

JUGTOWN / QUEENSTON

Jugtown Historic District



Princeton's 18th Century Crossroads Village



Clifford W. Zink

2024

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Jugtown / Queenston Princeton's Third Oldest Neighborhood

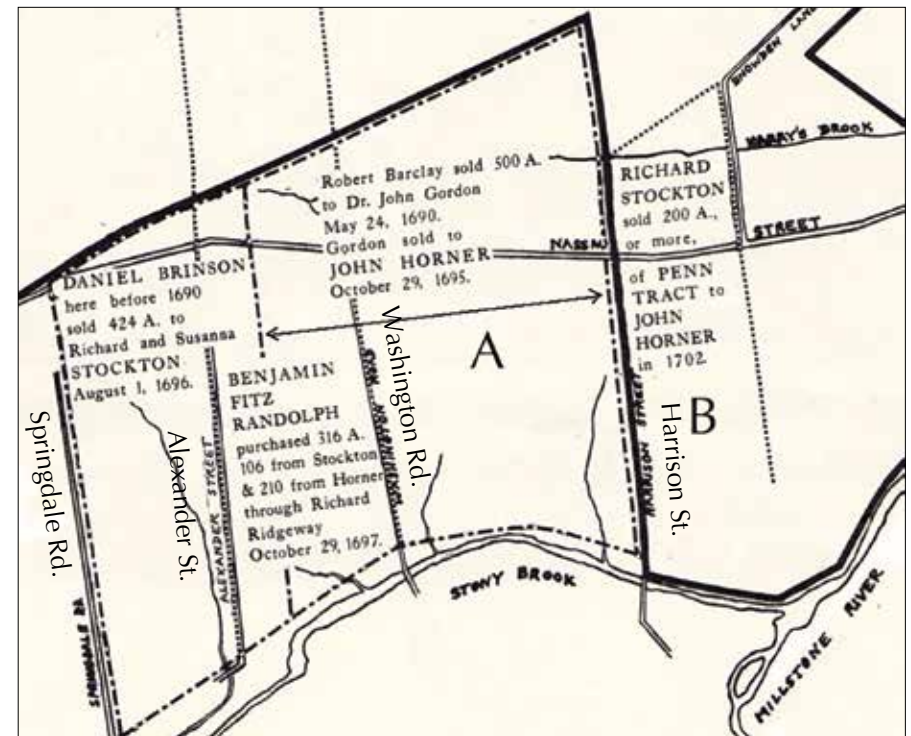
Designated an Historic District in 1986, Jugtown / Queenston is one of the most notable historic neighborhoods to survive in the town of Princeton. It started as a crossroads settlement around 1730. The only older Princeton settlements are Stony Brook, 1696, and Princeton Village (by the road later called Witherspoon Street), circa 1715. Today, Jugtown / Queenston remains one of Princeton's busiest and most important intersections, and yet the historic roots of the settlement are discernible in the landmark buildings and in the harmonious balance of residential and commercial structures of modest scale, all evident in a gentle evolution over three centuries.

It was first called Queenston, in the sequence of Kingston, Queenston, and Princeton, which all started under the British Crown as King's Town, Queen's Town and Prince Town on the King's Highway – a former Lenni Lenape trail between the Raritan and Delaware Rivers, and today's Route 27, Nassau Street, and Route 206.

The settlement and the name Jugtown trace to the Horner family, early Quaker settlers of Princeton. John Horner, a Quaker from Perth Amboy, in 1696 purchased about 500 acres on both sides of the King's Highway, today's Nassau Street. He sold the western 200 acres to Benjamin Fitz Randolph in 1697, and in 1702 purchased 200 acres on the east side of his 1696 purchase.

The boundary between Hornor's tracts (opposite, top) became a road down to and across Stony Brook to the grist mill that Josiah Davison built around 1737 on the Millstone River near present Route 1. Jacob Scudder in 1749 bought Davison's 100-acre property, which by then had a mill pond and dam, two grist mills, a fulling mill, and a house. That year the road was extended to Cranbury and called Scudder's Mill Road, and in 1754 it was extended to Allentown.

On the north side of the King's Highway intersection, the Hornor boundary line soon became a road past a farmhouse (145 Ewing St.) to Mount Lucas Road and Rocky Hill and Somerville beyond. With much traffic, the King's Highway crossroads soon became a village.

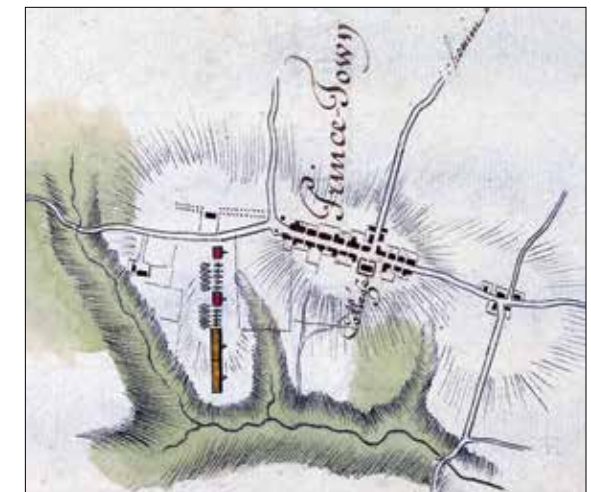


Early Deeds: *Princeton Architecture*, Constance Greiff, Mary W. Gibbons, and Elizabeth G.C. Menzies, Princeton University Press, 1967.

Quaker John Horner purchased some 500 acres (Tract A) in 1696, sold about 200 acres to Benjamin Fitz Randolph in 1697, and in 1702 purchased about 200 acres to the east (Tract B). The early boundaries became Springdale Rd., Alexander St., Washington Rd., and Harrison St.

The Berthier map of Count Rochambeau's army camp on the west side of Prince-town shows the Queenston-Jugtown crossroads settlement on the right with Pre-Revolutionary buildings on all four corners.

Louis-Alexander Berthier, "Camp à Prince-town," 1781, Firestone Library, Princeton University



John Hornor in 1752 joined with landowners John Stockton, Thomas Leonard, and Nathaniel Randolph to secure the relocation of the College of New Jersey from Newark to Princeton by subscribing to a 1,000 pound sterling bond for the College, and by selling and donating land to the College, in Hornor's case about ten acres. Hornor helped lay the cornerstone for Nassau Hall in 1754, and either he or his son Samuel supplied bricks possibly made in Queenston for interior walls in Nassau Hall.

