

Marlboro Township Historic Preservation Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2018

I. Call to Order

Chairman Douglas Tilton called to order the meeting of the MARLBORO TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION at 7:00PM on May 14, 2018, at Town Hall, Room #2. The meeting was called to order with a Salute to the Flag, and acknowledged compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. Roll Call

- 1) The following members were present for the meeting: Dorothy McCue, Thom Healy, Jack Appel, Lynn Harold, Douglas Tilton, Kathleen Guth, Desi Smith
- 2) The following members were absent from the meeting: Peter Cuttone, Carol Cincotta

III. Corrections

No corrections.

IV. Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2018 Meeting

The Minutes of the March 12, 2018 meeting were accepted as written:

Motion to Accept: Jack Appel

Seconded: Kathleen Guth

V. Citizens' Voice

No members of the Public present.

VI. Chairman's Report

- 1) An email was sent in response to Ellen Herman's letter to the Township referencing the Town's absence during "Weekend in Old Monmouth 2018".
- 2) A collection of 35mm slides were found in the Historic Commission's storage cabinet, most of which were used in the original Marlboro History Book. These can be repurposed for the new online book (see Committee Reports below)
- 3) A continuation of the discussions of the disposition of 42 Vanderburg Road is to be discussed at an upcoming Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting, Tuesday June 26th.

VII. Old Business

- 1) No old business.

VIII. New Business

- 1) A number of the "Welcome to Marlboro" signs are in need of repair. The signs were initially purchased by the Historic Commission in 1999, with no agreement for their ongoing

maintenance. A motion was made that the Historic Commission will not fund the repair or replacement of these signs.

- Motion to Approve – Lynn Harold
- Seconded – Dorothy McCue
- The Motion is **APPROVED**

2) A motion was made that the Historic Commission would ‘take no action’ regarding the Marlboro State Hospital Cemetery Grounds on Route 520, across from the main entrance to the hospital. The grounds appear to be well maintained.

- Motion to Approve – Thom Healy
- Seconded – Kathleen Guth
- The Motion is **APPROVED**

3) It was requested that pictures of signs from neighboring towns be observed as possible alternatives to the existing historic markers in town. Pictures attached.

4) Doug asked for a volunteer to research the deed history for the Geran House on Texas Road. Kathleen offer to do this.

5) Thom was asked to rewrite the Historic Commission’s web page introduction. New text is attached, awaiting approval.

6) The Historic Commission will participate in Archives Day, Saturday October 13, 2018. The event takes place at the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan from 9am to 3pm. Lynn will file the Table Permit (\$10 fee). We will produce a slide show of historic locations in Marlboro, highlighting 42 Vanderburg Rd, Old Brick Church, and other significant sites.

IX. Committee Reports

Book Committee – Revised to be the “Online Book Committee”; The first submission was written by Thom about the Smock House at 42 Vanderburg Rd. Draft is attached for review.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn – Thom Healy

