

Historic Preservation Commission



The State registered and locally significant Historic Sites in Clinton Township include dwellings, farmsteads, and structures throughout the Township. Please contact the Clinton Township Historical Preservation Commission for more detail and descriptive information.

The Commission meets at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday of each month on the second floor of the Municipal Court Building located at 1370 Route 31 North, Annandale, NJ.

Please contact us if you would like to get involved!

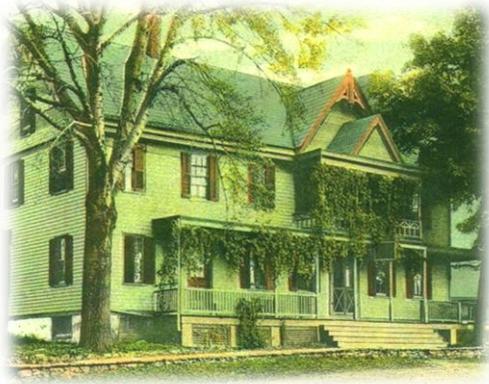
Contact Information

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Mailing Address:

**Historic Preservation Commission
Township of Clinton
1225 Route 31 South, Suite D
Lebanon, NJ 08833**



Hotel Annandale, Main Street



Annandale General Store



Headley House Annandale



The Beaver Brook Homestead in Annandale

The purpose of the Commission is to promote the conservation of historic sites and districts, and to safeguard the heritage of Clinton Township through education and preservation of the elements of its cultural, social, scenic, economic, and architectural history.

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)

reviews applications and plans submitted to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Construction Office to assist in the review of these regarding the possible impact on historic structures' physical or cultural significant attributes. Comments are sent back to the appropriate group and the Mayor and Council for consideration.

The HPC also conducts walking tours of historic districts to educate the public on the significance of our districts and our heritage. The **HPC** works with other groups in the Township regarding aspects of planning and contributes to the Master Plan.

Historic Sites and Districts. State registered Historic Sites refer to any real property, man-made structure, natural object or configuration of any portion of a group of the forgoing formally designated by the state, county, or municipality or documented as being historical, archeological, cultural, scenic, or architectural significance. (NJ State Planning Commission, 1992)

There are four State and National registered Historic Districts and three other identified districts in Clinton Township. A historic district typically consists of several properties that are united historically, and may also comprise individual elements that are geographical, but linked by historical association.

New Jersey & National Register Historic Districts.

Annandale Historic District – This settlement is located near the center of Clinton Township (State Route 31 and County Roads 633 & 626). The village was originally named Clinton Station, as it was a depot of the New Jersey Central Railroad. Renamed for a town in Scotland, the population reached 380 people by 1880. A fairly dense and well-defined village, it is composed of 12 blocks and approximately 150 structures.

The one church in town is the Reformed Church, located on the corner of Beaver Avenue and West Street. The vast majority of the structures are single family, detached houses dating from 1840 -1910.

Cokesbury Historic District – This district is located on the boundary line between Tewksbury and Clinton Townships on County Road 639. There was an iron furnace constructed in 1754. Local historians claim the town was named after two Methodist bishops, Coke and Ashbury. By 1881, Cokesbury included a hotel, store, blacksmith shop, wheelwright shop, two churches and 14 dwellings.

Potterstown Historic District – The Potterstown Historic District is located on the border between Clinton and Readington Townships, just off U. S. Route 22. A map dated 1872 indicates over a dozen dwellings and a store existed in this section of Clinton Township.

Readingsburg Historic District – Readingsburg is located in northern Clinton Township at the mouth of the Ken Lockwood Gorge. The town of High Bridge is located about one mile south of Readingsburg and the village of Cokesbury lies several miles to the east. The district contains six principal buildings, all houses, and encompasses the entire hamlet, as well as some surrounding open space.

Other Identified Historic Districts

Allerton Historic District – This community is located at the intersection of County Road 623 and Allerton Road. It was named for the Aller family, which maintained mills there as early as 1834. In 1860, the settlement was called Allerville. Eight years later the town constructed a Baptist Church, steam sawmill, store, chair factory, and a few dwellings.

Hamden Historic District – Hamden is located in the southwestern part of Clinton Township along the South Branch of the Raritan River, just west of Allerton Road.

The district was part of the 100-acre Hamdon tract purchased by Philip and John Grandin in approximately 1760. The 1873 maps show a store, blacksmith shop, three mills, and five dwellings.

New Jersey Historic District – This district is a small village sandwiched between U. S. Route 22 and Interstate 78 in the center of Clinton Township. It contains an outstanding farm complex including individual structures, a primary dwelling unit, tenant house, out-kitchen, springhouse, frame wagon house, and a barn.

Early History. The Lenape path known as the Lower Minisink Trail, which connected the Delaware and Raritan Rivers, crossed the region on its east-west journey. Many artifacts found in the Township are remnants of the Lenape activities along the Trail whether from hunting, camping, or traveling for trade with other members of the Lenape nation. German Lutheran and German Reformed settlers pushing west along this Trail from New Brunswick, English settlers pushing east from Easton, and Quakers pushing north from Philadelphia met in the wild frontier of West Jersey about 1714.

In March of 1841, local leaders gathered in Jones Tavern to form a new township out of the southern portion of Lebanon Township, taking the name of Clinton after its largest settlement, but retaining the Lebanon name for its eastern post office hamlet. This action resulted in the temporary development of two Clintons and two Lebanons.

There are numerous Historic Sites, Historic Districts and Historic Corridors located in Clinton Township including the 4 Historic Districts listed above, 72 state registered Historic Places, and over 200 locally identified Historic Sites. The Township's list includes historic farmsteads, dwellings, and structures that exhibit historic significance. The sites on the Township list reflect information obtained from both the Hunterdon County and the Clinton Township Historical Commissions.