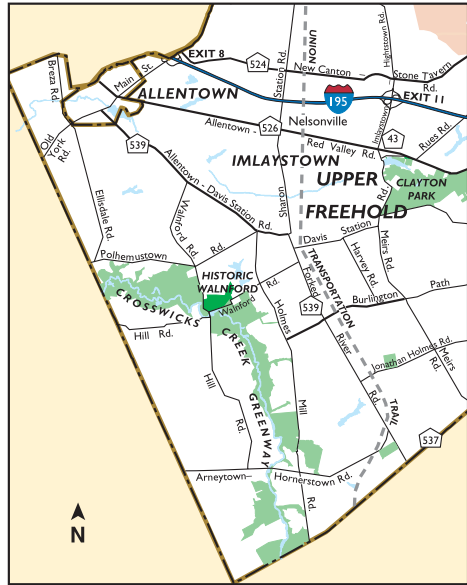


PARK HOURS & INFORMATION

Historic Walnford is open every day of the year from 8am to 4:30pm (later in the summer), free of charge. The mill operates for weekend demonstrations, April – November. For information please call (609) 259-6275 or visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com.



From the North: Take Rt. 9, 79 or 34 South to 537 west to Rt. 539 in Upper Freehold. Turn right onto Rt. 539, (Forked River Rd.), then left on Burlington Path Road. Turn right onto Holmes Mill Road and left on Walnford Road which leads directly into the park.

From the East Via 195: Take Exit 11 (Imlaystown/Cox's Corner) and turn left onto Rt. 43 (Imlaystown/Hightstown Road). At the first intersection (less than 1 mile) turn right onto Rt. 526/Red Valley Road. At the first light, turn left onto Sharon Station Road and follow for approx 2 miles and turn right onto Rt. 539 North. Travel for only a short distance and turn left onto Holmes Mill Road. Make first right onto Walnford Road which leads directly into the park.

From the West: Follow I-195 to Exit 8, Allentown, Rt. 524/539. Turn right and follow Rt. 539 through Allentown, turning left to stay on Rt. 539 in town. Follow and turn right onto Holmes Mill Road, follow to right onto Walnford Road which leads directly into the park.

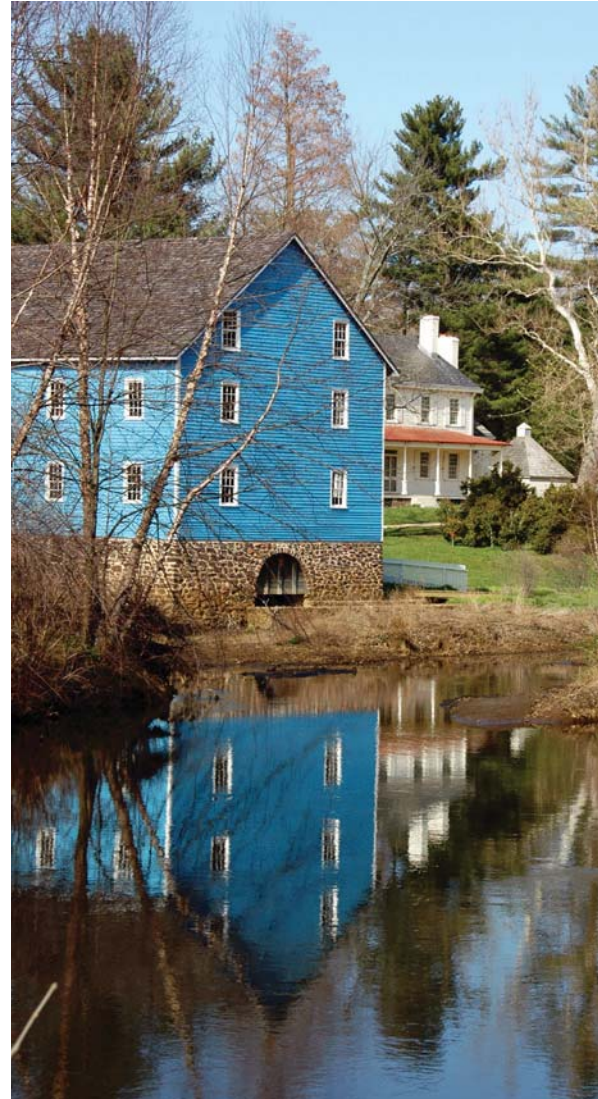
Monmouth County
Board of Chosen Freeholders
Board of Recreation Commissioners