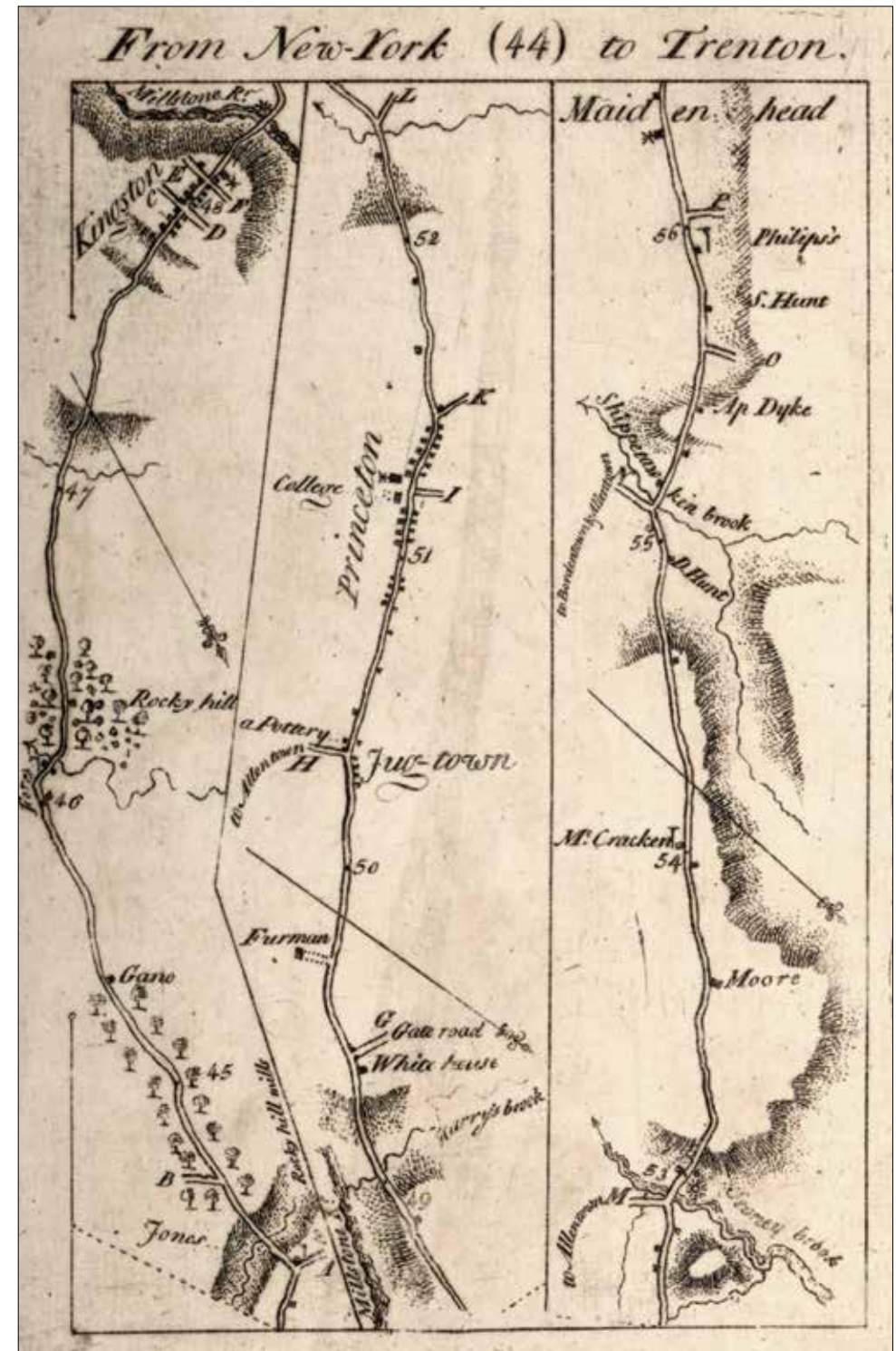
One of the Hornors possibly as early as 1830 built the stone house at 342 Nassau Street (pages 18-19), now one of the oldest houses in Princeton, with stone from a quarry to the northeast (pages 10-11). John Hornor's grandson Joseph Hornor built the brick house at 344 Nassau (pages 20-21) in the 1760s, probably with bricks made from the nearby clay pit and brick yard (page 11).

Joseph sold a lot south west of the intersection in 1766 to John Morton, a potter from Wrightstown, Pa., who established a pottery there, as shown on the 1789 Colles Map, right. This "pot house lot," as it was named in 18th Century deeds, was on the north side of today's Harrison Street Park. Joseph Horner supplied more bricks to the College in 1770.

John Harrison came to Queenston after the Revolutionary War, and bought a farm on the east side of the road to Scudder's Mill. He became the Princeton postmaster and operated a store in the pre-Revolutionary section of 341 Nassau Street (pages 22-23), selling fabrics, books, balms, and pottery, including jugs and vessels to members of the Continental Congress in 1783. With Harrison's farm and his prominent corner store, the road to Scudder's mill soon became known as Harrison Street.

Production of jugs at the pottery must have been significant, as by 1789 (right), the cluster of houses, shops, and workplaces at the intersection was already known as "Jugtown."

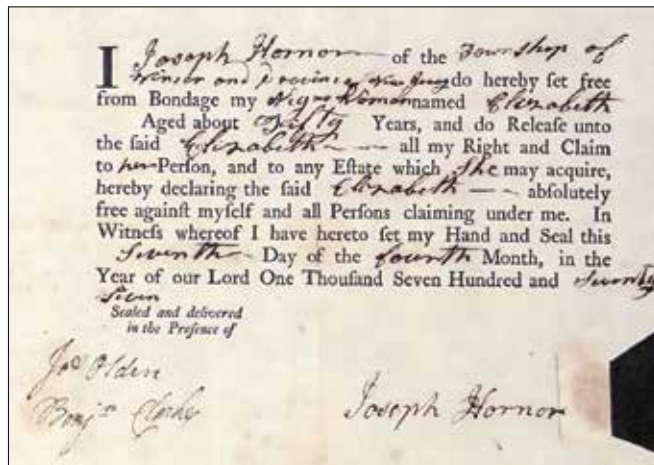
Right, center: "Jug-town" with "a Pottery" on the King's Highway
 "From New York to Trenton," Plate 44
A Survey of the Roads of the United States of America,
 Christopher Colles, 1789. Firestone Library, Princeton University



Slavery in Jugtown and the Underground Railroad

While slaveholding in Princeton by the Stocktons at Morven, by John Witherspoon at Tusculum, and by other University presidents is commonly known, little has come to light on slaveholding by residents and proprietors of more modest means.

Historical Society of Princeton documents show slaveholding in Jugtown in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Shortly after the Battle of Princeton in 1777, Joseph Hornor of 344 Nassau Street (opposite) set his enslaved woman, Elizabeth, free, with Princeton Quakers Joseph Olden and Benjamin Clarke as witnesses (below). Jugtown then was part of West Windsor Township. It joined Princeton in 1813.



Manumission by Joseph Hornor freeing Elizabeth, his fifty-year-old enslaved woman, in 1777. Historical Society of Princeton

I Joseph Hornor of the Township of Windsor and Province of New Jersey do hereby set free from Bondage my Negro Woman named Elizabeth Aged about Fifty Years, and do Release unto the said Elizabeth all my Right and Claim to her Person, and to the Estate which she may acquire, hereby declaring the said Elizabeth absolutely free against myself and all persons claiming under me. In Witness whereof I have hereto set my Hand and Seal this Seventh Day of the Fourth Month in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Seven.

Joseph Hornor

Sealed and delivered in the presence of Jos Olden and Benjn Clarke

Joseph Hornor
House
344 Nassau Street
ca. 1890
Historical Society
of Princeton

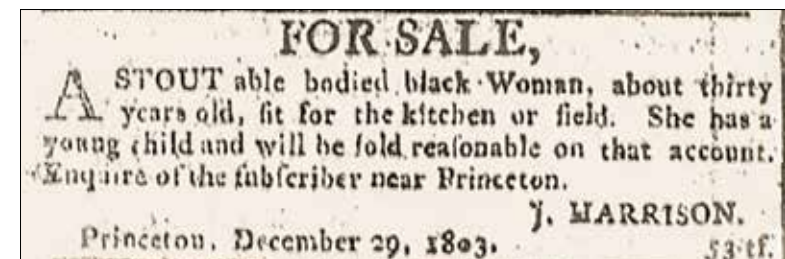


Enslaved persons in New Jersey often lived with their owner, typically in an attic above a kitchen where they did household tasks and cooked. In the Joseph Hornor House (above and pages 20-21), the west kitchen wing had a large cooking hearth, as indicated by the widely-spaced windows. A winding stair or a ladder led to the attic.

