



CLARKSVILLE HISTORIC COMMUNITY

— ● ● ● —

This hamlet was located around Clarksville Road, Quakerbridge Road, & Route 1. Early settlers included the Clarke family. British soldiers captured At the nearby home of John Flock on Dec. 30 1777 divulged troop movements to the American army prior to the Battles of Assunpink & Princeton, helping to assure Revolutionary victory.

Following Route 1's early-1800s construction, Clarksville flourished as a stagecoach community, hosting a blacksmith, wheelwrights, general store, substantial farms, & many town meetings. Dr. Israel Clarke ran an inn in the early 1800s. A schoolhouse was built c. 1822. The Clarksville Diner & Clarksville Motel were popular in the mid-1900s. In the 1950s, American Cyanamid established an agricultural research & development campus. Commercial & housing complexes were built starting in the mid-1900s.

Posted for WW's 225th anniversary 2022



DUTCH NECK HISTORIC COMMUNITY

• • •

This area was owned by the Lyells (absentee land speculators) from 1697 to the mid-1700s, then Dutch families, including the Voorhees & Updikes, settled here. The word “neck” derives from the Dutch for “tract of land.” After Windsor Township split into East & West Windsor in 1797, West Windsor's government often met here from 1797 until the 1970s.

Dutch Neck featured a schoolhouse, chapel, library, courthouse, inn, wheelwright, blacksmith, store/post office, more businesses, & substantial farms. The current presbyterian church replaced an older meeting house in 1816. The earliest known burial in its graveyard dates to 1771. A circa 1833 cemetery for Black & poor locals was replaced by the current Dutch Neck School in 1917 & its graves moved. The WW Fire co. formed here in 1921. More houses of worship were built in the late-1900s amid suburban growth.

Posted for WW's 225th anniversary 2022



EDINBURG HISTORIC COMMUNITY

Like the rest of West Windsor, this area was originally part of the indigenous Lenni Lenape's territory. colonists began to buy the land by the early 1700s and a farming community formed by the mid-1700s along a stagecoach route. Early pioneers included the Tindalls, Mounts, Hutchinsons, Rogers, & Cubberlys. The area was first called "Assanpink," the name of the local Lenape tribe & creek. It was renamed "Edinburg" in the mid-1800s.

Edinburg featured a schoolhouse, hotel, general stores, post office, blacksmith, foundry, distillery, cider mill, broom factory, wheelwright, shoemakers, chair maker, weaving shop, basket factories, & other businesses. Mercer County Park, its lake, & Mercer County Community College were built in the 1970s. Like much of West Windsor, Edinburg saw suburban growth in the second half of the 1900s & beyond.

Posted for WW's 225th anniversary 2022



GROVERS MILL HISTORIC COMMUNITY

• • •

This hamlet grew around a few mid-1700s mills powered by the Bear Brook. Early families included the Van Nests & Bergens. The grist mill was also successively called "Bergen's Mill," "Message Mill," "Bear Mill," & "Schwenger's Mill" before Joseph Grover bought it in 18xx. His son, Walter, reputedly befriended Grover Cleveland & Woodrow Wilson who are said to have frequented the area for recreation.

In the early 1900s, the Trenton-New Brunswick "Fast Line" trolley route had a station in Grovers Mill. The community was thrust into the national spotlight as the site of an alien invasion in Orson Welles' 1938 "The War of the Worlds" radio play. Like much of West Windsor, Grovers Mill saw suburban growth starting in the second half of the 1900s. The mill no longer runs but the mill pond still provides recreation and scenic views.

Posted for WW's 225th anniversary 2022



PENNS NECK HISTORIC COMMUNITY

• • •

William Penn bought about 6500 acres here in 1693. In 1737 it was sold to its first settlers - the Schencks & Covenhovens. This farming community clustered around Washington Road & Route 1 starting in the early 1800s and it prospered from stagecoach travel. A cemetery was established by 1746. West Windsor's first school reputedly opened here c. 1760. The Red Lion Inn (1807) & Princeton Baptist Church (1812) were local hubs. Town Committee often met here in the 1800s.

The hamlet hosted a blacksmith, wheelwright, harness maker, wagon fixer, inns, general stores, other businesses, & substantial farms. A community club helped residents socialize from the 1920s-60s. The Radio Corporation of America opened a campus in 1942 & pioneered technological innovations. Penns Neck saw suburban & commercial growth through most of the 1900s & beyond.

Posted for WW's 225th anniversary 2022



PORT MERCER HISTORIC COMMUNITY

Before this community existed, the American army marched through here on Jan. 3 1777 to victory in Princeton during the Revolutionary War. Its name honors George Washington's compatriot, General Hugh Mercer. It prospered as a barge & train stop after the Camden & Amboy Railroad and Delaware & Raritan Canal opened routes here in the 1830s.

