

HOPWELL TOWNSHIP
 MERCER COUNTY N.J.
 RENTON ENGINEERING COMPANY



Plate 6.16. Levi Knowles house, River Drive, Titusville, Hopewell Twp.--early-19th-C, Federal-style dwelling typical of thi

years later. Dr. McDuffie was a resident physician about five years, and was succeeded about 1870 by Dr. J. A. Miller. Dr. R. M. Rankin has lived and practiced his profession here about five years, and Dr. E. C. Baker about four years.

The first harness-maker to set up a shop in Hopewell was Stephen Blackwell. His successors in the business have been Thomas Skillman, Sheppard & Pittenger, William Pittenger, C. W. Sheppard, and J. C. Harrison, who has conducted it since 1872.

Smith L. Scudler is a well-remembered shoemaker, who was the village Crispin until 1879, in which year James L. Ewing opened his shop. The latter and Nelson D. Blackwell are the present representatives of this trade.

James M. Stout was the first man who set up his forge and anvil in the village. He began business in 1842, employing a blacksmith. In a short time the shop was sold to Spencer S. Weart, who tore it down. The next shop was built by Enoch H. Drake, who hired a blacksmith. He was succeeded by Benjamin S. Lee, who bought the property, and later sold it to E. D. Wood, who leases it to George Staples, its present occupant. A shop owned by Miss Martha Phillips is occupied by S. S. Ege. The shop of Westley B. Merrill was opened in 1881.

About 1800 the first wheelwright-shop was opened by Benjamin Morrill, who continued the business till about 1846. Enoch H. Drake built a shop about 1852. He was succeeded by Benjamin S. Lee, and the latter by E. D. Wood, the present owner.

The first drug-store was opened in 1874 by Farley Taylor, and after a few years passed into the possession of Messrs. S. A. & S. Sexton, who discontinued business in 1882. The drug-store of Dr. E. C. Baker was established in 1878.

John S. Vandike, attorney, began practicing his profession in Hopewell in 1879.

The Hopewell Herald.—See page 545.

TITUSVILLE.—Titusville is a village on the Delaware River, in the southwestern part of the township. It derived its name from Joseph Titus, who owned the land upon which it is built, and who was the first merchant there. He began trading at a comparatively early date, and was succeeded in turn by Schenck & Young, Titus, Hoff & Nevins, Hoff & Nevins, Nevins & Van Cleef, and John Hoff, who went out of business a little less than thirty years ago. About 1859, Hoff & Nevins moved into a new store, which was built in that year, on the opposite side of the street from the old stand, by Peter A. Van Cleef, who later had an interest in the business. In 1855 this building was converted into a hotel. The firm of Ege & Stout opened a store in the old building soon after it was vacated by the firm above mentioned, and were succeeded by Ege & Van Cleef, then by Ege & Quick, then by John Sargent, then by Pearson & Hart, then by B. Matthews, then by W. H. Snook & S. G. and they by Albin F. W. Smith, the present oc-

cupant, in 1874. In 1858, Hart & Ege built a store, in which they traded until 1860, when they were succeeded by Hart & Farley. After the death of Mr. Hart the business passed into the hands of his partner, who was succeeded by Farley Brothers, who ceased business some years ago. Samuel Halcombe established a trade in the same building shortly afterwards, and in 1881 sold to Hoppock & Trimmer.

A post-office was established many years ago. The present postmaster, Alfred W. Smith, was commissioned in 1874.

The hotel mentioned above, which from 1850 to 1855 was a store building, was opened in 1855 by Benjamin Burrows. It has had numerous occupants. It is now owned by Hoppock Brothers, and managed by Henry C. Savage. It is known as the Delaware House. The Riverview House was built in 1878 by C. H. Swift, who has occupied it continuously since.

In 1860, Jesse A. Holcombe established himself in the harness-making business, which he has continued.

Among the early blacksmiths was Joshua Perrine, who built a shop in 1845, which changed occupants as often as once a year, until it was purchased by George H. Smith, the present blacksmith, in 1862.

The wheelwright-shop of David H. Hunt was erected by him in 1862. Amos Harbourt, another wheelwright, began business in 1880.

The following-named physicians have from time to time resided in the village: Drs. Twining, J. W. Robinson, Lyman Leavitt, George W. Copeland, John Meeser, and Henry H. A. Neel, now a resident practitioner.

The village contains two churches, two hotels, two stores, one harness-shop, one blacksmith-shop, two wheelwright-shops, a post-office, a flouring-mill, a school-house, and a population of three hundred.

MOUNT ROSE.—This village, located in the eastern part of the township, contains one store, a post-office, a blacksmith-shop, a wheelwright-shop, a shoeshop, a harness-shop, a distillery, an agricultural implement warehouse, and twenty dwellings. It was named by Ralph Sansbury, formerly a school-teacher in the neighborhood. Richard Stout was the first merchant. He built a store, and began trade about 1822. About 1832 he was succeeded by Josiah Cook and John Savidge. Cook & Savidge were succeeded about two years later by Elias Griggs, and he about 1850 by Paul M. Tolan. About 1854 the enterprise passed into the hands of Philemon Golden, and about 1858 into those of the present proprietor, Reuben Savidge, who in 1868 removed the old store and built the one he has since occupied. In 1835, Alexander Waters built a hotel, which, after being kept two years, was converted into a dwelling.