The house later served as a stop on the Underground Railroad. “Now there’s a little wing on that house by the corner,” Jugtown native Alice Margerum recalled. “There was a room in there that was used as a station on the underground railroad for runaway slaves. There was a tunnel there that went under Nassau Street to the triple house where Esther Johnson lived. At that time that house was a hay press.”

“I lived in the triple house,” another resident recalled, “and at the back of the cellar there was a tunnel where they used to hide the slaves and transport them. This tunnel went under the road and over to the Montieth house (344 Nassau), and could still be under Nassau Street. It was there twenty years ago.” (*Princeton Recollector*, February, 1976)

In 1803, John Harrison (341 Nassau St., pages 22-23) advertised his enslaved “black Woman” and her “young child” for sale (below).



Historical Society of Princeton

Around 1802, Stephen Scales operated a pipe and pump factory and brickyard in part of today's Harrison Street Park, and made 6 in.-diameter clay water pipes for use in Broad Street in Trenton.

By 1803, Jacob Ineka had a second pottery south of Nassau Street and east of Harrison Street near what later became Markham Road. This pottery was close to later Sergeant Street and had a frame building about 25 ft. by 60 ft., with a kiln on the north side. The clay came from pits – one east of South Harrison and south of Sergeant Street in the area between Markham Road and Wilton Street (page 10), and one west of South Harrison around Patton and Prospect Avenues. The potters, including an African American, made earthenware and stoneware jugs, plates, pipes, and other items. The potteries closed in the mid-1800s.



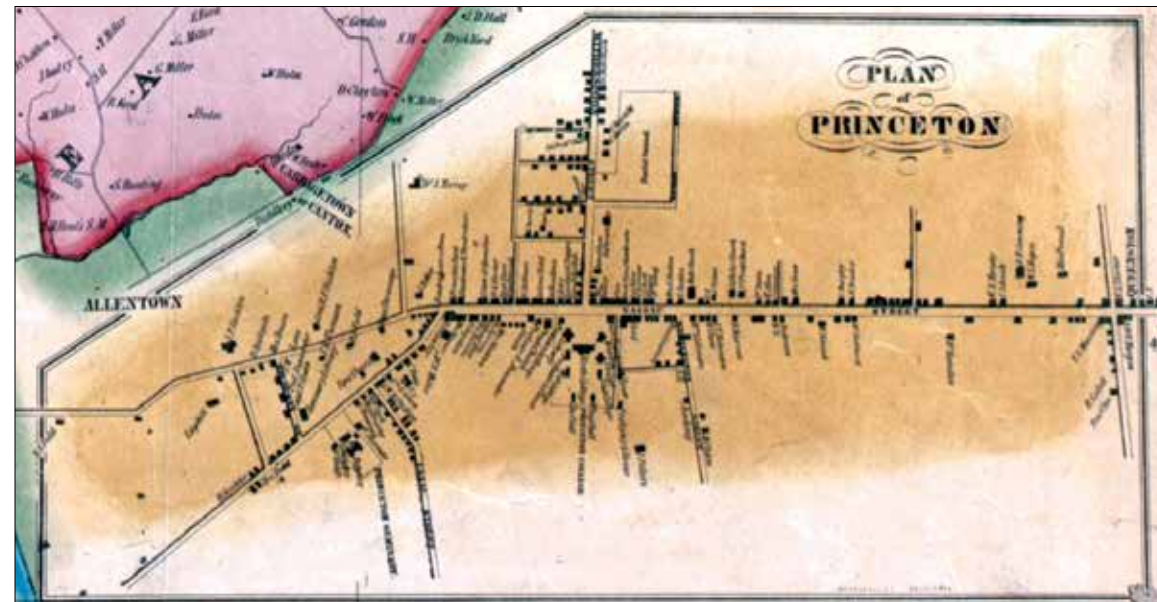
Otley and Kelly's 1849 Map of Mercer County shows the Queenston / Jugtown intersection, above right, with rows of representational houses along Nassau Street. The "B Quarry," lower right, may have been the source of stone for Nassau Hall. The J. (John) Potter residence on the lower left was later the University President's House now known as Prospect House. The inset "Plan of Princeton," below, more accurately shows multiple buildings at the crossroads, far right, with some owners' names, and a chapel on South Harrison Street. J.W. Otley and James Kelly, *Map of Mercer County, New Jersey* Camden, N.J.: L. van der Veer, 1849. Library of Congress

