

A Story of New Jersey Told in 100 Buildings

HOW THE
GARDEN STATE
HAPPENED



CRUDEN BAY BOOKS

INTRODUCTION

Imagine a group of settlers arriving in an undeveloped location. First come shelters in which to live and then structures in which to work and shop. There are buildings for worship and education. As the community grows government buildings are required. With prosperity comes places in which to spend leisure time. And each step along the way builds a story only New Jersey can call its own.

That story is all around you in the work of those who came before you. In these pages you'll learn the explanations behind the quirks, the traditions and the secrets that make New Jersey uniquely New Jersey. Jersey barriers? Solved. Doo-wop motels? A mystery no more. The first drive-in movie theater in America? Identified. The origins of blueberry propagation? Revealed.

Jersey tomatoes...Sears kit houses...trolley parks...gambling...diners...camp meetings...defensive forts...lighthouses...beer...boardwalks...silk...super highways...octagonal farm buildings...horses...Negro League baseball...German POWs...Miss America...dirigibles...life-altering inventions...the Fifth Avenue of New Jersey...rock and roll. This book will have you telling stories like a native in no time.

Almost all of the selections within are open to the public, or at least visible from public spaces. So, if you haven't seen these landmarks in person, fire up your GPS and get out and see the story of the Garden State standing in plain sight on New Jersey streets!

**A STORY OF NEW JERSEY TOLD IN 100 BUILDINGS...
HOW THE GARDEN STATE HAPPENED**

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Nothnagle Log House

Gibbstown

1638

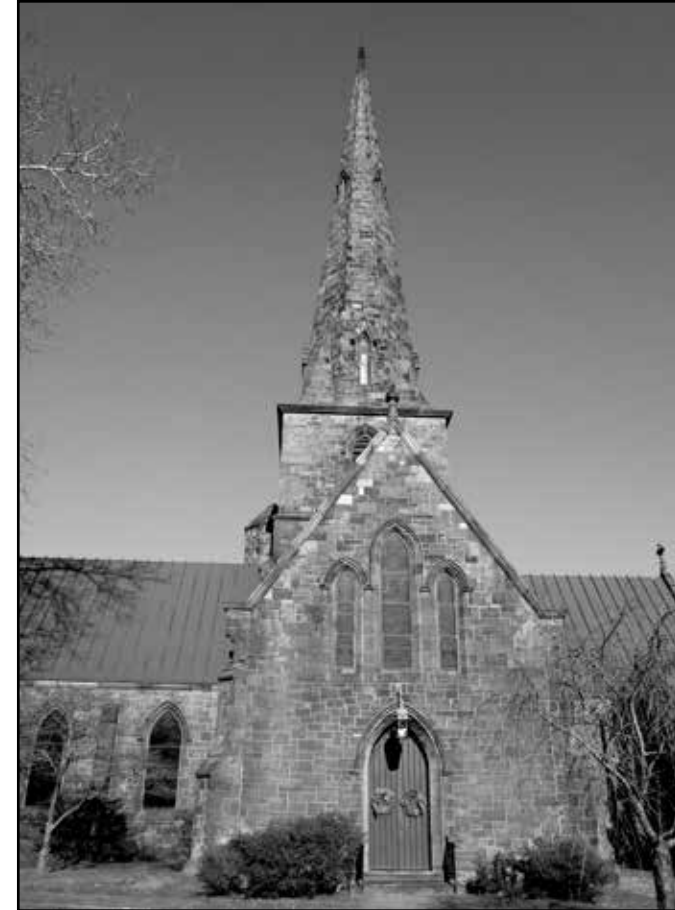


This wooden structure - with all but one log being over 380 years old - was in use for a generation before the Dutch founded the village of Bergen, New Jersey's first permanent settlement, in 1681. The Nothnagle cabin is considered the oldest log cabin in the United States and maybe the entire New World. The full dovetail construction technique - wedge-shaped cuts hammered together and connected with wooden dowels - tells the tale of Finnish origins but no one knows the builder. Scholars believe this may be the oldest surviving cabin in its original location anywhere in the world. That original part of the house was a single 16-by-22 foot room with a dirt floor that became a work area as the living space expanded and evolved. Bricks for the interior fireplace were collected through the years from the holds of ships that were used as ballast.