The post-office was established thirty years ago, or more. The first postmaster was Josiah Cook. The

NOTE.—The name of the hospital is spelled "Hopewell" in the original manuscript, but it is now spelled "Hopewell" in the printed edition.

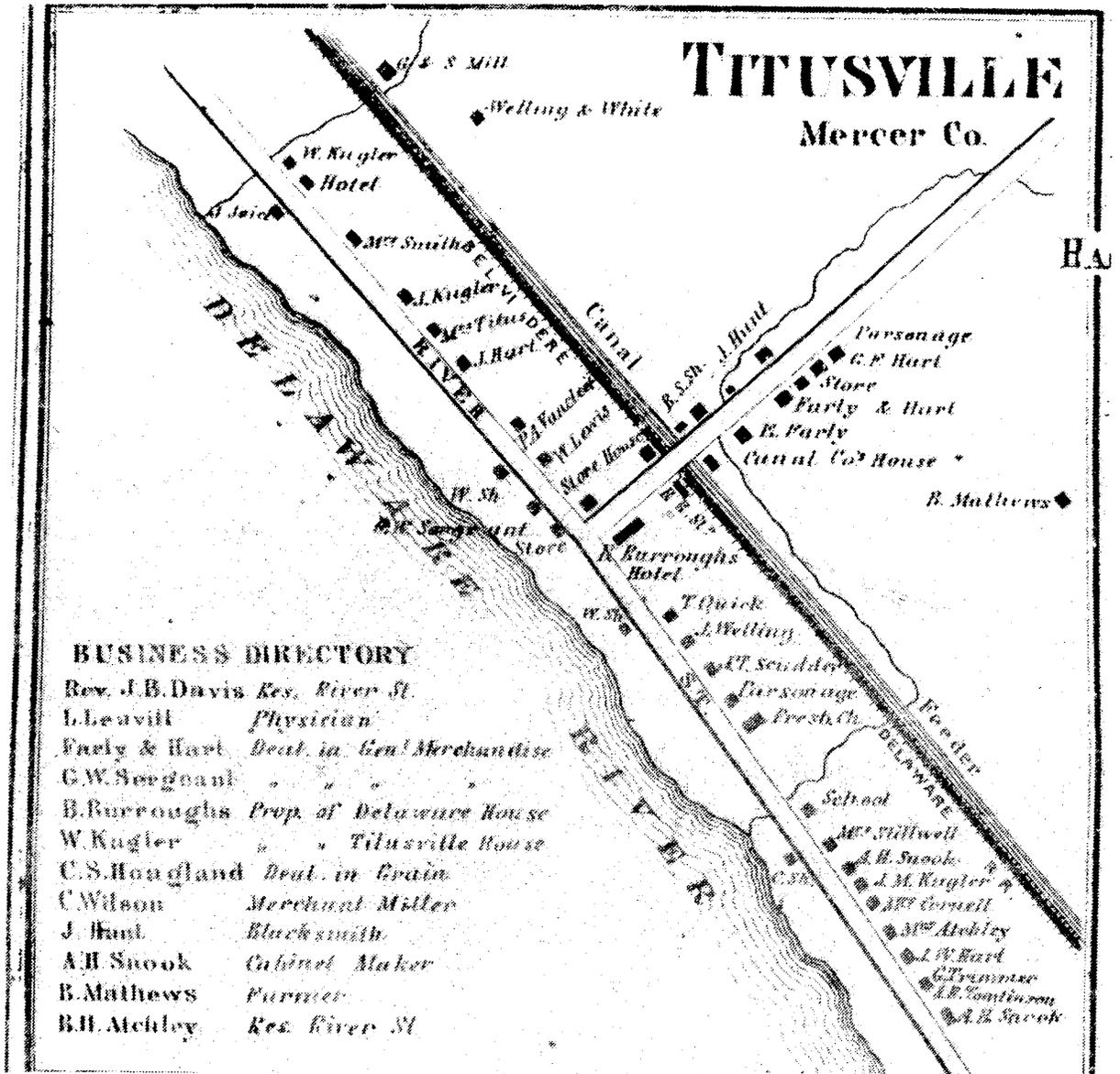
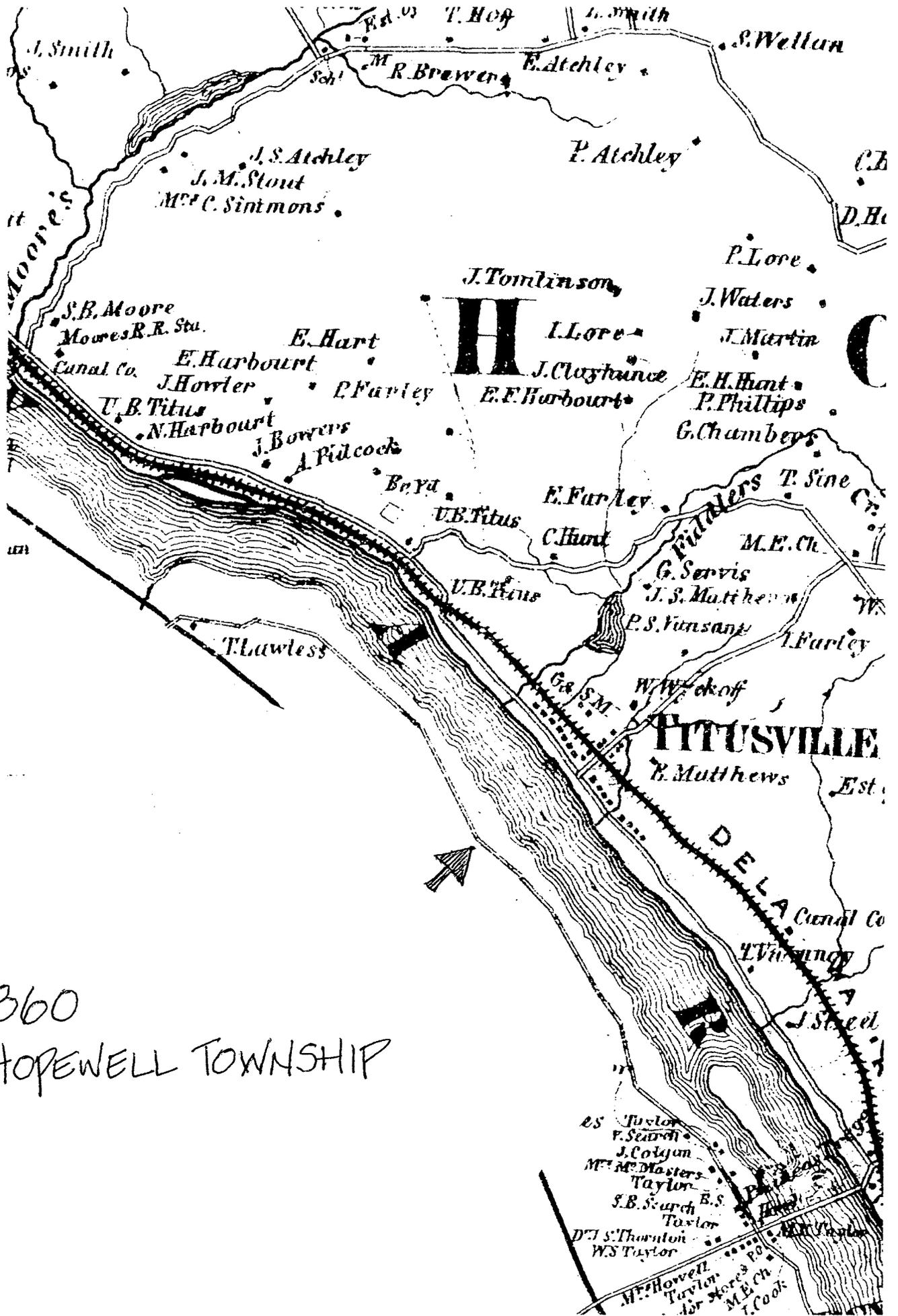