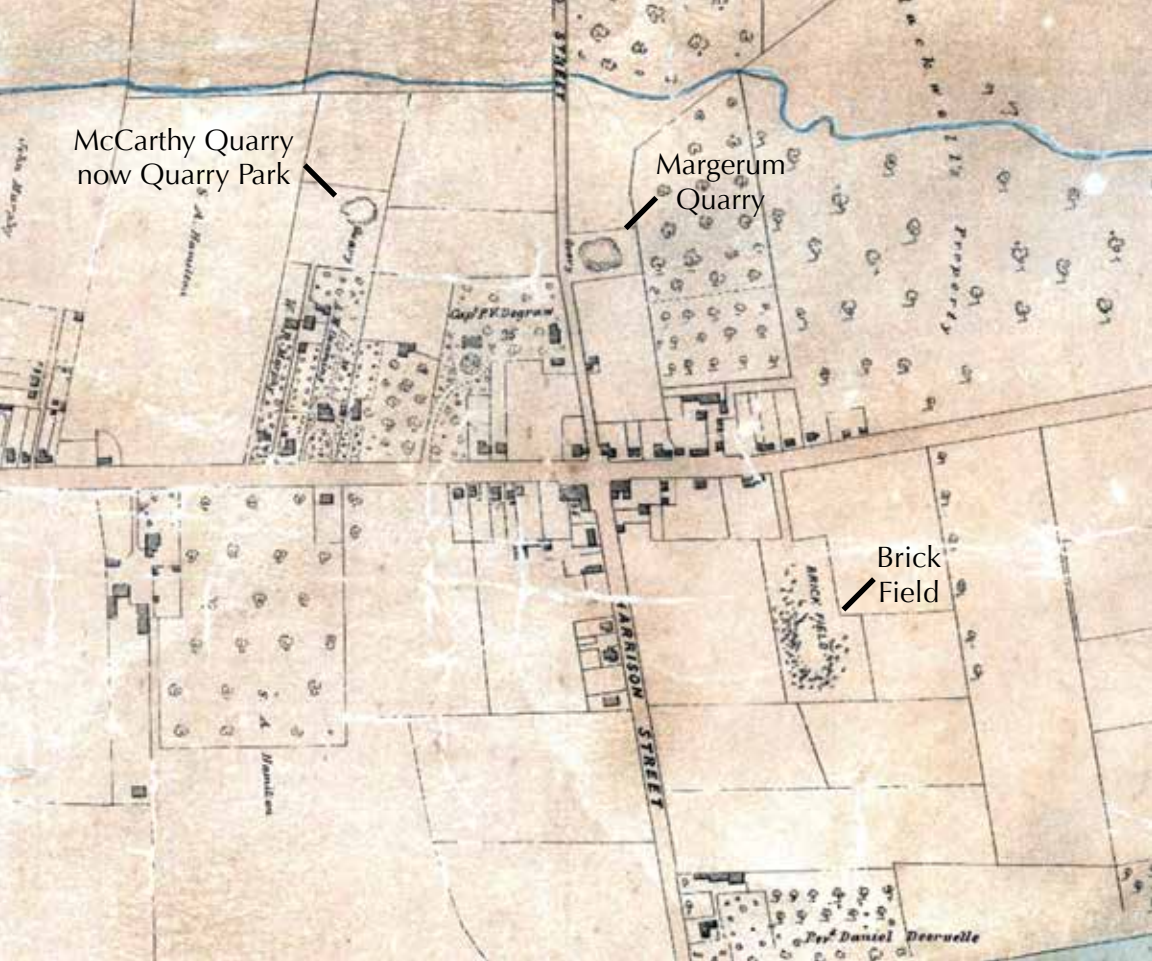


Jugtown jugs from 5 in. to 9 1/4 in.-high. The second from right was glazed "brown stoneware," while the others were clay with varying glazes.



A Jugtown "Batter Jug" about 8 3/4 in.-high by 6 5/8 in.-wide, of fine grain clay and glazed in a light pinkish buff color. The pot was a wedding gift in 1853 for Elizabeth Parker from her Jugtown friends, according to her son John Parker, and was "in constant use of the family for buckwheat cakes." Varnum Lansing Collins Papers, Seeley Mudd Library, Princeton University





“Map of Princeton, Mercer County, New Jersey, 1852,” John Bevan
Firestone Library, Princeton University

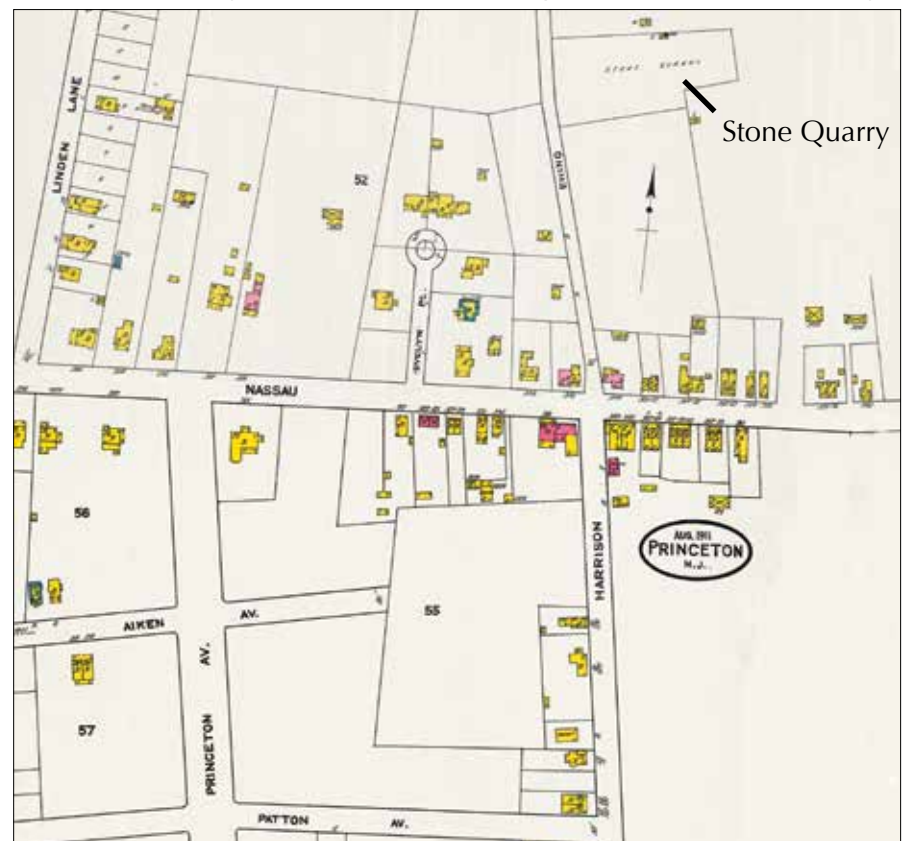
Surveyor John Bevan provided the first detailed record of the Queenston-Jugtown crossroads, with numerous buildings along Nassau Street, and on the west side of Harrison Street to the south and Ewing Street to the north. This section of Ewing Street was named North Harrison after World War II.

The map shows gardens, orchards, a “Brick Field” accessed by a lane that became Markham Street, the quarry operated by Stephen Margerum east of Ewing Street (opposite, above), and west of Ewing Street the McCarthy Quarry that is now Quarry Park. The quarries shut down after 1900, and Margerum’s Quarry was filled in 1946 with excavated “spoil” from the construction of Firestone Library.

The 1911 Sanborn Map (opposite) shows stone or brick buildings in red, wood frame buildings in yellow, and the “Stone Quarry”



Stephen Margerum’s Quarry, Ewing Street (now North Harrison Street)
Historical Society of Princeton. Sanborn Map, 1911, Princeton University



Jugtown Commerce and Institutions

In addition to its potteries and quarries, Jugtown has a long tradition as a village of small businesses and workshops over the centuries. For many years Jugtown was a stagecoach stop with a tavern and a hotel. The Hornors had a bark house, tanning yard, and a leather shop. Other commerce on Nassau Street included a pork-packing shop, a paint shop, a wheelwright shop, a blacksmith shop, and a carriage shop where the Whole Earth Center is now located. One proprietor offered monuments and headstones for sale.

Two Jugtown men ran a “Fashionable Hair Cutters and Dressers” shop and also offered baths for gentlemen. 344 Nassau Street (pages 20-21) was a retail store for many years, once selling hand made candles and fresh yeast, and more recently specialty foods as the Princeton Gourmet. For several years in the late 19th Century, Princeton Fire Engine Company No. 1 operated in Jugtown from a rented building on Nassau Street, and later moved to Chestnut Street.

On Harrison Street there was a brick bakery behind the general store on the southeast corner (353 Nassau Street, pages 11 and 24-25), and further down a pork barrel cooperage. On the west side by 55 Harrison Street, John C. Schenck donated a lot in 1832 for a Presbyterian Queenston Chapel that later also served as a school.

On the east side of Ewing Street, now North Harrison Street, Stephen Margerum sold Lockatong argillite stone from his quarry for many buildings in town and on the campus. In the summer, his Riverside Ice Company sold and delivered ice cakes of “the clearest and purest ice, cut from the Millstone River.”

In 1887, Professor Joshua H. McIlvaine started Evelyn College for Young Women in “The Pines,” a large Queen Anne Style house (pages 32-33) north of Nassau Street. In 1891, Evelyn College established a preparatory school for girls in 341 Nassau Street (page 22-23) and called it Queens Court.

In the 20th Century, commercial buildings and a large apartment building have been erected in Jugtown on a scale and with siting that have respected the historic character of the crossroads.

