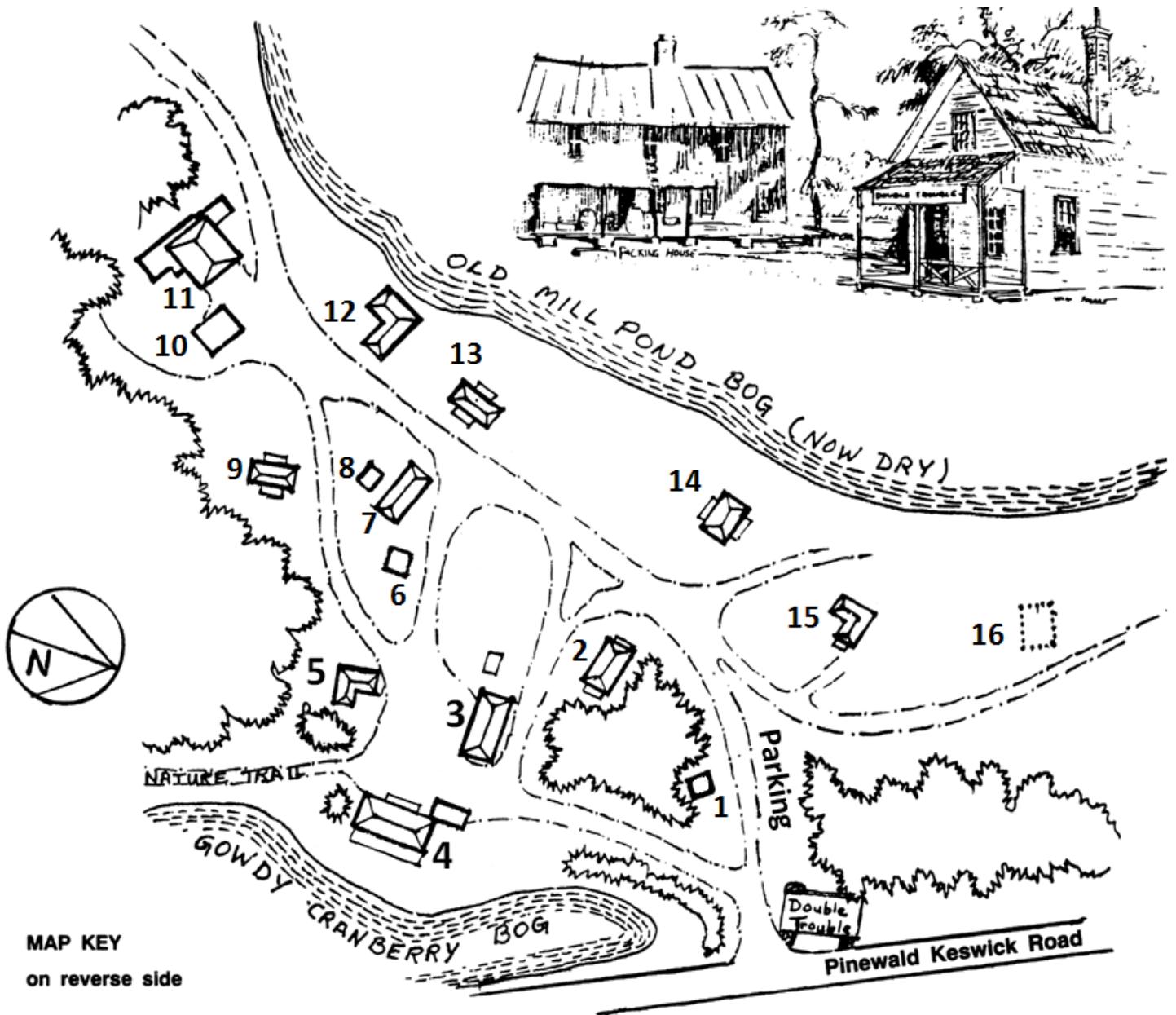




Double Trouble State Park

Historic Village



Double Trouble Village: A Window into Pine Barrens Industries

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. Cranberry cultivation continues today in several bogs maintained and harvested by leaseholders.

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 operational 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 that start at the village interpretive center in the park information building (number 14 on map able). Restrooms are also located inside this building.

The village was purchased by the State of New Jersey in 1964 to help protect the Cedar Creek watershed. The Double Trouble Historic District was placed on the State Register of Historic Places in 1977 and on the National Register in 1978. The sawmill and packing house were restored in 1995 and 1996.

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- 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) This was the 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 cranberry and sawmill operations. Today, this building houses park operations and the 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. Here, 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's 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 by 1765.
- 12. Harvest Foreman's House**
(circa 1900) This was 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 an information center with restrooms.
- 15. Company Foreman's House**
(circa 1900) This was the year-round home of the "head" foreman who oversaw the management of the cranberry and sawmill operations.
- 16. Pomelear House**
(circa 1890) Only the location of this structure remains today, residence of the Pomelear family.