



## *Chatham Township Historical Society*

**Our Mission:** The Historical Society of the Township of Chatham was established to increase knowledge, awareness and preservation of Township history.

### **Chatham Township Historic Marker Tour**

#### **1. GREEN VILLAGE MARKER**

The village green on Green Village Road

**MARKER CONTENT:** This 18<sup>th</sup> century unincorporated community located in Chatham and Harding Townships was settled by farmers and mill owners drawn to the resources of the Great Swamp. Revolutionary iron forges, multiple grain, grist and saw mills populated the area. Surrounding this Green, once the Village School playground, were Wm. DeMott's Wagon Works (c 1892), Peach Basket Factory (c.1917) and portable Saw Mill cutting railroad timbers.

Over the years, multiple establishments operated in and around this Green including a village school, Methodist Church, Post Office, Rawthorne's and Van Deusen's general stores, Eddy's Turning Mill, Blazier's Blacksmith, a garage, soap factory, meat packing company, dairies, local greenhouses, a sorghum mill making molasses and charcoal pits providing fuel to a nearby forge. Zander's Saw Mill operated in the Swamp until the 1960s.

- Erected 2014 Chatham Township Historical Society
- Gifted by the Woman's Club of Chatham

#### **2. THE COCKREM FARM - CIRCA 1800**

486 Green Village Road, Green Village

**MARKER CONTENT:** John Crockrem, a farmer and weaver owned this farm. His son, Philip, was the second of three family generations to occupy the house. Philip was the second postmaster of Green Village 1863-1869. He was a wagon maker, farmer and major contributor to the building of the Green Village Methodist Church. From 1956 to 2000, the home was occupied by Helen and Arthur Fenske. Helen was instrumental in the fight to defeat the Great Swamp Jet Port.

- Erected 2013 Chatham Township Historical Society

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### **3. ELIAS BOUDINOT HOUSE - CIRCA 1760**

461 Green Village Road, Green Village

MARKER CONTENT: The house was built on land owned by William Alexander, Lord Stirling, a Brigadier General in the Continental Army and then purchased by Elias Boudinot. He was a President of the Continental Congress and was elected to the first U.S. Congress as a New Jersey representative after Constitution ratification and served as Director of the U.S. Mint. The home has had many owners, but traditionally has been named after Elias Boudinot.

- Erected 2011 Chatham Township Historical Society

### **4. GREENHOUSE INDUSTRY- CIRCA 1880 - 1999**

Southern Boulevard at Nash Field

MARKER CONTENT: Chatham Township was a center of the greenhouse industry. Over 90 greenhouses and a million rose plants grew within a 5 mile radius. Behre later Rose Farm Corp. owned by Aubrey Nash hence Nash Field & Noe Farm were located on Southern Blvd. Heyl Roses Inc., Matriciano & Harrsch greenhouses populated Green Village Rd. Duckham-Pierson later Watchung Rose Corp. was on Shunpike Road. L.M. Noe & L.A. Noe were on Noe Ave. Neipp later Robert Nauman & Persico ranges were on Lafayette Ave. Lapp & Voigt were on River Rd.

Many smaller ranges existed in the Township. Most of the larger grew roses selling to wholesalers in the City. A few grew carnations & assorted flowers. The rose business declined in the 1950s due to rising property taxes & utility costs. In 1991 the Andean Trade Preference Act, providing duty-free access to the U.S. Market for Andean flower exporters, accelerated the process resulting in the 1999 closure of Heyl Roses, the last commercial rosehouse in the community & in New Jersey at the time.

- Erected 2014 Chatham Township Historical Society

### **5. NOE POND**

Southern Boulevard across from Fairmount Country Club

MARKER CONTENT: Pre-revolutionary farm pond, on an 800 acre tract owned by the Noe family, provided water and ice for the Noe farm, dairy and greenhouses. Converted in 1955 to a private family swim and recreation club by Jack & Ruth Noe and Taz & Bailey Brower Jr., a Noe descendent.

- Erected 2010 Chatham Township Historical Society

### **6. LEWIS NOE FARMSTEAD - CIRCA 1770**

184 Southern Boulevard

MARKER CONTENT: While Lewis was serving with General Washington's army at Valley Forge, Pa., Hessian soldiers, foraging for food during a blizzard, stayed here overnight. As Phoebe Brant Noe spoke German, they took only a few chickens, sparing her family from starvation.

