

**DESIGNATION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND HISTORIC DISTRICTS  
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
(as per Section 4, Municipal Ordinance No. 00-1142, March 2, 2000)**

**Documentation for Individual Property as Historic Landmark:**

**1. Property Name:**

Common Historic Name: **Marshalls Corner School House**

Other Historic Names: n/a

Other Nomenclature (e.g., present name, site number):

**2. Property Location:**

Block: **34**                      Lot: **8**

Street Address: **95 Pennington Hopewell Road**

Mailing Address: **Hopewell, NJ 08525**

**3. Previous Designations and Evaluations:**

Property \_\_\_ is **X** is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]

Date Accepted:

Property \_\_\_ is **X** is not listed in the New Jersey Register of Historic Places

Date Accepted:

Determination of Eligibility for NRHP:

Property \_\_\_ is eligible \_\_\_ is not eligible for inclusion in NRHP

Date:

NJHPO Opinion:

Property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet NRHP criteria

Date:

Hopewell Township Historic Sites Survey Evaluation:

Property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet NRHP criteria

Property \_\_\_ has **X** has not been previously evaluated for NRHP eligibility

Other Evaluation Data:

**4. Property Ownership:**

- private (individual)
- private (corporate)
- private (institutional)
- public (local)
- public (state)
- public (other)

Name and Address of Current Owner (as per tax rolls):

**Township of Hopewell  
201 Washington Crossing – Pennington Road  
Titusville, NJ 08560**

**5. Classification:**

Property Category:

- building(s)
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

	contributing	non-contributing
buildings	<u>  1  </u>	___
sites	___	___
structures	___	___
objects	___	___
Total	<u>  1  </u>	___

**6. Function/Use:**

**Historic Function/Use: This building functioned as a one-room school house from its construction c. 1825 through 1930.**

**Current Function/Use: The property is currently owned by Hopewell Township. At present it is not being used, but the building has been used by the Lions Club in the recent past.**

## **7. Physical Description:**

Brief Summary (25 to 50 words; address site, architecture, materials, date):

**The building stands near the remaining village of Marshalls Corner on a lot, corner to a former farm lane. It is a rectangular, one-story stone structure with its gable end facing the public road. A small addition on the southern end (front) was added circa 1950 to serve as a vestibule. The historic entry door and windows of the front façade remain inside this addition, which could be removed. Three oversized 9 over 6 double hung windows are evenly spaced on each side wall. The rear wall is not fenestrated. The existing roof is standing seam metal, of a historic vintage.**

Append additional descriptive materials as appropriate (e.g., National Register documentation; Hopewell Township Historic Site Survey documentation)

## **8. Statement of Significance:**

Property possesses one or more of the following attributes (elaborate briefly as applicable):

This property is primarily significant based on attribute 1, but it also qualifies as a landmark based on attributes 4 and 7 (see descriptions below).

1. Character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage of cultural characteristics of the Township, State or Nation:

**The Marshalls Corner School House is typical of the school houses that were constructed in Hopewell Township in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the NJ state legislature established a fund to support free public schools and gave municipalities the right to levy taxes to support the education of the poor. In 1829, the legislature set up the state's formal public school system. As a result of this legislation, school districts were established in each municipality. Fourteen school districts existed within Hopewell Township during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and each district was responsible for the construction and maintenance of a school. The current building is the third school that existed in the Marshalls Corner neighborhood. According to local historian Ralph Ege, writing in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, this building followed an earlier stone structure on this site built between 1820 and 1825. The implication is that this building is of a later date than 1825, and the round-headed windows are appropriate to the Civil war period. It is possible that**

the 1825 school was replaced, or simply modified at that time. It remained in use as a school until 1930.

2. Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history:

3. Association with the lives of persons significant in our past:

4. Embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, architecture or engineering:

**The Marshalls Corner School House is typical of the one-room grammar schools that were constructed in the Hopewell Valley and elsewhere in rural New Jersey in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These buildings were simple rectangles with their gable ends facing the road and having the entrances. It is distinctive in that it is a stone rather than a timber-framed structure.**

5. Identification with the work of a builder, designer, artist, architect or landscape architect whose work has influenced the development of the Township, State or Nation:

6. Embodiment of elements of design, detail, material or craftsmanship that render an improvement architecturally significant or structurally innovative:

7. Unique location or singular physical characteristics that make a district or landmark an established or familiar visual feature:

8. Ability or potential ability to yield information important in prehistory or history:

Append additional narrative or materials relating to property significance as appropriate (e.g., National Register documentation; Hopewell Township Historic Site Survey documentation)

### ***9. Major Bibliographic References:***

Itemize here or append separate sheet

***Pioneers of Old Hopewell, Ralph Ege***

*Hopewell Valley Heritage*, Alice B. Lewis  
Richard W. Hunter and Richard L. Porter, 1990: *Hopewell: A Historical Geography*.

**10. Geographical/Boundary Data:**

Description of Limits of Designated Property (note if coincident with tax block & lot):

**The property coincides with Block 34, Lot 8.**

Acreage of Designated Property: **0.76 acre.**

USGS 7.5' Topographic Series Quadrangle:

UTM References: Zone 18; Easting 517484 \_\_\_\_\_; Northing 4468041 \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Additional Required Documentation:**

Photographs - append one or more recent photographs of the designee property  
**Several recent photographs have been attached. A historic photograph of the school c. 1900 appears on p. 206 (Plate 9.6) in *Hopewell: A Historical Geography*.**

Mapping - at a minimum append copy of current tax map showing the designee property and its boundaries; append other maps as appropriate (USGS maps; historic maps)

***Documentation prepared by:***

Pam J. Crabtree and David L. Blackwell

Date of Receipt of Documentation by Historic Preservation Commission: **August 19, 2008**

Date Scheduled for Public Hearing: **September 16, 2008**

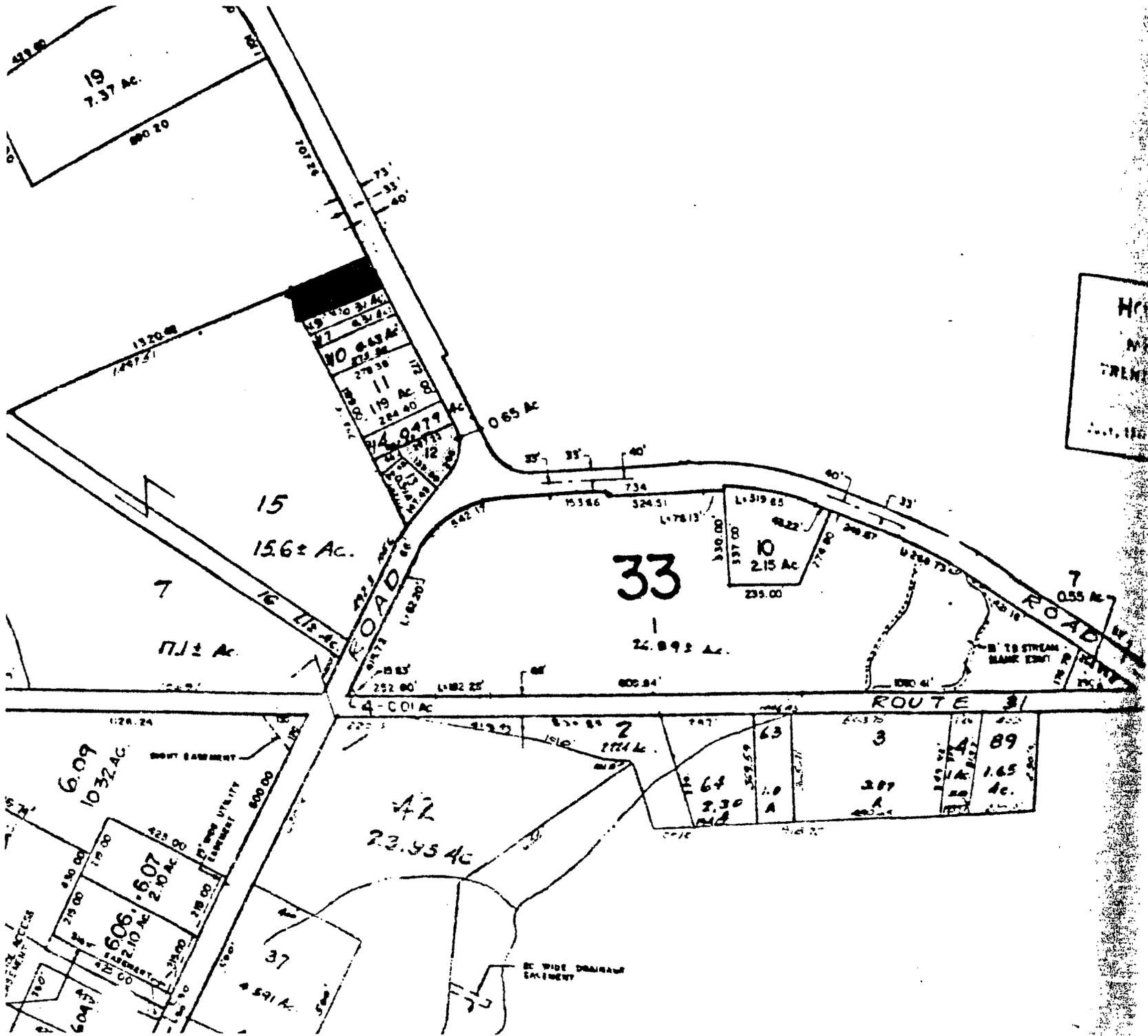
Date of Owner Notification of Impending Designation Process: **August 27, 2008**