St. Mary's Church

Burlington

1703

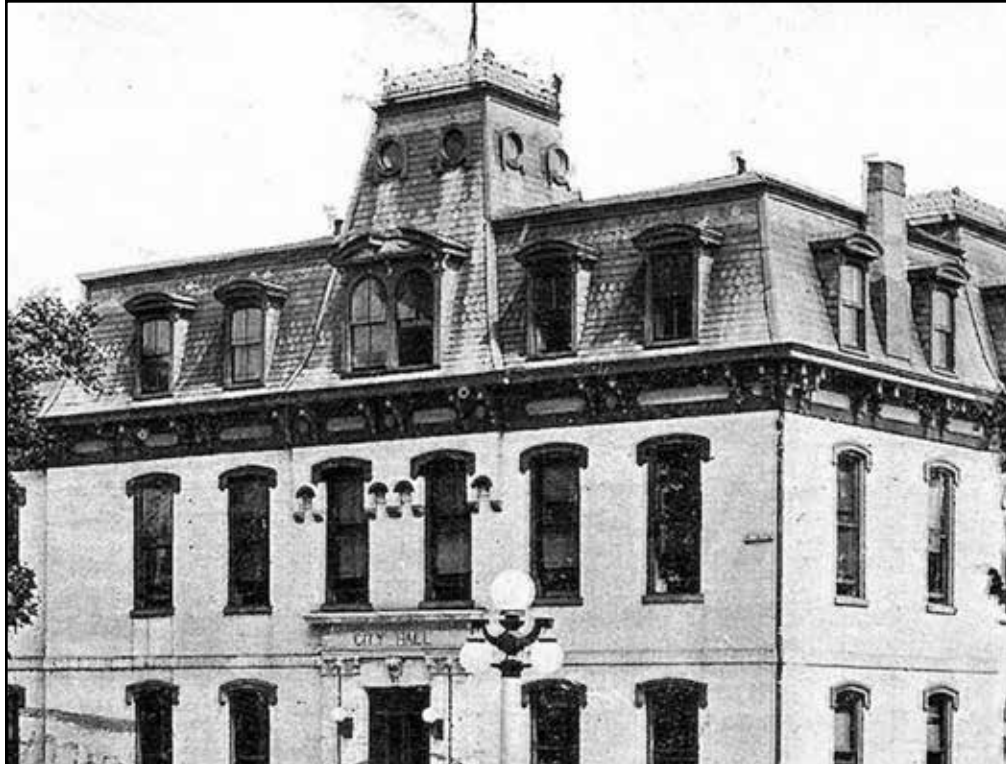


Constructed in 1703, this is the oldest Episcopal Church in New Jersey. The early Georgian building is covered in stucco with white wood trim. The roof is topped by a modest, louvered lantern. Richard Upjohn executed a Gothic makeover in the 1840s. To this day the congregation uses a silver communion service that was a gift from Queen Anne before 1713. During the American Revolution, this church served as the focal point of the activities of the American Loyalists. Letting bygones be bygones, St. Mary's has earned status as a National Historic Landmark.

City Hall

Perth Amboy

1714



This is the oldest active City Hall in the United States. Benjamin Franklin wasn't even a teenager when it was built. The Proprietary House, the only royal governor's house from the original Thirteen Colonies still standing, was still half a century from construction across town. Its most famous resident was Benjamin's illegitimate and estranged son William - the last New Jersey royal governor. Perth Amboy didn't even have its royal charter when construction was complete. The building thus began life as a courthouse for Middlesex County. There were a couple of fires in the 1700s but the main reason its builders would not recognize their 300-year old creation today was a drastic Victorian re-do in the mid-19th century that brought in a French Second Empire-style mansard roof and heavy Italianate window hoods and eave brackets.

