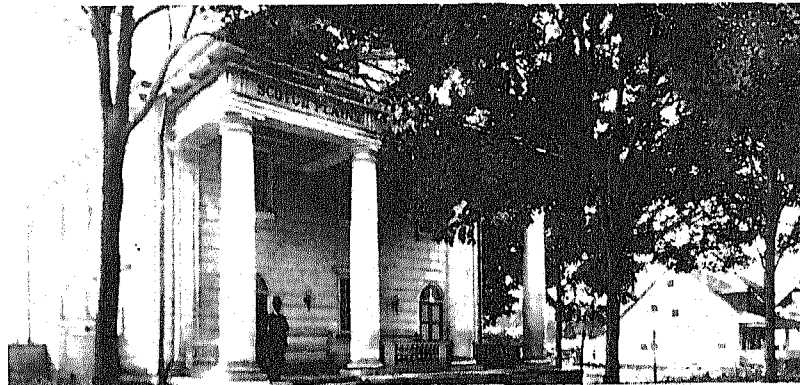


The Stagehouse Inn, located on Park Avenue and Front Street, served not only as a focal point from the earliest days of settlement of this community but also as a meeting place for officers and soldiers during the Revolutionary War. It hosted both George Washington and Marquis de Lafayette as well as General Maxwell the New Jersey Brigade Commander who is reported to have issued several war orders from this historic landmark.

Just to the north of the Stagehouse Inn is the site of the Baptist Church that was dedicated in 1747. At the Park and Mountain Avenue location is one of the oldest cemeteries in East Jersey. The Reverend Benjamin Miller the first pastor of the church, had the privilege in 1764 to ordain James Manning, a Scotch Plains native as the first president of Brown University. In 1871 a new brick church was built to replace the old wood structure. The old church was sold and moved to its present Grand Street location. A portico was added and the building internally altered to meet the requirements of the district public school system.

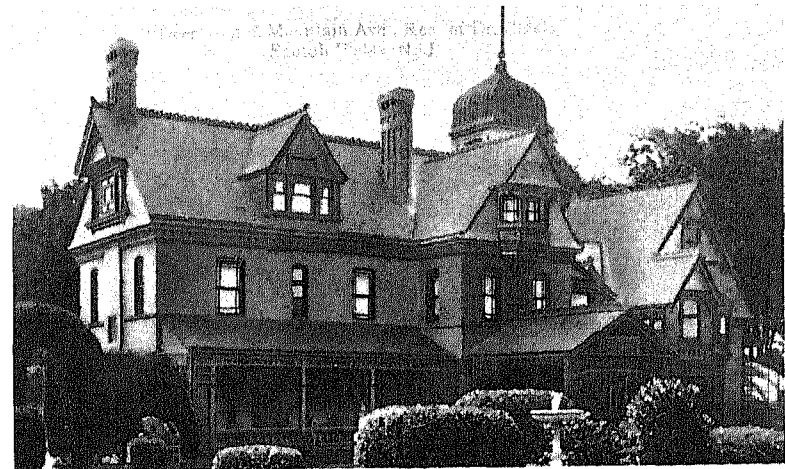


The original structure that was the Baptist Church on the corner of Park and Mountain Avenues was moved in 1871 to its present site on Grand Street and served as a public school for several years. It eventually became the home of the Young Mens' Christian Association and is still in use today.

In the 1890's the first new public school building, School #1 was constructed on Park Avenue in then Fanwood Township, at a cost of \$18,000. The building was an adaption of Romanesque architecture, which is distinguished by its decorative half brick arches. The school was designed by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead and Stanford White, and was large enough to hold two-hundred and fifty students. School #1 which was on the "National Register of Historic Buildings" was destroyed by fire in 1984.

When the old Baptist Church building was no longer needed as a public school it was acquired by Dr. J. Ackerman Coles. He had the old building thoroughly repaired for the benefit of the Young Mens Christian Association. This structure is still being used today by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Y.M.C.A.

The All Saints Episcopal Church on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains also serves as a landmark for the surrounding communities. Mr. Charles Kyte the future mayor of Fanwood Borough was a firm and unwearied supporter of this church. The original church building that was constructed in 1882 still stands today.



A pillar of the early school system, Dr. J. Ackerman Coles maintained a stately home on Mountain Avenue in Scotch Plains.