

1.18 Historic and Cultural Resources

The first settlers of Watershed Management Area 4 were the Leni Lenape Indians. In the 1600s and 1700s, Dutch and English settlers arrived.

Saddle River Township was once part of the English New Barbadoes settlement. New Barbadoes had as its boundaries the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers to the east and west, and Sussex County and Newark Bay to the north and south. Among the towns that were part of the original Saddle River Township were Ridgewood, Ho-Ho-Kus, Franklin, Garfield, East Paterson (now known as Elmwood Park), and Fair Lawn.¹ Manchester Township included Hawthorne, Haledon, North Haledon, Prospect Park, Totowa and most of the First Ward of Paterson.

Local waterways were used to establish the first industries of the area, sawmills and gristmills. Tanneries, paper mills and sandstone quarries followed. Into the 19th century, industrial development included textile mills and breweries. Cities in the southern portion of WMA 4, such as Bloomfield, Paterson and Clifton (then known as Acquackanonk Township), were the centers of the industrial development. The Newark and Pompton Turnpike (now Bloomfield Avenue) and the Morris Canal (near the current JFK Parkway) in the 1700s and the construction of railroads in the 1800s provided more transportation alternatives and led to further development in WMA 4. In the northern portion of WMA 4, industries included fruit and dairy farms.

Historical resources in this area, as in much of the Passaic Basin, include many manor houses on the National Register of Historic Places. Among these is the Hermitage in Ho-Ho-Kus, a stone house that was visited by Washington and other notaries during the Revolutionary War, which is presently preserved as a historic site and museum. WMA 4 is also home to historic landmarks and sites recalling its industrial history, including the Botto House/American Labor Museum in Haledon, and the Clark Thread Historic District in East Newark.

Plate 1.18.1, Major Open Space Land Areas, also shows the locations of several historic and cultural sites in WMA 4.

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¹ Saddle Brook Township History, <http://www.saddlebrookchamber.com/history.htm>