Trent House

Trenton

1719

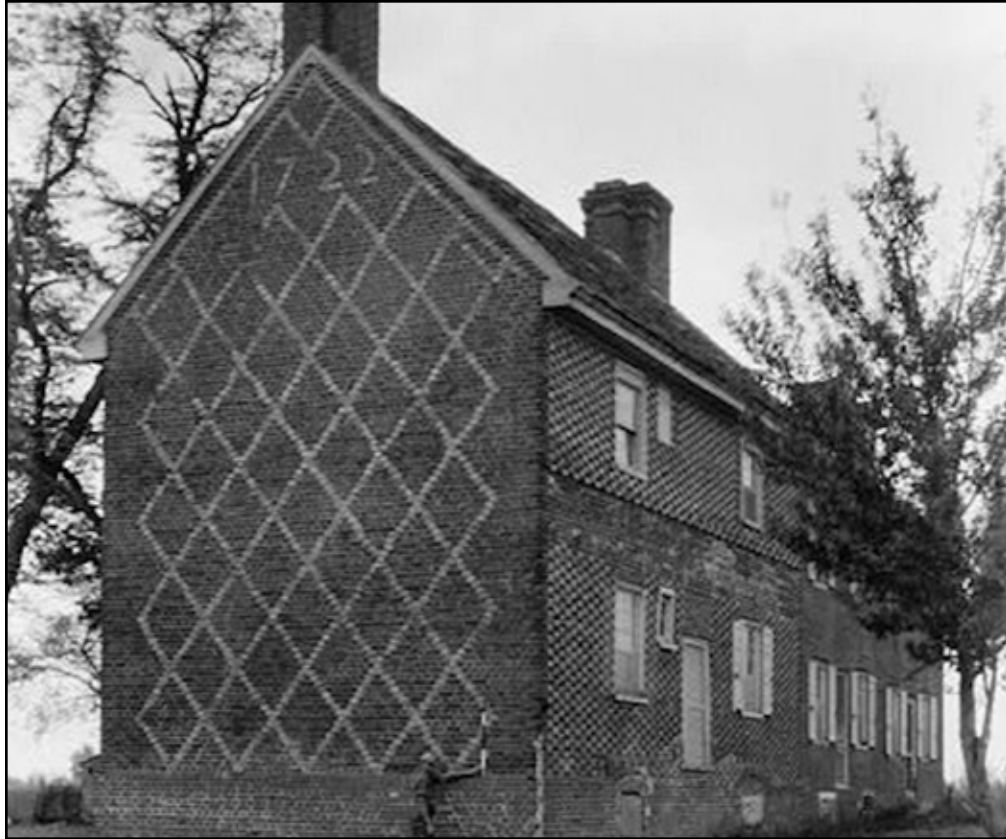


William Trent built his country estate north of Philadelphia, in New Jersey, at the Falls of the Delaware River about 1719. It was a large, imposing brick structure, built in the newest fashion. An "allee" of English cherry trees led from the entrance down to the ferry landing. Nearby, there were numerous outbuildings as well as grist, saw and fulling mills along the Assunpink Creek. In 1720 Trent laid out a settlement, which he incorporated and named "Trenton." In 1742 the house was leased to the first Governor of New Jersey, Lewis Morris. Various other governors moved in from time to time, including Rodman McCamley Price. Price, a Democrat, made his fortune in the San Francisco Gold Rush of 1849, returning to New Jersey to enter politics. The last private owner of the Trent House, Edward A. Stokes, donated the building to the City of Trenton in 1929 with the condition that it be returned to its appearance during the William Trent era and be used as a library, art gallery or museum.

Nicholson House

Elsinboro

1722



Patterned brickwork is a centuries-old souvenir from Quaker masons who settled in the Delaware Valley in the 17th century. Darkened bricks are used to create geometric designs, initials, or dates in the facades of buildings. Some four hundred examples, beginning with the long-demolished Friends Meetinghouse in Burlington, have been identified with over 90 percent found in South Jersey. The patterning was a costly affectation even in the height of its popularity, which waned after 1830. Abel Nicholson was one of the most prosperous Quaker farmers along the Alloway Creek and could well afford the expense. After 300 years the National Historic Landmark and its patterned bricks have been little altered.

