

Step-by-Step

TRAILS GUIDE

to

DOUBLE

TROUBLE

STATE PARK



State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry • State Park Service
njparksandforests.org



DOUBLE TROUBLE STATE PARK

Double Trouble State Park is an outstanding example of the Pine Barrens ecosystem and serves as a window into Pine Barrens industry. The park provides for the protection and interpretation of over 8,500 acres of significant natural, cultural, and recreational resources representative of the Pinelands National Reserve. The Park and Village grounds are open daily from 8:00 am to dusk.

TRAILS OF DOUBLE TROUBLE STATE PARK

Double Trouble State Park offers over 8 miles of official, blazed trails. Most trails around the historic village and old cranberry bogs are fairly flat and follow sand roads. With the exception of a section of the Nature Trail, as it passes through a cedar swamp and across Cedar Creek between Lower Hooper Bog and Sweetwater reservoir, all blazed trails are multi-use (hiking, biking, horse-back riding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing). Horseback riding and mountain biking are permitted on existing sand roads only; mountain bikers and geo-cachers are asked to refrain from creating rogue trails. Please use caution around the cranberry bogs and reservoirs. No ATVs or motorized vehicles. Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less in length) at all times and owners must clean up after their pets.

A trails map can be viewed and downloaded from the NJ State Parks website. Brochures may also be available at the Interpretive Center.




TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY

Trail Markings Official trails in the state park are marked with colored blazes – either on plastic posts or as paint on trees and (occasionally) on paved paths. Horses and bicycles must stay on designated trails, roads or paths; this is also encouraged for hikers. Occasionally, there's a link between, or to, official trails. These "connector trails" are indicated on the map with a tan-colored line and in the park with a brown post or blaze. Often a color arrow will indicate the color of the trail ahead. Please keep the trails safe for everyone – do not alter the trail markings in any way. Note: A small percentage of the unofficial trails are represented on the printed map as a thin dotted line.

Be prepared Consider bringing water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, and wearing a hat. Check the weather before you go, dress appropriately, and tell someone where you intend to hike and when you expect to finish.

Ticks It is best to stay on trails to avoid prime tick habitat. Ticks, however, always seem to find us wherever we go ☹️ Repellent is recommended. Also, wear light-colored clothing, tuck long pants into socks, check yourself when you get home, and launder clothes immediately.

Double Trouble Trail Lengths at a Glance

 Dover Forge Trail (.4 mi)	 Clear Brook Trail (.65 mi)
 Dover Forge Canoe Access Trail (.15 mi)	 Sweetwater Trail (2.5 mi)
 Ore Pond Canoe Access Trail (.8 mi)	 Nature Trail (1.9 mi)
 Mill Pond Trail (1.3 mi)	 Swordens Pond Trail (1.3 mi)

TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS

Nature Trail

Green • 1.9-mile loop • Hiking • Easy

Trailhead The trail leaves the village to the right (south) of the Packing House.

The Nature Trail (green blaze) follows a sand road leading down along the bogs, passing the Gowdy, Upper Hooper, and Lower Hooper bogs to the left. At the southeast corner of the Lower Hooper bog, the trail turns right (south) and crosses a bridge over Cedar Creek. After the bridge, the trail narrows to 3-4' and proceeds through a corridor of Atlantic White Cedar until joining the Sweetwater trail. Trail turns right (west) on a sand road and right again at White Bridge and returns to village.

The Nature Trail travels through the diverse natural areas of the park, allowing the visitor to explore the cranberry bogs, cedar swamp, and Cedar Creek. A short interpretive guide for this trail can be found on page 4.

Mill Pond Trail

Red • 1.3-mile loop • Hiking & Multi-use • Easy

Trailhead The trail begins to the right (east) of the visitor center and restroom building.

Mill Pond Trail (red blaze) follows an 8' wide sand road. This portion of the trail is along the north side of the millrace and then returns on the south side on a sandy, 4' wide path that leads to the sawmill. This section is not as flat and has some tree roots along the trail.