Figure 6.6. "Titusville P.O." Source: D. J. Lake and S. N. Beers, *Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia and Trenton, 1860*.

part of the century, the former Titus family sawmill site on Fiddlers Creek just to the east of the canal was extensively redeveloped. By 1860, both a merchant



1860

HOPWELL TOWNSHIP

The Depression and World War I brought an end to more than a half century of development and expansion within the Borough of Hopewell. Postwar recovery generated some renewed growth, but the borough's isolation in relation to the regional highway network ensured that this was, at least initially, fairly limited in extent. The most significant developments after the war were the construction of the Taylor Terrace residential tract and the completion of the new Second Calvary Baptist Church (1105-14-1). The latter edifice was built in 1959 on Columbia Avenue to replace the tiny original church on First Street. During the 1980s, regional development pressures have spurred a burst of housing construction that, in addition to expanding the borough's residential base, has threatened the integrity of many older structures and diluted the quality of the village's open space.

Titusville

Titusville, the largest village in Hopewell Township, was named for the Titus family, the prime movers in the early development of this community during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The village is located on a narrow strip of the Delaware River floodplain, bounded roughly by Fiddlers Creek to the northwest and Steeles Creek to the southeast. Geographical features, both natural (the river) and cultural (the canal and the railroad), have guided and controlled the physical development of the village over the past century and a half. Successive modes of transportation within the valley--the river, the canal, the railroad, and a series of roads--have stimulated Titusville's growth during this period.

The Titus family migrated to the eastern part of Hopewell Township from Long Island during the early-eighteenth century. By mid-century, Joseph Titus had established a new farmstead within the Delaware Valley just to the north of the present village. At the time of his death in 1797, Titus owned 293 acres of land, most of which lay to the north of Fiddlers Creek. The focus of this farmstead was probably located on the south side of present the Fiddlers Creek Road just to the east of the N.J. Route 29 intersection. The oldest portion of the stone farmhouse now standing on this site was reputedly erected by Joseph Titus's son, Uriel, during the early-nineteenth century (1106-133-14).