Seconded – Desi Smith

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Harold

Secretary

SAMPLE HISTORIC MARKERS FROM NEIGHBORING TOWNS



Figure 1 - Sample historic marker from Holmdel



Figure 2 - Sample historic marker from Holmdel

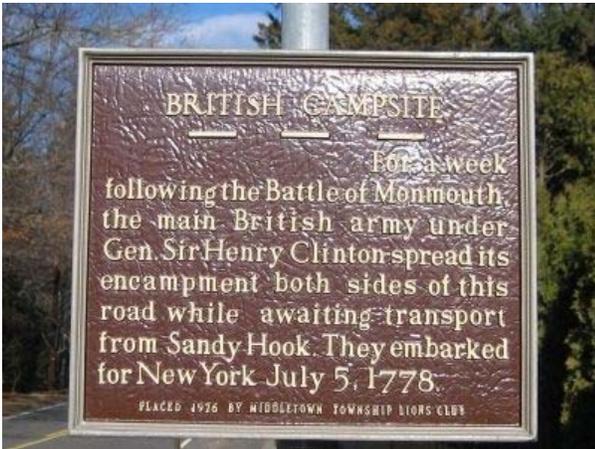


Figure 3 - British Campsite Marker, Atlantic Highlands

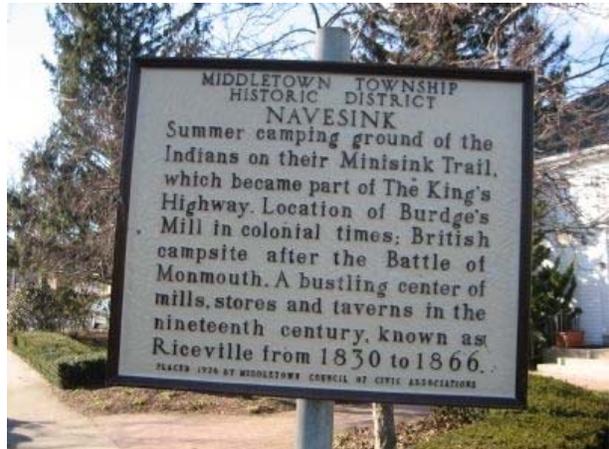


Figure 4 - Navesink Marker, Middletown Township

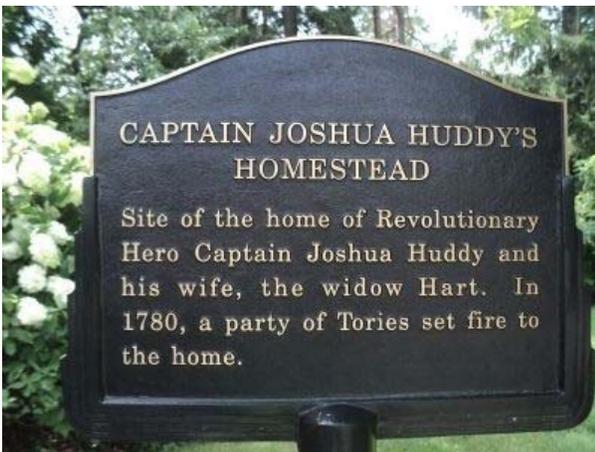


Figure 5 - Huddy's Homestead, Colts Neck



Figure 6 - Old St. Gabriel's Church, Marlboro

HISTORIC COMMISSION WEB PAGE INTRODUCTION

Please note that formatting and the insertion of pictures consistent with the Town's Style Guide would be done by the webmaster unless we provide a specific layout request.

Historic Commission (HC)

For questions or additional information:
please email history1848@marlboro-nj.gov
Subject Line: "Historic Commission"

The Marlboro Township Historic Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Township departments when township historic questions arise. Additionally, the Commission is dedicated to preserving and publicizing the Township's history. The Historic Commission is composed of nine members, appointed by the Mayor for a three-year term. The members volunteer their time without receiving any compensation.

Generally, the Commission recommends programs and policies to the Mayor and the Township Council for the identification, preservation, protection, development, improvement, restoration, and management of all historic sites within the Township. Where feasible, the Commission advises owners of historic properties on how they can participate in a historic preservation and renovation program.

Residents who have information or wish to participate in the Historic Commission are welcome to attend monthly public meetings. The meetings are held in an administrative room of the Marlboro Town Hall. The dates are posted in advance and usually happen on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.

We welcome input, ideas, concerns and suggestions on Marlboro Township historical matters. The Commission Chairperson can be reached via the email address above or c/o the Mayor's office, at 732-536-0200, Ext. 1200.

ONLINE BOOK – CHAPTER 1

THE SMOCK HOUSE 42 VANDERBURG ROAD

Appearing on many historic maps and located on Vandenberg Road in Marlboro, this historic Smock house and property was a centerpiece of Marlboro Township history.

Currently only a small two-acre tract, the extensive farm property was converted to a housing development circa 2000 leaving the house and small property as the last vestige of the “Smock Farm”. The importance of this property cannot be over emphasized. The Smock farm, also known as “MacKenzie” or “Homestead” farm, was one of the original Marl bed locations for this area. The harvesting of Marl was the centerpiece of industry for Marlboro in the mid to late 1800’s. It was responsible for the naming of our township.

Uriah obtained the property from his father, John H. Smock in 1850. John Smock purchased it in 1810 from Hendrick Smock of Colts Neck who in turn purchased it from George Smock who again in turn purchased it from Garret Smock. According to documents, Garret Smock sold the property to George Smock in 1797.

The house and farm was named for Uriah Smock who helped his father build the house. Likely built over a much older home which may have dated to the mid 1700’s, the home was built in the Greek Revival style - in vogue at the time. The structure has identical symmetrical facades on the north and south sides. The internal wood work and central stairs are stunning examples of the style and period construction techniques.

The framing of the building shows Mortise and Tenon peg construction. The logs used for framing reflect huge joists with broad ax marks in hewing the logs for use. The basement wall is partially made of field stone, likely collected from the area farm when clearing the farm for agricultural activities.

The construction of the home as we see it today, likely occurred between 1830 and 1848. Census records reflect that Uriah was residing on the site in 1860 was his wife Catharine Smock (nee. Schenck), Ella S. Smock (age 8), Daniel Haxhurst Smock (age 8), Mary Pigot Smock (age 17), two servants and John Smock. Uriah and Catharine had a total of five children at this home. Two died in young childhood (Henry and Anne).

During Uriah Smock’s tenure on the property, he was noted as farming about 100 acres and owned 30-50 unimproved acres of land. He mostly maintained orchards of fruit trees although he also had standard farm animals, potato & grain fields and personal gardens for family and livestock consumption. Having learned from his father the significant soil improvement from Marl -- Uriah used the Marl on his property and published the improved growth results in publications of the time.

As other published accounts of Marl use began to spread - it led to widespread use of Marl in the Mid-Atlantic Region. With requests to purchase the Marl, Uriah Smock began to harvest, sell, and ship the Marl from the Marl beds found on his property. This provided significant income for him and his family. Together with other Marl pits from Herbert and Conover, the area became known for Marl in the region and led to the township name in 1848.

Transportation of the Marl was initially fairly restricted to area farms or to ship transport from Keyport or South Amboy. However, with the opening of the railroad in 1854 in Freehold, the Marl was easily transported to many areas. When the Monmouth County Agricultural Railroad opened in Marlboro in 1867, Marl became easily transportable to any region of the country... however, most of the Marl harvested continued to be used in region fields.

Farmers such as the Smock family not only acquired greater wealth from the sale of marl but also from the productiveness of their farmland. John H. and Uriah Smock appeared to be among the wealthier farmers in the township according to census data. The growth of the village of Marlboro can be attributed to the marl fertilizer industry and the building of a railroad station in Marlboro. The rail route from Freehold to Keyport further enhanced the ability for farmers to move goods to market; Uriah Smock's farm produced a greater number of bushels of potatoes and probably shipped more farm goods than marl by rail. Large warehouses, which still stand near the Marlboro train station today, housed potatoes, a major crop in the township along with other goods destined for markets in New York