Date Public Notice of Hearing Published in Official Newspaper of the Township:

**Trenton Times, August 26, 2008**  
**Hopewell Valley News, August 27, 2008**

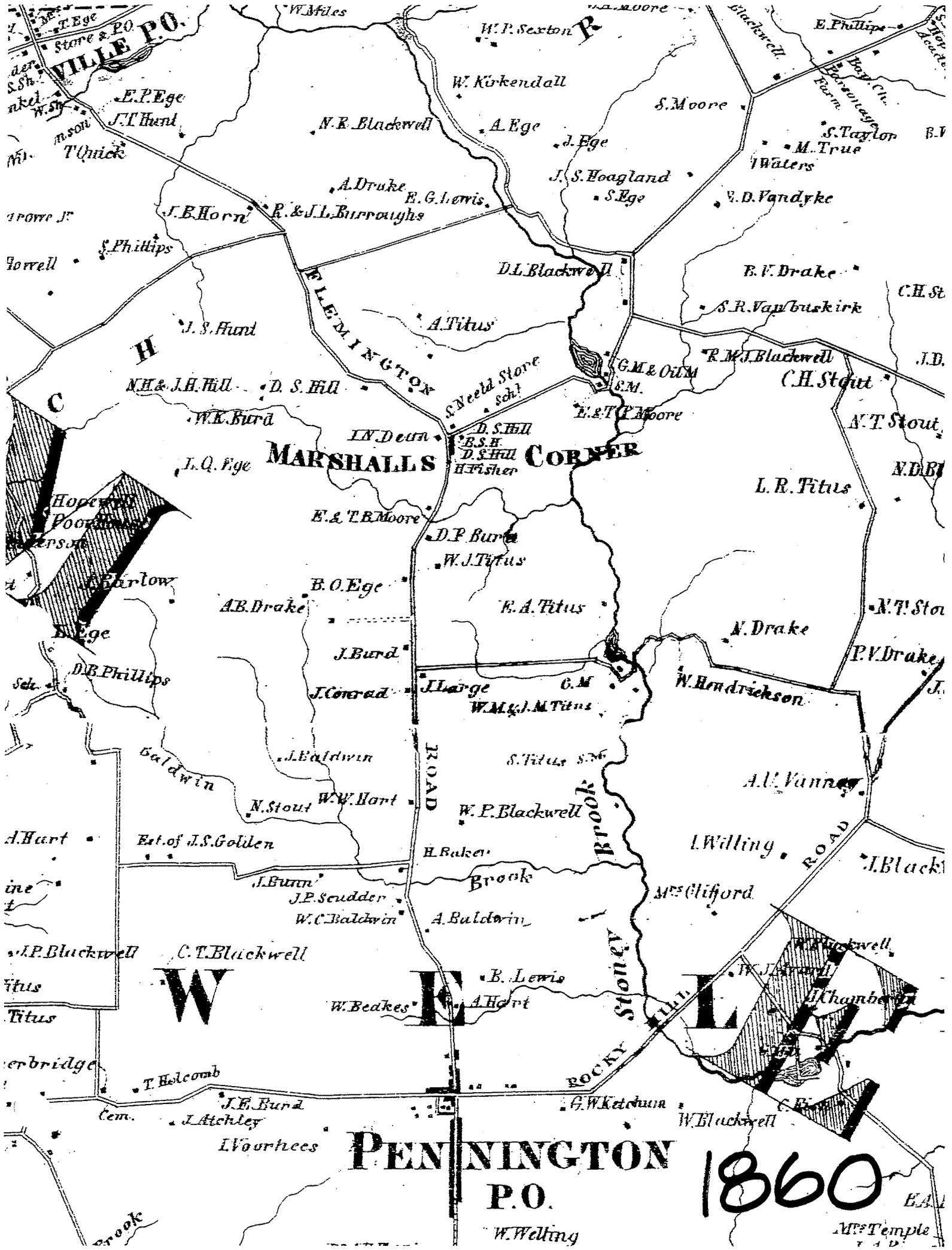
Date Landmark Nomination Forwarded to Township Committee:

