

## BURLINGTON COUNTY GUIDE

# A reminder of the past

## Vincentown eager to retain old-time feel

By **WILFORD S. SHAMLIN**

Courier-Post Staff

### SOUTHAMPTON

Visit the historic village of Vincentown and journey back in time.

Victorian-era homes that dot tree-lined streets, a quaint downtown and church bells that ring on the hour harken back to Vincentown in the early 19th century.

Municipal officials have spent millions to preserve this slice of Americana.

More than 3,800 acres have been purchased and are being maintained as farmland or open space. This open space creates a natural buffer so development does not encroach on the village, which is listed in the national and state registers of historic places.

Historic buildings, including a one-room



JOHN ZIOMEK/Courier-Post

It isn't unusual to see homes like this one along Main Street in Vincentown.

schoolhouse and a horse farm on Main Street, are intermingled among the 209 homes in this village, which is at the center of Southampton Township and is home to 750 people.

### Old to new

Vincentown Fire Company occupies a former saw mill. A blacksmith shop has been converted into office space and apartments. An overnight

lockup built in 1891 is a tour stop for children.

In the future, the idyllic character of the historic village is not likely to change much. The Preservation Committee ensures that any cosmetic changes to buildings or homes must harmonize with their surroundings.

Southampton has a small school district with slightly more than 800 pupils. The entire school campus, from kindergarten to eighth grade, sits on 17 acres along Main Street.

"It makes it a very close-knit feeling within the school district because we're in such close proximity," said schools Superintendent Michael Harris. "Everybody knows everybody."

Southampton's older students attend Seneca High School in Tabernacle, which is part of the Lenape Regional School District.

### SOUTHAMPTON

■ **Area (sq. miles):** 44.18

■ **Est. population (2004):** 10,918

■ **Mayor:** James F. Young Sr., (609) 859-2736

■ **Schools superintendent:** Michael L. Harris (609) 859-2256

■ **Web site:** [www.southamptonnj.org/](http://www.southamptonnj.org/)

■ **Census, other data:** [www.courierpostonline/burlicoguide](http://www.courierpostonline/burlicoguide)

There's no nightlife in Vincentown, but there is recreation. Schools are a community hub for athletic programs run in cooperation with the Southampton Township Recreation Association.

There are playing fields at the municipal complex on Retreat Road and at Memorial Park, on Red Lion Road.



JOHN ZIOMEK/Courier-Post

A sign welcomes visitors to Vincentown, in Southampton Township. Vincentown has 750 residents.

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