Although farming was probably the principal activity of Joseph and Uriel Titus during the eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, they were also engaged in other important commercial and industrial ventures

that made use of resources available within the Delaware Valley. The river provided an abundant source of fish, especially shad, and the Titus family eventually acquired an interest in the Sand Gully fishery (located to the south of Moores Creek) and other fishing grounds to the north. The family was also involved in the ownership and operation of two sawmills near the river: one located on Fiddlers Creek at the site of what later became the Agnew and Snook milling complex (1106-133-44), and the second sited on a small creek just to the north of the present-day intersection of Fiddlers Creek Road and N.J. Route 29 (1106-60-19). These mills both played a key role in the clearing of woodland areas on the southern slopes of Baldpate Mountain and elsewhere in the region and were also probably involved in the processing of timber that was floated downstream from the Upper Delaware Valley (see Chapter 7).

The lands to the south of the Titus property were also rural and primarily agricultural during the eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. The Anderson, Vannoy, Johnson, and Reade families (all but the latter being of Dutch descent) all apparently owned land within this portion of the Delaware Valley during the eighteenth century. By the early-nineteenth century, however, this pocket of Dutch settlement had disappeared, and a more characteristic English influence prevailed. By this time, these lands--the heart of present-day Titusville--were owned by, from north to south, the Knowles, Phillips, Burroughs, and Tomlinson families. Despite the changes in ownership, these properties remained essentially agricultural in nature, with the original farmstead nuclei being located on the higher ground along the valley rim.

When Joseph Titus died in 1797, his large landholding was inherited by his son, Uriel. The younger Titus owned this valuable parcel until his death in 1834. The property between Fiddlers Creek (and the Titus holding) and the ravine that bisects the present Presbyterian cemetery in Titusville was owned by John Knowles at the turn of the century, and by 1819 it was controlled by his son, Levi. The lands along the riverfront from the ravine south to Steeles Creek were owned by Job Phillips and James Burroughs. The tract to the south of Steeles Creek was held by the Tomlinson family, who operated the ferry and tavern previously owned by the Johnson family at what is now known as Washington Crossing.

At some point during this period (and prior to 1819), the Knowles family established a store on the riverbank at the end of a road that ran northeast from the riverbank to the original River Road. This road was the predecessor of today's Church Road, which was more formally

laid out in 1831. The Knowles store and the road heading inland were the first seeds of what later became the village of Titusville. Another important element was added in 1819, with the opening of a second public road that ran along the riverbank between the present Fiddlers Creek Road and Washington Crossing-Pennington Road. This new road alignment roughly followed the course of today's River Drive, and the several stone bridges that now carry this road over the tributaries that flow into the Delaware here all appear to date, at least in part, to this initial period of roadway construction (Plate 8.2).

The Knowles store reportedly remained in operation under various owners (including Uriel Titus and his son, John Titus) until the middle part of this century. The dwelling formerly associated with this store--a fine, Delaware Valley-style, stone-and-frame structure located in the northern angle of Church Road and River Drive--still survives today (Plates 6.15 and 6.16 [1106-134-13]). The two stone sections of this three-section, L-plan house almost certainly date from the ownership

period of the Knowles family, while the frame ell was probably added sometime later during the nineteenth century. Levi Knowles lost his riverfront property, including the store and the dwelling, in a public auction in 1825. In 1831, this valuable property was acquired by Uriel Titus, who through this transaction gained control of the entire riverfront between Moores Creek and the ravine within the present Presbyterian cemetery.

In 1832, Uriel Titus (along with other local landholders) sold a 113-foot-wide strip of land through his property to the Delaware and Raritan Canal Company. The feeder canal for the Delaware and Raritan Canal was soon completed within this right-of-way, and this important regional transportation route provided the initial stimulus for the growth of the community of Titusville. The canal's intersection with the lane leading inland from the riverfront store served as a logical node for the village's development. Farm products and manufactures from the Hopewell hinterland could now be transported much more easily to the markets of Trenton, New Brunswick, and other cities farther afield, if



Plate 6.15. Church Rd., Titusville, Hopewell Twp.--view looking NE from the River Drive intersection; Levi Knowles house at L, railroad warehouse beyond (photograph c. 1900).

al farmers and craftsmen brought their goods down to this location on the canal. Similarly, urban manufactures, coal, and other raw materials could be conveniently distributed to outlying rural areas through canalside businesses such as those that began to develop in Titusville.

The embryonic village was known from the outset as Titusville in honor of the prominent role played by the Titus family in its early development. Uriel Titus, no doubt anticipating the economic benefits that the canal would bring, actively promoted the commercial and residential development of his riverfront property, and it was along this section of the riverbank (between Fiddlers Creek and the ravine within the Presbyterian cemetery) that the village's early growth was concentrated. Even as the feeder was still being constructed, Uriel Titus was subdividing his lands between the Delaware River and the canal into building lots. In 1834, however, Uriel died, leaving both his lands and his role as the village's leading developer to his son, Joseph Titus. The younger Titus continued to operate the existing facilities such as the former Knowles store and the two family sawmills, but he also devoted considerable attention to the expansion of the village. It is the second Joseph Titus, therefore, who must be viewed as true developer of Titusville.

The coming growth of the village was foreshadowed by the establishment of the post office of Titusville in 1833, clearly a response to the arrival of the canal and the proposed development of the area by the Titus family. The first postmaster was John Hoff, and the first post office building, which is no longer standing, was apparently located on the west side of River Drive, just to the south of the village store. Titusville's post office has since occupied at least five other structures in the village, including a dry goods store on Church Road (now destroyed), the old store and wheelwright shop on River Drive (Plate 1.7; [1106-58-18]), a small, one-story frame building that formerly stood just south of the Presbyterian cemetery (Plate 9.11; this structure was more recently moved to its present site on Trimmer Avenue), the Delaware Hotel (see below), and the existing modern structure on N.J. Route 29.

