“Mews” and “Close” are British, not American, English. How did these words come to be associated with a condominium complex located in Moorestown, NJ?

In England the word “mews” refers to the stables of a grand country house or, in earlier days, to the stables located along lanes behind a row of city dwellings. Often the mews included living quarters for grooms and coachmen. As motorcars replaced horses and carriages, urban mews were often converted into desirable housing -- like the condominiums at Moorestown Mews. The image of a horseman that appears on the Mews sign at the Main Street entrance reminds residents of the word’s historic meaning.

“Close”, also a British word, refers to a road that is open to vehicles at only one end. Four such roads wind through the Mews: North Close, South Close, East Close, and West Close. On each of these, carefully sited buildings blend effectively with natural surroundings.

When Moorestown was settled, an English monarch owned the American colonies. The words “mews” and “close” are echoes from that long-ago past.