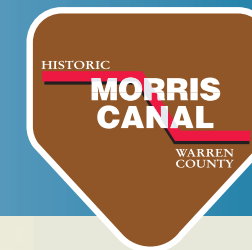


# MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY

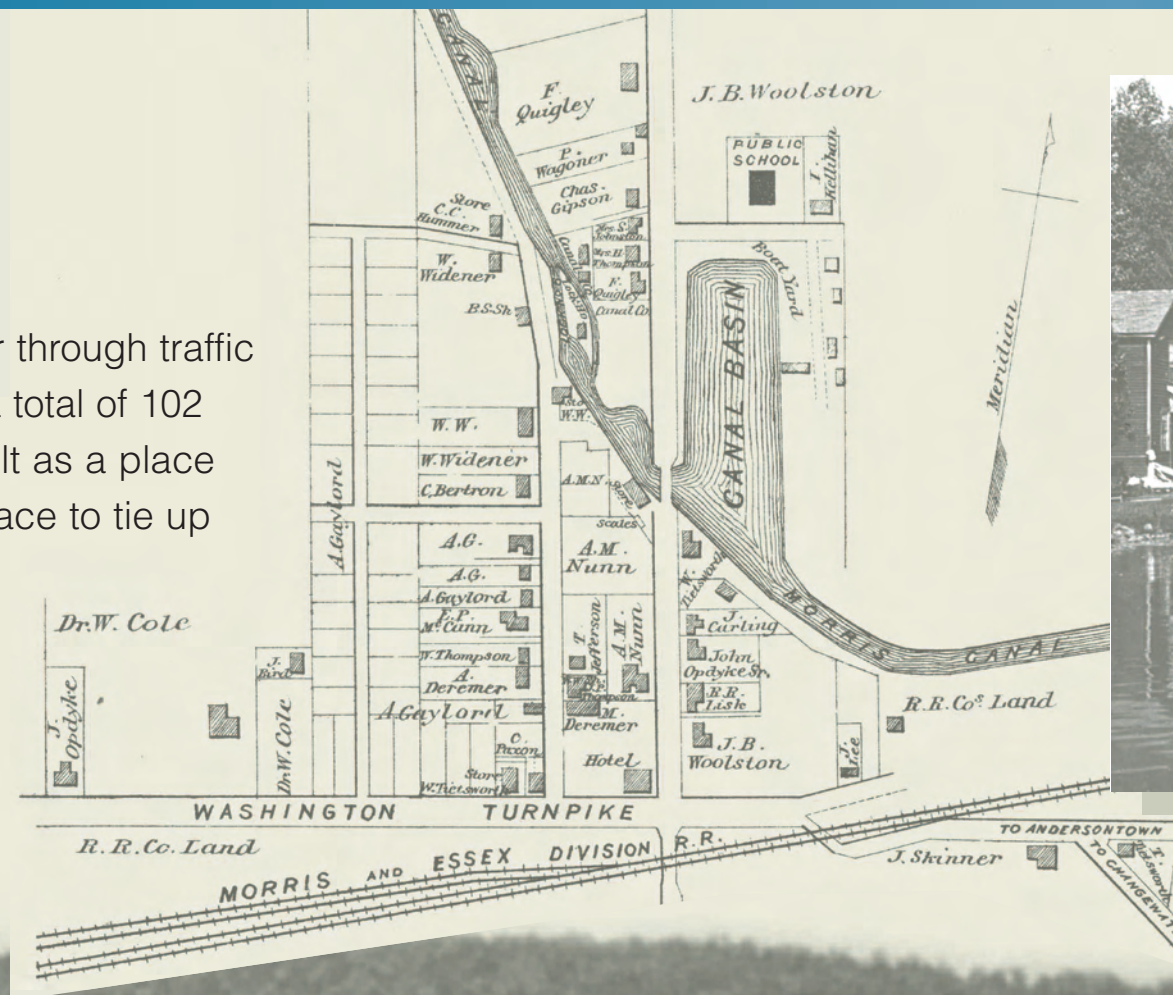


## PORT COLDEN MORRIS CANAL

The Morris Canal was chartered in 1824. In 1831 the canal opened for through traffic from Phillipsburg to Newark. By 1836 the canal reached Jersey City for a total of 102 miles. A community began to develop around a canal basin that was built as a place for boats waiting to pass through the lock, as a turning spot and as a place to tie up for repairs. The area hummed with activity after the canal was built. Operation and maintenance of the Morris Canal provided jobs for immigrants and local farmers. Some tended the lock, kept the canal repaired, or cared for the mules.

The village or "Port" was named for Caldwell Colden, 2<sup>nd</sup>, President of the Morris Canal and Banking Company. Near the basin were a general store, boatyard, blacksmith shop and wheelright shop. Bricks from a nearby brickyard were used in 1869 to build a school. The original Port Colden school building was restored in 2003. The adjacent United Methodist church was built in 1893.

The hand dug basin at Port Colden was one of five extra-large basins built in Warren County. Port Colden is now a Historic District and the Morris Canal is a State and National Historic Site.



*Inclined Plane 6 West and a weigh station are located a short distance to the east, one of only three double tracked planes.*



*Nunn's store, built circa 1852, was typical of those built near the canal. It was nicknamed "The Wannamaker's of Warren County".*

The Port Colden basin was drained in 1924 and later became the site for a new school and playground.