



The Hetfield House

Published by the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee - September, 2005

From the CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL

Following are some of the many activities and announcements that the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee has accomplished in the past year. Feel free to take advantage of any of these programs and support Historic Preservation in Mountainside.

BRICK FUNDRAISER: A third set of bricks were dedicated and placed in the walkway on May 15th, 2005. (We want to thank Sergio Lourenco, the Portuguese Mason, for donating his time and talent to the continued evolution of this walkway.) Through the sale of these bricks which lead to the front door of the Hetfield House, the MHPC is raising funds to write and publish an updated history book of our Borough's history from 1945 to present. The History of Mountainside by Jean Hesketh-Hershey covers the history until 1945 (copies are available for \$5 each, call 789-9420). Most of our town's development occurred since 1945, so the writing of this history is quite an undertaking. Anyone wishing to order bricks can use the order form found on the back of this newsletter.

MOUNTAINSIDE'S UPDATED HISTORY BOOK: We are pleased to announce that we have contracted with an author for this updated history. She is Mountainside's own Connie McNamara. Connie will be working with residents of Mountainside (past & present) to collect and research information compiling our borough's history since 1945. Connie says, "I'd like to get personal experiences from

(continued on page 2)

20 YEARS SINCE DRAMATIC HETFIELD HOUSE MOVE

The following article appeared in the Courier News on July 1, 1985. It captured the true drama of what it was like for observers to see the Hetfield House as it was moved over 20 years ago on Saturday, June 29, 1985!

HOME BECOMES ROAD-HOUSE

By Karen Hammerdorfer - Courier-News Writer

MOUNTAINSIDE - It weighed 115 tons, traveled 3mph, closed Route 22 and attracted hundreds of curious onlookers Saturday morning. It was one of the oldest homes in the borough, being moved to a new home, via one of the busiest highways in the state.

"This is one of the most remarkable things

I've ever seen," said Barbara Ackerman of Westfield. "It was thrilling just being able to stand in the middle of Route 22. I've gotten a whole new perspective of the area.

"I've grown up watching this house and I'm glad it's being taken care of," she said.

The house, which dates to 1755, originally was owned by Deacon Andrew Hetfield of the Presbyterian Church of Westfield when what is now Route 22 was a dirt road.

The move was the second for the Hetfield house. In 1929 the house, located across the roadway from Echo Lake Park, was moved about 50 yards to make way for the highway, which at the time was called Route 29.

During the 1930's and 40's the house was used as a tea room.

(continued on page 3)



The Hetfield House as it appeared on Saturday, June 29, 1985 traveling westbound on Rt. 22 as it was moved to its current location near the Mountainside Library.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ORDER PERSONALIZED BRICKS FOR HETFIELD HOUSE'S WALK OF HISTORY

We hope to have another phase of new bricks for the walkway for dedication in the Fall of 2006. We encourage anyone with ties to Mountainside to consider purchasing a brick for placement on our "Walk of History". Please use the form below to purchase your brick/s. The funds raised will go toward the publishing of our newest "History of Mountainside - from 1945". If you're at a loss for what to say on your brick, get inspiration by stopping by the Hetfield House and see what others have inscribed.

PERSONALIZED BRICK FUND RAISER PROGRAM

Your Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Amount Enclosed _____

The basic cost of each brick is \$100.00 which includes 2 lines of 14 characters each. Enter your inscription below using up to 14 characters (including punctuation and blank spaces) per line - two lines for each brick. One additional line may be added for \$10.00. Also, each line can be expanded to 18 characters for \$10.00 per line. Any questions, please call 232-2400, ext. 590.