Jugtown Historic District

Princeton Borough adopted an Historic Preservation Ordinance in 1984, and soon established an Historic Preservation Review Board that identified the first three historic districts to designate: the Mercer Hill Historic District, the Central Historic District, and the Jugtown Historic District. The HPRB chose these initial designations to recognize their distinct historic significance, and to protect them from inappropriate development that would diminish that significance.

Eric Keller, President of E.R. Keller Properties and owner of 344 Nassau Street (pages 20-21), wrote to *Town Topics* in August 1986, *I am pleased that the proposed Jugtown Historic District has reached the hearing stage. I am pleased to have underwritten the research and application costs involved in the application for National Register status for Jugtown...*

I would like to offer my reasons for supporting inclusion on the National Register.

As a property owner in Jugtown I am concerned that Princeton's growth may lead to pressure to widen Harrison or Nassau Streets in Jugtown to accommodate increased vehicular traffic.

Inclusion on the National Register would be a significant impediment to such road widening which would inevitably sacrifice buildings which are of historic significance and a neighborhood character and ambiance which is a significant contributor to the overall quality of life in Princeton.

Since its designation as a local municipal historic district in 1986, and its listing on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places in 1987, the Jugtown Historic District has indeed prevented road widening and the accompanying demolition that would have occurred to accommodate the intensive traffic through the crossroads.

The designations have also been key to preserving the appearance of the historic buildings and streetscapes of Nassau and Harrison Streets within the Jugtown Historic District.

Jugtown Historic District – “a visually cohesive entity”
National Register Nomination, 1986, Excerpts
By Robert Craig

Statement of Significance

Although after World War I Jugtown was absorbed into Princeton as one of its neighborhoods, it retains the visual identity of the small crossroads community it was in the 18th and 19th centuries. Jugtown originated as a small residential and commercial center in the third quarter of the 18th century because of its location at the junction of what were then two major roads, the principal highway from New Brunswick to Trenton and a road leading to the mills at “Mapleton” (also known as New Market and later as Aqueduct Mills) on the Millstone River, and from there to both Cranbury and Allentown...

“Queenston,” a more genteel name for the neighborhood, came into usage during the third quarter of the eighteenth century. “Jugtown” was derived from the pottery that was operated in the village at the end of the eighteenth century. Both names have been used interchangeably ever since; in modern usage, however, the more colloquial “Jugtown” has gained ascendancy...

Jugtown began to evolve into a crossroads village during the middle decades of the 18th century...The impetus to this construction was probably the opening of Harrison Street, on the boundary between the two Horner tracts, as a road in the 1740s to provide access to the mill Josiah Davison built on the Millstone River in the area presently known as Aqueduct Mills (from the D&R Canal Aqueduct). In 1749 Harrison Street became part of the public road to Cranbury; in 1754 it also became the terminus of the public road from Allentown...Jugtown also developed through exploitation of nearby clay deposits for the manufacture of brick and pottery...

Jugtown continued to grow in the first half of the nineteenth century, especially during the 1830s, a decade of canal prosperity that also transformed nearby Princeton. It maintained a separate identity, although when Princeton Borough was incorporated in 1813 Jugtown legally became part of that municipality...Jugtown also boasted a hotel and tavern...The village’s manufactories then included a tanyard, a pork-packing business, a cooperative, and a brickyard east of Harrison Street...

Jugtown gradually lost its industrial character during the second half of the 19th century, although it kept its residential character and some of its retail stores. The pottery works joined other pre-industrial potteries in the region forced to close by competition from Trenton’s rising ceramics industry...The last extractive industries in Jugtown were the Margerum and McCarthy quarries, which were operated as a source of building stone and, in winter, ice, until at least 1906...

Late 19th century Jugtown is chiefly remembered for the ten years in which it was home to Evelyn College, a short-lived women’s college associated with Princeton University. The college opened in 1887 and housed its operations in the large Queen Anne house built in 1881 by Professor W. E. D. Scott (pages 32-33). Instructors were drawn from the Princeton faculty, and Evelyn College awarded degrees, but its supporters were unable to raise sufficient endowment or gain enough support among Princeton’s trustees. The college accordingly closed in 1897.

Residential expansion in Princeton led to a proliferation of subdivisions of larger properties after 1900. The separation between Jugtown and the rest of Princeton was gradually erased in the process. Within several years, the Evelyn College property was sold and subdivided into additional house lots. Residences, including several moved from Prospect Street, lined Nassau Street from downtown Princeton to Jugtown without interruption.

By World War I Sergeant and Pelham Streets were opened east from Harrison Street, and during the 1920s Markham and Wilton Streets were opened south from Nassau. These streets are today acknowledged elements of Jugtown, but they only represent the residential neighborhood that Jugtown has become in this century, not the separate village it formerly was.

Description

The district is a visually cohesive entity, contrasting sharply with the downtown Princeton commercial district along Nassau Street west of Jugtown, as well as the more recent residential areas to the north, east and south...Houses in the Jugtown Historic District are chiefly set close to the street on small lots...Seven of the 23 houses are in part or entirely of 18th Century construction; six date from the first half of the 19th Century (one from the second half). Five date from the early 20th Century...Four later houses harmonize visually through their forms, fenestration, and cladding materials.

Local Jugtown Historic District New Jersey & National Jugtown Historic District



The local Jugtown Historic District designated by Princeton Borough in 1986 (outlined in green, above) extends on the south side of Nassau Street to Princeton Avenue to include the Andrew West House at 301 Nassau Street (page 31). In the northwest corner, it terminates at the rear of the lot at 302 Nassau Street (page 34). On South Harrison Street, it includes the east portion of Harrison Street Park adjacent to 35 South Harrison Street (page 39).

The New Jersey and National Register Historic District listed in 1987 (shaded above) includes all of Harrison Street Park and two lots behind 302 Nassau Street in the northwest.

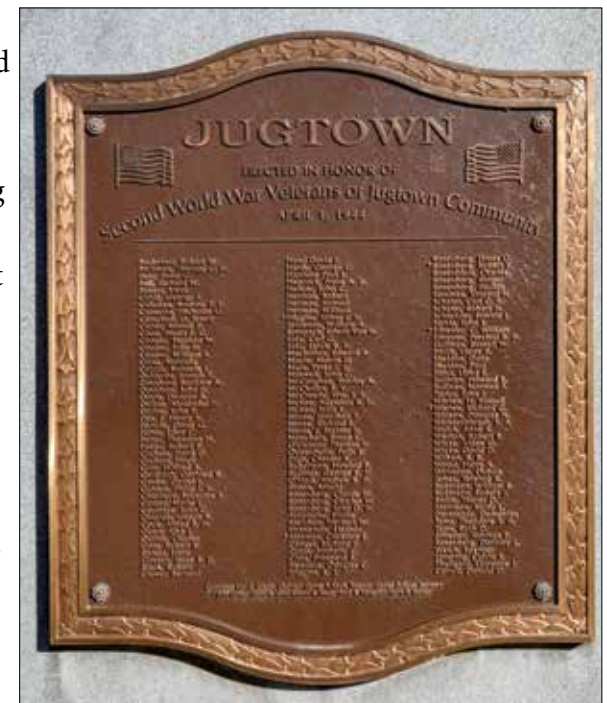
Queenston Lane off of Nassau Street and Queenston Common east of North Harrison Street recall the early name of the village.



All of Harrison Street Park is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers (opposite) because of potential archaeology related to the Jugtown potteries. Digging here often turns up pottery shards.