As you walk along the mill race, it appears a small, shallow creek. However, this feature was an integral part of the mechanics of this industry town. A mill race is the current or channel of water that leads from the reservoir or storage pond (the mill pond) to the mill to turn a water wheel. Compared to the broad waters of a mill pond, the narrow channeled current of the mill race is swift and powerful, creating the necessary force to turn the wheel. At Double Trouble, the original mill pond supplied water to a series of sawmills located in the village. The current pond now serves as a reservoir to supply water for the cranberry operations.

Sweetwater Trail

Orange • 2.5 miles • Hiking & Multi-use • Easy

Trailhead The trail leaves the main parking lot just to the east of the entrance near mailbox.

Sweetwater Trail (orange blaze) stays parallel to the Pinewald Keswick Rd. The trail is a 6-8' wide sand road along its' entire length. The trail stays at the forest edge along the north side of the Upper and Lower Hooper bogs and continues to the east boundary of the park before crossing over Cedar Creek and into a grid-like network of sand roads and linear cranberry bogs. Explore these bogs before heading back the west where the trail joins with the Nature trail and then right across White Bridge and returning to village.

This trail travels along and through the primary cranberry bogs of Double Trouble. Cranberry culture started at Double Trouble Village during the Civil War, when cleared Atlantic White Cedar swamps were converted into cranberry bogs. By the early 20th century, the Double Trouble Company had one of the largest cranberry operations in New Jersey.

Clear Brook Path

Purple • 0.3 miles • Hiking & Multi-use • Easy

Trailhead The trail begins on the south side of White Bridge and heads west on a 2-4' wide path to a small overlook.

The Clear Brook Path (purple blaze) is a short hike along Cedar Creek. Return along same trail.

The Cedar Creek watershed lies mostly in Berkeley and Lacey Townships and drains an area of 54.3 square miles. Other waterways within the Cedar Creek watershed include Cedar Creek, Webbs Mill Branch, Chamberlain Branch, Daniels Branch, Newbolds Branch, Factory Branch, Deep Hollow Branch, Huckleberry Branch, and several other unnamed tributaries of the Cedar Creek. Cedar Creek drains into Barnegat Bay.

Like most Pine Barrens streams, the water of Cedar Creek is "tea colored" because of tannic acid from the roots of the cedars lining the river banks. Ship captains reportedly filled wooden barrels with this cold water for their long sails in the Atlantic. This pristine water gave Cedar Creek the alternate name of Clear Brook in the late-18th century. Cedar Creek supplied both water power and raw material for several early industries, including lumber mills, iron furnaces, cranberry bogs and blueberry fields.

Double Trouble State Park was established in 1964 to help protect the Cedar Creek watershed and now features over 8,000 acres of Pine Barrens habitats. From its headwaters in the Greenwood Forest Management Area to its mouth at Barnegat Bay, Cedar Creek provides the water required for cranberry culture and supplies a pure source of water for wildlife. Adjacent bogs and uplands provide examples of plants characteristic to the Pine Barrens.

Swordens Pond Trail

Yellow • 1.5 miles • Hiking • Easy to Moderate

Trailhead Off the Sweetwater Trail at the southwest corner of the cranberry bogs, between the reservoirs.

Swordens Pond Trail (yellow blaze), a lollipop loop trail is sand and hard-packed dirt, generally 2-3' wide, with roots and overgrown vegetation. Head southwest between reservoirs and into dense pine forest. Along the west side of the loop, you will pass Swordens Pond, a small body of water within a marshy area.

The Swordens Pond Trail leaves the active village and bog and travels through cedar swamps and pine forests of the surrounding area.

Dover Forge Trail

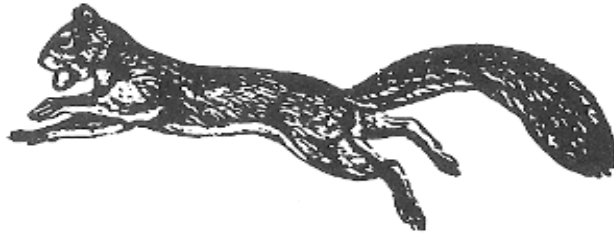
White • 0.3 miles • Hiking • Easy

Trailhead The Dover Forge Trail (white blaze) is located off Dover Road/CR 618 approximately 1.2 miles south of the intersection with Pinewald-Keswick Road. The trail follows a sand and grassy trail for 1/3 mile to a scenic overview of Cedar Creek.