Line One: _____

Line Two: _____

Optional Line: _____

Special Instructions: (multiple orders, bricks laid together, etc.) _____

Mail this form with payment to: Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee
Mountainside Municipal Building
1385 Route 22 East, Mountainside, NJ 07092

NOTECARDS AVAILABLE FOR SALE TO COMMEMORATE THE 250th BIRTHDAY OF THE HETFIELD HOUSE

It is believed that the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House was originally built in 1755 (some say 1760). While we're not really sure, we wanted to commemorate this milestone birthday with the sale of note cards. These ivory colored, folded note cards are available in sets of 12 with envelopes. They feature the Harry Devlin sketch of the Hetfield House on the front with a brief history on the back. The inside is blank. Anyone interested in purchasing these cards can do so at Borough Hall or stop by the Hetfield House during any open house or craft event. They are being sold for \$7.00 per set of 12.



Hetfield House note cards.

CHAIRMAN'S INKWELL

(continued from page 1)

Mountainside residents to make for enjoyable reading as if the reader were living history." She is looking for photos and information from Mountainsiders past & present so that she can present a complete overview of our borough since 1945. Anyone with photos or information depicting everyday life, events, organizations, landmarks, institutions or anecdotes that are significant to our history are encouraged to contact Connie McNamara at 346 Rolling Rock Road, phone: 233-9679, or email: conniemcnamara@comcast.net. It is estimated that the book may be available in late 2006 or early 2007.

HETFIELD HOUSE RECEIVES NEW COAT OF PAINT: After years of fundraising and waiting, the Hetfield House has a new coat of paint. Completed in August, the paint is similar to the previous colors but the front door sports a new shade of red. We await repairs to the front

steps and side porch which we expect to be done soon. Thanks to your generous donations and participation in our annual fund drive, we are able to complete this work on the Hetfield House.

CRAFT SHOWS SCHEDULED AT HETFIELD HOUSE: The popular craft shows will continue at the Hetfield House for the Fall, Holiday and Spring. Fall shows are scheduled September 21st through October 2nd (Wed. thru Sun.). Stop by with the family on weekends to enjoy special activities such as face painting, temporary tattoos, and support the Hetfield House by purchasing giant mums (3 for \$12). The Holiday show will take place the weekends before and after Thanksgiving. The Spring show will occur the weekend before Mother's Day in May.

FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE: Union County's Four Centuries in a Weekend event will take place Sat. Oct.15th (10am-5pm) and Sat.Oct.16th (12 - 5pm). The Deacon

Andrew Hetfield House will be open for tours and events during this weekend on Saturday and Sunday. Please stop by and enjoy Mountainside's historic treasure.

GIRL SCOUTS CONTRIBUTE WEBSITE: Gabrielle Lentini and Jean Ruggiero, two Girl Scouts from Mountainside Troop 195, will develop a website for the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee. As part of their Silver Medal requirements, Gabrielle and Jean will co-lead this project. They estimate that it could take a year before the site is up and running. We appreciate their help and expertise and we look forward to a website of our own in the future. Thank you to Gabrielle and Jean!

For further information on the activities of the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee and updates on the Hetfield House happenings, please call 789-9420.

Scott Daniels - Chairman, Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee

20 YEARS since dramatic Hetfield House move

(continued from page 1)

About 400 curious spectators - many of them clutching cameras, children or coffee - crowded onto a closed-off portion of Route 22 westbound to watch the move.

The half-mile journey along Route 22 to a new location near the borough library took about three hours as crewmen from Mullen and Ranalli, Inc. of Mount Holly guided the building along the highway.

The most difficult part of the move occurred after the 28-wheel dolly carrying the house left the highway and had to cross an area still muddy from recent rains. Crewmen had to repeatedly run beneath the house to place planks over the muddy areas.

At the same time, the crewmen had to saw off troublesome branches from trees on either side.

Even before the house left the highway, the journey was a stop-and-go affair as street lights were dismantled.

In June, 1984, the home was purchased by Walter Kuczynski and his son, Robert, who intended to clear the one-acre site to make way for a manufacturing complex for electrical components. The Kuczynskis were unaware of the historic significance of the home.

Fern Carter Hyde, chairwoman of the

Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee, learned about the plans in December and asked the Kuczynskis if they would delay construction until a means could be found to save the house.

"They were very cooperative about it," Hyde said.