The boundary of the Jugtown neighborhood beyond the Historic Districts has been described as extending from Snowden Lane on the east to Prospect Avenue on the west, and from Ewing to Lake Carnegie. (see page 48)

A Memorial at the Harrison Street Firehouse commemorates 135 Jugtown residents who served in World War II.



342 Nassau Street, ca. 1730



Likely built by one of the Hornors with stone from the nearby quarry, this house established the quality and character of Jugtown / Queenston. “A basement beam inscribed 1730 indicates a plausible date for this house, whose verticality and lack of ornament certainly suggest the early 18th Century.” – Constance Greiff, *Princeton Architecture*.

Historical Society of Princeton, above; *Princeton Architecture*, below.



342 Nassau Street, ca. 1730



The kitchen wing originally on the east side (opposite, top) was moved to the west side (opposite, below and below) in a widening of North Harrison Street. Today, 342 and 344 Nassau Street frame the north side of the Harrison-Nassau intersection (below), and along with 341 and 343 Nassau Street on the south side, signal a unique landmark crossroads in New Jersey dating to the earliest European settlements.



Joseph Horner House, ca. 1760, 344 Nassau Street



Joseph Horner, grandson of John Horner, one of the original Quaker settlers of Princeton in the 1690s, built this two-story, side-hall, brick house with a one-and-half story kitchen wing. The house served as a stop on the Underground Railroad (page 7). A second floor was later added to the west wing (opposite) and in 1985 an east wing (opposite, below) and a north section (page 45, bottom) were added.

Historical Society of Princeton, above & below.



Although expanded over time, the design of the additions to the Horner House have respected its pre-Revolutionary origin, and illustrate the natural growth of a building over three centuries.

“This is the single most pivotal and important building at the Jugtown Crossroads.” Constance Greiff, wrote in *Princeton Architecture*. “On the west wall (above and opposite, above), the placing of the two surviving small windows, with strap-hinged plank shutters, defines the dimensions of a massive fireplace.”



Queens Court ca. 1760, ca. 1810, ca. 1870
341 Nassau Street



Queens Court is the grandest pre-Civil War house in Jugtown and a key landmark in Princeton. The two-story, middle section was built before the Revolution. John Harrison kept a store there in the late-18th Century, and in 1783 he sold pottery vessels and other items to members of the Continental Congress. He had a farm down on the east side of Harrison Street, which was named for him, and he owned at least two enslaved persons (page 7).

Around 1800, John C. Schenck acquired the property, built the large three-bay, side-hall west section in the Federal Style, and kept a store in the eastern end. The two-story addition on Harrison Street (opposite, below) dates to the 1870s. An 1844 sale notice read,

The property formerly occupied by John C. Schenck as a Country Store, with easy convenience for carrying on a business adapted to the country; having a Store, Store-House, Pork-House, Hay-Scales, a large Granary, Coach House, Barn and Sheds, together with the commodious and well built two-story Brick House adjoining a garden tastily arranged, and five acres of land.”
“Jugtown,” *Old Princeton Neighbors*, Federal Writer’s Project, 1938



Queens Court, Firestone Library, Princeton University

Professor Joshua McIlvaine of Princeton University leased the house in 1888 for Evelyn College and named it Queens Court. The College operated a preparatory school here for girls and published this photograph (above) on its catalog (page 33).

Mary Guinn Hodder acquired the property and created a notable garden with many specimen trees on the rear grounds. She bequeathed the property to the University in 1840, and the town later purchased the grounds to create Harrison Street Park.

Fulmer and Bowers, Architects and Builders, had offices here for several decades, as has Michael Graves Architecture & Design.



Jugtown / Queenston General Store, ca. 1830 & 1880
343-345 Nassau Street



A brick building with a store was first erected on this site before the Revolution, which may be evidenced in the basement. The current wood frame building was first a tavern, and from around 1845, John Van Dyke Bergen operated a general store here. G.E. and J. Woodhull kept the store from 1871, and J.V. Leming (below) from about 1880.

Historical Society of Princeton



While the building has been updated over the years, it retains its form and prominence as a commercial landmark on the Jugtown crossroads from 150 years ago in the 19th Century (opposite, below).

From South Harrison Street (below), the view signals arrival at an historic village that remains visually cohesive from its 18th and 19th Century roots.



338 Nassau Street, ca. 1820



Erected as a three-bay, side-hall house, with two compatible additions on the west, the far one with the door likely added by Dr. William Chase, who lived and had his dental office here in the early 1900s.

In the 1950s pictured below, Philip T. Carroll had his insurance office here.

Historical Society of Princeton



In recent years, Michael Graves Design occupied the building with a retail shop for Graves' home products on the first floor and offices on the second floor. The present owner erected the two-and-a-half story rear addition with two apartments in 2022 in keeping with preservation guidelines.

The streetscape view east on Nassau Street (below) retains much of the historic built environment from the 19th Century.



335 & 333 Nassau Street, late 1800s



335 Nassau Street, (left, above and below) is a three-bay, side-hall house that dates to the early 20th Century on this lot, through it may have been moved here. 333 Nassau (above, center, and below, right) appears Colonial Revival from renovations, including an expansion to the west, but may date to around 1800. Both houses had front porches that were removed in a widening of Nassau Street. Recent rear additions on both houses are set back from the streetscape.



331-329 & 327-325 Nassau Street, 19th & 18th C.



These two double houses are rare survivors of vernacular early dwellings in Princeton. “The modest scale of the pre-Revolutionary brick double house,” Constance Greiff wrote in *Princeton Architecture*, is probably more typical of 18th Century Princeton than other more elegant survivals.” The yellow frame house may date to the early 19th Century. The well-preserved exteriors convey Juggtown’s origins as a crossroads village of craftsmen and tradesmen.



321-319 Nassau Street, ca. 1800 & ca. 1915



The east portion, 321 Nassau Street, was erected in the late 18th or early 19th century as a three-bay, side hall house similar to 298 and 344 Nassau Street. The front door was originally in the west bay closest to the arched entrance.

The west portion, 319 Nassau Street, was added around 1915 in the Colonial Revival Style. The National Register nomination cites the overall building as “Consistent in scale and architectural quality of 18th and 19th century houses that characterize the Jugtown / Queenston neighborhood.”



301 Nassau Street, ca. 1895



Andrew West, Dean of the Graduate School, built this grand Colonial Revival house at 5 Prospect Avenue (below) on the southeast corner of Washington Road. Campus Club acquired the house in 1901, and in 1908, to make way for a larger brick clubhouse, sold the house to a local builder who moved it here. The house now has nine apartments.

With its well-preserved exterior and corner location by Princeton Avenue, the house is a landmark in the local Jugtown Historic District. It is outside the boundary of the National Register district.