The site was a former bog iron forge and cranberry bogs, but little remains.

NATURE TRAIL INTERPRETIVE GUIDE

1. **VIRGINIA PINE**—*Pinus virginiana*. Virginia Pine, referred to as Scrub Pine/Jersey Pine, can be identified by its short, twisted needles in clusters of two. This tree is used for pulpwood and for rough lumber. Notice the numerous pine cones which are a winter food source for animals such as the red squirrel.

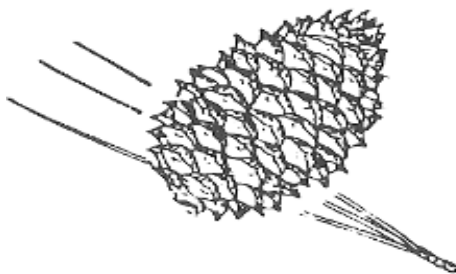


2. **GOWDY BOG**—Directly in front of you is the first in a series of cranberry bogs. It is believed that these early bogs began as depressions resulting from the removal of bog iron ore deposits. With the conversion of the nearby iron forges (Dover Forge, Bamber) into sawmills, these depressions were areas where cranberry farming could be tried. The cleared land and readily available water proved ideal for cranberry production.

3. **GRAY BIRCH**—*Betula populifolia*. This white barked tree has triangular leaves. A short lived tree (30 yrs.), it is often used for pulpwood and ornamentation. Many people often mistake the gray birch for the white birch.



4. **PITCH PINE**—*Pinus rigida*. This most common evergreen tree of the Pine Barrens has needles in clusters of three and cones with sharp spines. Its characteristic thick bark and scruffy appearance explain the pitch pine's notable ability to survive tree-killing fire; like the scrub oak, it is found in areas of frequent forest fires.



5. **SCRUB OAK**—*Quercus ilicifolia*. Preferring sunny locations and rarely reaching tree size, this oak is often found in areas of frequent forest fires. This shrub-sized oak tree produces acorn crops close to the ground, providing food for white-tailed deer, squirrel, grouse, quail, and other wildlife.

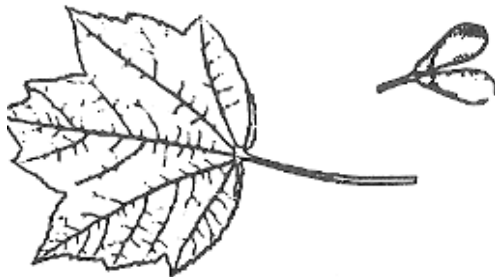


6. **UPPER & LOWER HOOPER BOGS**—Left of the trail are active cranberry bogs. Cranberries need great quantities of clean water; in the winter, the bogs are flooded to protect the cranberry plants from frost. During the fall, water is needed to harvest the berries. These berries, when shaken from the vines, float to the surface of the water, where they can be scooped up, either manually or mechanically.

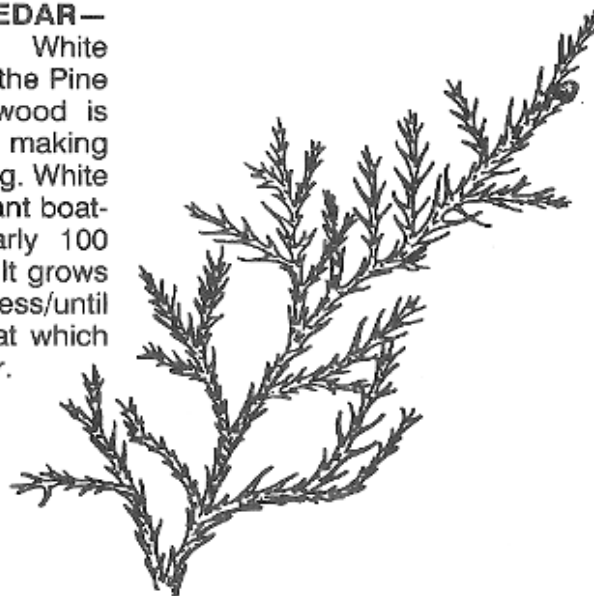


7. **BATTLEFIELD**—In swamp areas of the Pine Barrens, there is often intense competition for sunlight between maples and cedars. Since cedar trees need more sunlight, the maples eventually (within 130-150 yrs.) overtake the cedars; you can observe this process taking place in front of you.

