

## **Middletown Township Historical Society: December Happenings**

This newsletter keeps you updated on the latest events and news of the Middletown Township Historical Society. Also, be sure to follow us on social media for even timelier news and for historical items of interest.



### **Take A Tour Through Historic Middletown Village with this Film from 1964**

The Middletown Township Historical Society is pleased to present a refreshed version of "Roadside Story: Middletown Village Along the King's Highway." This color film was created by the Middletown Camera Club for the town's Tercentenary celebration in 1964. The narrated tour takes you outside and inside some of the most interesting buildings in the Village, including the Franklin Academy, Hartshorne House, Marlpit Hall, Taylor-Butler House

(Orchard Home), and more. It runs for nearly 25 minutes and is a treat for those wanting to see the interiors of these historic buildings. [Watch now](#) to experience it, and view how the area looked over 50 years ago.

The film played at local events through the 1970s, but was then largely unseen until the Middletown Township Landmarks Commission had it transferred to DVD for the town's 350 celebration in 2014. This year, MTHS has digitally transferred it, reordered and edited some scenes, and added a revised narration that keeps to the spirit of the original. We are grateful to the Middletown Camera Club, Middletown Township Landmarks Commission, and all others who donated their time and knowledge that led to the creation and refreshing of this film.

[Watch Roadside Story](#)

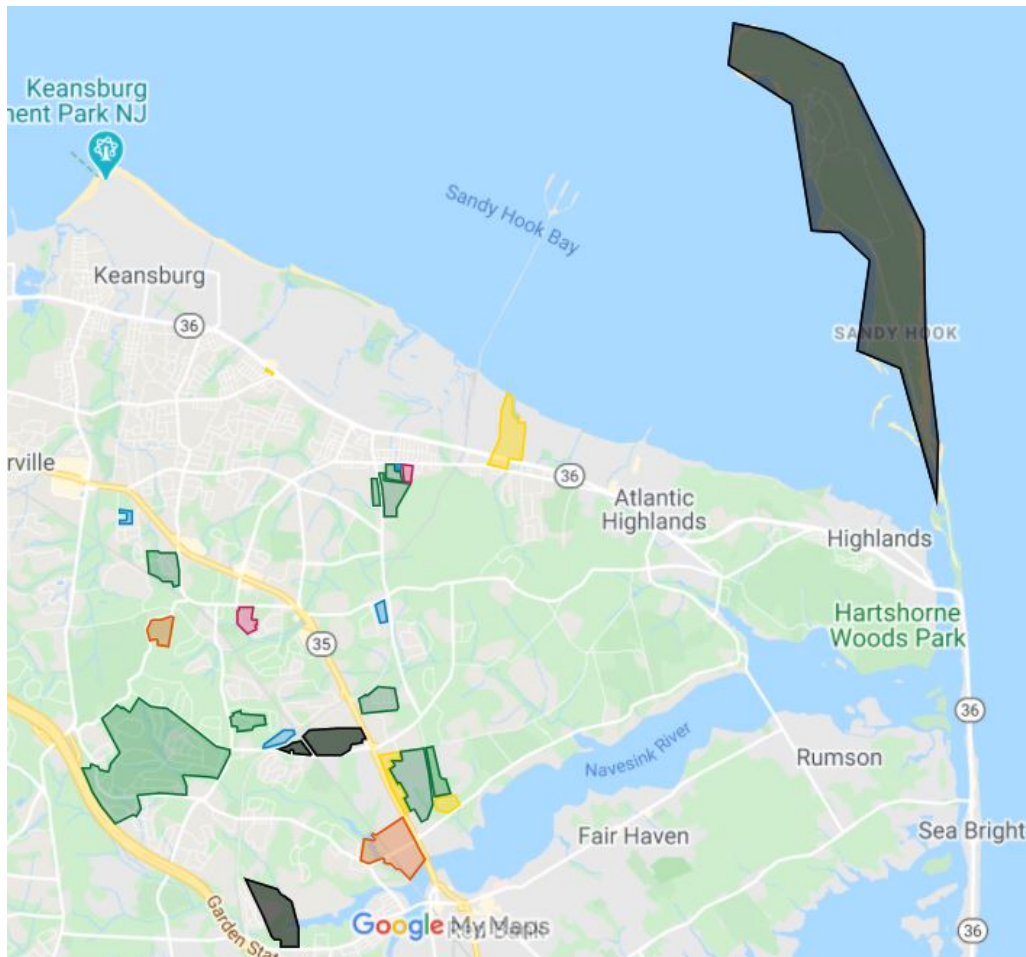
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## **Proposal for Long-Term Housing at Fort Hancock**

The National Park Service has received a proposal from a New York City developer to rehabilitate about 20 buildings, including houses on Officer's Row, into around 90 rental apartments. Last month, NPS held an online information session about this proposal and the current state of leasing at Fort Hancock. To learn more about this proposal that affects this special part of Middletown, read the [Two River Times report](#) or peruse [NPS' leasing website](#).