Date Designation of Historic Landmark Adopted by Ordinance of the Township Committee:



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# PIONEERS OF OLD HOPEWELL

With Sketches of Her Revolutionary Heroes

By

RALPH EGE

Reprinted with the addition of index and introduction



HOPEWELL MUSEUM  
Hopewell, N. J.

## NUMBER XXI.

Our last article closed with the copy of the petition for the improvement of the road from Trenton to Nathaniel Ward's mill in Hopewell. It is not known whether the petition was acted upon at that time or laid over, but it is a matter of record that only seven years had elapsed before the road was again brought to the attention of the authorities, and this time in a manner that doubtless secured the necessary improvement. The following is a copy :

"May 15, 1752, Hunterdon County, S. S. We, the Grand Jury, now sitting in, and for the County of Hunterdon, Oyer & Terminer, Do present the overseers of the road of the Township of Hopewell for not repairing a certain road called "Roger's Road," leading from a Stone School House by Daniel Hart's mill\* to the Province Line, being the road leading to Brunswick."

"SAMUEL STOUT, Foreman."

The above was the piece of road leading from Marshall's Corner through the borough of Hopewell to Stoutsburg, which was laid out as a four rod road in 1723, the original survey being given in our last article.

As there has been considerable discussion at different times as to the origin of the name of the road leading from Trenton to the county line at Stoutsburg, we will say that it was originally given to the road leading from Trenton to the settlement on Stony Brook made by Dr. Roger Parke about 1700; which previous to that time was designated in the oldest deeds as the "Wissamenson and Wissomency Indian path." As early as 1708 deeds for farms

\*This was Philip Ringo's mill, now J. H. Moore's at Glen Moore. It was purchased by Daniel Hart in 1751.

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# Hopewell Valley Heritage



by

**Alice Blackwell Lewis**



*Alice B. Lewis*

**THE HOPEWELL MUSEUM**

**1973**

Number 11 District -- Marshall's Corner School

In the days when Marshall's Corner was known as Furman's Corner they had a school that is said to have been built about 1720 (Ralph Ege). It was a small, stone building standing in a different location than the present building. The building, which now houses the Stony Brook Millstone



Marshall's Corner School in 1876. This stone building constructed in 1825. It housed Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Business until recently. (Courtesy of Chris Bannister)

Watershed Association, is said to have been built in 1825 and was supposed to be the second school built on that site. It was given the number eleven when the school system was in the process of identifying each district.

*Excellent Teachers*

Many of the teachers of this school were excellent for their time. Miss Madge Weidenhamer was the oldest teacher that the writer has a record of. She was a lovable soul with country-style manners, was honest, just, and knew how to demand discipline in the school room. The many attributes showing in her character and droll personality reflect a refinement derived from her Pennsylvania family background. She was a sister of Mrs. Elmer D. Wagner whose husband was Superintendent of the Hopewell Township

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Schools. She lived in Pennington, residing with her sister throughout her teaching years and several years thereafter.