Monmouth County Park System

Historic Walnford

at Crosswicks Creek Greenway,
Upper Freehold, NJ



www.monmouthcountyparks.com

Welcome to Historic Walnford

This 36-acre mill site is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Walnford is remarkable for what has survived over the course of its rich history. Beginning in the 18th century, Walnford's evolving structures and landscape reveal much about the changing culture and economy of this region during the last three centuries.



Waln's Mill, 1890s

Commercial Center and Country Estate (18th Century)

Like many communities, the village that grew on this site began in 1734 with a gristmill. The 1772 newspaper advertisement that caught the eye of prosperous merchant trader and Philadelphia Quaker, Richard Waln, offered a grist mill, saw mill, fulling mill, blacksmith and cooper's shops, a large 2-family brick house, five tenant houses, farm buildings, 100 plowed acres and two orchards. Richard Waln purchased the site, renamed it Walnford, and moved in with his wife Elizabeth and children in 1773, as soon as their elegant home was constructed.

Cover Photo: Waln's Mill, one of only a few regularly operating grist mills in New Jersey

Federal Merchant Farmer (early 19th Century)

Son Nicholas Waln and his bride Sarah Ridgeway Waln took charge of Walnford in 1799. Reaching its height of activity, the property grew to 1300 acres and the village expanded to house about 50 people.



Waln House, 1890s

Shifting Focus, Declining Fortunes (late 19th Century)

After Nicholas died, the two Sarahs—wife and daughter—maintained Walnford. But as the hub of agriculture and milling production moved west, Walnford diminished in both commercial importance and size. With fewer acres to manage, the Sarahs focused on the home, redesigning the front porch of the house and installing decorative fencing and plantings. Sarah Waln Hendrickson made substantial investments in Walnford. A post office was added to the village, the mill was rebuilt after a disastrous fire in 1872, and the current carriage house and cow barn were constructed.

Rural Retreat (20th Century)