8. **RED MAPLE**—*Acer rubrum*. In the swamp in front of you, the trees with the smooth gray bark are red maples. Sometimes called "Swamp Maple" because of where it often grows, this opposite-branching tree is named for its red spring flowers, red twigs, and its red autumn leaves.



9. **ATLANTIC WHITE CEDAR**—*Chamaecyparis thyoides*. White cedar grows in swamps in the Pine Barrens. Its rot-resistant wood is especially valuable for making shingles, fencing, and siding. White cedar, once a most important boat-building wood, takes nearly 100 yrs. to reach usable size. It grows in almost pure stands unless/until disturbed by fire or man, at which time the maples take over.



To the right is Cedar Creek, named for the white cedars growing along its bank. The water of Cedar Creek is very clean and rated among the purest in the state. Its dark color comes from the tannin in the cedar trees' bark. Water from this creek is diverted for use in the cranberry bogs. Look for otter mud slides along the creeks' banks.



RIVER OTTER SLIDE ON SNOW OR MUD BANK, ABOUT 8 IN. WIDE

10. ABANDONED BOG TO CEDAR FOREST—

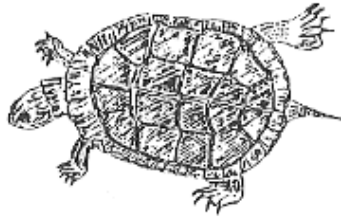
The semi-wooded area in front of you was abandoned as a cranberry bog years ago due to the difficulty in getting enough water to this spot. The six inch tall plants with very small leaves are cranberry plants. Here the trail cuts through a nearly pure stand of cedar. The damp ground and tall straight trees provide a moist, shady spot where mosses and other moisture preferring plants can grow.

CRANBERRY PLANT



- 11. ENDANGERED PLANTS—**The Pine Barrens swamps are home to many endangered species of flora. The numbers of these plants appear to be declining; their ultimate extinction is a very disturbing possibility. Near this numbered post (11) are "pitcher plants", which lure, trap, and digest small insects. Because these plants are an endangered species, we ask that you do *not* walk on, pick or otherwise disturb *any* plant material in this spot, as well as in the park!

12. **RESERVOIR**—Cranberry production demands maintenance of a ready supply of water. This reservoir provides homes for many types of aquatic wildlife, such as catfish, pickerel, eels, painted turtles, snapping turtles and water snakes.



PAINTED TURTLE



PICKEREL

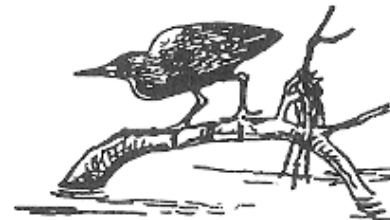
13. **DEAD TREES**—Notice the dead trees in the reservoir. These trees have died because, even though cedar trees grow in wet, swampy areas, too much water drowns them. These dead trees insure nesting sites and stopovers for migratory waterfowl.



GREAT BLUE HERON



GREAT EGRET



GREEN HERON

14. **SWEET BAY MAGNOLIA**—*Magnolia virginiana*. This tree is the only magnolia that grows naturally in New Jersey. Most other kinds of magnolia grow much further south. Although this small tree does hold its leaves longer than do other deciduous trees of this area, it is not an evergreen, even though its southern cousins usually are. Sweet bay magnolia trees, which grow in cedar swamps, have many beautiful white fragrant flowers in June and July.

- 15. GREENBRIAR/CATBRIAR**—Notice the green vines with very large stickers, or thorns, climbing these trees and shrubs. These vines grow almost anywhere and become so thick in some areas that nothing else can grow there. The fruit and twigs of the greenbriar assure a winter food supply for grouse, deer, and rabbits. Young shoots of this vine are excellent when cooked like asparagus; the leaves and tendrils can be prepared like spinach or added fresh to salads.

