

“Our History”

Historic Marple Township



Francis Stanfield House

c. 1685

Crum Creek Rd.

Francis Stanfield came to America from the Cheshire area of England landing in Chester in Sept. of 1683.

He was what became known as a “first purchaser” of land from Wm. Penn.

He and his family, settled in what would become Marple Township.

He was one of Marple’s first Provincial Assemblymen and played a major role in naming our township



1702 Rhoads Tannery

c.1702

Along Reed Rd.

Demolished in the 1960's

One of the first Tanneries in Pennsylvania was that of John Rhoads who came to America in 1699 and purchased land in Marple Township. When he died in 1701 and left his land to his son Joseph, who established a tanyard there in 1702.

The entire operation was moved to larger quarters in the industrial city of Wilmington, Delaware in the late 19th century.

It is still in business and is considered the one of oldest companies in the United States.



Bartholomew Coppock House ca.1727

*Demolished in 1965 in order to
build Cardinal O'Hara High School*

*The Coppock Family settled in
Marple and Springfield Townships
in the late 17th century.*

*The family in Marple became noted
joiners (cabinetmakers) and operated
a sawmill along Whetstone Run in
Marple.*

*Some of their furniture is in the
Philadelphia Art Museum and
Winterthur Museum in Delaware*



*Maris House c. 1750
West Chester Pk.*

Built by noted Quaker Jonathan Maris this stone farmhouse retains many early architectural features including a walk-in cooking fireplace and 6 corner fireplaces. For most of the 19th century it served as the farmhouse of the Fawkes family. In 1897 it was purchased by Robert Culbertson and today is the offices of the DeLiberty Law Firm.



Barnardus Van Leer House c. 1742

Dr. Barnardus Van Leer came to Marple Township in 1697 as a young man. He returned to Europe in the early 18th century and studied medicine in Scotland. He returned to Marple and built his home in 1742.

He was also the owner of a mill along trout run in Marple.

His son Bernardus married Anthony Wayne's sister and fought at the Battle of Paoli.

Dr. Van Leer practiced medicine until he passed away at the age of 103



Nathaniel Holland House

“The Sycamores” c.1785

One of the more noted owners of this house was a man named Felix Velotte. He came from France to America in about 1800 as a ward of the Worrall family. He is believed to be the Lost Dauphine of French royalty.

DNA tests were done on a man from New York and they indicated he was a relative of Louis XIV but none were ever done on Velotte

So the mystery remains!



Drove Tavern

c. 1798

*West Chester Pk & Sproul
Rd.*

Razed for widening the Pike

*Located at the crossroads of
travel in the early 18th
century this building provided
a place for farmers
transporting their goods from
the outlying farms to market
towns of Philadelphia and
Chester.*



*Greenbank Farm
c. 1820*

This section of the house was built as an addition to an earlier (1780) section in the rear of the house.

Delaware County Historical Society owned the house from about 2000 until 2018 when it was decided to sell it because of their large financial problems.

The house has been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places



Bonsall General Store

c. 1807

*NW corner of West Chester
Pk. & Sproul Rd.*

*Demolished in the 1960's for a
restaurant this general store
was the first location of
Broomall P.O.*



The Buck Tavern *c. 1825*

*Located on West Chester Pk
where the American Legion
building is today it served as a
tavern until the late 19th
century when it became a
residence.*

*It was demolished in the mid
20th century for housing
development*



*Original Marple P.O.
ca. 1840
Springfield Rd & Old Marple
Rd.*

*Built in what was then known
as the village of Marple. The
building served as the Marple
general Store and Marple Post
Office.*

*The Post Office was closed the
early 20th century but it
remained a general store until
midcentury when it became
an antique shop.*

It is now the offices of ValPac



Marple Presbyterian Church

c.1835

*The first Church in Marple
Township*

*In the early 19th century it
was decided by local members
of the Middletown
Presbyterian Church, who
lived in or near this location
in Marple, to build the
church.*