Joseph Titus, in addition to selling off building lots within the family property, also participated directly in the physical expansion of the new village. By 1836, he had completed the building now known as Seargeant's Tavern, a large five-bay, center-hall frame building that still stands on the northeast side of River Drive at the north end of the village (Plate 7.10 [1106-134-3]). These premises, which catered chiefly to boatmen and those traveling along the river and the canal, were apparently



Plate 6.16. Levi Knowles house, River Drive, Titusville, Hopewell Twp.--early-19th-C, Federal-style dwelling typical of this section of the Delaware Valley.

operated from the time of their opening by John Seargeant under a tenant agreement concluded with Titus. In 1846, Seargeant bought this property from his landlord and continued as the proprietor of the tavern for several years. This hotel, later known as the Titusville House, remained in operation into the Civil War period, when it was converted to its present use as a private residence. Titus also built a large residence in the village during the mid-1830s. Known as the Joseph Titus house, this Federal-style, stucco stone building, which consists of a five-bay, two-room-deep main block (with center hall) and a rear-attached kitchen wing (Plate 6.17 [1106-134-6]), is noticeably grander than its contemporaries.

By 1849, many of the lots on either side of River Drive between Fiddlers Creek and the Presbyterian cemetery ravine had been built upon (Figure 4.4). The decade and a half before 1850 were truly boom years for Titusville, as a number of houses, the village's first church and school, and additional commercial and industrial structures were all erected on lands formerly held by the Titus family. In sharp contrast, other portions of what later became the village of Titusville were relatively undeveloped, notably the lands along River Drive to the south of the former Titus property and the area to the east of the canal along Church Road.

Most of the structures built in the village during the late 1830s and 1840s were residences, and many of these still stand today. They are typically fairly unostentatious, frame, vernacular structures that are four to six bays wide and one room deep, with a rear kitchen ell. Good examples of this type include the John Farley House (1106-134-4), the northwestern section of River-view House (1106-134-5), the A. T. Scudder House (1106-135-9), and two other residences with unknown historical associations (1106-134-10 and 1106-135-7). Most of the houses built in Titusville during this period were of frame construction, although other building materials, including both stone and brick, were occasionally used.

Joseph Titus was also prominent in the development of Titusville's first community facilities. During the late 1830s, Titus donated land for and assisted in the construction of a Presbyterian meetinghouse on the site of the present Titusville Presbyterian Church (1106-135-11). This new congregation functioned as an adjunct to the Pennington Presbyterian Church until it was incorporated as a separate organization in 1844. The present brick church was built in 1855 using bricks donated by Joseph Titus Jr., the son of the village's foremost developer and the owner of the brickyard at the corner of Fiddlers Creek Road and River Road. Although altered and added to over the past half century, this building is still a fair example of a temple-front church with

Italianate detailing (Plate 9.1). The adjacent cemetery contains the graves of many of Titusville's most notable residents. In 1846, the elder Titus also donated land for the site of a minister's residence, and the present parsonage, a five-bay, frame structure, was built shortly thereafter.

The elder Joseph Titus died in 1849, and upon his death the Presbyterian Church received additional lands and an endowment for a school to be run by the congregation. The original land bequest for this school was apparently located in the northern angle of the canal and Church Road, and it appears that Titusville's first school was built on this site during the late 1840s. This building was replaced during the 1850s by a new frame schoolhouse erected by the congregation on the northeast side of River Drive, just to the southeast of the ravine in the Presbyterian cemetery. This second school apparently remained in use until the turn of the century, at which point Titusville's first purpose-built public school was erected on the northeast side of River Drive in the southern section of the village (1106-135-38). The building was originally a one-story, wood-shingled, frame structure with a high stone basement story. Large brick additions have since been attached to its front (during the 1920s) and rear (more recently), producing the substantial school building that survives today (Plate 9.9).

The last of Titusville's early community structures, known as Temperance Hall, also initially benefited from the benevolence of the elder Joseph Titus. The Titusville Sons of Temperance were granted control of what was apparently an existing hall within the latter's will. The site of this building is unclear, but it may have been located on or adjacent to the original schoolhouse lot on Church Road. By 1855, the Sons of Temperance had apparently relocated their meeting place to the structure that now stands in the northeastern corner of N.J. Route 29 and Church Road. This heavily altered two-story, three-bay frame structure (1106-132-35) was sold off in 1855 and converted to serve in its present use as a residence. Little has survived to reflect this building's former function as the village's Temperance Hall (similarly, little in the surviving fabric supports the suggestion that this structure may incorporate elements of the first Presbyterian school).