5 Prospect Avenue ca. 1900, Seeley Mudd Library, Princeton University

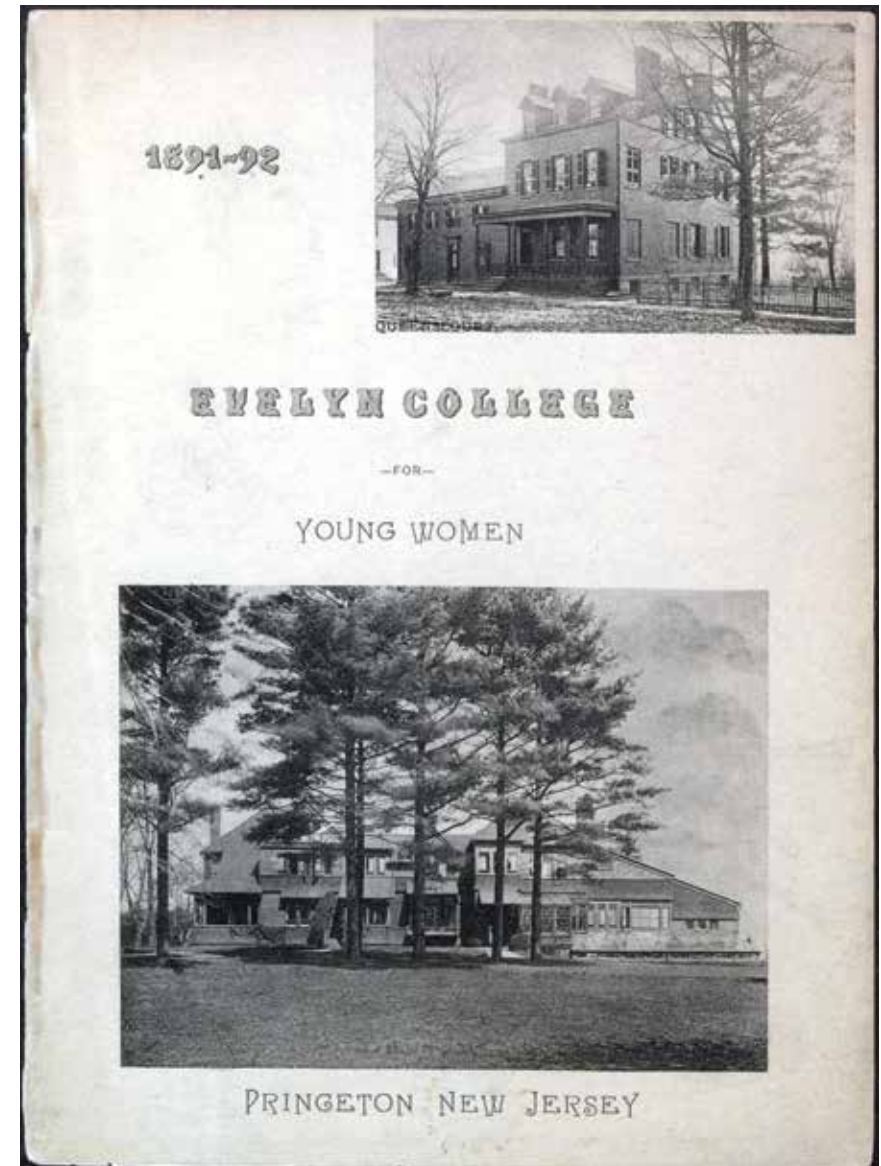


The Pines, 7-8 Evelyn Place, 1881
Evelyn College 1887-1897



William E.D. Scott, Princeton Curator of Ornithology, built this large Queen Anne house set back from Nassau Street in 1881, and called it the Pines from the large trees in front (opposite). In 1887, Rev. Joshua H. McIlvaine '37 established Evelyn College here, named for English diarist John Evelyn, as a coordinate college to Princeton for young women. Woodrow Wilson, Alan Marquand, and other professors taught here. Emily Warren Roebling, wife of Washington A. Roebling, builder of the Brooklyn Bridge, served as a Trustee.

The College closed in 1897. In 1902, two professors divided the house into two units and created the lots on Evelyn Place.



Opposite & above, Seeley Mudd Library, Princeton University

Evelyn College's brochure for 1891-1892 featured Queens Court (top), 341 Nassau Street (pages 22-23), where it operated a girls preparatory school. The brochure described the Pines (bottom) as "A refined and beautiful home, where the students are members of the family and receive that instruction in social customs which is so necessary a part of the education of every young lady." The Music Room (opposite).

302 Nassau Street, ca. 1812, 1880s



This Queen Anne house set back from Nassau Street largely dates to the 1880s, and formerly had an imposing, wide portico supported by six pillars.

A portion of the house may date to 1812 as stated in some accounts. The Federal Writers Project of 1938 noted it as the onetime home of Colonel Alexander McWhorter Cumming, who was born in Newark but lived in Princeton as early as 1837, when he served as Lieutenant-Colonel and Aide-de-Camp to New Jersey Governor William Pennington. In the 1840s, Col. Cumming served as Captain of the Princeton 2nd Troop, Fifth Regiment, Mercer Brigade, Calvary, and during the Civil War as Major, First Regiment, Calvary, New Jersey Volunteers. Col. Cumming served as the Mayor of Princeton 1858-1860.

The house is now part of Barsky Court, a 2007 development of the property that renovated the historic house, and erected four new houses on the northwest portion of the large lot. The location of the new houses in that area preserved the deep front yard, which is a prominent feature of this property in the Historic District as well as the adjacent 306 Nassau Street (opposite), which is set back at the approximately same distance.

306 Nassau Street, ca. 1760, ca. 1860



Known as the Captain's House, "This is one of the early brick houses of Princeton," as noted in the National Register listing, "probably dating from the 3rd quarter of the 18th Century." The house is thought to have been built by a man named Vanderveer. Captain William Rogers lived here from 1836-1866, and may have erected the three-story portico. The house was later occupied by Roger Gerard van Polanen, who served as the Netherlands Minister to the U.S. from 1796-1802.

The newly-established Colonial Club, a Princeton University eating club, rented the house during the 1891 and 1892 academic years as its first clubhouse (right).



Above, Zillow
Right, *Bric-a-Brac*, 1892
Seeley Mudd Library
Princeton University

298 Nassau Street, ca. 1830s



The finest example of a three-bay, side hall, frame house in Jugtown, its main section dates to the 1830s and may have been built by the prominent Princeton builder-architect Charles Steadman. In *Princeton Architecture*, Constance Greiff noted, “The west wing, with its small upper windows and plain door may be a survivor of the one to three-room houses common in early 18th Century Princeton.” The house previously had a columned portico like other Steadman houses.



280 Nassau Street, ca. 1880



A Queen Anne Style landmark on the west end of Jugtown, though outside the Jugtown Historic District. Rev. William Harris built the house around 1880. Professor Alfred Goldsborough Mayor, a prominent marine biologist and zoologist, lived here, and his wife, Harriet Randolph Mayor, was a noted sculptor who had her studio here. Known as the House of Seven Gables, Nobel and Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison lived here while teaching at Princeton.

Historical Society of Princeton



41 South Harrison Street, ca. 1750, ca. 1838



A landmark on South Harrison with its historic character and majestic bride and groom trees. A rear wing with a large cooking fireplace dates to the 18th Century. On the facade, the three northern bays identify a section built in the early 19th Century, and the two southern bays identify a slightly later addition. Both front sections may have been built by Charles Steadman. Planting bride and groom trees was a longtime tradition for newlyweds moving into their new home, and these specimen American Sycamores date to the early 19th Century.



35 South Harrison Street



This two-story, side hall, vernacular house may date to about 1830. While it has had additions and renovations, the front section retains its overall original form. The front porch may be a later addition.

41 South Harrison Street

A huge glazed crock that measures about two feet-wide by 40 inches-tall from Jugtown's pottery era survives in the rear garden of 41 South Harrison.

