



Toughkenamon: Then and Now

Historical Commission



Currently on display in the Township Building is the “Then and Now” exhibit. Consisting of 22 pairs of photographs the viewer can discern how parts of New Garden’s history has been preserved, altered or completely erased. Some of the “then” photos date to the late 1800s, some from before World War I and some from just a few decades ago. All the “now” photos record the same area as seen in 2015. The New Garden Historical Commission selected from its archives the old photos based on historical significance and also proximity to the road so one can easily drive by the area to see the change. There are four sets of these photos. This article shows seven of the “Then and Now” photos all from the Toughkenamon area. Use the numbers in the aerial photo to locate where they are located. Anyone who has an old photo or drawing of another building and would like to add to this list please contact the [Historical Commission](#).

THEN

NOW

#1 Toughkenamon Presbyterian Church



The Presbyterian church arose from a need for a village Sunday School. Isaac Larkin completed the building in 1877. Driving by this church one noticed that little has changed when the Toughkenamon Presbyterian church organized in 1888.

#2 Toughkenamon Train Station



The Toughkenamon railroad station was built in 1863 by Isaac Slack to persuade the Philadelphia and Baltimore Railroad to make a regular stop in the village. He made the Railroad a gift of the station, platform and water tower.

#3 Isaac Slack's Stone Saw Mill



Isaac Slack's stone saw mill, built to saw large oak timbers for shipbuilding, was later used for grinding feldspar. Measuring 90 by 45 feet, the mill stood east of Newark Road and south of the railroad.

#4 Horse Manure Dock



Horse manure from the stables in the big cities came by rail to supply the mushroom industry. Cars were left on this siding for local growers to unload and truck to their plants where when mixed with other ingredients, it became mushroom compost. Today, a warehouse replaces the rail siding and mushroom growers use other ingredients to create a synthetic compost.

#5 General Store



As early as 1928, there was a general store on this site at the intersection of Baltimore Pike and Newark Road. Harry P. Owen's building looked like this in an early picture. Eugene DiFilippo rebuilt the store in the 1990's.

#6 The Hammer & Trowel



The Hammer and Trowel was the name given to the inn in Toughkenamon in 1786. Destroyed by fire in the 1960s. This inn was immortalized by Bayard Taylor in his [Story of Kennett](#).

#7 Baltimore Pike



The intersection of Baltimore Pike and Newark Roads is little changed in the past century. During the early part of the 20th Century a trolley ran along the north side of the road...from Kennett Square to Oxford.