*The land was given to the
congregation and
construction was completed in
1835.*



Ballantine House

c. 1840

DCCC

Demolished 2011

*Demolished by Delaware
County College because of
maintenance costs*



*H. Jones Moore House
c. 1870
Glenwood Memorial
Cemetery*

*Originally a farm-house
designed in second empire
style it is used today for the
office of the cemetery*



*West Chester Pk. Toll
House c. 1850
Demolished in early 20th
century*

*It was decided in the mid 19th
century to make West Chester Pk a
toll road. Toll houses were created
along the pike from Upper Darby to
Edgmont. This house was built to
serve that purpose. It was located on
the north side of the pike just past
where Springfield Rd. enters the
pike.*

*The toll collector lived in the house
and they were responsible for the
collection of the tolls.*



*Marple School House
No. 2
c. 1880
Cedar Grove Rd.*

Today a private residence



Bergoll Estate

c. 1903

One of the most well known residents of Marple Township in the very early 20th century was Grover Cleveland Bergdoll. He was the grandson of Louis Bergdoll of the Bergdoll Brewing Company in Philadelphia and had access to much of the family fortune and through his various law flaunting activities he became known as the playboy of the east coast.

He was drafted in 1918 but refused to serve and he was tried and sentenced to 4 years in Federal Prison. He escaped and fled to Germany.

On his return to the United States in 1939, he was captured and served his prison term.

The house was destroyed in a fire in 1975.