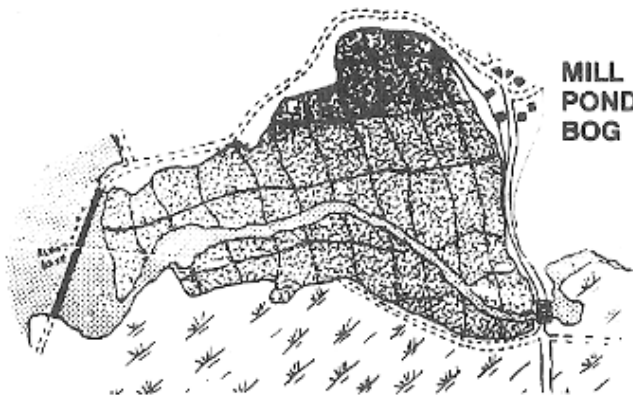


- 16. MOUNTAIN LAUREL**—*Kalmia latifolia*. The ten-foot-tall evergreen shrub in the woods in front of you is mountain laurel. Although the state flower of Pennsylvania, mountain laurel is quite common in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. Its beautiful white-pink flowers can be seen during late May and early June.



- 17. CANOPY**—Above the trail you may notice that trees have formed a canopy overhead. All trees grow in whatever shape is necessary to gain the most sunlight. These trees are reaching out over the trail to obtain maximum sun, providing a bonus of cooling shade for nature trail hikers like you!

- 18. MILL POND & SUCCESSION**—Succession, driven by shade tolerance, is the process by which a bare field becomes a mature forest. The end or "climax stage" will vary depending upon the location and climate.

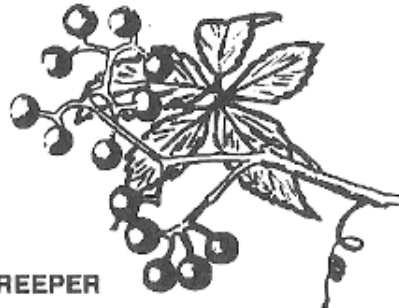


Today successional growth of red maples and Atlantic white cedar trees almost obscures Mill Pond Bog, which, when in operation, covered 55 acres and was the largest in New Jersey.

19. **POISON IVY**—*Toxicodendron radicans*. In this area two different vines tend to confuse people. The vine with the five jagged-tooth-edged leaflets is the Virginia Creeper. Non-poisonous, it is sometimes planted for ornamental purposes. The vine with the three shiny, smooth-sided leaflets is poison ivy. The end leaflet is pointed and longer stalked than the side pair of leaflets. Contact with *any* part of this plant can cause severe skin rash. It is best to keep in mind the old saying: "Leaves of three, let them be."



POISON IVY



VIRGINIA CREEPER

20. **SAWMILL & SASSAFRAS**—*Sassafras albidum*. The old building on the right was the Double Trouble Sawmill. Originally water powered, it was later mechanized; finally being run by a single cylinder gasoline primed, kerosene engine.

