**BURLINGTON COUNTY’S HISTORIC SCHOOL HOUSES  
An Illustrated Lecture by Joseph M. Laufer  
Burlington County Historian**

**1. Brainerd School – 1759.**

35 Brainerd St., Mt. Holly



This is the oldest school in New Jersey standing on its original site.

In June of 1759, twenty-one citizens of Mount Holly (nine Quakers, eight Episcopalians, four of unknown religion) subscribed for twenty-five shares to buy land and build a schoolhouse. Under one master or another, school was kept for over fifty years. In 1815, the surviving heirs of the builders deeded the building to the Female Benevolent Society. These women proposed to teach "in a public school all the poor children of Mount Holly and its vicinity gratis." For the next thirty-three years, over a thousand children were taught without charge. The schoolhouse remained in the possession of the Female Benevolent Society for 136 years, until 1951, when it was presented to The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of New Jersey for preservation and restoration. The original brick work of the front and two ends remains. It is laid in flemish bond, with headers alternating with red stetchers in a familiar South Jersey style. Research established the great size and location of the fireplace. Original shutters provided a pattern for new shutters. The arched ceiling follows the original line of the hand-hewn beams, one of which is still preserved. . Some of its furnishings include a schoolmaster’s desk, student desks, slates and a 1752 Bible. Open by appointment: 609-267-6996.

**2. Clara Barton School - 1852**

Crosswicks & Burlington Streets, Bordentown



Founded as the first tax-supported free school in New Jersey in 1852 by Clara Barton, the foundress of the American Red Cross. Ms. Barton resided in Bordentown for two years and converted an abandoned Quaker school to educate children at no cost. A State “Free School Law” followed in 1871, providing elementary education. The simple gabled building houses many interesting items including Miss Barton's original desk. Open by appointment.

[**Link to more information about Clara Barton School**](http://www.scc.rutgers.edu/njwomenshistory/Period_5/bartontoday.htm)

**3. Little Red Schoolhouse – 1812**

415 West Main Street, Maple Shade



One of the first buildings on the new road to Camden from Maple Shade (Main Street) was the Little Red School House. In December of 1811 Joseph Burrough, for the sum of one dollar “for the natural love of literature and divers other causes”, deeded the lot containing “two roods and two perches”, on which he had built a one room brick school house to 11 men, seven from Burlington County and four from Camden County "as a school lot and for no other purpose". Beginning in 1812, children came to the Little Red Schoolhouse from beyond Haddonfield Road and as far away as Forklanding Bridge. In 1871 the Little Red Schoolhouse became a free school under the jurisdiction of the state, county and local authority. The Little Red Schoolhouse closed in 1909, having served 97 years. It is currently operated by the Maple Shade Historical Society.

**4. Friends Schoolhouse – 1792**

York St. (Between Penn & E. Union Sts.), Burlington City



The small brick schoolhouse housed many Quaker students who were taught the three Rs. The Quakers stressed education, feeling that a young person must be prepared to accept the responsibilities of adulthood. Discipline was strict and the students spent long hours attempting to solve the mysteries of long division and Latin. This building contains many photographs, books, and documents of Burlington.

**5. Billy K. Haines Schoolhouse – c. 1860**

In the Park behind Sally Stretch Keen Memorial Library, Main St. and Race St., Vincentown.



A private school known as a helping school attended by students who needed more help than the public school could offer. The best-known schoolmaster was Billy K. Haines. The schoolhouse originally stood on Main Street on the property now owned by Allen Oil Co. The school was dedicated to school children of Southampton Township on May 19, 1984. It contains period student desks, slates, books and other teaching aids.



***Interior of the Vincentown one-room schoolhouse***

**6. Old School House located on Fox Chase Farm, Vincentown**

111 Newbolds Corner Road, Southampton, NJ

*Above (l) seed & feed store on grounds of Fox Chase Farm, Vincentown. On the right is the building still located in Juliustown, and identified by Ray Verner as the old Juliustown Schoolhouse.*

There seems to be no question that the building used as a seed and feed store on the grounds of the Ed Gager Farm in Southampton is a relocated schoolhouse. Exactly which schoolhouse it was is still open to question and controversy. Ed Gager believes it was the Old Juliustown Schoolhouse which closed in 1918 (according to a 1943 book on Burlington County Schools). Ed had been told by an old-time resident that he remembers the school being transported down Smithville Road in 1919 and placed on the Gager farm. Another local resident feels it was an old schoolhouse from Smithville. Another history buff considers it one of Southampton's old one room school houses, possibly the former Lane School. The most convincing argument against it being the old Juliustown Schoolhouse comes from Ray Verner of Juliustown. In a recent communication he states that the school on the Gager farm cannot be the Juliustown school Gager claims it is, because that school is still in Juliustown. “The original Juliustown school was a church/school 1824-1839. In 1839 the current Juliustown Methodist church was built and then the building was used only for school. In 1909 a $1,500 addition was built on to the rear- and is still there. In 1929 a new 2 room school was built out closer to the road (Main St). This school burnt down in 1929 and kids were taught in the church and church hall until the new brick school was built on Lewistown Rd in 1930. This building was torn down 2 years ago. Mina Lamb,from Juliustown, taught in the original school, the 2-room school, the new school on Lewistown Rd and the current school in Jobstown. She taught over 50 yrs.” Mr. Verner has photos of all the Juliustown schools and some teachers dating back to 1824! The school building which Verner claims is the Juliustown School was used to store hay in the late 50's and 60's. He personally stacked the hay there and wondered why the rooms had blackboards. The building is currently being used for farm storage. It is still painted red. These facts and Mr. Verner's personal testimony seem to be irrefutable proof that the Juliustown Schoolhouse is still in Juliustown.

