

LOCKTOWN STONE CHURCH

WAGON SHED RESTROOM PROJECT



THE PURPOSE:

To provide much-needed restroom facilities at the church

THE GOAL:

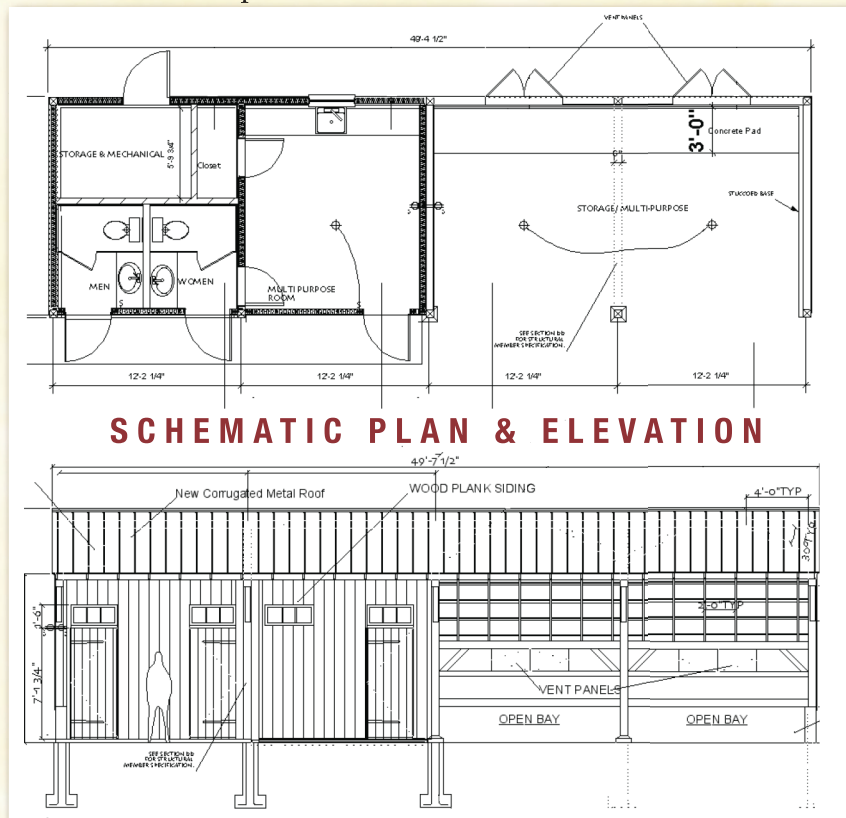
To raise \$240,000 (Total Project Cost) through grants and donations

THE PURPOSE

The Friends of the Locktown Stone Church, Inc. (FLSC) plan to construct a small building to provide much-needed rest room facilities, along with site improvements to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The design of proposed building evokes that of the horse and wagon sheds that once stood behind the church as recommended by the 1989 FLSC master plan for the church, which recognized that there was no way to provide restrooms inside the church without destroying its historical character. The new shed will bring an end to port-a-john facilities and enhance the public usage and historical interpretation of the site. The facilities will be supported by a closed water and sanitary systems located beneath the proposed building, an approach necessitated by the site's close proximity to the creek.

THE SITE

The property currently consists of a historic church and graveled parking area. The parking area occupies the former location of a long, L-shaped, horse and carriage shed and its wagon-turning-yard, which were constructed in the mid-19th century. There are no sanitary facilities.



THE GOAL

The FLSC fundraising goal for completing the project is \$240,000, of which \$144,000 is being sought by a matching grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust and the balance of \$96,000 from private donations and other sources. The project will provide much

needed restroom facilities, as well as improve the property's ADA compliance, and thus greatly enhance the FLSC mission of making the church and site available for educational, cultural and recreational activities.

THE HISTORY

1819: Property donated by Daniel Rittenhouse to the Kingwood Baptist Church. In time, the members aligned themselves with the Old School Baptists, after a schism where opposing factions locked each other out of the Church. These practices resulted in the name "Locktown" being applied to the village.

1973: During the summer, concerned citizens organized in response to the conditional sale of the site to a Flemington realtor. The group was led by Delaware Township resident Edna Horne and consisted of members of the Locktown Grange, the Baptistown Baptist Church, and others. This group nominated the site to both National and State Registers of Historic Places and stopped the sale into private hands.

March 19, 1974: The site was officially named to the National and State Historic Register(s) of Historic Places. At the time it was owned by American Baptist Convention in East Orange, NJ.

August 1, 1986: The American Baptist Convention granted a second option to purchase the site to a different private individual, which spurred new efforts at preservation of the site.

October 14, 1986: The Friends of the Locktown Stone Church, Inc. (FLSC) incorporated and was awarded 501(c)(3) tax exempt status by the United States Internal Revenue Service on September 8, 1988 with additional tax exempt status from the State of New Jersey (Form ST-5).

February 1987: The landmark structure was saved from private development through the efforts of local philanthropist Donald Jones and other local citizens.

December 29, 1989: The property was acquired from Donald Jones by Delaware Township with \$96,000 from the New Jersey Green Acres program and leased to FLSC to restore and utilize for public purposes in keeping with the building's historic character. (The current lease expires on Dec. 28, 2029 with an extension to 2039)

TODAY

A Delaware Township landmark listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, Locktown Stone Church hosts a variety of community events including the Mimi Upmeyer Concert series, student choir performances, arts and craft shows, lectures and elementary school educational programs, as well as holiday gatherings, weddings and funerals. The church is a focal point of the New Jersey Conservation Foundations's Wickecheoke Greenway, and has been a stop on its annual greenway walking tour. The property is lovely cared for by the Friends of the Locktown Stone Church, Inc, under lease from its owner Delaware Township.

FLSC – THE CARETAKERS

Locktown Stone Church has been under the stewardship of the Friends of the Locktown Stone Church, Inc. (FLSC) for over 30 years. A non-profit organization (founded in 1986, FLSC is lead by a group of dedicated volunteer trustees, who are supported by much larger group of member donors. FLSC's mission is to preserve the historic stone church and to make it available for educational, cultural and recreational activities appropriate to its historical character. FLSC has been a diligent caretaker, and much has been accomplished to restore the magnificent building and make it available for public use. Since 1989, FLSC has raised a total of \$801,260 to support its efforts, roughly half from public and private grants and half from individual donations, along with a small source of income from rental as a wedding venue. The funds have been used to restore and maintain the building (notably, framing and foundation repairs, new heating and electrical systems and replacement roof) and to support programing like the annual concert series.

Significant grants have been received from: Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, New Jersey Historic Trust, The Hunterdon Heritage Conservancy, The Large Foundation, and The 1772 Foundation. Significant donations have been given by Donald Jones, the Jones Family Trust and the Gerry Lenfest Foundation.

**To Make A Donation to the Wagon
Shed Restroom Project
visit our website**

www.locktownstonechurch.org