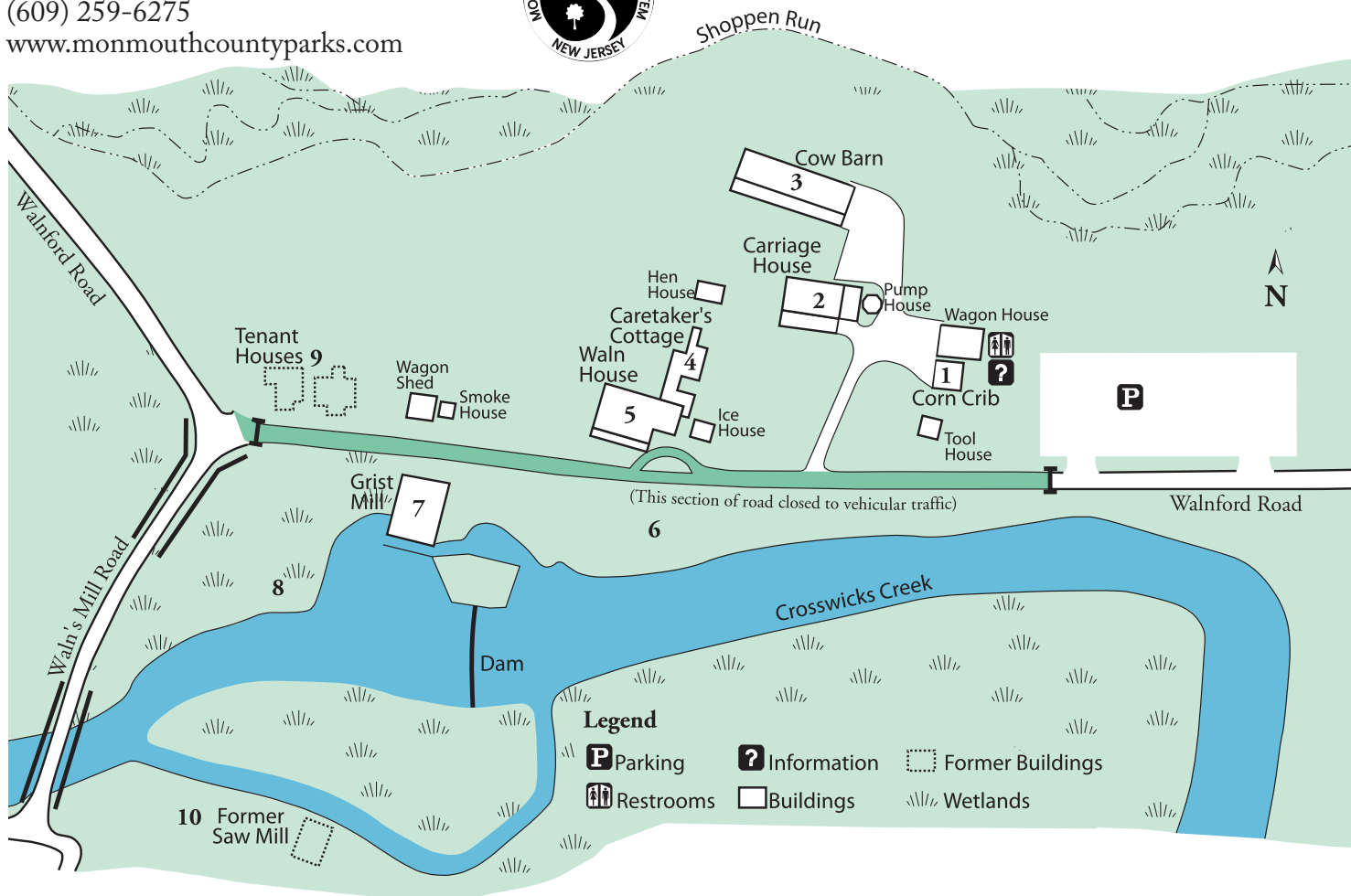
After the death of his great aunt Sarah Waln Hendrickson in 1907, Richard Waln Meirs and wife Ann Weightman Meirs transformed the property into the quiet Colonial Revival estate you see today. In 1973, after 200 years of occupancy by the Waln family, Edward and Joanne Mullen purchased the property as their home. They generously donated this historic site to the Park System in 1985.

HISTORIC WALNFORD

Walnford Road, Upper Freehold, NJ

(609) 259-6275

www.monmouthcountyparks.com



1 Entering through the *Corn Crib* serves as a reminder that Walnford was a working farm until the middle of the 20th century.

2 The 1879 *Carriage House* was built for the Walns' carriages and the horses that pulled them. Look up to see the running stag weathervane.

3 In the early 20th century, dairy farming was popular in this area. Forty-eight Guernseys were milked here in the *Cow Barn*.

4 The *Caretaker's Cottage* was added to the rear of the house in 1910-12. The White Pine trees separating the house and farm were planted around the same time, as Walnford was changing from a working farm into a country retreat.

5 The elegant and spacious 1773 *Waln House* is one of the largest pre-revolutionary homes in Monmouth County.

6 *Remnants of a Formal Garden* exist along the stream bank in front of the house. A horticultural enthusiast, Ann Weightman Meirs planted many of the ornamentals that give Walnford its picturesque character today.

7 *Waln's Mill*, powered by a turbine rather than an external water wheel, represented the peak of stone grinding gristmill design when it was rebuilt in 1872 after a disastrous fire.

8 *Crosswicks Creek and the surrounding wetlands*, once a source of power for the mill and a scenic feature, are today an important resource and flood plain protected by state and federal law. The creek travels through four counties before it joins the Delaware River.

9 Two 18th Century *Tenant Houses* were located here until 1969 when they were destroyed by arson.



Tenant Houses, 1960s

10 Another important water feature and industry at Walnford was the *Saw Mill*, in operation on the opposite bank from Waln's Mill through the 1870s.

The decision to interpret this site spanning the 200 years of Waln Family ownership acknowledges Walnford as an evolving story. Changing exhibits, demonstrations and programs are designed to encourage you to visit often, experiencing both the old and new at this important site.



Mill Pond, 1890s