPO ID# 4288

Mount Hope Mine Historic District (Mount Hope Road)  
SHPO ID# 2242

Picatinny Arsenal 600 Ordinance Testing Area District (20<sup>th</sup> Avenue)  
SHPO ID# 4286

Picatinny Arsenal Stable, Building 3316 (Main Road)  
SHPO ID# 2252

<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.

<sup>2</sup> Resources with National Park Service and/or NJ Historic Preservation Office determination.

Picatinny Arsenal Test Area E, Naval Air Rocket  
Test Station District [NARTS Area E] (Snake Hill  
Road)  
SHPO ID# 4287

Snake Hill Road Historic Homestead Site  
SHPO ID# 3588

1500 Rocket Test Area Historic District (Picatinny  
Arsenal)  
SHPO ID# 4913

Split Rock Furnace (At the base of Split Rock  
Reservoir)  
SHPO ID # 2246

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

The Township of Rockaway is in Region “E”, with 3 sites:

- E7** Ford-Faesch Manor House
- E8** Mount Hope Methodist Church
- E9** Split Rock Furnace

**MUNICIPAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION:** No

**LOCALLY DESIGNATED/REGULATED RESOURCES:** None

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT IN MUNICIPAL MASTER PLAN?** No

**HISTORICAL SUMMARY:** The growth of Rockaway Township is attributed to its successful iron mining industry, which remained active from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The municipality’s early development was clustered in mining villages, such as Teabo, Hibernia, Middletown, Lyonsville, and Marcella. Many were constructed by mining companies and provided housing, schools and places of worship for its employees. Rockaway Township became autonomous in 1844 when it broke from Hanover and Pequannock Townships. The economy of Rockaway Township diversified in 1880 with the establishment of the Picatinny Powder Depot, now known as Picatinny Arsenal, which to this day provides defense ammunition for the United States Military. During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the growth of summer camps transitioned Rockaway Township from a mining community to a seasonal getaway. Several lakeside communities including Green Pond, Lake Telemark, and White Meadow Lake were established to provide a recreational outlet for city dwellers. Several of these communities were linked by common religious or ethnic backgrounds. Lake Telemark was established for Norwegian immigrants, while Green Pond began as a Methodist Church summer camp. The majority of these seasonal communities have now been adapted to year-round residency, although some cottages in Green Pond have still not been winterized. Today Rockaway Township has seen significant late 20<sup>th</sup> century development among its historically rural landscape. Remnants of its historic mining villages and summer resort communities are still present, although most have been modified or expanded with modern construction.

**LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Yes

*Historical Society of Rockaway Township*

P.O. Box 100

Hibernia, NJ 07842

(973) 366-6730

\*Collection kept at Rockaway Township Free Public Library, 61 Mount Hope Road, Rockaway, (973) 627-2344

**MUNICIPAL WEBSITE:** <http://www.rockawaytownship.org/>

**SOURCES:** Acroterion; HABS, 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 and Development, Preservation Trust; KSK, “Cultural Resources Inventory, Morris County, NJ”, Phase II (2011); American FactFinder (<http://factfinder.census.gov>).