

HISTORY

EARLY SCOTCH PLAINS

Settled in 1684, the Township of Scotch Plains is one of the oldest communities in Union County. Originally a part of the "west fields of Elizabeth Town", Scotch Plains was part of Fanwood from 1878 to 1917 when it was incorporated as a separate township.

The Township figured prominently in the Revolution. It was a main stop on the New York to Washington Stage Line. A long since abandoned copper and iron mine contributed to the Colonies' arsenal and a skirmish in Ash Swamp culminated in the now oft-told story of "Aunt Betty" Frazee, who agreed to give bread from her oven to Lord Cornwallis and his troops but only "in fear and not in love." Aunt Betty's home looking much as it did then is now owned by the Franklin Terrys. It is located at the corner of Raritan and Terrill roads and the bread anecdote is the subject of the illustration on the cover of this brochure.

The Township of Scotch Plains, until just after World War II, remained much as it was in the 18th and 19th centuries . . . a semi-rural village consisting mostly of farms and undeveloped land.

SCOTCH PLAINS TODAY

The Township covers an area of 9.06 square miles and remains, predominantly, a residential community with a true valuation of \$172,214,576.00. About 90 per cent of the Township is developed and more than 75 per cent of this developed area is devoted to residential use. Parks and playgrounds cover more than 28 per cent of the land with the two largest sections included in the Union County Park system. Industrial development is now about 2 per cent of the total area. More than 600 acres remain undeveloped and it is expected that the greatest portion of this land will eventually be used for residential purposes over the next 15 years.

At the close of World War II, the population of Scotch Plains was only about 4,500. Five years later this had risen to 9,069 in the 1950 census. The best estimate available now is that the population is 23,500 . . . which is a 300 per cent increase in less than fifteen years!

Such growth has been accompanied by extreme growing pains. The services and facilities required by the Township for its citizens have mushroomed. These areas of activity include roads, sanitary sewers, storm drainage, planning and zoning, street lighting, park and recreational facilities, schools and expanded police and fire protection.