

19: DOCUMENTED HISTORIC SITES

The identification and preservation of historical sites is important in maintaining the cultural legacy of a defined area. The area of Franklin Township was settled around 1740, but it wasn't until the year 1839 that the Township became incorporated. Some of the more significant historic elements of the Township are identified on the Historic Features map ([Figure 18](#)) and presented in Appendix 18. Information presented in the Appendix is a combination of information retrieved from the National and State Register of Historical Places and from the Warren County Cultural Resources Survey.

The original inhabitants of the land were the Paleo-Indians, who hunted now extirpated elk, caribou and other mammals. The Leni Lenape Indians settled in the area up until European settlement in the 1800s. The first European settlers were predominantly Germans, Scottish, and Irish. These settlers cleared much of the valleys for subsistence agriculture which eventually gave way to grain and dairy farming. Settlement centered in the villages of Asbury, Broadway and New Village. Population and industry grew in the 1800s due to the construction of Route 57, Morris Turnpike, Morris Canal, and the Somerville-Easton railroad. A wide range of architectural styles are visible in the historical farmsteads, gristmills, and churches that still stand today to attest for Franklin Township's historical past.

There are several historic sites within Franklin Township, three of which are recognized by the State and National Register of Historic Places. The Asbury Historic District encompasses the area from Maple to Kitchen and School Streets and contains 148 buildings. This site is on both the State and National Register. The Township's first gristmill can be found in this historic district. The building that contains the Asbury Mill dates back to pre-Revolutionary times and was converted to a graphite mill in 1895. An essential conduit for the transportation of goods from the Township to urban centers during the mid-1800s to early-1900s was the Morris Canal. Listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places and listed in the Township ordinance as a Historic Preservation Area, the canal was a great engineering accomplishment of its day. Finally, a former farmhouse, the John Richey House, is also listed on the State and National Register. This house dates back to the 1800s and is privately owned.

Not listed on the State and National Register, is Warne's Gristmill, dating back to 1810. This mill was owned by the Warne family until 1935. Though not operational today, the building is in good condition and is located on 303-acres accompanied by a stone farmhouse, barns and outbuildings dating to the 17th Century.

Another area, The Plenge, exhibits evidence of the Paleo-Indian existence. This site is one of two major Paleo-Indian archeological site excavations in the state and one of the most important in the northeast. This site is eligible for National Landmark designation.

There are several other historic sites, including schools, churches, cemeteries, farms, and buildings that illustrate Franklin Township's agricultural and industrial past. The Warren County Cultural Resources Survey identifies over 100 such sites. Finally, both the Warren County Survey and the National Register identify sites within the Township that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register. These sites are included in Appendix 18.

