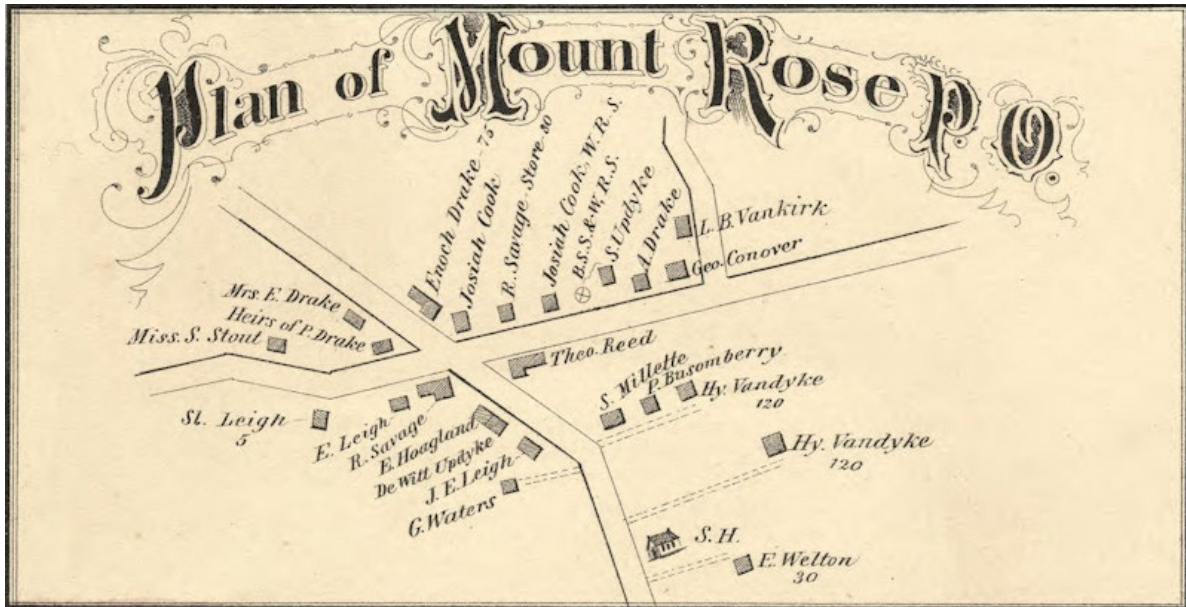


The Historic Village of Mount Rose

Rev. 2/6/2021 - D. Dixon, S. Fields

An introduction to the historic village of Mount Rose - Its history, and its historic sites. See the references for more information.



Mount Rose - 1875 Everts & Stewart

The Historic Village of Mount Rose

Originally known as Stout's Corner, Mount Rose emerged as a village in the 1820s. By 1880 it boasted a school, post office, sawmill and several shops. It was perhaps best known as a center of applejack whiskey production. Two distilleries operated here into the early part of the 20th century. The office building of the former Mount Rose Distillery still remains and was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

- Historic marker, Hopewell Township Historic Sites Committee, 1999

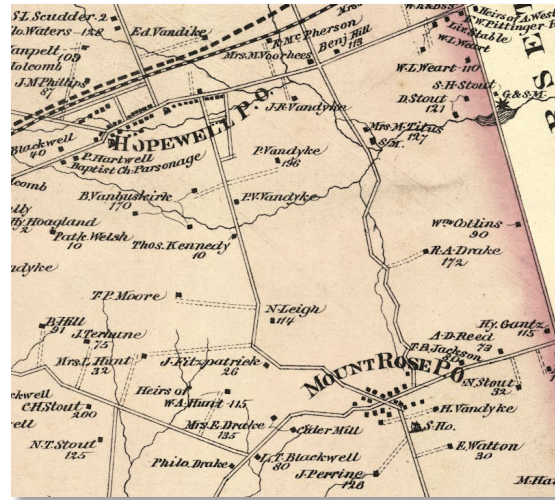
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The Village of Mount Rose

It looks like just another simple crossroads, a few houses hugging a dangerous intersection, its single stoplight one more potential delay in the commute to work. Yet Mount Rose, in the eastern end of Hopewell Township, was a destination, not a byway, of the surrounding countryside in the 19th century when it was a thriving center of rural commerce and agricultural industry.