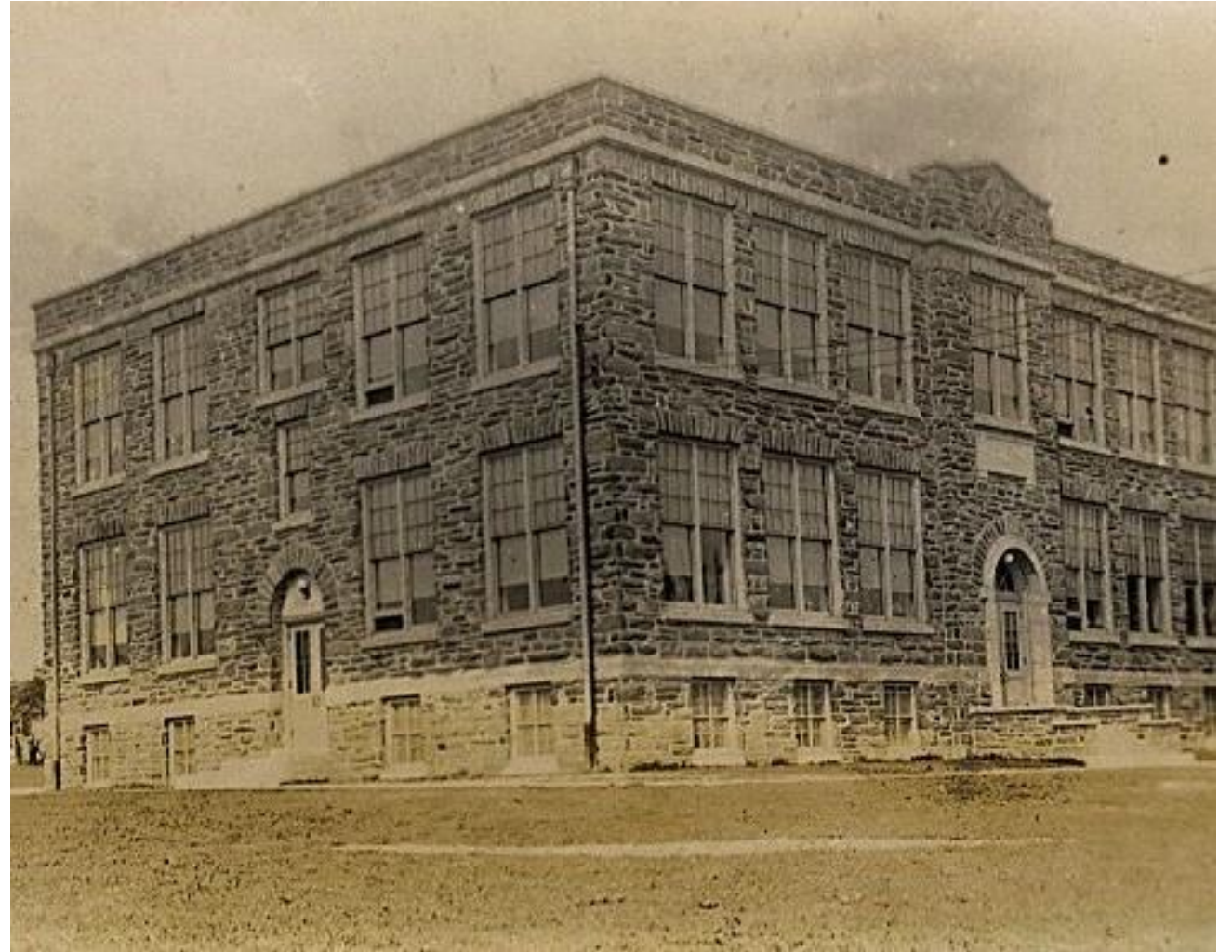
Marple Grade School c. 1923

When the school district decided to centralize their school system they built Marple Grade School.

With the end of WW II population increased and other schools were built to serve the bigger population growth.

It was used by other learning entities up until the end of the 20th century.

The site now is occupied by the new Broomall Fire Company building



*East bound trolley along
West Chester Pk. about
1950*

*A westward view of West
Chester Pike of a trolley where
Broomall Post Office is today*



*Parker Luncheonette
on West Chester Pk.
c. 1952*

*An early lunch spot in
Marple.*

*It still exists today as Jean's
Luncheonette*



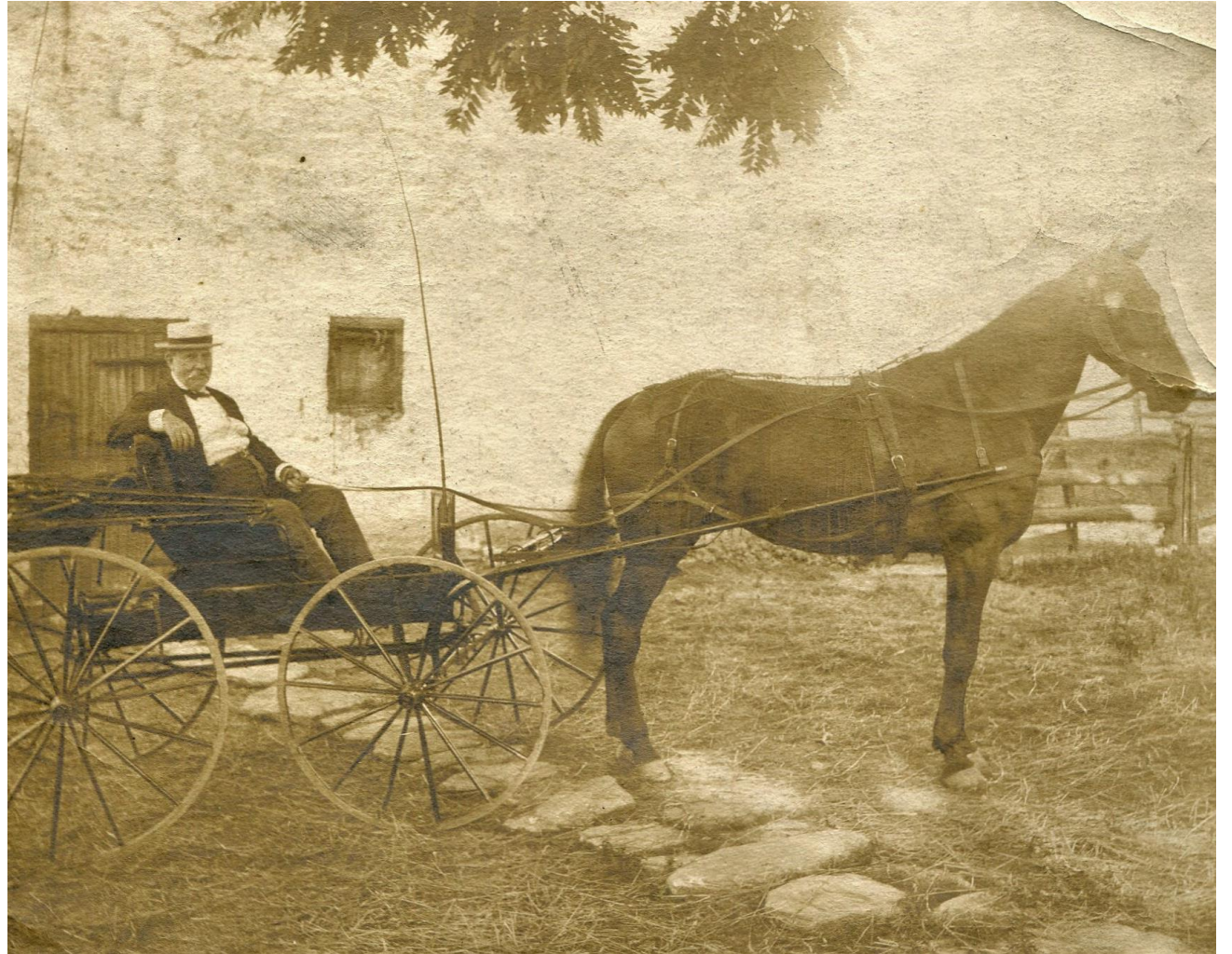
*Broomall Fire House
West Chester Pike
c. 1930*