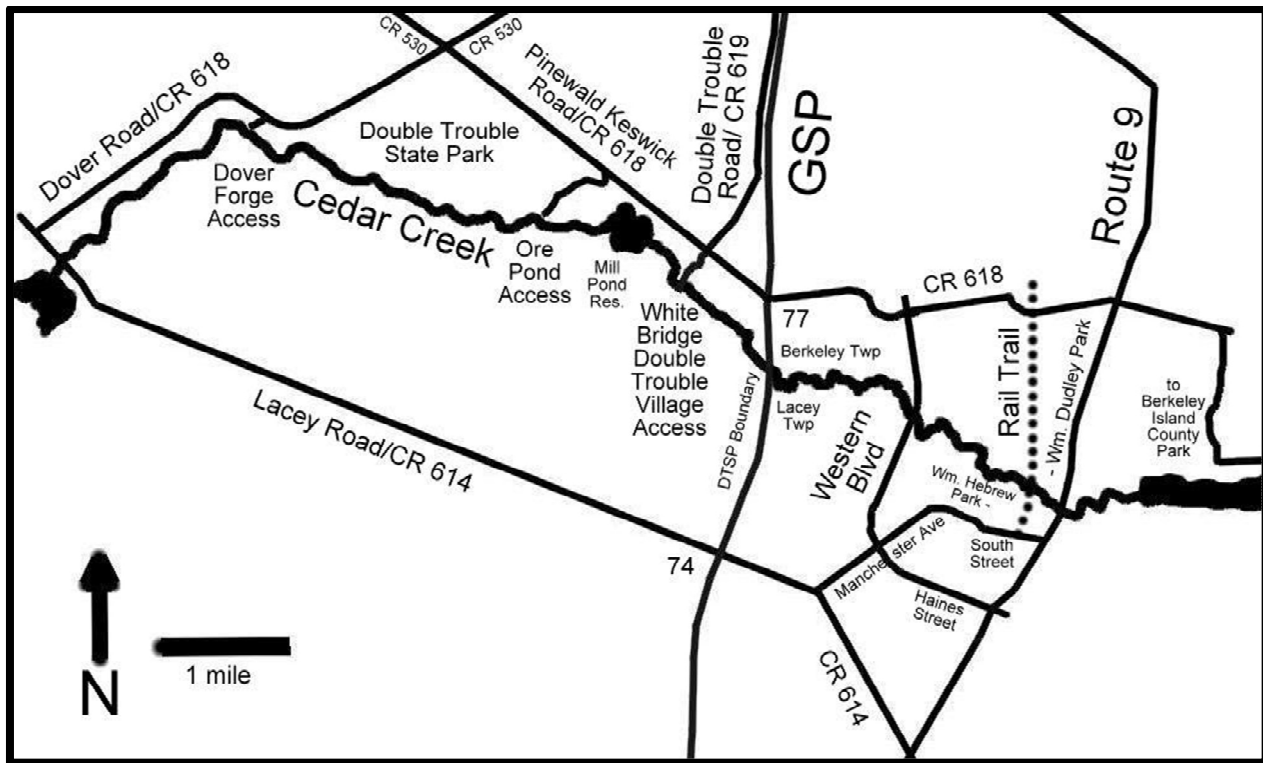
Growing behind the fence is a patch of sassafras. This tree is unique in that it has three different kinds of leaves and large, green bud and twig tips.



In other areas of Double Trouble State Park, you may observe some charred trees. These areas have been exposed to "prescribed burning" during the winter.

PRESCRIBED BURNING is the use of a controlled, cool winter fire to eliminate some undergrowth while not harming the trees. This controlled burning reduces the hazard of wildfire during the annual forest fire season.

CEDAR CREEK ACCESS LOCATIONS



CEDAR CREEK ACCESS LOCATIONS - There are three access locations in the state park: at Dover Forge off Dover Road/CR 618; at Ore Pond off Pinewald-Keswick Road/CR 618; and at the White Bridge in Double Trouble Village. Parking is available near the creek at Dover Forge and Ore Pond. The White Bridge Cedar Creek Access location at the Double Trouble Village Historic Site is restricted to walk-in use. Canoes and kayaks must be carried to the White Bridge from the Village parking area, a distance of approximately 1/4 of a mile. Vehicles are not permitted to drive through Double Trouble Village.

Tubing, rafting and swimming are prohibited at Double Trouble State Park. Canoes and kayaks are not available for rent at the park. Downstream of the Garden State Parkway bridge is outside Double Trouble State Park – local ordinances apply.

Approximate Canoeing Times

Dover Forge to Ore Pond:	2-3 hours
Ore Pond to White Bridge:	1 hour
White Bridge to Western Boulevard:	2 hours
Western Boulevard to railroad trestle or Dudley Park:	1 hour

DOUBLE TROUBLE VILLAGE

Located on the eastern edge of the New Jersey Pine Barrens, **Double Trouble Village** provides a window into Pine Barrens industry with a complete company town, a sawmill, and a cranberry sorting and packing house. The Double Trouble Historic District occupies over 200 acres and includes the village and surrounding bogs. The natural environment of cedar forest and rapidly flowing stream provided both raw materials and water power for an extensive lumber industry from the 1700s to the 1900s. As timber was cut, the cleared swampland created bog habitat ideal for growing cranberries. Cranberry culture began at Double Trouble Village in the 1860s. By the 20th century, the Double Trouble Company was one of the largest cranberry operations in the state.