The influence of the elder Joseph Titus was also quite evident in the commercial and industrial development of the village. His ownership of the former Knowles store and Seargeant's Tavern has already been noted, and he also operated a log basin, lumberyard, cooper's shop, and two sawmills that drew on supplies of wood being floated down the Delaware. During the middle

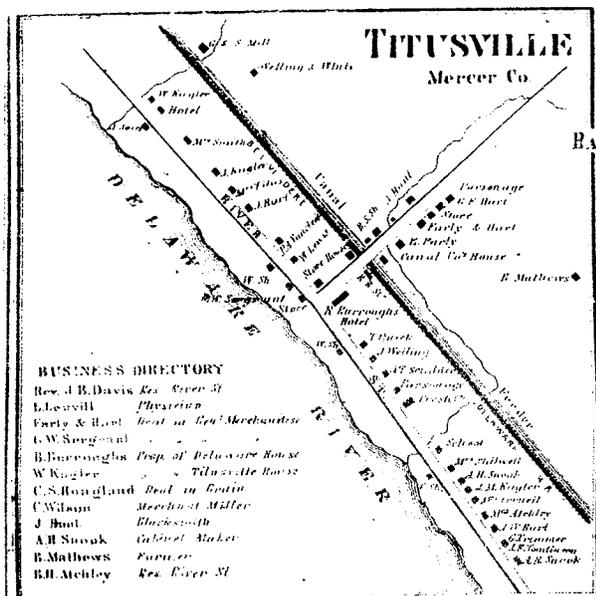


Figure 6.6. "Titusville P.O." Source: D. J. Lake and S. N. Beers, *Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia and Trenton, 1860*.

part of the century, the former Titus family sawmill site on Fiddlers Creek just to the east of the canal was extensively redeveloped. By 1860, both a merchant gristmill and a sawmill were functioning here (Figure 7.5), with the former benefiting from transportation connections provided by the canal and the local road network (a lane was built to run along the east side of the canal to connect the mill complex with Church Road; during the 1860s this lane was extended northward to connect with River Drive and established as a public road). By the late 1870s, dwindling lumber supplies led to the abandonment of the sawmill and the construction of a rubber mill by Agnew and Snook, the firm that owned the mill at that time (the gristmill remained active during this period). This mill complex was destroyed by fire in 1897, but it was immediately rebuilt and remained active into the present century. Only a single nineteenth-century building (a frame dwelling) survives within the former Agnew and Snook Mill Complex today, but substantial remains of the mill's hydropower system are visible within the creek and immediately east of N.J. Route 29 (1106-133-44).

There were also several small industrial shops that were sited in the village of Titusville by mid-century. A wheelwright shop was in existence on the west side of River Drive just to the north of the Church Road intersection by 1849, and this small shop remained in operation into the latter part of the century. A second wheelwright shop was built to the south of the intersection during the 1850s, but this structure was gone within two decades. The village blacksmith shop, said to have been established in the mid-1840s, was sited to the north of

the intersection on the west side of River Drive, and it, like the original wheelwright shop, remained active throughout the nineteenth century. There was also a cabinet shop at the south end of the village (below the Presbyterian Church property), which was built during the 1850s and was still in use a decade after the end of the Civil War.

Titusville's growth continued during the third quarter of the nineteenth century (Figures 4.5, 4.6, 6.6, and 6.7). This continuing development was still focused primarily on the lands owned by the Titus family and included infilling within the original settlement area between Fiddlers Creek and the Presbyterian Church ravine as well as the appearance of a new settlement focus along Church Road to the east of the canal. The death of the elder Joseph Titus caused a brief lull in Titusville's expansion at mid-century, as it became necessary for the state legislature to validate his will and ensure that his heirs held full title to the lands they were in the process of selling. These title problems were cleared up by the legislature in the spring of 1850, and the Titus heirs were soon again selling off their basic 50-foot-wide building lots along both River Drive and Church Road for \$120 to \$150 per lot. It was also during this period that the village began to spread onto adjacent properties, notably along River Drive to the south of the Presbyterian Church ravine. These lands had been held by the Vannoy family during the nineteenth century, and Theodore Vannoy commenced the sale of building lots in this area during the Civil War era.

The continuing expansion of the regional transportation network brought additional growth to the village of Titusville during the decades that flanked the Civil War. In 1852, the feeder canal was widened and deepened in anticipation of the increased traffic that was expected in the wake of the construction of locks at Lambertville and New Hope that provided (in conjunction with a cable ferry across the Delaware River) a connection between the said feeder and the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Canal. The completion of this connection allowed for the transfer of shipments of Lehigh Valley coal (previously transported primarily on the Delaware Division Canal) into the Delaware and Raritan Canal system at Lambertville. This development greatly simplified the shipment of coal to industrial centers such as Trenton and New Brunswick and, of more importance locally, substantially increased the volume of traffic passing through Titusville along the feeder.

Of even greater significance to the growth of the village of Titusville, however, was the completion of the Belvidere Delaware Railroad along the river side of the

A number of new commercial and industrial premises were opened in the village during the decades that followed the improvement of the canal and the construction of the railroad. The most noteworthy of these new enterprises was the Delaware Hotel, which was sited prominently in the eastern angle of the River Drive/Church Road intersection (1106-135-6) adjacent to the railroad station. The oldest portion of this building was built to house a store operated by Peter A. Van Cleef during the early 1850s. In 1855-56, this structure was enlarged and converted to serve as a hotel by Benjamin Burroughs, and it continued in this function well into the present century. While the Delaware Hotel no doubt willingly served those traveling on both the canal and the river, this building, perhaps more than any other in the village, strongly reflects the major impact the arrival of the railroad had on the village. This large five-bay, three-story stucco masonry structure (with an attached two-story wing on its west side) is by far the most dominant commercial structure surviving within the village today (Plate 7.11).