*Broomall Fire Company
first fire station
Today it's a pizza shop*



*Before there were
autos*

It beats walkin'



*Howard Johnson
Restaurant
SE corner of West Pk. &
Sproul Rd.*

One of Marple's first diners



*Lawrence Park Movie
Theater Opening
about 1960*

*Today it serves as the Barnes
& Noble book store*



Rock Outcroppings along Langford Rd. Marple Township

*An archeological dig and
study in 1942, by the
University of Pennsylvania,
determined that this site was
an encampment for Native
American families as long as
10,000 years ago.*



*Marple P.O. & General
Store
c. 1940*

Filler' up, please



*Marple School No. 3
West side of Sproul
Rd. at Reed Rd.*

*The last of the 19th century
schools built for Marple school
children is today a private
residence*



*Marple Public School
No. 1 c. 1877
(Corn Cobb College)*

*The first Public school built in
Marple township.*

*Today it is the Broomall Little
League parking lot*



*Marple school children in the
early 20th century*



*Marple Newtown
Semi-professional
football team*



MARPLE NEWTOWN A. A.

SEMI-PRO FOOTBALL TEAM

1947

TOP ROW: MR. SHUPARD, TOM LOOMIS, BILL TAYLOR, UNKNOWN, NEWT KERBER, RAY LOOMIS, LOREN SAMS, DOM CIVITELLI

SECOND ROW: DEXTER PIERCE, DICK ANDREWS, DAVE NEFF, PARKER HARLOW, BUD PIERCE, CLARK HARTIN, BILL PATTON, BILL STANDEN, DONALD O'BRIEN

THIRD ROW: BUD BURNS, ELMER HANCOCK, JOE REED, BOB MAULE, LEON WORRALL, KENNETH STURM, FERNANDES, FRAN LANDRUM

PICTURE COURTESY OF BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY

*Palmer's SawMill
c. 1860*

*Demolished for Springton
Reservoir in the 1930's*



*Moore House
c. 1800
West Chester Pk. &
New Ardmore Ave.*

This building was built in two stages. The earliest was about 1800 while the second stage was in the mid-1900th century.

Today it serves as an office building



*Mr. & Mrs. Allen in
the late 19th Century*

*Their farm was located in
what is now St. Peter & Paul
cemetery*



*The Parsonage
c. 1860
Church Lane*

*This house was built to house
the Pastor of the Marple
Presbyterian Church.*

