



Jim Alexander

Lumberton was once a destination for respite from the pressures of the big cities, offering clean air, pure water, and access to nature. Several hotels such as the Lumberton Hotel, still standing as an apartment house at 557 Main Street, welcomed visitors. The Boxwood Lodge, now a private home at 516 Main Street, provided lodging, and was a highly regarded regional venue for receptions, club meetings, dances, and dinners for visitors.

Perhaps the most interesting was the Mineral Spring Hotel, now an apartment house at 504 Main, still looking much the same. Little is known about it, other than it being sold in the 1880s, after which its role as a hotel ended. Many such locations had evolved in the mid-1800s to cater to the wellness craze that revolved around “taking the waters” by various methods at spas and rural locations. Although the Rancocas flowed a short distance away, the source of the waters was a natural spring out back, which was also tapped as a source for the town’s early water supply. The train that then ran behind was known to make unofficial stops to pick up and drop off passengers.



Former Boxwood Lodge



Former Lumberton Hotel