

**2016**  
**Hunterdon County's Most Endangered Historic Sites**



**The Union Hotel—76 Main St. Flemington**

**Hunterdon County National Bank— 90-100 Main St., Flemington**

**Lowrey Grist Mill—4 Bridge St., Milford**

**The Fulper Building— 78 Main St., Flemington**

**Bonnell Tavern—2 Pittstown Rd., Clinton**

**Reading -Large House—119 Main St., Flemington**

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### **Hunterdon's Most Endangered Historic Sites Named by Community Survey**

Flemington – A call by the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission for public nominations for the Most Endangered Historic Sites in the County produced a list of six sites.

Nominated are: four buildings in Flemington: the 1877-789 Union Hotel, the 1800s Fulper Building, the c.1860s Hunterdon County National Bank Building, and the 1847 Reading-Large House; also the Bonnell Tavern in Clinton and the Lowrey Grist Mill in Milford. The Flemington sites are listed as contributing elements within the Borough's historic district, on the State and National Registers of Historic Places; the other two have Certificates of Eligibility for historic designation.

All received one nomination except for the Union Hotel, which drew several, making it the public's number one choice for preservation. The Union Hotel and Reading-Large House were named Most Endangered in 2010 as well. The Lowrey Grist Mill was cited on the Most Endangered list for 2011.

The Commission first supported a Most Endangered survey in 2007. "We do the survey," said Commission Chair Lora Jones, "to alert County residents of our history and to provide a starting place to rally people who want to preserve our heritage." Results are announced in May to emphasize National Preservation Month, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "This Place Matters" is the theme of this year's national campaign, which encourages people to celebrate the places that are meaningful to them and to their communities.

Here are brief descriptions of the nominated sites:

Union Hotel at 76 Main Street, Flemington: According to one nomination, 'No single structure within the Borough of Flemington defines the town more than the majestic Union Hotel....Not to mention that history – world History – happened within the Hotel's walls during the famous trial of Bruno Hauptmann in 1935...'

Bonnell Tavern at 2 Pittstown Road, Clinton: Abraham Bonnell established a tavern on the road from Brunswick to Easton in the 1760s. By August 1775, Bonnell was a deputy to New Jersey's Provincial Congress and his tavern became a center for recruiting men into the Second Regiment, Hunterdon Militia. In July 1776, Lt. Colonel Bonnell helped raise and lead a battalion to reinforce militia defending eastern Jersey from the British in New York.

Hunterdon County National Bank at 90-100 Main Street in Flemington: Famous as a tax haven for 140 leading American corporations in the 1930s, the building is similar in appearance to Ford's Theater in Washington, DC.

Lowrey Grist Mill at 4 Bridge Street in Milford: The 1798 mill built by Revolutionary War Colonel Thomas Lowrey played a significant role in Hunterdon's economic history for more than 100 years, attracting a railroad and corporate business to Milford.

The Fulper Building at 78 Main Street in Flemington: A Victorian Mercantile building erected in the 1880's by William Fulper, of the Fulper Pottery family in Flemington. Later it became Nevius Department store, which housed reporters on its third floor during the Hauptmann Trial, giving them a bird's eye view of activity at the Historic Courthouse. Nevius Brothers remained at the location for many decades; subsequent tenants include Blaher's Stationary, The Potting Shed, and Yellow Finch Antiques.

Reading-Large House at 119 Main Street in Flemington: A nationally important example of Greek Revival architecture, the house is one of the most elaborate of the mid-19th century dwellings of that style designed and built by Hunterdon native Mahlon Fisher.

The Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission supports and develops programs to promote interest and participation in and understanding of local arts, culture, and historic events. To learn more about the Commission's programs and activities, please visit [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/c&h/c&h.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/c&h/c&h.htm) or find us on Facebook.

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