

Double Trouble Village



- ① Schoolhouse
- ② Burke House
- ③ Garage and Machine Shop

- ④ Cranberry Sorting and Packing House
- ⑤ General Store
- ⑥ Shower Room

- ⑦ Bunk House
- ⑧ Pickers' Cottage
- ⑨ Jumper Building
- ⑩ Sawmill

- ⑪ Harvest Foreman's House
- ⑫ - ⑬ Pickers' Cottages
- ⑭ Company Foreman's House

DOUBLE TROUBLE VILLAGE HISTORY TRAIL

Cover Photos-Top:
Sorting cranberries, 1960s
Middle: Lumbermen at
General Store, early 1900s

Bottom: Double Trouble
Company truck, 1960s
Interior Photos:
Lumberman, early 1900s

Hand harvesting
cranberries, 1960s
Inside Fold Photo:
Lumbermen, early 1900s



6 Shower Room (circa 1955)

The shower room was a shared facility, with separate men's and women's rooms. Each room had two shower stalls. The women's side also had a laundry sink.

7 Bunk House (circa 1900)

This communal house is where single workers lived during the cranberry harvest. It was modestly furnished with bunk beds and some shelves. This is one of the oldest buildings in the village and dates to the lumber industry. A metal-clad cook shed once stood in front of the bunk house.

8 Pickers' Cottage (circa 1953)

This pickers' cottage housed families during the cranberry harvest. It served as the park caretaker's residence in the 1970s to the 1990s. George Burke lived here with his wife. Newspapers often ran stories on them with the headline, "Double Trouble. Population: 2."

9 Jumper Building (circa 1950s)

Wet cranberries were dried and sorted in this barn-like structure. It was also used for storing farm equipment.

10 Sawmill (circa 1904)

The sawmill produced lumber, clapboard, shingles, lath and other products both for sale and use in the village and cranberry operations. This sawmill was significantly damaged by a fire and rebuilt in 1904. The metal roof and walls were added for protection from frequent forest fires. The saws were driven by belts connected to a pulley in the basement. The drive shaft was converted from water powered to steam powered and eventually a Witte Engine. As the Double Trouble Company focused more on cranberry production, the sawmill was run less. The sawmill had serious structural issues and was restored through a New Jersey Historic Trust grant in the 1990s. It is now a restored building with artifacts and exhibits interpreting the former sawmill industry at Double Trouble Village.

WELCOME TO Double Trouble Village

Once a booming Pine Barrens company town and cranberry farm, Double Trouble Village State Historic Site now offers a window into New Jersey's past.

This peaceful village was a bustling company town that grew to meet the needs of lumber and cranberry production. Beyond the village lies the old cranberry bogs, dams, roads and reservoirs. At the peak of the cranberry industry, Double Trouble was home to a handful of year-round residents and 30 to 40 seasonal "pickers" who were here from around Labor Day through Thanksgiving for the fall cranberry harvest.

Early History

In the late 1600s, Irish merchant Anthony Sharp became the first recorded landowner of what would eventually become Double Trouble Village. The land included a portion of Cedar Creek and an abundant supply of Atlantic white cedar trees providing the raw materials and reliable waterpower for an extensive lumber industry. By 1765, a sawmill was in operation on the site.

In 1806, William Giberson, purchased the land and sawmill. His son, George Giberson, inherited the property in the early 1850s, added a second sawmill and employed more than 2,400 people. Timber products were shipped up and down the East Coast from the seaport in nearby Toms River.

Timber to Cranberries

After the cedar trees were cut down, the cleared swampland created a bog habitat ideal for growing cranberries. Civil War captain, Ralph Gowdy, is credited with planting the first cranberry bog at Double Trouble in 1863. This bog is named for him. Soon after, George Giberson's son-in-law, sawmill operator Thomas Hooper, created and planted additional cranberry bogs. These cranberry bogs were irrigated with water that traveled through sluiceways (built water channels) from Cedar Creek.



11 Harvest Foreman's House (circa 1900)

This cabin was the seasonal home of the migrant workers' foreman, Alfio Musumeci. Early every morning during picking season, Musumeci would run multiple parallel string lines through the bogs, about ten feet apart and anchored by wooden stakes. Pickers were assigned to specific lanes and told to "Pick clean! Pick clean!" When the cranberry harvest was completed, he and the pickers returned to Pennsylvania. Musumeci worked at Double Trouble for 57 harvest seasons.

