

Spanning the Gap

A Ride Down Old Mine Road Part II: Millbrook Village and Flatbrookville NJ



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By Susan Kopczynski

MILLBROOK VILLAGE

Original village established c. 1832
Village currently used for historical demonstrations.

In 1832, Abram Garis built a grist mill along Van Campen brook near the newly completed Columbia and Walpack Turnpike. The farmers who brought their grain to his mill soon attracted other businesses, such as a store, a blacksmith, and a cooper. By the 1870s, [Millbrook](#) was a thriving farm village of 19 buildings and about 75 inhabitants. However, competition with western farms and general economic depression caused a decrease in farming population just before the turn of the century. Millbrook and other villages in the valley declined. By 1900, the gristmill had ceased operation. Soon after 1910, the store and hotel closed their doors.

Today, only six original major buildings remain. Other buildings have been moved from other sites or are newly built to help depict village life in the valley during the late 19th and early 20th century. The layout of Millbrook, however, is still representative of the original village. The mill is being constructed in the same manner as the original using new and old material.

The village comes alive on the first full weekend in October for Millbrook Days. Leaving the Millbrook parking lot via the same road, proceed 1.5 miles to an intersection. Bear left and pull off the road to the left for a fine view across the river at Walpack



Looking south down the historic roadbed of Columbia-Walpack Turnpike in 2000. Garis House is at the right. (NPS photo by Ken Sandri)



A fresh batch of cider at Millbrook Days.

Bend. Here the Delaware River makes an S-curve into the Kittatinny Ridge (You can easily find the spot on your park map.)

DELAWARE VIEW HOUSE (SALAMOVKA)

Built prior to 1836

Currently a general store

In the early 20th century, many old area farmsteads were used as country homes. The re-use often involved a transformation in the landscape as well. More elaborate landscape materials were employed and water-flow was manipulated on the site. Here, the landscape still has the feel of a summer residence.

Samuel Garris purchased this property in 1904, enlarged the house, and operated it as a hunting lodge. Later he leased it to a family that operated it as a boarding house and later as the Flatbrookville Hotel. During the hotel years, the owners no doubt benefited from the vitality of nearby Flatbrookville.

In 1926, Andrew and Nelda Salama, Belo-russians who had fled from the Russian Revolution, purchased the property and remodeled the house for use as a communal summer house for their artistic and theatrical friends from New York. Note the rear two-story wing that is the original portion, which has half-story swivel windows. The roof of an original structure that was probably built prior to 1836 is still visible in the attic. The original portion is Greek Revival style, while the later front addition is Victorian vernacular.



Delaware View House (Salamovka) in an old postcard.



Delaware View House today.
(NPS photo by Ken Sandri)

Continue 0.6 miles and cross the Flatbrookville bridge. Old Mine Road continues to the left, but you have an alternate route here.

To your LEFT at the bridge is Flatbrookville, a village of which only two homes are left. Deckers Ferry, operated out of Flatbrookville from 1744 to 1898, just one of a dozen ferries that maintained social and commercial contact between New Jersey settlers and their Pennsylvania counterparts. With today's faster ground transportation, only three bridges have

Turning Left:

replaced these leisurely crossings.

2.7 miles north of Flatbrookville, you will pass a small house on the right. the Van Scoder-Knight House, which displays both the Dutch influence of early valley architecture and, in its painting scheme, the Victorian influence of the 19th century resort era. About 3.8 miles later you will come to a dirt and gravel road to the Van Campen Inn. There are bumps in the road at the start, but the road is passable for cars. Please drive slowly and watch the roadway.



Van Scoder-Knight House,
built 1800. (NPS photo by
Ken Sandri)