



Just Around the Corner

The “Pennington Corner” was introduced in the first issue of *Interface* (Winter 1992) to provide information and insights about the Society from the perspective of the Executive Director. Since our headquarters office was located in the center of Pennington at the “corner” of Main Street and Delaware Avenue, the name “Pennington Corner” was a natural for the column. All this is about to change when the Society headquarters office moves to a new location later this year.

On November 5, 1998, the Society Board approved the acquisition of a small office complex named the Pennington Professional Center, located at 65 South Main Street in Pennington, New Jersey. The complex is only two blocks up the street from our current headquarters office, but the new location has additional office space and offers a better working environment for the Society operations. Although we (the staff) are all very excited about the move, we will certainly miss the comforts of our longtime home office at 10 South Main Street.

We have been at our current headquarters location since August 1980, when we bought the building from Mercer Mutual Insurance Company, and it has been a wonderful home for the Society for almost 19 years. The office building and location have served us well, and in many ways, the image and historical elegance of the property have become part of the Society’s character. However, much has changed in both Pennington and the Society since 1980. The area immediately surrounding 10 South Main Street is undergoing dramatic changes and is becoming a busy retail district. The additional activity

has created traffic and parking issues that previously didn’t exist, and has virtually eliminated any opportunity for the Society to grow its headquarters operations.

We are fortunate that, as the community of Pennington has changed and the Society staff has grown, we have found another compatible location with much of the same character as our property at 10 South Main Street. The Pennington Professional Center consists of four separate buildings set back from the roadside on 3.5 acres of land. We will completely occupy one of the buildings and lease the remaining three buildings to a variety of small professional firms. We have retained the services of an asset management company (Benbrooke Realty Investment Co.) to maintain the entire complex and manage the investment component of the property. The central building (shown in the picture) was built circa 1850. The last resident to occupy the property was Dr. Richard Abbey, who had a family medical practice in Pennington that spanned nearly 40 years. In 1974, Dr. Abbey sold his estate to a property developer who built the three additional buildings in the complex.



The move represents an end of an era for the Society, and a sad moment of departure for me. I have been working at our 10 South Main Street location since November 1980, which is only a few months after the Society purchased the property. Despite my attachment to our current home, the move represents an essential step for the Society, and I’m looking forward to the many opportunities at our new location. As far as this column is

concerned, I’m not planning to change the name anytime soon. Even though we won’t be situated on the corner of any of Pennington’s streets, the Society will always be turning a corner — on to new and better things.

Roque J. Calvo
Executive Director
The Electrochemical Society, Inc.