12 - 13 Pickers' Cottages (circa 1940)

These pickers' cottages each housed two families during the harvest season. Every year 30-40 migrant workers arrived on Labor Day weekend and stayed until Thanksgiving. They worked exclusively in the bogs handpicking cranberries. They started picking about nine o'clock, after the sun had burned off the morning dew, and worked until late afternoon. Workers were given a ticket for each box of cranberries picked. At the end of the week the tickets were exchanged for cash at the General Store. The cottage closest to the parking area is now an information center with restrooms.

14 Company Foreman's House (circa 1900)

This building was the year-round home of the "head" foreman who oversaw the management of the cranberry and sawmill operations.

Please take only pictures, be aware of changing trail conditions and report any trail issues to the park.



DOUBLE TROUBLE STATE PARK
Double Trouble Village
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 Emergency Numbers 1-877-WARN-DEP
 (1-877-927-6337) or 911



State of New Jersey
 Department of Environmental Protection
 State Park Service
 State Historic Site



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DOUBLE TROUBLE STATE PARK

DOUBLE TROUBLE VILLAGE

STATE HISTORIC SITE



INTERPRETIVE TRAIL GUIDE

Historic Structures

1 Schoolhouse (circa 1893)

This one-room school is the oldest remaining structure in the village. It was established to serve the children of the lumber community and survived to serve the children of the cranberry workers. The school closed after the 1914-1915 school year and the Double Trouble students were bused to the Berkeley Township School in Bayville for their education. In later years, the schoolhouse building was used to house seasonal workers.

2 Burke House (circa 1900)

This building was home to the Burke family from 1938 until 1957. David T. Burke was foreman of the cranberry processing operations until 1967 when his son George took over. George was the youngest of 13 children and spent most of his life at Double Trouble.

3 Garage and Machine Shop (circa 1890)

The oldest part of this structure housed the blacksmith and repair shop for the sawmill and cranberry operations. The eastern portion of the shop was added after 1941. Today, this building houses park operations and the maintenance shop.

4 Cranberry Sorting and Packing House (Built: 1909 and 1916. Additions: 1919 and 1921-1925)

This building was the center of the cranberry harvest operations. Here, hand-scooped cranberries were sorted according to size and quality and then packed for market. It is one of the last remaining dry-harvest era screen houses in the state and was restored through a New Jersey Historic Trust grant in the 1990s. It is now a restored building with artifacts and exhibits interpreting the former cranberry culture at Double Trouble Village.

5 General Store (circa 1900)

The general store provided the early villagers with staples such as oatmeal, flour, pork and sugar. In February 1910, fresh pork was 20 cents a pound, ham was 18 cents a pound, canned salmon and sardines sold for 15 cents a can, oatmeal



was 5 cents a pound, oranges were 30 cents a dozen, and pickles were a penny each. By the 1940s, the store was only open seasonally during the harvest so that the workers could purchase incidental items like tobacco and candy.

Following the deaths of Thomas Hooper in 1871 and George Giberson in 1893, the Double Trouble tract started to fall into disrepair.

Edward Crabbe and James Porter purchased the property in 1903 and established the Double Trouble Lumber Company. A few years later, Crabbe created the Double Trouble Company to focus more on fruit production. He built a modern cranberry sorting and packing house and cottages for migrant workers to stay during the harvest season. Under Crabbe's leadership, the Double Trouble Company became one of the state's largest growers selling fresh, hand-harvested cranberries through the American Cranberry Exchange cooperative.

Farmland to Parkland

The 1950s was a difficult decade for the Double Trouble Company. Edward Crabbe died in 1953. The Garden State Parkway was constructed through the eastern portion of the Double Trouble tract in 1954. The American Cranberry Exchange dissolved in 1957. Profits declined significantly. The Double Trouble Company dissolved, and the Double Trouble tract was sold to the State of New Jersey in 1964. The village was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. The cranberry bogs were leased and harvested for a few additional decades until the farmers retired, ending cranberry production at Double Trouble in 2010. New Jersey's cranberry industry is now focused primarily in Burlington County.

Today, this historic village is the heart of Double Trouble State Park. Visitors are invited to step back in time and imagine life in this once bustling Pine Barrens community.

Double Trouble?

There are conflicting stories about the naming of "Double Trouble." Most of the common legends involve an earthen dam at a mill pond on Cedar Creek. Sawmill operator Thomas Potter may have coined the words "Double Trouble" in the 1770s after heavy rains twice damaged the dam, causing first trouble and then double trouble. A more colorful legend involves muskrats who persisted in gnawing at the dam, causing frequent leaks. Such leaks, when discovered, gave rise to the alarm, "Here's trouble!" upon which workmen would rush to repair the leak. One day two breaks were discovered, and one workman overheard the owner shout, "Here's double trouble!" This area was referred to as "Double Trouble" on property deeds as early as 1790.