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## Middletown Land Development Map Now Available!

*[New Entry Added- Pondview!](#)*

If you are curious about when/why/how your housing development or local park was constructed, take a look at our [interactive map](#)! Just click on a shaded area to read the history and see the images. The entries are color-coded so you can see when the various pieces of land were developed. Please note that the map is best viewed on computer or tablet.

Given Middletown's size, this map is a work in progress, so check back in the future if you don't yet see an entry for the land you are interested in. Our goal is to fill the entire map. If you'd like to contribute any entries, [please let us know](#).

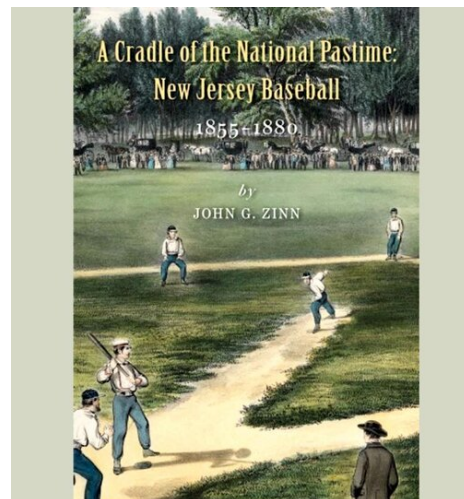
[Land Development Map](#)

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**Read About Donald De Lue's Connection to a Historic Philadelphia Building**

Donald De Lue, the late sculptor who had his home and studio in Leonardo, worked on several façade pieces on the Robert. N. C. Nix, Sr. Federal Courthouse in Philadelphia. In a [recent article](#) for Hidden City Philadelphia, writer Mary Manfredi expresses concern for the building's future. MTHS was happy to assist Ms. Manfredi with photo sourcing.

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## Last Month's Event Recap

Author and historian John Zinn presented on the early days of baseball in New Jersey for our final event in our 2020 speaker series. We thank John and everyone who attended! You may watch his [presentation here](#). His book on this topic can be [purchased here](#), and you can follow his [baseball history blog here](#).

Our Speaker Series will resume in 2021. Thank you to all of our speakers, attendees, sponsors, and volunteers who helped this year.

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## Call for Volunteers!

MTHS is run by volunteers, and if you'd like to become more involved as a trustee, chairperson of a committee, or as a lending hand on anything else, please let us know. We are working on a few different projects and could always use help from those willing to dedicate some time and talent. [Contact us here](#).

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## Historical Signage Grants Available

The W.G. Pomeroy Foundation offers a grant program that pays for the total costs of signage for properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The foundation has specifically reached out to us to help spread the word, as they'd like to provide more signage in New Jersey. If you are part of an organization that owns or controls such a historic property, you may [learn more about and apply for the program here](#). MTHS volunteers are also available to help! [Contact us here](#) if we can be of assistance.

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### **Contribute to Our Archive!**

Our Society has a collection of items and documents related the history of Middletown and the surrounding area. Do you have anything that you'd like to add? Please don't let a treasure be forgotten or thrown away! [Contact us](#) and let us know what you would like to donate.

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***Your Membership Matters . . .***  
**Support Us in 2020!**  
**Join or Renew Today!**

MIDDLETOWN  
TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
Morris County, New Jersey

### **Join in 2020 and Get a Complimentary 2021 Membership!**

The Middletown Township Historical Society gets the bulk of its revenue from member contributions, so your support is vitally important. Your contributions make our initiatives possible, including our speaker series and essay contest for students, and are also essential for paying our administrative costs.

You may [join or renew online](#) or, you may also [print out the form here](#).

**Join or Renew Online**

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## Support Us When You Shop at Amazon!

Now, when you purchase most items from Amazon, they will donate a portion of the sale to us! It costs you nothing! Here's what you need to do:

First, you must [connect our organization to your Amazon account using this link](#). Then, if you shop using a computer, you must go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) for us to receive credit. If you use the Amazon mobile app, be sure it is updated to the latest version and then go into settings to see that Amazon Smile is turned on and that our name is listed.



### Trivia Time

*This Month's Question:*

What and where was the Hunt meet?

Answer will be supplied in next month's newsletter!

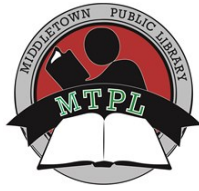
*Answer to Last Month's Question:*

The Oak Hill Association was formed to oppose the opening of Garden State Parkway exit 114.

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In Addition to Our Members, Thank You to the Following for their

## Assistance and Support:



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Thanks for reading! The Middletown Township Historical Society will be in touch again soon! If you know others who would be interested in receiving communications from us, please forward this email and ask them to [join this list!](#)



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