

WELCOME TO JOHNSONBURG!

Samuel Green Sr. was one of the first settlers to arrive in Johnsonburg. He was a surveyor for the West Jersey Proprietors, which was run by England. As a thank you for his service, Green was given a plot of land from the King, which eventually became the Village of Johnsonburg. This area was not always referred to as Johnsonburg though. Back in 1753, Sussex County was formed and needed a county seat. Since the village was located in the middle of Sussex County, it was the logical choice; however, the area needed a jail to qualify. For this reason, a jail was built out of logs and the name of the town became Logg Gaol (the British spelling for Log Jail). Ten years later, in 1763 the county seat was moved to Newtown (present-day Newton), but Logg Gaol continued to thrive and gained more shops and eventually a railroad.

23. Johnsonburg Cemetery

The idea for this cemetery came from the local Methodist Church in Johnsonburg, and in order to create it, a Fourth of July fundraiser was held. In this cemetery, many early residents of Johnsonburg are buried, and at one point the "White Pilgrim" was buried here before being moved to the Christian Cemetery.

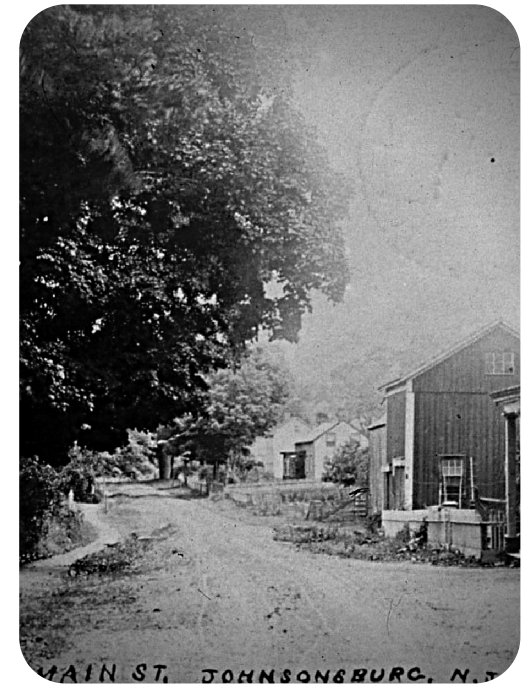
24. Johnsonburg Park

This block of land used to be home to one of the first schoolhouses in Johnsonburg. Unfortunately it was taken down in the late 1920s while the railroad was being built.

THANK YOU!

- Frelinghuysen Historical Committee and Historical Society, especially my advisor Mr. Scott Lance, for all of your help with the kiosk, and Ms. Debra Natyzak Osadca, for her countless hours helping me gather information and pictures
- The Township Committee, especially Mayor Christopher Stracco, and Clerk Donna Zilberfarb for supporting every step of this project
- Mr. Charles Schaffer for creating the architectural plan for the kiosk
- Blue Ridge Lumber for donating the materials needed to build the kiosk
- County Concrete for donating the concrete needed to create the concrete pad at the kiosk
- The GSMRR Club for providing me with pictures and information regarding the railroad
- All of the community members who supported me through fundraisers as well as the residents who kindly allowed me to place a sign on their property
- My family for your constant support and encouragement throughout this project

A WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC JOHNSONBURG NEW JERSEY



A Girl Scout Gold Award Project
By: Sadie Forbes

1. Town Hall

This building was originally built as a Presbyterian Church in 1850, and in 1905 became a meeting hall for The Grange. In 1917, the building opened as a school until the 1980s when it became a Town Hall.

2. Liberty Tree

In April of 1976, this tree was planted in celebration of 200 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed.

3. Kirkside

This house is known as Kirkside which means "between two churches." When the home was built by a descendent of Samuel Green, it was located between the Presbyterian Church (Town Hall) and the Methodist Church. In 1847 the house was passed onto Dr. William Vail who was responsible for many of the Gothic Revival updates present on the house.

4. Methodist Church

In 1850 the Methodist Church was built by Mr. Fummerefelt. Despite the small population of the church, there were many ministers that preached there. The church closed in 2019.

5. VanHorn House

This house has undergone many changes throughout the years. The original house was actually torn down to build the one here in the early 1900s.