Numerous lesser commercial and minor industrial entities were established throughout the expanding village during this period. Despite the growing structural congestion within the village's initial settlement area along River Drive, several new businesses appeared as infill, notably a new general store (1106-58-15; then owned by C. H. Swift and now in use as a dwelling), a carriage shop, a shoe shop, a barber shop, and a butcher shop. Many of these new businesses, however, were sited within the village's newer settlement areas. Yet another new dry goods store, a harness shop, a new blacksmith shop, a carpenter's shop, and a confectioner's store all appeared along Church Road to the east of the canal during this period, while another carpenter's shop, a millinery shop, and a basket shop were among the businesses that were developed within the former Vannoy section of the village along the southern portion of River Drive. Most of the buildings that formerly housed these various activities were relatively simple and often insubstantial, and few have survived.

Titusville's complement of community structures was also increased during this period through the development of the Methodist Episcopal Church property on Church Road during the mid-1860s. The congregation that occupied this church had actually been organized during the first quarter of the nineteenth century and had erected its first house of worship, known as the River Methodist Church, at the intersection of Fiddlers Creek and Church roads. During the Civil War, it was decided that the growing village of Titusville offered a far more desirable base for the congregation, and in 1865 a new church was built on the south side of Church Road

just to the east of the canal (1106-121-30). The Titusville Methodist Episcopal Church survives today as an excellent example of a vernacular interpretation of high-style Italianate ecclesiastical architecture. The church is surrounded by its associated cemetery and the former parsonage (1106-121-31), a three-bay, side-hall brick dwelling (now a private residence) that dates from the same period as the church.

The village's continuing economic development during the third quarter of the nineteenth century was, quite naturally, accompanied by accelerated residential development. Many new residences were built during this period, most notably along the southern portion of River Drive (within the former Vannoy lands), but also within the older settlement area to the north and along Church Road. The dwellings built within Titusville during this period were chiefly vernacular structures that displayed varying degrees of detailing that reflected the architectural influences of the time. The Italianate style appears to have been notably popular, and what is perhaps the village's grandest house was built in this style circa 1860. The P. A. Van Cleef house (1106-134-9) is a three-story, three-bay, center-hall brick building with a hip roof that is a fairly typical example of an Italian villa as represented in pattern books of the period. Another interesting but somewhat less distinctive Italianate dwelling is the George Agnew House (1106-135-8), an urban-style, scored-stone row house built for the local mill owner and entrepreneur by James Bird, a well-known Lambertville architect who was a colleague of Samuel Sloan, a noted proponent of the Italianate style. Far more common in Titusville were houses that displayed decidedly vernacular forms with some Italianate detailing, such as the cornice treatments visible on the Flemming House (1106-135-22) on River Drive.

Influences of the Greek Revival and the Second Empire architectural styles, also popular during this period, are less well represented in Titusville. The only true Greek Revival residence in the village is the Hart House on River Drive (1106-134-7), a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, side-hall structure that was built around 1853 on a pattern book model. This dwelling displays several typical Greek Revival motifs, notably splayed door and window surrounds, pedimented lintels, and corner pilasters. The Second Empire style is represented in only two houses, both sited within the former Vannoy development area along the southern end of River Drive. The Trimmer House (1106-135-20) was built sometime around 1860 and is noteworthy for its particularly high mansard roof. The Bidwell House (1106-135-47), a more typical example of the type, is a three-bay center-hall structure with a bracketed cornice, gabled



Plate 6.17. Joseph Titus house, River Drive, Titusville, Hopewell Twp.--stuccoed stone, Federal-style residence, built c. 1835.

dormers, and a less extreme mansard roof that was probably built circa 1870 (Plate 6.18).

Titusville's growth began to level off during the early part of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Relatively few new businesses started up, since most of the major features necessary to serve village residents, local farmers, and those traveling through the region were already in place. The role of the Titus family in promoting the development of the village was now greatly diminished, and a new generation of entrepreneurs--the Agnews, Hoppocks, Van Cleefs, Swifts, and Trimmers, to name but a few--had emerged to guide the progress of the community. Titusville had by now attained its present position as the largest village in the township except for Pennington and Hopewell, and in the early 1880s it was described as including "two churches, two hotels, two stores, one harness shop, one blacksmith shop, two wheelwright shops, a post office, a flouring mill, a schoolhouse and a population of three hundred."

One of the few major new commercial enterprises to be established during this period was Riverview House, a short-lived hotel operation that was started by C. H. Swift in 1878 and out of business within a decade. This former hotel (1106-134-5) still stands on the east side of River Drive to the north of the Church Road intersection and was subsequently utilized as an office, a store, and a dwelling (its present function). The only major industrial operation to be added during this period was the cannery of the Titusville Fruit and Vegetable Canning Company, a business that was incorporated under the leadership of George Agnew in 1889. The present factory building (1106-134-2), still standing on the east side of River Drive immediately south of Fiddlers Creek, was completed in 1890 (possibly incorporating as part of its three sections an older building formerly connected

with the adjacent Seargeant's Tavern) and remained as an active cannery into the second decade of the twentieth century. In 1941, the former cannery property was purchased to house the operations of the firm of Otto Niederer Sons, Inc., which manufactured the first successful automated egg-grading machine here. The subsequent relocation of this business to larger quarters along River Road in Washington Crossing resulted in the conversion of the former factory to its present use as a residence.