Irish merchant Anthony Sharp became the first recorded land owner of what would eventually become Double Trouble Village when he acquired the property in 1698. By 1765, his son operated a sawmill on the site. William Giberson purchased the Double Trouble property by 1836. He later turned over the operation to his son, George Giberson. They ran two sawmills at Double Trouble. From the seaport in Toms River, lumber was shipped to ports up and down the east coast.

As increasingly large areas of Atlantic white cedar swamp were cleared for the timber operation, the Gibersons looked for methods to reclaim the cleared land for additional income. Cranberry production afforded such an opportunity.

Civil War Captain Ralph Gowdy planted the first cranberry bog at Double Trouble about 1863. Soon after, George Giberson's son-in-law, sawmill operator Thomas Hooper, planted the two bogs now known as the Upper and Lower Hooper Bogs.

George Giberson's daughter sold the property to Edward Crabbe in 1903. Six years later Crabbe formed the Double Trouble Company and expanded the cranberry industry. Under the Crabbe family's management, 260 acres of cranberry bogs were cultivated. The Mill Pond Bog, at 56 acres, was the largest in New Jersey.

Edward Crabbe rebuilt the sawmill and built a modern cranberry sorting and packing house. Cottages were constructed for migrant workers to stay during the harvest season. Under Crabbe's leadership the Double Trouble Company became one of the largest growers

in the business. They sold fresh dry harvested cranberries.

After Edward Crabbe passed away and a fluctuation in the market brought down the price of cranberries, the state purchased the village and surrounding land from the Double Trouble Company in 1964 in part to protect the Cedar Creek watershed. The Double Trouble Historic District, which includes the village, reservoir and cranberry bogs, was placed on the state and national registries of historic places in 1977 and 1978.

For almost a century cranberries were "dry" harvested at Double Trouble Village. Berries were originally picked by hand one at a time. As the industry expanded migrant workers raked berries off the vine with a cranberry scoop. The fresh cranberries were then sorted and packaged on site for shipment to market. In the mid-1960s the Double Trouble Village cranberry bogs were "wet" harvested. Bogs are flooded with water from a reservoir on Cedar Creek. A machine was then used to knock the berries off the submerged vines. The floating cranberries were corralled to one side of the bog and removed for shipment to a central receiving plant in Chatsworth. As the cranberry industry shifted from fresh dry harvested berries to faster processed wet harvested berries, the large number of migrant workers was no longer needed and many of the buildings were abandoned.

Some of the original cranberry bogs are still visible at Double Trouble Village. Other bogs, including the Mill Pond Bog, were abandoned and have successional growth of red maple and Atlantic white cedar competing for sunlight.

Double Trouble Village was typical of company towns built in the Pine Barrens. These isolated communities were entirely self-sufficient and totally dependent on the success of the particular industry. The restored sawmill and cranberry sorting and packing house contain nearly intact equipment. Those two buildings were the focus of life and work in the village, which also includes a late 19th century one room schoolhouse, general store, bunk house, cook house, shower house, maintenance shop, pickers' cottages and the foreman's house. Most buildings are not restored; only the sawmill and cranberry packing house are open to the public during guided tours.

Double Trouble Village Buildings

1. Double Trouble School (Operated about 1893-1915) This one-room school is the oldest remaining structure in the village. It was established to serve the children of the lumbering community and survived to serve the children of the cranberry workers.

2. Burke House (circa 1900) Home of the Burke family from 1938 until 1957. Mr. David Burke was foreman of the cranberry processing operations until 1967, when his son took over.

3. Garage and Machine Shop The oldest part of this structure housed the blacksmith and repair shop for the sawmill and cranberry operations. Now serves as the park's maintenance shop.

4. Cranberry Sorting and Packing House (Built 1909-1916, with additions in 1919 and 1921-1925) This building was the hub of the cranberry harvest. Hand-scooped cranberries were sorted according to size and quality and then packed for market.

