

# Stratford's History

## Roads Through Stratford – part 2, Warwick Road

By Carole Dadino, Stratford Historian

An ancient Elk path trodden down by Native Americans, called "Lonaconing Trail", followed a line from the Atlantic coast to Camden. About 1693, the trail was widened, to accommodate horse and carriage transportation. The road was soon called "Long-A-Coming". Early business owners, traders and farmers in today's Stratford, were fortunate to have access to this main trail, from the shipping ports in Absecon and Little Egg Harbor to Camden's docks, and the ferries to Philadelphia. About 1740 the road, also known as Old Egg Harbor Road, was named White Horse Rd. (White Horse Pike, Route 30)

Between 1714 and 1716, Major Abraham Porter, a provincial military agent obtained 3,000 acres of farmlands adjoining today's, White Horse Pike. Large parcels of land owned by Porter were divided into smaller farms. (The largest farms in Stratford were owned by Ephraim Tomlinson, John Kaighn and H. Lippincott.)

Roads were soon laid out, connecting farmlands to major thoroughfares and waterways. Stratford's Warwick Road was one such road. History shows that, as it passed through farms and villages, it had many names, dating back to the 1700s, when it was called Old Egg Harbor Road because it connected Haddonfield to the current White Horse Pike (also Egg Harbor Road).

In 1739, road surveyors laid out a road from Blackwood to Haddonfield, "thence following the said [old] road by Segentus [Signey's] Run." "A sawmill was located on the 518 acres, that is, where present Laurel Road (then a continuation of the old Salem Road) crosses the North Branch, and on the north side of the stream, where the old Tomlinson house still stands." The Road that ran from Haddonfield to Blackwood, through Stratford, was also known as Salem Road.

On the West side of Signey Run, Anthony Warrick owned farmland in what is now, Somerdale. His 1794, brick farmhouse was located on the site of Sterling High School. "Duly appointed surveyors" met at his house and laid out a road, thirty feet wide. A document dated October 31, 1796, describes it as, "A private road from the land that leads from the Egg Harbor Road (White Horse Pike)" The suitably named, Warrick Road, extended from Haddon Heights and Lawnside, through Magnolia and Somerdale, ending at Signey Run.

**"Warrick" Road appears on deeds, town borders, history and newspaper articles, photos and maps.**

1915 ACT TO INCORPORATE MAGNOLIA:  
 . . . . .crossing the Township of Gloucester line into the Township of Clementon to the center line of **Warrick Road**; then southwardly along the center line of Warrick Road. . . . .

SHERRIFF'S SALE IN LAWNSIDE  
 In 2016, there was a Sherriff's Sale for 83 Oak Ave in Lawnside. The property description states that the nearest cross street is **Warrick Rd.**

CAMDEN DAILY, THURS., JULY 17, 1934  
 New mush-room lights have been painted red soon will be in service. They mark the center of inter-sections and guard traffic at Tanner street. Chestnut street, Haddon avenue. Ellis street and **Warrick road**. Haddonfield now has one of the finest main streets of South Jersey towns.



1877 map of Philadelphia and vicinity.

"WARRICK"





Haddonfield and Magnolia Road, Snow Hill (Lawnside), Camden County  
Eight-inch Macadam.

The "Haddonfield and Magnolia Road," extended to Evesham Road where, turning southwest, would take horse and mule teams to the ports in Chews Landing. When loaded with farm goods and lumber, waiting barges followed Big Timber Creek to the docks along the Delaware River. Deeds, Post Office addresses and other official documents, associated with the road from Kings Highway to Laurel Road, had additional names.

**Why was the name "Warwick" finally chosen for the road from Haddonfield to Laurel Road?**

Some historians wrote that a mapmaker misspelled "Warrick", transcribing it to "Warwick" and mapmakers who followed, used that spelling. Other historians believe that, when the road was laid out, it's starting point was at the Warwick farm in "Blackwoodtown".

A newspaper article may answer the question. (Note that it mentions an additional name for the road, "Highland")

The Morning Post Camden - 29 May, 1923

Haddonfield Daughters of 1812 Have New Titles for Mansion and Highland  
HISTORY SENTIMENT PROMPTS PETITION

Away back before the revolution it is held there was a valiant farmer named Warwick, who had broad acres in the section through which Mansion avenue now passes. He was evidently a man of the country. In consequence it is the idea of the Daughters of 1812 that it would be fitting for the thoroughfare to bear his name.



Mansion Avenue, Haddonfield, NJ (Warwick Road)

**Warwick Road through Stratford**



On a 1952 map of Stratford, the road from Haddonfield to Laurel Road remains Warrick through Stratford. The map also shows how, before it was connected to Laurel Springs', Clementon (Stone) Road, Warwick Road followed a line on the border between Stratford and Hi Nella.



John Stafford Farm. (Currently Sunnybrook Road)

Warwick Road was straightened to meet Clementon Road (Stone Rd.), Laurel Springs, at an angle that separated the old Tomlinson and Kaighn farmlands. (John Stafford Farm)



Warwick (Yellin) School Construction 1965. Vassar Avenue to the right. Longwood Drive to the Left.



Warwick Road & Vassar Avenue to the left and Longwood Drive to the right, 1956. (Conrad Kuehner with daughter, Linda.) Bob Nyce's Laurel Mill Farms model homes would be in the background. Currently, Sterling Dental, Don Mark, Elder Law and Dr. Bernardi's old office.



A&P/Grants Shopping Center at Warwick Road and Longwood Drive. Stratford's Post Office and Family Dollar are currently on the right.



Warwick Road, cutting through the Stafford Farm, looking toward Laurel Springs and Stone Road, 1953. Future site of Stratford Estates.



Warwick Road, looking toward Somerdale. Top: Hillman's Farm, 1912. Bottom: Dobbs Farm on the right. Sterling High School can be seen on the left. (No date)



KK Bus that traveled down Warwick Rd.



1965 aerial photo of Stratford, New Jersey with Warwick Road running down the center.

Note: I have spent over three months researching the history of Warwick Road and there may be discrepancies, but I did my best. Thanks to Haddonfield United and West Jersey History members, Rich Zimmermann, John Keenan, and others for their help in my research