Federal Historic Site

★ John Richey House

State Historic Site

Asbury Historic District

County Reviewed Sites

Bridge

Cemetery

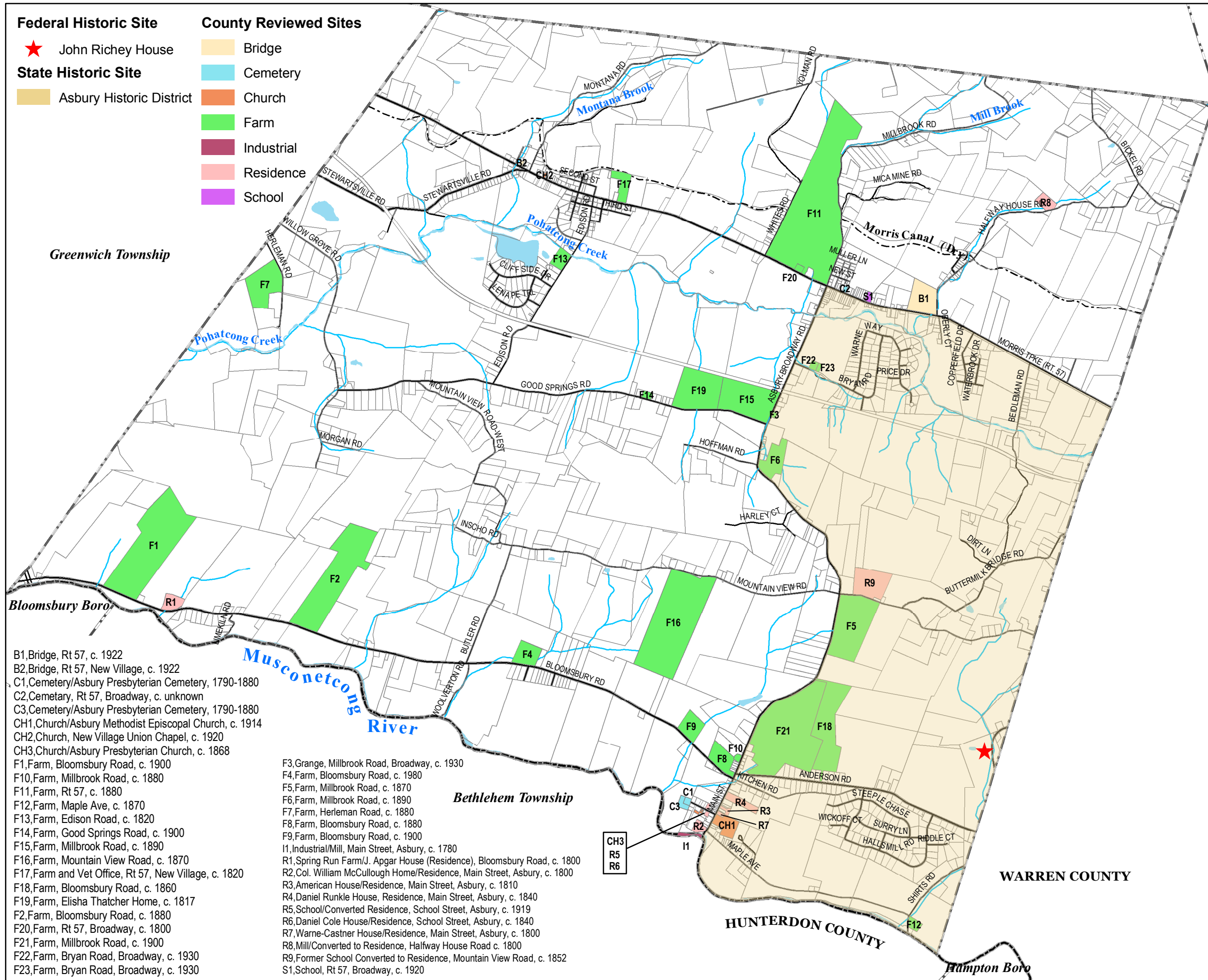
Church

Farm

Industrial

Residence

School



Greenwich Township

Bloomsbury Boro

Bethlehem Township

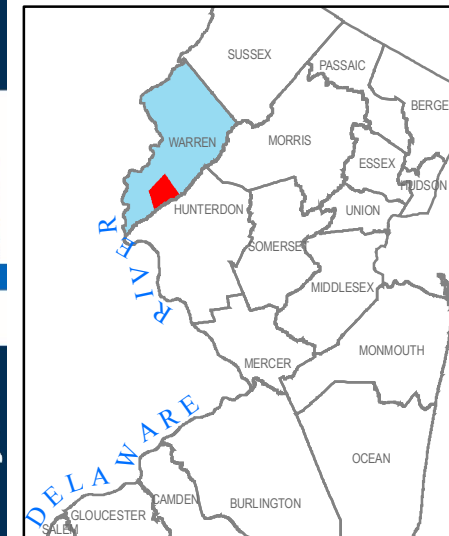
WARREN COUNTY

HUNTERDON COUNTY

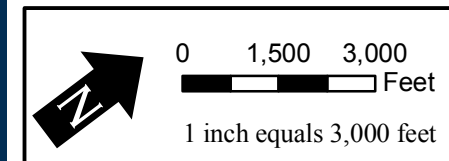
Hampton Boro

- B1, Bridge, Rt 57, c. 1922
- B2, Bridge, Rt 57, New Village, c. 1922
- C1, Cemetery/Asbury Presbyterian Cemetery, 1790-1880
- C2, Cemetery, Rt 57, Broadway, c. unknown
- C3, Cemetery/Asbury Presbyterian Cemetery, 1790-1880
- CH1, Church/Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, c. 1914
- CH2, Church, New Village Union Chapel, c. 1920
- CH3, Church/Asbury Presbyterian Church, c. 1868
- F1, Farm, Bloomsbury Road, c. 1900
- F10, Farm, Millbrook Road, c. 1880
- F11, Farm, Rt 57, c. 1880
- F12, Farm, Maple Ave, c. 1870
- F13, Farm, Edison Road, c. 1820
- F14, Farm, Good Springs Road, c. 1900
- F15, Farm, Millbrook Road, c. 1890
- F16, Farm, Mountain View Road, c. 1870
- F17, Farm and Vet Office, Rt 57, New Village, c. 1820
- F18, Farm, Bloomsbury Road, c. 1860
- F19, Farm, Elisha Thatcher Home, c. 1817
- F2, Farm, Bloomsbury Road, c. 1880
- F20, Farm, Rt 57, Broadway, c. 1800
- F21, Farm, Millbrook Road, c. 1900
- F22, Farm, Bryan Road, Broadway, c. 1930
- F23, Farm, Bryan Road, Broadway, c. 1930
- F3, Grange, Millbrook Road, Broadway, c. 1930
- F4, Farm, Bloomsbury Road, c. 1980
- F5, Farm, Millbrook Road, c. 1870
- F6, Farm, Millbrook Road, c. 1890
- F7, Farm, Herleman Road, c. 1880
- F8, Farm, Bloomsbury Road, c. 1880
- F9, Farm, Bloomsbury Road, c. 1900
- I1, Industrial/Mill, Main Street, Asbury, c. 1780
- R1, Spring Run Farm/J. Apgar House (Residence), Bloomsbury Road, c. 1800
- R2, Col. William McCullough Home/Residence, Main Street, Asbury, c. 1800
- R3, American House/Residence, Main Street, Asbury, c. 1810
- R4, Daniel Runkle House, Residence, Main Street, Asbury, c. 1840
- R5, School/Converted Residence, School Street, Asbury, c. 1919
- R6, Daniel Cole House/Residence, School Street, Asbury, c. 1840
- R7, Warne-Castner House/Residence, Main Street, Asbury, c. 1800
- R8, Mill/Converted to Residence, Halfway House Road c. 1800
- R9, Former School Converted to Residence, Mountain View Road, c. 1852
- S1, School, Rt 57, Broadway, c. 1920

NEW JERSEY COUNTY MAP



PRINCETON HYDRO, LLC.
1108 OLD YORK ROAD, SUITE 1
RINGOES, NEW JERSEY, 08551



- SOURCES:**
1. Parcel, roads and the Franklin Township Boundary data obtained from Warren County Planning Dept. "This map was developed using the Warren County New Jersey, Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by Warren County and is not county-authorized."
 2. Surface water data obtained from the NJDEP, Division of GIS.
 3. Federal Historic data obtained from the National Park Service.
 4. State Historic data obtained from the NJ DEP, Historic Preservation Office.
 5. County Reviewed Historic Sites obtained from Franklin Township.

**FIGURE 18
HISTORIC SITES**

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Legend

- Parcels
- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundaries
- Ponds/Lakes
- Streams**
- Streams
- Morris Canal (Dry)
- Roads

