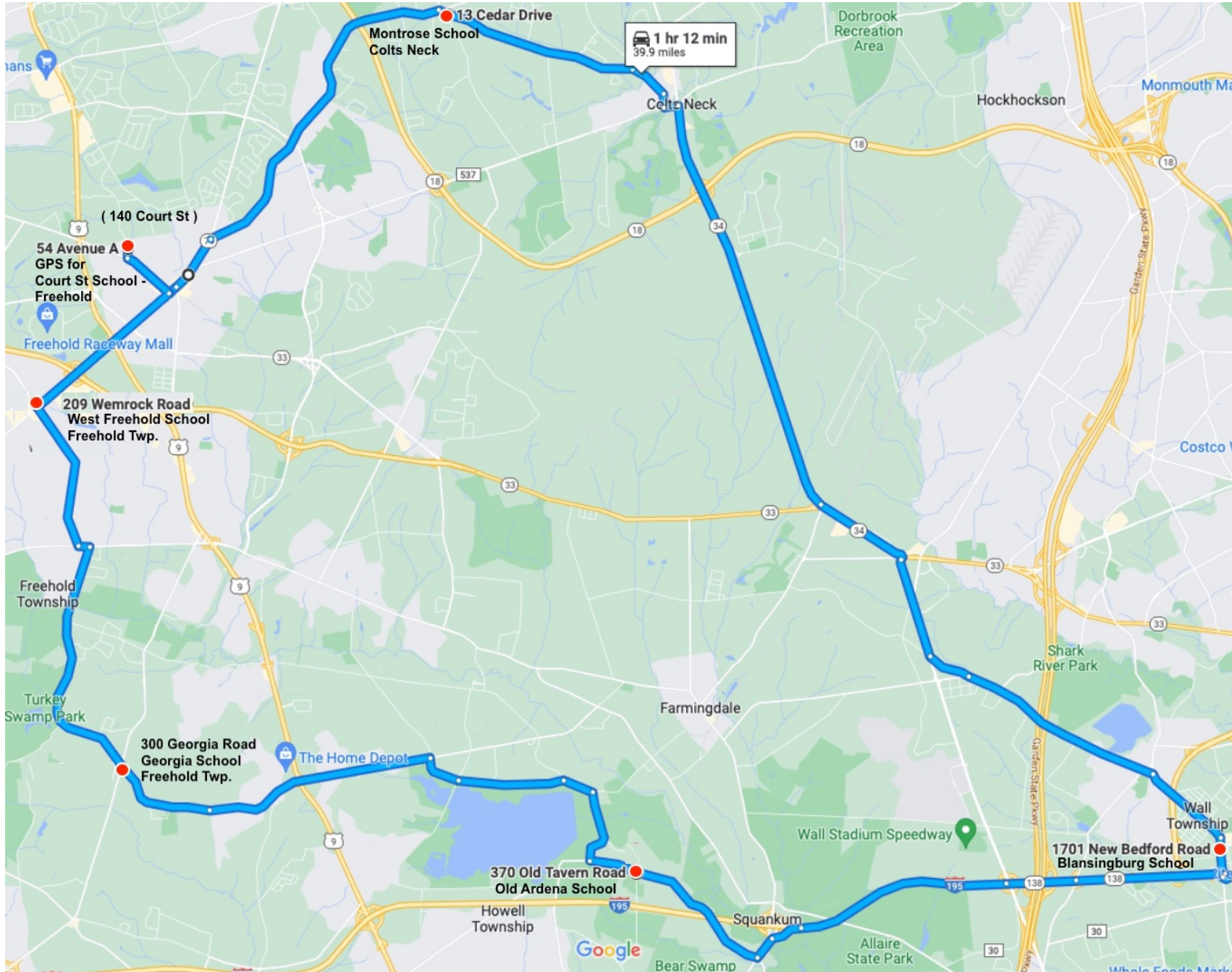


# TOUR ROADMAP



## ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE TOUR of WESTERN MONMOUTH





Montrose Schoolhouse, circa 1812, is the last of the township's six one-room schoolhouses. Situated at Cedar Drive and Montrose Rd, it is the only one that retained its original architectural profile. It is believed the structure was built before 1820, maybe 1790 or possibly 1805. The Montrose School was first known as the Barrenton School located in "the Barrens" just to the west, and moved to its present location. Its name was changed at that time. With the opening of the Atlantic School on Route 537 in 1922, the school ceased operation. It remained the property of the Emmans family until 1965, when it was donated to the now defunct Colts Neck Historical Society. It sat for over three decades, opening only once for a historic Colts Neck house tour. In 2003 it was deeded to Colts Neck Twp. for \$1 and restored by the Colts Neck Township Committee under the strict guidance of then Mayor Lillian Burry and the Historical Preservation Committee. The Montrose Schoolhouse retains its original pumpkin pine floors, a potbelly wood burning stove and a collection of period school desks.