**7. Willingboro School House - 1866**

Salem Road, Willingboro



Erected in 1866 and used as a school continuously until 1918, this uniquely designed building was placed on the State Register of Historic Places in 1973 and is also on the National Register of Historic Places. The building, which housed as many as 53 children in grades one through four, is slated for restoration to its 1910 likeness.

**8. Georgetown School – c. 1849**

Route 206, north of Columbus, Mansfield Township



Originally located on Gaunt’s Bridge Road this school building now sits on the North end of the Columbus Civic & Athletic Association’s lake. A map dated 1849 shows that this school was in use at that time. In 1914 it was moved to the Charles Burtis Farm (now the Kenny Farm) on Route 68. The building was given to the Mansfield Township Historical Society in 1976.

**9. Friendship School - c. 1890**

Carranza Road, Tabernacle



Located just past the crossroads of Tabernacle on Carranza Road, adjacent to the present Sequoia Transitional School (Tabernacle Intermediate School), where County Route 648 intersects Carranza Road, this restored schoolhouse was moved to this location from neighboring Woodland Township. It was located on Carranza Road in Woodland and used by families who worked on the cranberry bogs in the area. The school was abandoned in 1917 for lack of pupils. It was put to various uses until rescued in 1976 by the Tabernacle Historical Society while it was being used as a goat barn. Using a bit of historical license, the Historical Society called the restored structure "Friendship School" because there had been a one room schoolhouse in Friendship ("Inawendiwin" in the language of the Lenape Indians), a small community on the north-east border of Tabernacle Township at the Southampton Township line. That school was destroyed in a fire. Before Tabernacle Township was created, Friendship, a small sawmill community, was at the juncture of three Townships: Southampton, Woodland and Shamong -- as indicated by a corner stone imbedded in tree roots in that location. The restored school house contains period desks and teaching tools. It is operated by the Tabernacle Historical Society. By appointment: 609-268-0473.

**10. Cross Keys School - Est. 1857**

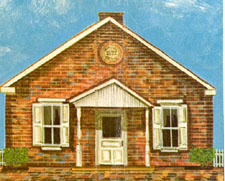
Mill Street, Medford



Located on the grounds of the Medford Middle School facing Mill Street, on the left shortly after the Mill St. athletic field. As described on Medford Historic Marker #62, "Built by Lester Gager in 1857 at the corner of Dixontown Road, the school was moved to this location by the Township in 1976. Former students called it 'The Knowledge Box'." By appointment: 609-654-0768 or 609-654-5720

**11. Rancocas Friends School - 1822**

Main Street, Rancocas, Westampton Twp.



The first Friends school was established here as early as 1703 with no regard to sex, race or religion. It was replaced in 1773 with a frame structure that was in use continuously until the present brick schoolhouse was built in 1822. This school, in continuous use ever since (except for a brief period in the 1930’s), had some of the most respectable teachers in Burlington County (among them, John Gummere, who eventually became the president of Haverford College, Charles Stokes, Laura Gaskill, Nora Dunfee, Mayberry McVaugh and Rachel Hunt). In recent years it has become a Nursery School serving the children of the community.

**12. Friends Lower Schoolhouse – 1791**

Riverton Road, Cinnaminson



Located on the grounds of the Westfield Friends Meeting, this two-classroom building was referred to as Abraham Warrington’s School. In December, 1788 he established a school in his home, and by 1791 the present structure was built under the auspices of the Chester Preparative Meeting.

**13. Smithville School - c. 1865**

Smithville Road and Meade Road, Eastampton



The neighborhood school at Smithville, located off the northeast corner of the mansion grounds next to the main road, was a short walk from the company houses of Smithville. It was a one-story\*, one-room brick structure which served both the village and the surrounding farms. The schoolroom capacity was fifty-two persons. Although the number of registered students was sixty-seven, the average attendance was only forty-one. The town employed one male teacher to conduct class for a little over ten months a year at a salary of $45 a month. In the 1870s the school was used as the Smithville Lyceum during evening hours, hosting lectures, debates, entertainment and meetings for the community.  
*Note: While the school section of the structure was one story, the south end terminated in a three-story section referred to as "the lodge".*

**14. Roebling Row-house School – 1907**

159 Third Avenue, Village of Roebling, Florence Township



This end row-house was first used as a school house for the village children for grades 1-3. Miss McKensie came from Trenton each day by train to teach the children. Eventually the Roebling Public School was constructed in 1914 and the children were educated there. It is now a private residence.

*Joseph M. Laufer - October 5, 2004 Updated: December 12, 2013*