- Erected 2011 Chatham Township Historical Society

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### **7. CHATHAM COLONY ASSOCIATION - CIRCA 1924-1969**

Corner of Spring Street & School Avenue

MARKER CONTENT: Pursuing a communal living experiment Russian & Eastern European immigrants living in New York City desired a rural environment. An advertisement in The Jewish Daily Forward newspaper prompted a purchase of 150+ acres in Chatham Township. In 1924 the Association incorporated with 70 members drawing lots to determine individual plots. A spring fed pond was expanded and stocked with fish. In 1928 they built a community house and opened the pond for swimming and sold a strip of land for a high-tension power line. The Association donated land to the Chatham Township Fire Co. for a sub-station on Southern Blvd. Membership dwindled and in 1969 the Township purchased the pool area. The Ber Coffet Memorial acre adjoining the Colony Pool was donated by the sculptor's family for "recreation, open space and parkland."

- Erected 2010 Chatham Township Historical Society

### **8. PRICE-BALDWIN HOUSE - CIRCA 1770**

48 Southern Boulevard

MARKER CONTENT: This home represents a prosperous early 1800s farmer's homestead with its wide center hall, tall ceilings, and brick beehive oven. The original 1770s 5 room house was doubled to its current size in the 1830s by Edward Price, a successful farmer and blacksmith who amassed 178 acres extending across Southern Blvd and into The Great Swamp. The Baldwin family occupied the homestead in the late 1800s.

- Erected 2012 Chatham Township Historical Society

### **9. MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL, DISTRICT 78**

Corner of Fairmount Avenue & Southern Boulevard

MARKER CONTENT: Built around 1860 as a one room schoolhouse. Served until 1928 as one of 4 Township schools. Renovated as Chatham Township Hall 1959.

- Erected by the Morris County Heritage Commission

### **10. MORRIS COUNTY**

MARKER CONTENT: Morris County founded 1739. George Washington and Continental Army encamped here 1777, and 1779-1780. Maror iron-producing center in the nation during 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- Erected by Morris County Heritage Commission

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### **11. BEY'S BOXING CAMP - CIRCA 1920-1960**

516 River Road

MARKER CONTENT: After managing Lightweight Champion of the World Freddie Welsh's nearby Health Farm, Madame Hranoush Bey ran a world-renowned training camp on this site. Gene Tunney, Sugar Ray Robinson, Floyd Patterson, Max Schmeling were among the famous fighters trained here.

- Erected 2010 Chatham Township Historical Society

### **12. ISAAC CLARK FARMSTEAD - CIRCA 1760**

788 River Road

MARKER CONTENT: Isaac Clark, a Morris County Freeholder & Council of Safety member, owned over 60 acres of land & the original 2 room house built using beams from the collapsed balcony of the New Providence Presbyterian Church. Clark's ownership is recorded on a map dated 1778 by George Washington's surveyor, Robert Erskine. Soldiers from Col. Joseph Vose's regiment were believed to have quartered here during the Revolution.

- Erected 2013 Chatham Township Historical Society

### **13. JOHNSON HOUSE - CIRCA 1775**

805 Fairmount Avenue

MARKER CONTENT: Uzal Johnson, a Revolutionary War soldier, bought 256 acres in 1770 for 310 pound sterling. Built in stages and occupied until 1920 by five Johnson generations including a member of the first Township Board of Education, two Freeholders and a Morris County State Assemblyman.

- Erected 2012 Chatham Township Historical Society

### **14. LOANTAKA SCHOOL – SPRING VALLEY SCHOOL - CIRCA 1852**

249 Loantaka Way

MARKER CONTENT: The one room red brick school administered by Chatham Township was erected on property privately owned by Republican Academy. Serving as a Sunday and Elementary school, one teacher taught students age 5-18 from parts of Morris and Chatham Townships. Fees of \$4 per child per quarter were charged until the passage of the Free School Act in 1871. Small district schools were abolished in 1894 when school districts were established by municipality. The school closed in 1910.

- Erected 2015 Chatham Township Historical Society

### **15. GIBBONS HORSE BARN - CIRCA 1834**

Loantaka Way

MARKER CONTENT: William Gibbons, prominent racing patron, built stable to house his thoroughbred racehorses, including Fashion, "Queen of the American turf". Barn is outstanding example of an early 19th century horse barn.

- Erected by the Morris County Heritage Commission

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**16. BOISABIN HOUSE** - CIRCA 1790

Treadwell Avenue

MARKER CONTENT: Built in the 1790's by a French émigré on a campsite of the Continental Army. Later a station on the Underground Railroad.

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