

Long Hill Township

Draft Historic Preservation Element of the Master Plan

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Prepared for:

The Long Hill Township Planning Board

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Advisory Committee

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THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The essential goals of historic preservation are to promote ongoing understanding, preservation, protection, and enhancement of the historic buildings, structures, and character of Long Hill Township.

Long Hill's rich history and inventory of historic resources are important building blocks of the community's character. Protecting this history enables us to maintain a sense of place that unites us with our past and connects us with the future. The town's buildings, structures, neighborhoods, and landscape have helped to shape the community's identity. Preserving the significant and unique characteristics of the past helps preserve community values for the future.

THE GOALS OF THIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN ELEMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Identify and prioritize historically significant objects, structures, sites and districts located within Long Hill Township.
2. Safeguard the architectural, cultural, economic, and social heritage of Long Hill Township.
3. Foster an appreciation and awareness of our architectural, cultural, and physical heritage through educating, involving, and communicating with all citizens the importance of preserving Long Hill Township's cultural heritage.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Long Hill Township Historic Preservation Advisory Committee was established by Resolution 96-#299 of the Long Hill Township Committee. It consists of 9 members appointed by the mayor on a rotating basis.

TOWNSHIP HISTORY

An excerpt from *Images of America – Long Hill Township* by Mary Lou Weller

"To this very day, residents of our enclave of towns that comprises what is known as Long Hill Township continue to have the great fortune of unearthing Indian arrowheads in their backyards---arrowheads that date as far back as 7,000 years in civilized history. The township's original inhabitants were the tribes of the Lenape Indians, who established themselves among the forested hills and winding valleys of the area, and who stayed there until 1759, when they began a western migration to escape from the influx of settlers. The vast expanse of land was then surveyed under the Lord Stirling Grant and the Elizabethtown Grant, which was comprised of 500,000 acres. In 1769, John Littell, a cartographer and resident of the region in the 1800's, designed a map of what he referred to as Long Hill and Passaic Valley, Passaic meaning "valley" in Indian. This map also included the towns of Logansville, Pleasantville, New Vernon, Green Village, White Bridge, Meyersville, Stirling Valley, and Millington. At that time the Great Swamp was known as Lake Passaic, with

much of the surrounding land being primarily used for agricultural purposes and sparsely populated. Our particular township was comprised of the high land of Long Hill, Millington, the valleys of Stirling and Gillette, the vast open farmland of Meyersville, and the Passaic River, along with a smattering of streams, which were primarily used for fishing.

In the late eighteenth century, a stagecoach route slowly began to develop from east to west across the land. By an act of the state legislature in 1866, what is now Long Hill Township was established as Passaic Township. Modest development continued in the area until after 1871, when the West Line Railroad burst on through from Summit to Bernardsville and began to change the face of the community as a whole. Each village began to take on an individual purpose: farming and agriculture continued to flourish in Meyersville, Stirling developed its industrial side, Gillette remained a small residential village, and Millington became known for its estates, mills and hilly terrain. Yet with all this individuality came cohesiveness, once the villages were linked together within one township.

In the 1920s, New Vernon separated from Passaic Township to become Harding Township. At the same time, L. Preston Gates was in the process of developing a large subdivision within Passaic Township, an addition known as Homestead Park, which was to be a new summer housing community for vacationers, complete with a private lake. All this development brings us to the present day, with our cluster of the five towns of Stirling, Gillette, Homestead Park, Meyersville, and Millington now making up one township. In 1992, a majority of voters elected to change the name of Passaic Township to Long Hill Township.”

TOWNSHIP PRESERVATION ACTIONS

This Historic Plan Element continues the tradition established by the 1995 Long Hill Township Master Plan goal “to conserve and enhance the essential rural and residential character” of the community. This goal is and remains consistent with principles of local historic preservation.

The following actions are underway or proposed and considered important to the Long Hill Township Historic Preservation Plan:

- Designation of Long Hill Township historic places
- Oversight of Township application requests that may affect historic places
- Preservation awareness programs administered primarily through the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee
- Continued maintenance for Township owned designated historic places
- Identification of grants available to historic preservation projects
- Increase the number of Township historic places nominated to the National Historic Register

PRESERVATION AWARENESS

In addition to conserving the rural character, this Historic Element is based on the belief that education and preservation awareness to all residents is the foundation to preserving the history of our generations.

Long Hill Township, through the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee has identified and mapped the location of sites, landmarks and districts as part of the master plan process. Township development projects provide the archeological investigations and on-site public observation, enhancing the understanding of our past and increasing the awareness of the current cultural diversity of the town. The sites and districts are designated historic solely for recognition and primarily for educational purposes.

The ***Long Hill Historic Landmarks Program*** honors sites possessing exceptional value in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of Long Hill Township with a marker.