Residential construction was, as would be expected, somewhat less intensive during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The majority of the new houses that were erected during this period were sited along River Drive in the southern section of the village. A slight surge in house construction was seen at the turn of the century that produced a number of the Colonial Revival structures that are now sited within the village, but the first truly substantial surge in residential development began during the years preceding World War I, as Titusville and the Washington Crossing area gained a reputation among Trentonians as a pleasurable summer vacation spot. This development resulted in the construction of large numbers of single-story bungalows, notably along newly laid out streets like Rivera and Trimmer avenues and Grant Street. This growth of the Titusville area as a resort also resulted in additional development to the east of the canal. Local expansion was also facilitated by the construction of Delaware River Drive in 1917, the forerunner of today's N.J. Route 29, which strengthened the link between Titusville and Trenton. This new highway helped to preserve the historic core of the village by removing through traffic



Plate 6.18. Bidwell house, River Drive, Titusville, Hopewell Twp.--Second Empire-style house, built c. 1870.

from River Drive and by serving as the focus of twentieth-century commercial development that might otherwise have been sited in the village center.

Titusville has participated in the suburbanization of the region during the automobile age, but this participation has been largely limited to the establishment of the village as a bedroom community rather than the large-scale physical expansion seen in other parts of the Trenton area. The constraints provided by local topography, notably the river and the canal, have ensured that the heart of the village remains relatively unaffected by such characteristic suburban features as tract developments. There has been minimal redevelopment or modern infilling along River Drive and its side streets, and, with most of the village's commerce now being conducted along N.J. Route 29, much of Titusville's historic building stock still survives. Of the larger villages in the Hopewell area, Titusville is by far the best preserved in terms of its historic architectural heritage, and it indisputably deserves the National Register of Historic Places listing it received in 1983.

Mount Rose

The village of Mount Rose is centered on the intersection of two regional roads that were both laid out during the Colonial period (Figure 6.8). The first of these, Pennington-Rocky Hill Road, was opened up before 1700 and connected the Delaware and Millstone river valleys, while the second route, Hopewell-Princeton Road, was laid out circa 1750 to link the eastern portion of Hopewell with the important cross-colony road between Trenton and New Brunswick (now U.S. Route 206) near Princeton. Despite the early creation of this crossroads, there was no village at the future site of Mount Rose during the eighteenth century, and there is no evidence that any buildings existed here during this period.

The initial impetus for the growth of Mount Rose was provided by the breakup of Andrew Blackwell's 166-acre plantation at the end of the second decade of the nineteenth century. Blackwell died in 1818, and during the next several years his executors subdivided his farm and sold off a number of smaller parcels. In 1819, Robert Stout purchased from the Blackwell estate an 11-acre lot in the western angle of the crossroads. It was apparently on this lot that Richard Stout established the village's first store around 1822. The appearance of this store marked the beginning of the village of Mount Rose, known during these early years as Stout's Corner. By mid-century, the structure sited in the western angle of the intersection was in use as a dwelling. Today this

site is vacant as, earlier this century, the building was moved to a new site on the south side of Pennington-Rocky Hill Road just to the west of the village. Known as the Savidge/Drake House (1106-39-4), this early-nineteenth-century, two-section, frame building is the oldest structure surviving within the village.

In 1819 John Savage also acquired a portion of the former Blackwell estate located in the northern angle of the intersection. By around 1830, a second store, also sited at the crossroads, had become the focus of this 35-acre property. By mid-century, this store also contained the village post office. Josiah Cook and Reuben Savidge were among the owners and operators of this large general store, and it is said that the original structure erected here was removed and replaced in 1868. The store remained active through at least the 1880s. Two plain, two-story frame buildings, both of which appear to have been built during the late-nineteenth century, now stand at this corner with their gable ends fronting on Pennington-Rocky Hill Road (1106-16-12A and 1106-16-21). The more easterly of these two buildings (1106-16-12A) appears to have been the former store, and a portion of this building may incorporate sections of the replacement structure that was built in 1868.

The first schoolhouse in Mount Rose was located immediately to the east of the Savage/Cook store lot on the north side of Pennington-Rocky Hill Road. This one-room stone structure was built circa 1820 and remained in use until a second schoolhouse was built on the southern outskirts of the village sometime during the Civil War period. This one-room frame structure, which served as the center of Hopewell's School District No. 7, remained as the village school until 1935 and survives today as a dwelling (1106-40-30). The first schoolhouse stood for many years after the second one was opened and was used subsequently as a storage building and a blacksmith shop. It was later torn down and its site is now occupied by a house built during the early part of the present century (1106-16-22).

The village's first tavern, established during the 1830s by Alexander Walters, was located farther east along the north side of Pennington-Rocky Hill Road. This operation apparently folded after only two years, and the building was immediately converted into a residence. During the 1850s, however, the structure resumed its original function and became the site of a hotel run by the Titus family. This building was traditionally described as a three-story edifice, but in later years its upper story was removed. Further research would be required to determine whether or not the second house now surviving to the west of Aunt Molly Road (1106-16-9) is the former tavern building.