6. Hotel

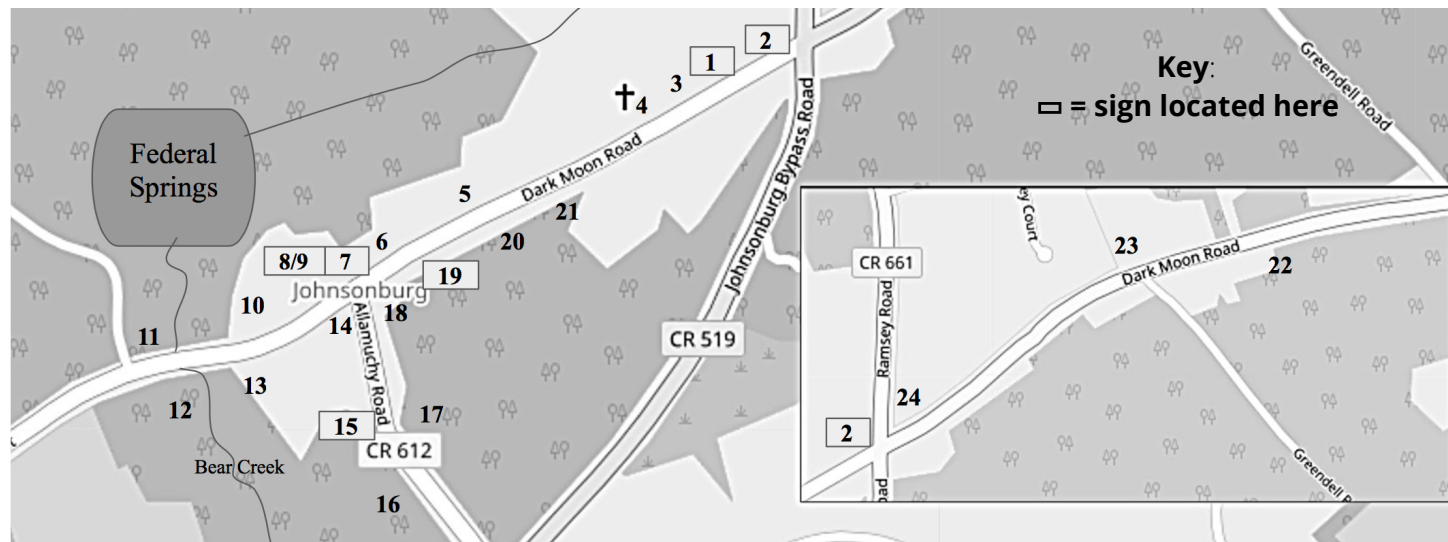
This building used to be a hotel along with a tavern. While the railroad in Johnsonburg was being built, the hotel housed many of the railroad workers. There were two stagecoach lines that crossed here from Albany to Philadelphia and from New York City to Scranton. Unfortunately, the hotel closed in 1979.

7. Post Office

The Post Office was created in 1796 and Johnathan Johnson was the first postmaster. In 1902 a third story was added that was used as a community hall. Fifty years later the third story was removed and the building became a small post office with a house, but in 2011 the Post Office closed and became a house.

8. Robert Blair Home

This home was built in the 1740s by Samuel Green Jr. It is referred to as the Robert Blair Homestead because at one point Robert Blair was the owner and made many updates to the house.



9. Logg Gaol

The stone building to the left of the house is the site of the Logg Gaol (Log Jail) and its main use was to imprison debtors. In 1763 the jail was moved to present-day Newton because Newton was the new county seat of Sussex County.

10. Sweet Jane's

This site used to be cottages for travelers during the 1700s-1800s. From the 1920s - 1930s it was a residence for unwed mothers.

11. Gristmill

This was one of the first structures to be built in Johnsonburg (circa 1745) and was used to grind cereal grain into flour and middlings. Samuel Harden added a store to the mill around 1860 and its last use was as a cider mill by the Lolas family.

12. Various Shops and Resident Physician

There were various shops located in this area including a tanyard, a joiner, a foundry and a wheelwright shop. These shops contributed to the growing commerce in Johnsonburg.

13. Petit's Tavern

Petit's Tavern was built in the 1753 and was located in front of you in the grass. This tavern was a meeting spot for many people, and court was also held here. After these events, people would cross the street to the cabins to sleep.

14. Confectionary

S.Y. Lewis built this structure in the early 1860s and made the lower level a confectionary and the second level was used as a community hall. Later on the building became a grocery store and a eventually a barber shop.

15. Christian Church

This building used to be a Christian Church and opened in 1846. It had many attendees until after WWI when the population in Johnsonburg declined. In the 1960s, it was used as milk carton storage for the Westbrook Creamery.

16. Christian Cemetery

Many original settlers of the town are buried in this cemetery. One of the more well-known would be Joseph Thomas (aka "The White Pilgrim") who was a famous preacher.

17. Site of Numerous Shops Including a Blacksmith

18. Kurt's Auto Repair Shop

This was the site of a wheelwright shop and then Hardin's Store. There was also a confectionary was located on the first floor and a dance hall was located on the third floor. The building was also an Esso gas station from 1940-1970s.

19. Episcopal Church

The house in front of you was originally an Anglican Church but later became an Episcopal Church. Eventually, the building was used by multiple religions which brought upon the name of the Mission House.

20. Site of a Cooper Shop and a Wheelwright Shop

21. Chrusz's General Store

Chrusz's originally started as a residence, then transitioned to a stove and tin store before it became a general store.

22. Gibbs House

This house was built in the shape of an octagon because it was believed to be an efficient use of space and energy. There is a myth that the reason for the shape was to prevent ghosts from hiding in the corners, however that is untrue.