But Robert Kuczynski said he was concerned that the house might not be moved in time for his own project to be completed before winter.

"I told Hyde I would push back the construction date as long as I could, but I didn't know how long I could wait," he said as he watched the move on Saturday.

Fred Ranalli, who began moving houses when he was 13 (and has been in the business for about 30 years), said the operation went according to plan.

"This is about par for the course," he said.

Before the move began, he and his men made several inspections of the house and determined the best route.

Twenty steel beams were inserted beneath the house and a hydraulic lift was used to set the house on the dolly.

Once the house was moved off Route 22, it took about two more hours to haul it to the library site.

An overpass just before New Providence Road prohibited the use of that road. A wooded area leading to the library was cleared, which served as a shortcut to the new location.

Today, the house was scheduled to be moved to the excavated site. The steel beams will remain in place until a new foundation is built.

"There are no two situations exactly alike," said Ranalli, who said he moves about 100 houses a year.

Mountainside Business Administrator James Roberts said that officials and concerned townspeople planned and executed the relocation project in six months. Under normal circumstances, such a task would have taken about a year, Roberts said.

The move is expected to cost about \$66,000, including fees from the state Department of Transportation, New Jersey Bell and Public Service Electric & Gas Co.

The Borough Council approved a bond ordinance to cover the fees.

A fund drive will begin in the fall to help furnish the house, which will be used to store the town's archives and for community functions.

Copyright 2005 Courier News. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

Editor's Note: The Deacon Andrew Hetfield House is still the property of the Borough of Mountainside and is maintained by the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee through funds raised by the group.

DRAWING WINNERS announced

Each year, the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee holds a Spring fundraising drive for the upkeep of the Hetfield House. This year, the funds were used to paint the Hetfield House's exterior and repair the front steps and side porch. Thank you to all who participated in this fundraiser - the Hetfield House really does need your support! A drawing was held on May 15th from names submitted during this fundraiser. Following are the winners:

\$500 Gift Certificate: Jeanne Wilhelms

\$300 Gift Certificate: Gary Olson

\$100 Gift Certificate: Michael Krasner

\$100 Gift Certificate: Mrs. R. Smith

Congratulations winners and thank you all for your support!

The ARTHUR J. BRAHM Historic Preservation Scholarship Award

At the 8th grade Graduation Ceremony for Deerfield School, held on Thursday, June 23rd, Scott Daniels, Chairman of the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee presented the Annual Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award. This award is presented to the graduating senior who demonstrated excellence in a written essay depicting some aspect of Mountainside's history. The 2005 award was presented to Max Winter for his essay honoring his aunt, Shirley Friedman, and the Children's Specialized Hospital. Congratulations, Max!



Historic Preservation Committee Chairman Scott Daniels presents the 2005 Arthur J. Brahm Historic Preservation Scholarship Award to Max Winter.

Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee

Scott Daniels, Chairman
Ruth Goense, Vice Chair
Carol Clark, Treasurer
Maureen Giannone, Secretary
Carol Goggi, Newsletter Editor
Marianne Bergeski
Donald Jeka
Thomas McGee
Eleanor Pfeifer
Diane Ruggiero
Nancy Spadaccini
Lenore Toner
Cynthia West

Glenn Mortimer, Borough Council Liaison

The members and officers of this committee are also the members of the Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc. which was formed to acquire and expend funds for the preservation of the Hetfield House and other historical purposes.

Friends of the Hetfield House MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Annual Membership:

Individual Friend - \$5.00

Very Special Friend - \$10.00 or more

I would like to volunteer my time.

Call me at this number: _____

Make Checks Payable to:

Mountainside Restoration Committee, Inc.

And, mail along with this form to:

Carol Clark, Treasurer

308 Summit Road, Mountainside, NJ 07092

POSTAL PATRON
MOUNTAINSIDE, NEW JERSEY 07092

Borough of Mountainside
Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee
1385 Route 22
Mountainside, New Jersey 07092

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 524
WESTFIELD, N.J.