Richard Stout opened the village's first store here around 1822, near the intersection of Pennington-Rocky Hill Road and Hopewell-Princeton Road, and by 1830 Josiah Cook and Reuben Savidge had opened the community's second general store. By mid-century, a number of other merchants had hung out their shingles. By 1880, two shoe-makers had opened shops, as did a dressmaker, a couple of wheelwrights and a blacksmith. A harness shop operated here, as well as an agricultural implements warehouse and a small steam sawmill. About 20 dwellings completed the village.



Mount Rose & Hopewell
1875 Everts & Stewart

Fruit growers from a wide area knew well the roads to Mount Rose, where Nathaniel Drake had opened an applejack distillery on the western end of the village shortly after mid-century. Hundreds of barrels of peach brandy, apple cider and apple whiskey were churned out of Drake's distillery every season. Today, the only remaining structure from that once-busy complex, known as the Whiskey House, is listed on the National, New Jersey, and Hopewell Township registers of Historic Places.

Mount Rose's first schoolhouse, established here about 1820, was a stone building located just east of the general store operated by Cook and Savidge. It was eventually replaced sometime during the Civil War by a new frame building on the village's southern end. Serving Hopewell's School District No. 7, it closed its doors in 1935, and was converted into a residence that still survives.

The expansion of Mount Rose peaked in 1880, blunted by the development of the village of Hopewell to its north, which was on the routes of the railroads that arrived in the 1870s.

- Adapted from Hopewell Township Report, Fall 2003

<https://www.hopewelltpw.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/277>

Edits by Shelia Fields

Mount Rose Historic Sites

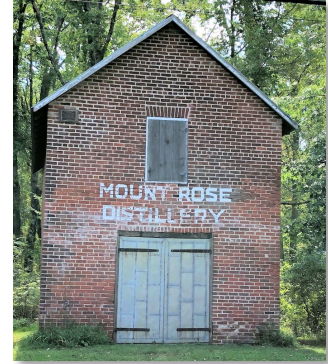
Several sites in Mount Rose have been entered on the National Register of Historic Places and recognized by the NJ State Historic Preservation Office (NJSPHO).

The Mount Rose Historic District, County Route 569 and Pennington-Rocky Hill Road, also has been identified by a N. J. State Historic Preservation Office (NJSPHO) Opinion, 6/23/1982 (ID#1694)

Mount Rose Distillery

- Pennington-Rocky Hill Road west of Hopewell-Princeton Road, adjacent to the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail
- National Register: 12/12/1996 (NR Reference #: 96001471)
- State Register: 9/8/1995 (ID#3258)

The Mount Rose Distillery (Whiskey House / Cider Mill) is the only surviving building of the cider and applejack distillery operating at this site from before 1840 until 1920, when Prohibition closed the operation down. The distillery site originally was part of a 166-acre farm.



This brick building and its associated archaeological site were entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1996, and Hopewell Township acquired the property in 1998. The age and identity of the building are uncertain. It most likely dates from the late 19th or early 20th century, and had been used for storage and office space.

- From HVHS Historic Site Signage, 2018

Mount Rose General Store

- 230 County Route 569 (Hopewell-Princeton Road)
- State Register: 1/11/2007 (ID#4706)

Located at the northeast corner of the Mount Rose intersection, the general store was built ca. 1831 under the ownership of John Savage and Josiah Cook. It was the second general store in Mount Rose, and eventually also housed the first post office. It became a private residence ca. 1859.



- From National Register Nomination Form, 2005
- From The Second Mount Rose General Store, Max Hayden, HVHS Newsletter, Winter 2004