STANDARDS ASSESSING WORTHINESS OF HISTORIC SITES AND DISTRICTS

The Historic Preservation Advisory Committee maintains the *Long Hill Inventory of Historic Places* along with the standards used to assess worthiness of each listed site and district. The standards are described in the "*Long Hill Township Historic Preservation Programs*" first published by the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee in 2009. As described in the standards, Long Hill Township uses acceptance criteria adapted from the National Register of Historic Places.

HPAC regularly updates this inventory of designated historic places and performs a yearly review of all listed sites and districts. Historic places include public and private sites, structures and districts.

SIGNIFICANCE OF TOWNSHIP HISTORIC SITES

There is a compelling need to preserve the distinctive character of the villages of Long Hill Township. The historic places and street settings that contribute to the village character of Long Hill Township demand respect and will be maintained and enhanced in such a manner that the architectural and cultural heritage that they reflect is preserved. New construction or reconstruction will compliment surrounding existing structures having historical significance. Items that require Planning Board review on lots adjacent to sites listed in the *Long Hill Inventory of Historic Places* should be referred to the HPAC for review.

In the instance that a historic resource is impacted from issues regarding tourism, economic development, traffic patterns, development patterns or design approaches, HPAC will advise the Township Committee, Planning Board or Zoning Board of the possible historic effect.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION IMPACT FROM OTHER MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS

...Required by the MLUL, this section should be completed by the Planning Board with support from the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee...

APPENDIX A, REFERENCES

Weller, Mary Lou, Images of America – Long Hill Township, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston SC, Chicago IL, Portsmouth NJ, San Francisco CA 1997

Thomas, Gwendolyn and the Passaic Township Tercentennial Committee, Passaic Township, A Short History Published in Connection with the New Jersey Tercentennial 1664-1964, 1964

United States, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, www.nps.gov/nr

State of New Jersey, Trenton, New Jersey, Municipal Land Use Law 40:55D-25 through 40-55D-112, addendum 55:27D-310. www.nj.gov/dep/hpo

State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection, Natural and Historic Resources, Trenton, New Jersey, New Jersey Register of Historic Places, www.nj.gov/dep/hpo

County of Morris, Morristown New Jersey, Morris County Heritage Commission, Acroterian Historic Preservation Consultants, Historic Sites Survey, July 1986

County of Morris, Morristown New Jersey, Morris County Heritage Commission, Historic Highlights of Long Hill Township, 2003

Township of Long Hill, Morris County, New Jersey, Long Hill Township Planning Board, Master Plan, 1995, www.longhillnj.us

Township of Long Hill, Morris County, New Jersey, Land Use Ordinances, 1996, <http://www.codedsystems.com/longhill.htm>

Township of Long Hill, Morris County, New Jersey, Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, Inventory of Historic Places, 2009, www.longhillnj.us

Township of Long Hill, Morris County, New Jersey, Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, Historic Preservation Programs, 2009, www.longhillnj.us

Township of Long Hill, Morris County, New Jersey, Resolution 96-#299, *A resolution creating a Historic Preservation Advisory Committee*, 1996

Passaic Township Historical Society, *A Guide to Historic Buildings and Sites in Passaic Township*, 1984

APPEXDIX B – DEFINITIONS

The New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law generally defines the terms listed as (a), (b) and (c) below. For the purpose and need of historic preservation, definitions that are more precise are required. HPAC has adopted the National Register of Historic Places definitions shown in bold.

(a) Historic site - any real property, man-made structure, natural object or configuration or any portion or group of the foregoing of historical, archeological, cultural, scenic or architectural significance

(b) Historic district - one or more historic sites and intervening or surrounding properties significantly affecting or affected by the quality or character of the historic site or sites.

(c) Structure - a combination of materials to form a construction for occupancy, use or ornamentation whether installed on, above, or below the surface of a parcel of land.

(d) Landmark - may substitute, in any ordinance, resolution, determination or official action pursuant to the "Municipal Land Use Law" (C. 40:55D-1 et seq.) and this amendatory and supplementary act, for "historic," "historic preservation" and "historic site."

Paraphrased from the National Register of Historic Places

Building - a structure created to shelter any form of human activity, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar structure. Building may refer to a historically related complex such as a courthouse and jail or a house and barn.

District - a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may also comprise individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or history.

Object - a material thing of historical value that may be, by nature or design, movable yet related to a specific setting or environment.

Site - location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself maintains historical or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure. Sites can be structures and landmarks.

Structure - a work made up of interdependent and interrelated parts in a definite pattern of organization. Constructed by man, it is often an engineering project large in scale. Structures can be buildings, roads, bridges and monuments.

HPAC definitions

Designated Historic Place – A building, site, structure, object or district recognized by the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee. Historic places are listed in the *Long Hill Inventory of Historic Places*

Town Landmark – A designated historic place that has been officially recognized by the township. All town landmarks are listed in the *Long Hill Inventory of Historic Places*.