Morven

Princeton

1730



A tragic figure of the Revolution, successful lawyer Richard Stockton lived in this grand Georgian mansion beginning in the 1750s. Stockton was a moderate with mostly a cursory involvement in politics at the local level. He was elected to the Second Continental Congress on June 22, 1776, and arrived in Philadelphia just in time to vote for separation. He signed the Declaration of Independence on August 2. That winter the British seized Stockton. When it was revealed that their prisoner was a Declaration signatory he was subjected to such cruelty in his New York prison that the Continental Congress protested to General Sir William Howe. Stockton was freed, but not before being forced to swear his allegiance to King George III and to initial the amnesty proclamation. He returned to Princeton to discover his estate pillaged and most of his wealth drained. An untreated lip wound, a souvenir from his prison days, festered into a tumor which spread to his throat and he died a broken man in 1781 at the age of 50. The yellow brick house set back from Stockton Street was twice devastated by fires but restored. Morven served as the official residence of New Jersey governors from 1953 until 1981. The house and gardens are now open for tours.

Ringwood Manor

Ringwood

1740



The Ringwood Company put a dam across the Ringwood River and used the water power to operate blast furnaces and forges. For the next 200 years some of America's most famous ironmasters toiled here. The ironworks hit its stride when Scotsman Robert Erskine was hired in 1771. Under his stewardship Ringwood supplied a steady stream of weapons for the American Revolution. Upon meeting George Washington the general was so impressed with Erskine he made him Surveyor General for the Colonial Army. The ironmaster made some 275 detailed maps that Washington relied on in his maneuvers in the Northeast. Erskine however caught pneumonia and died on a mapping expedition in 1780. Peter Cooper, who built America's first celebrated railroad engine, *Tom Thumb*, bought the ironworks in 1853 and produced the first structural iron beam for fireproof buildings. Under Cooper and Abram Hewitt Ringwood became one of the most important foundries in America, supplying the bulk of Union gunmetal during the Civil War. New Jersey's iron industry, so critical to the state's early economy, eventually shifted to Western states and the forges, mills and buildings were transferred to the State for a state park.

Ford Mansion

Morristown

1744



Morristown, a village of 250, was a center of iron supply for the American Revolution and even though it lay only 30 miles west of the main British force in New York it was protected by a series of parallel mountain ranges. It was the twin luxuries of a defensible position and close proximity to the enemy that twice brought

General George Washington to camp his main army here, first in 1777 and again in 1779-1780. After the Battle of Princeton in January 3, 1777 a worn-down Colonial army swarmed the tiny town seeking shelter in the few public buildings, private homes, barns and stables then in existence. Steadily Washington rebuilt his flagging troops, overcoming desertion and incipient food shortages. His greatest foe, however, was disease. An outbreak of smallpox threatened to decimate the small army and Washington ordered the little known and, to many, horrifying procedure of inoculation. Some indeed died but most of his troops did not contract the deadly pox. Memories of the plague did not die easily and locals were less than thrilled when Washington returned two years later. The commander-in-chief stayed for six months in the home built by ironmaster Jacob Ford, Jr., five miles from the main encampment in Jockey Hollow. Washington personally paid rent to Ford's widow, Theodosia, who remained in quarters with her brood of four children. It was small consolation for the loss of her husband which occurred during the first winter camp at Morristown.

Craig House

Monmouth
1746



The American Army came of age in 1778 in the Battle of Monmouth, forcing the British from the field in a brilliant counterattack led by George Washington. The General had planned a support role for himself, hoping to deliver a final, fatal blow to the British Army but when he started for the battle he instead discovered 5,000 of his best troops in a confused retreat. A stunned Washington immediately took personal command from Charles Lee, the general he had entrusted the attack to, and stopped the retreat. Eagerly his troops, hardened from their experience at Valley Forge, rallied to rout the British regulars. It was the longest battle of the Revolution, the last major fighting in the north - more had taken place in New Jersey than any other colony - and Washington's finest hour in the field. The Dutch-frame Craig House witnessed it all, if the family did not. John Craig was away serving with the local militia and when Ann Craig realized her home would be ground zero for the fighting she skedaddled elsewhere with her three children in tow. British troops used the shelter as a field hospital with many combatants seeking relief from sweltering June heat. The State of New Jersey has owned the property since the 1960s with the Craig House telling its story as a house museum.