The crock may relate to the ceramic works of Stephen Scales, who made and sold clay water pipes to Trenton, or to the earlier potteries closer to Nassau Street.



Jugtown East of the Historic District



On the south side of Nassau Street, two Colonial Revival double houses, 349-347 Nassau (above, left) and 359-357 Nassau Street (below, center) appear to be contemporary with the early 20th Century residential development to the south on Markham, Sergeant, Pelham, and Wilton Streets. 361 Nassau (below, left) dates to the late 19th Century according to the Princeton Architectural Survey of 1981. The white brick building (below, right) dates to the second half of the 20th Century, as does the similar building at 350 Nassau Street.

This east commercial section of Jugtown retains the Historic District's low scale and most of the buildings are traditional in design.



Jugtown East of the Historic District



The Whole Earth Center at 360 Nassau Street comprises multiple additions to the original two-story house (above, right) that likely dates to the late 19th or early 20th Century. An historic account notes a carriage shop at this location before the advent of automobiles.

Founded on Earth Day in 1970 as a not-for-profit yet tax paying market, Whole Earth has grown into a treasured town grocery, bakery, and deli, selling organic foods and serving the wider Princeton community. In 2025, Whole Earth will celebrate its 55th anniversary.

The two houses below, 364 and 366 Nassau Street, appear to date to the late 19th Century. 366 previously had a covered porch like 364.



James McCosh House, 387 Nassau Street, 1888



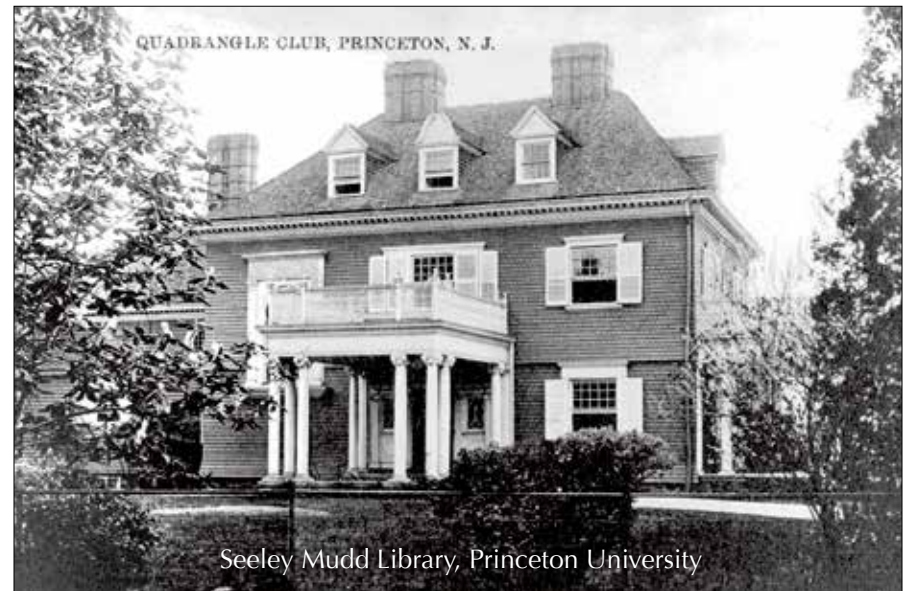
Architect A. Page Brown, who had worked for McKim Mead and White, designed this Colonial Revival house for the retirement of University President James McCosh, who is visible in the doorway at the house's original site at 33 Prospect Avenue (below). Architect Robert Hillier preserved the house in 1980 as part of his Sergeant Street development.



James McCosh House, 387 Nassau Street, 1888



Like the Andrew Fleming West's House (page 31), the McCosh House was acquired by an eating club. Quadrangle Club (below) bought the house in 1910 and sold it to Lloyd Grover in 1915 to make way for its current clubhouse. Grover, a partner in Grover & Gulick Lumber Company on Alexander Street, moved the house here and lived in it.



Jugtown Historic District



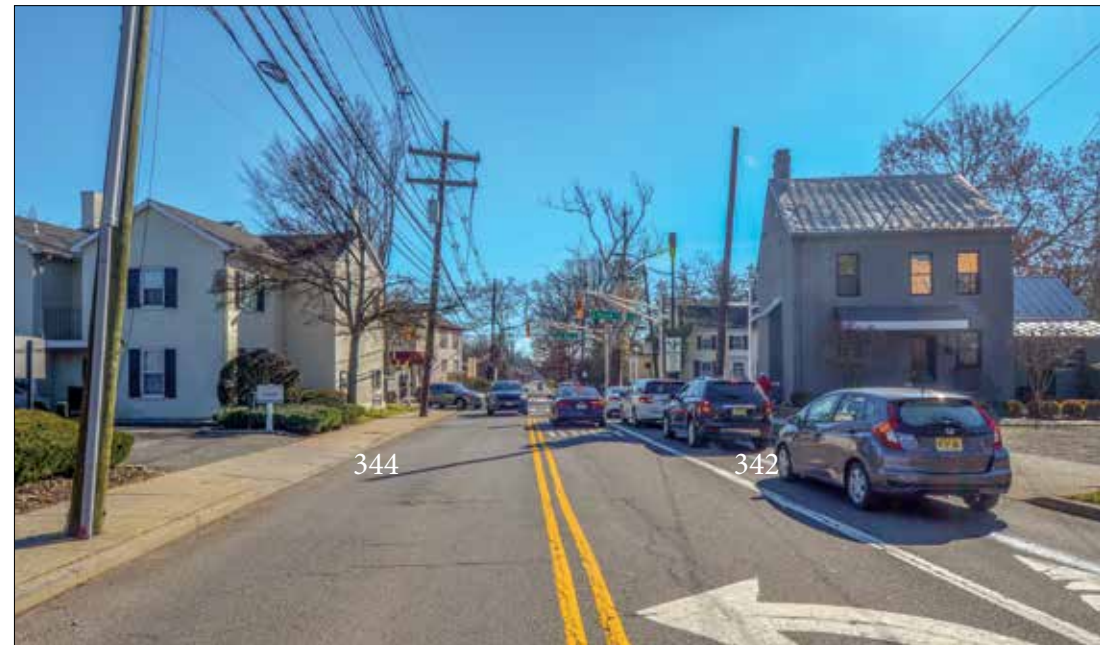
The Jugtown crossroads signals the north entry into historic Princeton, with three pre-Revolutionary buildings and one from the 19th Century on the four corners.



Jugtown Historic District



From South Harrison Street (above) and North Harrison Street (below), the approaches to the crossroads retain much of the historic architectural form.



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Unless otherwise noted, photographs by C. W. Zink

Historical Society of Princeton Bicentennial Plaques



Forty Six buildings in Princeton with 18th Century origins received "Green Oval" plaques from the Historical Society. Eight in Jugtown:

- 298 Nassau Street
- Captain's House, 306 Nassau Street
- 319-321 Nassau Street
- 323-325 Nassau Street
- Queen's Court, 341 Nassau Street (above)
- 342 Nassau Street
- Joseph Hornor House, 344 Nassau Street
- 41 Harrison Street

JUGTOWN / QUEENSTON

Jugtown Historic District



Brownstone Horse Block
for horse and carriage mounting,
in front of 343 Nassau Street.



Granite Hitching Post for horses,
in front of 361 Nassau Street.