In 1889 Madge Weidenhamer graduated from Normal School in Lockhaven, Pennsylvania. She received her masters degree at Columbia University in 1894. Two years later she came to Pennington with the Wagners. Her first teaching assignment was at the Marshall's Corner School. There she taught with distinction. However, she retired in 1933 after spending the last few years substituting at different schools. She usually furnished her own transportation by pedaling her mail-order bike to and from Marshall's Corner until the trolley went on to Hopewell about 1906. She died in January, 1968 within a few hours of being 100 years old. Those who have fond memories of her always refer to her as Aunt Madge.

Miss Ida Burd, a local girl followed Miss Weidenhamer in teaching there. Ruth McClure of Hopewell taught there with distinction from September 1915 until June, 1918. Miss Emma E. Prall another patriotic country-style teacher taught there and retired from her teaching profession in 1924. Miss Maude Oldis took over in a capable manner and taught there from 1924 to 1927. A Miss Robinson followed and taught until the school was closed in 1930.

#### *About Pupils*

A few of the pupils should be mentioned. Joshua and Guild Hunt, twin brothers, attended this school. When they were eleven years old they returned home one late spring afternoon in 1865 to learn from their parents that men had been to the Old Burial Ground that day. They exhumed the remains of the Honorable John Hart and placed them in a more prominent grave near the Old Church in Hopewell. Out of curiosity the twins hurried up to observe the fresh earth that had been disturbed in the old Hunt Burial Ground. The next day at school the pupils heard a glowing account of this event. Their young tongues wagged and never missed a detail of the story that had been told to them. It was probably the first such incident to occur in Hopewell Valley.

Joseph B. Hill and the woman he was to marry in 1886, Francina Blackwell, were pupils there. The wooden ink well and quill pen she used within the walls of that school are in the Hopewell Museum today. Clement V. Hill who became the refrigerator genius spent many hours toying with books and blackboards, when his mind was sometimes roaming to the more important things of his life, the inventions he had to leave at home. He sometimes walked with the girl he admired so much when they were both so young, as they lived in the same vicinity. However, she married his cousin, Joseph B. Hill and came to live in Hopewell.

Other pupils that were known about are: the children of Enoch Armitage Titus; Garret Durling, the son of the merchant Will Durling, and Russell

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Burroughs. Both became important men in the Trenton Banks where they served with distinction until their respective retirements. There were so many more but only a few can be mentioned: Ida, David and George Burd; Leroy Hill and his sister Margaret; Susie and Livingston Titus; Willis, Caroline and Helen Green; Blanche and Paul Gallena; John and Jennie Lawyer, the Sutphin family children; and the children of John and Marjorie Hankinson.

*Sunday School Held There*

For many years this school house was the headquarters for Sunday School services on the Sabbath in the summer afternoons. It was run under the supervision of the Pres byterian Church of Pennington. Many of the people of the community attended these services and were active in the work within the Church itself. John W. Hart came for many years and was the worthy Sunday School superintendent. This gentleman raised his large family on his well-kept farm, situated down the road toward Pennington. About 1912 he drove his new Hupmobile car when he attended. It was one of the earlier automobiles in the area, therefore it attracted much attention from the men and boys.

*Community Club Took Over*

About 1910 the people of Marshall's Corner area started a Community Club. It became very active. Around 1935 the school authorities wished to sell the school building and grounds. The Community Club bought the property for the sum of \$1,000.00. They used it several years for their club house. Eventually they lost interest in the club and the building was no longer used. As the new Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association needed a home they let them use it as their business headquarters. In a legal manner they made this property a gift to that organization. So the old stone school house is being used and a great work in conservation goes forward. Important records are kept and planning is done in the room that was a school which had an important part in our Hopewell Valley educational system.

Number 11½ - Woosamonsa

The Woosamonsa one-room district school is the only one in Hopewell Township which has the distinctive feature of a fraction in its identification number. It was common practice to do this as the schools in Ewing Township were given consecutive numbers also. Their Scudder's Falls School had the number 14 designated to its use before the later schools of old Hopewell came into existence. When Hopewell Schools became fourteen in number, it was necessary to add the fraction in order to continue this system of identification, without infringing on the number fourteen which was already