

# Hopewell Valley Historical Society Research Services – 2022



Welcome to the Research Services of the Hopewell Valley Historical Society (HVHS). We document the histories of buildings and the families who lived in them. Reach out to us through our HVHS website contact; let us know what building it is that you wish to have us investigate, what documents you have accumulated so far, and what it is that you wish to accomplish. We can also direct you to various sources if you want to perform your own research.

## **HVHS Research, Building Plaques & Signage Programs Include:**

- Each research project purchased will include a one year membership in the HVHS.
- Each research project may produce sufficient information to support the authorization of a HVHS Plaque.
- The research may include a field visit to analyze construction methods and improvements to refine dating.
- Designated cultural resource experts shall be used to review the basis for the conclusions of the researcher.
- Cultural resource experts may include but are not limited to Architectural Historians, Archivists, Archaeologists, and Historians.
- The research results may be presented as a PDF file to support the conclusions of the researcher.
- The research may be prepared as a presentation document for an additional fee.
- House / Building Plaques will be a separate cost beyond the cost of research.
- The proprietary material developed, if there is such, may be made available to HVHS researchers at the discretion of the Board and / or Archivist.
- A public presentation may be made to publicize the valuable contribution of the Society to the historic awareness of the Community.
- Any presentation document created for the client shall be also created for the HVHS Archives.
- Any unused portion of the deposit will be refunded, if this occurs.
- The researcher will keep a log of their time and sources consulted.
- If the researcher finds that there is additional material pertinent to the historic timeline of the property and of the families associated with the property, the client may authorize further research beyond the deposit at the current hourly rate.
- The current (Jan 2021) rate for research is \$25 / hour.

Image: Oldis (Smith - Mershon) Farm, Hopewell Township, NJ. *Photo Credit: Cheryl Jackson*



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# Programs

## **House / Building History: \$400 deposit**

Research of a property to establish ownership and demographic context with the use of various historical sources. These sources may include, but not be limited to, historic maps, cemetery records, census records, military records, newspaper entries, vital records and other records as may be accessible to the Society researchers.

## **House Lineage: \$1000 deposit**

All the efforts and sources used and consulted in the History package will be included in this service. Additional research may include, but not be limited to, deed searches, mortgage searches, any or all public or private data sources as may be available to establish a verifiable chain of ownership to the present property owner.

## **Presentation Document: Time and material**

A formatted document may be prepared to support the conclusions in an attractive and professional presentation. Pricing to be determined by application used to produce the product.

## **House / Building Plaque: \$125**

As requested by the property owner, a plaque will be created to reflect the findings of the researcher which will label the property based on criteria established by the researcher, supported with evidence and approved by the HVHS Board. The plaque will be designed by an artist approved by the HVHS Board and will be suitable for placement on the exterior of the building by the owner. Installation and care instructions will be provided.

## **Historic Interpretive Signs**

Significant historic locations in the Hopewell Valley are being commemorated by the HVHS Board with larger (24" x 36"), cantilevered National Park Service-style signs. Design and fabrication will be arranged and approved by the HVHS Board.

**For more information please visit [www.hopewellvalleyhistory.org](http://www.hopewellvalleyhistory.org)**