The Blansingburg Schoolhouse is one of Wall Township's hidden treasures. It sits at 1701 New Bedford Road, next to the Allgor-Barkalow Homestead, and has its own history. The one-room Blansingburg Schoolhouse was built in May 1855, schoolhouse #9 in the new township, incorporated in 1851. Enrollment was 96 students. The Trustee: Lawrence Newbury. Robert Laird was Superintendent of Schools for the township. The amount of school taxes raised by the township in 1851 was \$400. Students attended here from 1856 to 1936 (80 years). In 1999 the building was moved to its present location. Matching grants were awarded to the Old Wall Historical Society to make restoration possible. These monies were applied to materials and labor; mostly supplied by members of the society. In 2006, the historical society greeted its first group of second graders. We dress the girls in pinafores, and add suspenders for the boys. They all love doing math and spelling on slates. One child has the 'honor' of wearing the dunce cap. We are not sure who has more fun, the students or the school marms!

West Freehold Schoolhouse Narrative  
The Schoolhouse is situated on its original fieldstone foundation. The walls are brick lined for insulation purposes which was common in mid 1800s. The flooring is yellow pine tongue & groove which was common for the timeframe and probably garnered from the trees that were situated on the property and acreage adjacent to it. Originally there was a large potbelly stove in the middle of the schoolhouse, however, it was moved to the Northeast corner at some point in time as there is evidence of burnt flooring consistent with it having been there. Most of the windows have original handblown glass still intact. There is a small built-in cabinet in the North closet that could have housed milk, etc., and kept it cool for the day. One very significant fact was the integration of 'colored children' into the school. In 1862, the records reflect 2 'colored children' were on the attendance roll.

Georgia Schoolhouse—located on the corner of Georgia Rd. and Jackson Mills Rd., Freehold Township.  
Legend has it that the Georgia Schoolhouse originated from a grant of some 40 acres made by King George of England in 1735. The grant was in fact, from the Board of Proprietors of East Jersey. Originally the schoolhouse sat on the West side of Jackson Mills Rd. part of original 11 acres. The current building is 1 of 3 which have stood on the land. The original blackboards for that building are still on the walls and the schoolhouse was in use as both a church and school from 1735 until 1959. It was closed in 1935 when all schools were consolidated into the West Freehold School. However, in approximately 1945 that school was running out of room so the Schoolhouse was opened again to accommodate the areas children.

Court Street School first opened in 1913, down the hill from its current location. It was a small, one-story wooden building on Avenue A which served Black students in grades one to eight. The Freehold Borough Board of Education formalized the school in 1915 as it continued educating children of Black migrants. The student population soon outgrew the original building. In 1919, the department of education built the current structure, just up the hill from the old building. Kindergarten was also added to the school. At the time, there were as many as 12 segregated elementary and middle schools for Black children in Monmouth County, but Court Street School was the only one in the western part of the county. The two-classroom school then grew to four classrooms, with two or three grades to a room. During World War II, the school was used as an air raid shelter and ration station. It integrated in the early 1950s, serving Black and white students through the third grade.

The Old Ardena Schoolhouse was built in 1855, and originally located across the road from the present-day Ardena Baptist Church, on Rt. 524. Since Ardena only had a single room for instruction, all levels of learners were taught together. This encompassed a great range of ages, and the older students would often work independently, or help the younger ones during the school day. When Howell's Ardena Consolidated School opened in January 1939, the individual district schools were no longer needed. The old building was sold to a neighbor for storage of his tools. In 1946 it was sold again, and moved to an East Freehold location, where it was used for a carpet-making business. In 1973, there was a push by the previous Howell Historical Society to preserve the building, and they were able to purchase the Old Schoolhouse for \$3,000, and paid \$1,400 to have it moved mid-summer of 1974, and located here, at the corner of Old Tavern and Preventorium Roads.