Port Mercer featured a lumber yard, store, post office, inn, coal yard, lime kilns, racehorse breeder, more businesses, & large farms. A bridge tender collected tolls and managed the swing bridge. Local Charles Mather was an NJ Assemblyman in the early 1900s.

David Crater was NJ's Secretary of State under Governor Woodrow Wilson. The railroad realigned to the present Northeast Corridor in the 1860s. The canal closed in 1932 and is now a state park. Starting in the mid-1900s, commercial and housing complexes transformed the landscape.

Posted for WW's 225th anniversary 2022



PRINCETON BASIN HISTORIC COMMUNITY

Also called "Canal Basin," this hamlet flourished as a barge/train stop after the Camden & Amboy Railroad Co. and Delaware & Raritan Canal opened routes here in the 1830s. A hotel served barge workers & travelers and renowned Princeton architect Charles Steadman ran a lumber yard here.

Princeton Basin also featured a hay press, sash factory, bottle plant, coal yard, other businesses, and farmland. The community declined after the railroad realigned to the present Northeast Corridor in the 1860s. In later years, it was nicknamed "Bedbug row" and saw several murders in the late 1800s/early 1900s. From the 1950s to the 1970s, Rex Goreleigh - an influential Black artist - ran a teaching studio here. Little remains of Princeton Basin and much of the area is now part of the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park.

Posted for WW's 225th anniversary 2022



PRINCETON JUNCTION HISTORIC COMMUNITY

— ● ● ● —

This village flourished at the junction of the 1860s-era Dinkey & Northeast Corridor train lines. It originally clustered around Station Drive with a store/post office, hotel, warehouse, feed mill, & large farms.

The train station hosted orators, presidential funeral processions, & more. WW's first planned community, now named "Berrien city," developed south of the station starting in 1916. The Princeton Junction Fire Co formed here in 1926.

From the 1930s onward, a commercial district east of the railroad featured automobile service stations, a lumber yard, moving company, hardware store, strip malls, & more. In 1964, Maurice Hawk school was built next to a mid-1800s schoolhouse. WW's first high school was built in 1973. A new town hall opened in 1977. Starting in the mid-1900s, the area saw growth and is now a commercial & suburban center.

Posted for WW's 225th anniversary 2022



SCHENCK-COVENHOVEN CEMETERY

One of West Windsor's most historic sites, containing about 80-95 burials. It was part of about 6500 acres bought by William Penn in 1693 & sold in 1737 to two Dutch families - the Schencks & Covenhovens. They founded a community here called "Penns Neck." the oldest known gravestone dates to 1746. Other families buried here include the Dyes, Crusers, Hights, Stouts, & Martins. About a dozen early town government officers are buried here.

Most graves face east-west - in line with traditional Christian burials - whereas the stone wall aligns with Route 1 & Washington Road. Eliza T. Schenck supported the wall's 1876 construction. The Penns Neck Cemetery Association formed in 1877 to care for the property but few burials occurred afterward - the last was in 1941. It is now owned by xxxx and surrounded by Princeton University's campus in West Windsor.

Posted for WW's 225th anniversary 2022



VANHISEVILLE HISTORIC COMMUNITY

By the mid-1800s, a small cluster of buildings had developed here around Hendrickson Drive, South/North Mill Roads, & Princeton-Hightstown Road. It was home to several families including the Vanhises, who served several town government roles in the mid-1800s. An inn, managed by the Vanhises, provided lodging for travelers. A store & post office operated in the mid-1800s.

In the early 1900s, the Trenton-New Brunswick "Fast Line" trolley route ran through West Windsor with a stop at Princeton-Hightstown Road nearby. A conductor is said to have observed the pigs kept on a nearby farm and dubbed the area "Pigtown," a nickname that stuck. In the mid-1900s, Howard Cox, publisher of the "Raggedy Ann" book series, lived on seventy acres of farmland here, which were replaced by Community Park starting in the 1990s.

Posted for WW's 225th anniversary 2022



WASHINGTON ROAD ELM ALLEÉ

This elm corridor was first planted around the 1920s by Princeton Nurseries - one of the nation's most important commercial plant nurseries - during a national movement to beautify streetscapes. 136 Princeton Elms (*Ulmus americana* 'Princeton') were grown to form a stately gateway along Washington Road between West Windsor & Princeton in the historic West Windsor community of Penns Neck. The trees were chosen to match Princeton University's traditional plantings of American Elms - a species long considered a national icon.

Over the years, the Alleé weathered crises including Dutch elm disease. Sadly, many have perished, but other vegetation planted over the decades - including Norway Maples, Delaware Elms, Liberty Elms, and forsythia - maintain the beauty of this portal. The Alleé was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

Posted for WW's 225th anniversary 2022