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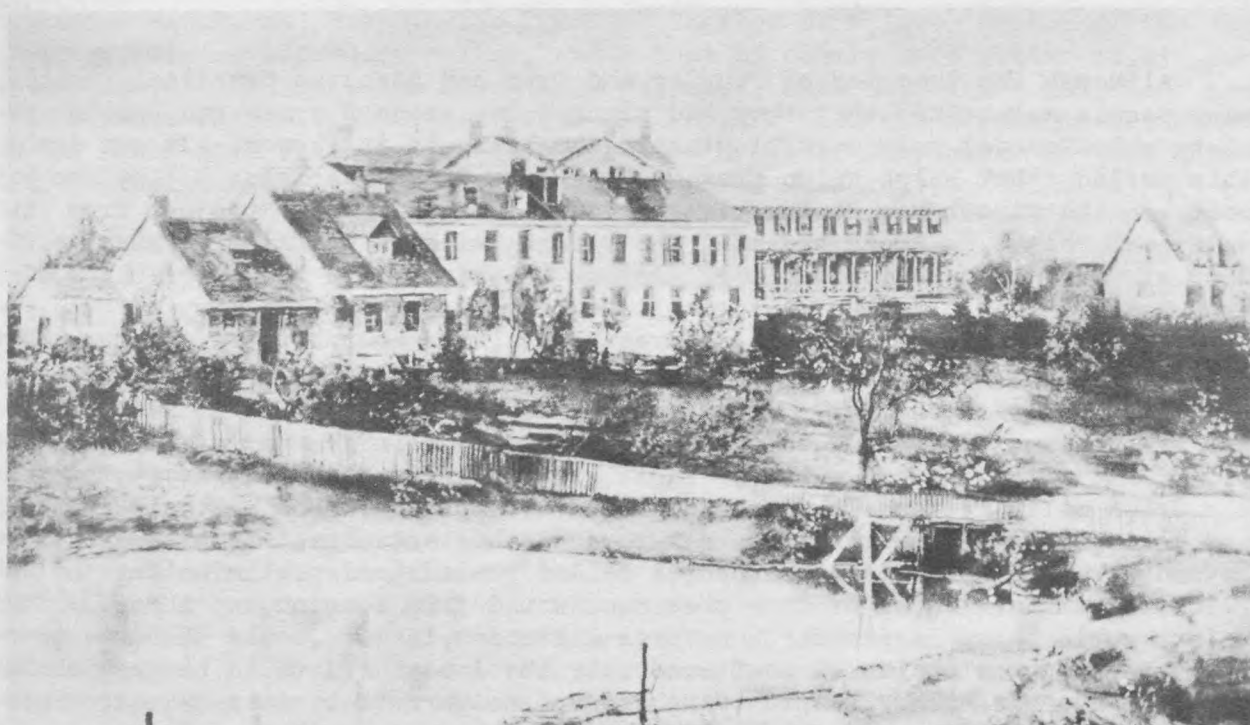
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NORTH AMERICAN PHALANX

The panic of 1837 and the long period of suffering afterward focused wide attention on plans for establishing a social order with a more abundant and secure life for all the people. Many of the social thinkers of a century ago felt the need of testing their theories to prove their worth. To do this it was necessary to organize communities where people would live and work under a plan that differed sharply from the ordinary community life in towns and villages.

As a result, hundreds of experimental projects sprang up throughout the country. Some lasted only a few months, others for several years. One of the most successful was the North American Phalanx, about five miles west of Red Bank in Monmouth County. Today, resting quietly in a grove of trees, a large rambling house occupied by descendants of the original founders is all that remains of the once busy community where for 12 years men and women worked, played and educated their children with one common object--the greatest good for the greatest number.



North American Phalanx from an old oil painting. Courtesy Red Bank Register.