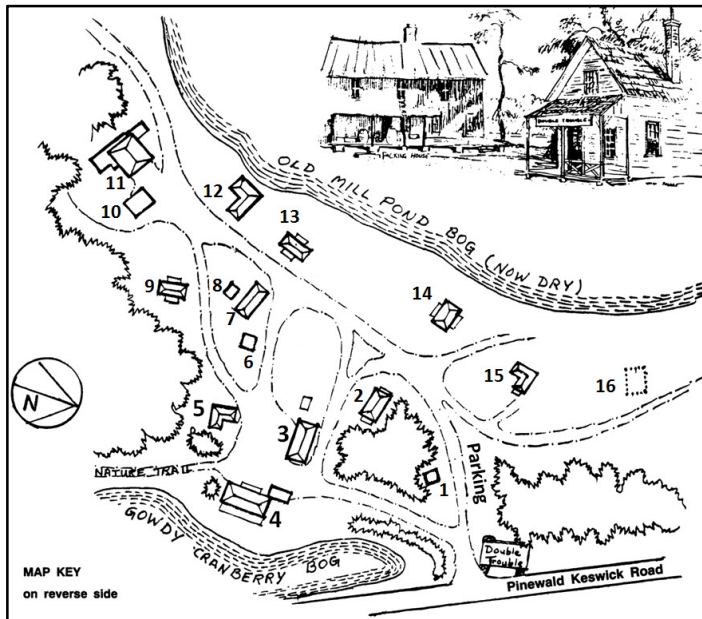
5. General Store (circa 1920) The general store provided the early villagers with staples such as oatmeal, flour, pork and sugar. From the 1930s until it closed, convenience items like candy, cigarettes and gloves were sold.

6. Shower Room The shower room was a shared facility, with separate men's and women's rooms. Each room had two shower stalls. The women's side also had a laundry sink.

7. Bunk House (circa 1900) Also called the "communal house", this is where single workers lived during the seasonal cranberry harvest.

8. Cook House (circa 1930) This structure, since collapsed, provided meals for the seasonal pickers.

9. Pickers' Cottage (circa 1953) This pickers' cottage was remodeled for use at the park caretaker's residence.



10. Jumper Building (circa 1950s) Wet cranberries were sorted and dried in this barn-like structure.

11. Sawmill (circa 1906-1909) The sawmill produced lumber, shingles and other products for sale and for use in the village and cranberry operations. The first sawmill in the area was built prior to 1765.

12. Harvest Foreman's House (circa 1900) The seasonal home of the migrant workers' foreman.

13. Pickers' Cottage (circa 1900) Each pickers' cottage had its own outhouse "out back".

14. Pickers' Cottage (circa 1940) Pickers' cottages housed seasonal workers - including family groups. Every year 30-40 migrant workers arrived on Labor Day weekend and stayed until Thanksgiving. They worked exclusively in the bogs handpicking cranberries.

This building is now the village interpretive center museum display room and restrooms.

15. Company Foreman's House (circa 1900) This was the year-round home of the "head" foreman who oversaw the management of the sawmill and cranberry operations.

16. Pomelear House (circa 1890) Only the foundation of this structure remains, once residence of the Pomelear family.

Here's Double Trouble!

There are conflicting stories about the naming of "Double Trouble." Most of the common legends center around an earthen dam at a mill pond on Cedar Creek.



Sawmill operator Thomas Potter may have coined the words "Double Trouble" in the 1770s after heavy rains twice damaged the dam, causing first trouble and then double trouble.

A more colorful legend involves muskrats that persisted in gnawing at the dam, causing frequent leaks. Such leaks, when discovered, gave rise to the alarm "Here's trouble," upon which workmen would rush to repair the damage. One day two breaks were discovered and a workman overheard the owner shout "Here's double trouble!"

HELP PRESERVE THIS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HISTORIC SITE



NO FIRES OR COOKING • NO CAMPING • NO METAL DETECTORS • NO SWIMMING • NO TUBING
NO ICE SKATING • NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES • NO OVERNIGHT PARKING
NO UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES/DRONES

**ORGANIZED AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES REQUIRE A SPECIAL USE PERMIT
FROM PARK OFFICE**