Boxwood Hall

Elizabeth
1750



Elizabethtown, as it was known during the Revolution, was the site of many attacks and skirmishes in the war years, but many pre-Revolutionary buildings remain. Boxwood Hall, built by mayor Samuel Woodruff in 1750, is one of the finest. Its most prominent resident was Elias Boudinot, a president of the Continental Congress and later, as acting secretary of foreign affairs, a signer of the Paris Peace Treaty with Great Britain. Boudinot later sold the red clapboard building to Jonathan Dayton, youngest signer of the United States Constitution. Subsequent owners drastically altered the appearance of the house but it has been scaled back to its 18th century look and is now maintained and designated as a national landmark.

Indian King Tavern

Haddonfield
1750



Built in 1750 and named for the local Lenni Lenape Indians, this early American public house and tavern was an important social, political and military stop along the King's Highway. In 1777, as clashing armies devastated Trenton, the Assembly reconvened in the Indian King to pass legislation officially creating an independent state of New Jersey and adopting its Great Seal. Legend has it that, throughout the 1780s, Dolley Payne - who later became First Lady Dolley Madison - was a frequent visitor. In 1903 the three-story brick building became New Jersey's first State Historic Site; the Haddonfield historic district was the second in the Garden State after Cape May. The King's Highway out front was the main road through the British colonies - built wide enough for the King of England. That generous road never needed to be widened to accommodate automobiles or trollies or parking and the result is a shaded "main street" under 200 year-old trees.

Francis Hopkinson House

Bordentown
1750



As the critical link on the route between New York and Philadelphia most every figure of importance in early America passed through Bordentown at one time or another. And more than a few decided to stay. One was

Thomas Paine, dubbed the "Father of the American Revolution" for his influential writings and another was Francis Hopkinson, signer of the Declaration of Independence. Hopkinson was born in Philadelphia in 1737 and was a member of the first class at the University of Pennsylvania in 1751. He married Ann Borden of this town in 1768 and by 1774 was living in this handsome brick home that was built in 1750. In 1778 when the British sacked the town the Hopkinsons were not at home but the invaders found nourishment at his table. After dining it is said that they set fire to the house but the officer in charge, Captain James Ewald, impressed by Hopkinson's library, ordered the firebrands extinguished. Hopkinson was, in fact, an accomplished amateur poet and musician and his *Seven Songs for the Harpsichord or Forte Piano* is one of the first musical composition books ever published in America. Hopkinson also claimed to have designed the first American flag but historical evidence suggests many fingers to have been in that pie. Elements of Hopkinson's, including the unfinished pyramid and radiant eye, do appear on the Great Seal of the United States and the reverse of the one-dollar bill.

Nassau Hall

Princeton

1756



In 1756 the College of New Jersey arrived from Newark and set up shop in the newly constructed Nassau Hall, the largest academic building in the colonies. The 170-foot long four-story brownstone, contained classrooms, eating and sleeping areas, and a chapel for the entire student body of 70. The British occupied Princeton in 1776 and used Nassau Hall as barracks. During the Battle of Princeton some red-coats took refuge here and were driven away by artillery fire. Americans treated wounded soldiers in Nassau Hall. Princeton became the new nation's capital in 1783 when mutineers surrounded Independence Hall to receive back pay. Congress adjourned in Philadelphia and assembled in Nassau Hall on June 26, 1783, remaining in session until November. The Class of 1879 donated the iconic bronze tigers guarding the entrance to Nassau Hall in 1911, 15 years after the school became Princeton University.

Old Barracks

Trenton

1758



The two-story stone barracks are the only surviving Colonial barracks in the United States. Constructed in 1758 for the French and Indian War because New Jersey citizens refused to put British soldiers up in their houses, it was occupied by British, Hessian and American troops during the American Revolution. It was these barracks that Washington targeted in the Battle of Trenton. The Old Barracks, with the exception of a part of the main section, stands today practically the same as when it was originally erected in 1758.

The Hermitage

Ho-Ho-Kus

1763/1848



Plenty of American Revolutionary history mingled on the grounds of this 105-acre estate. There was nothing out of the ordinary when Ann Bartow DeVisme moved her five children out of increasingly grimy Manhattan for the New Jersey countryside in 1767 into a Dutch-inspired "Stone Dwelling House." All was normal when daughter Theodosia inherited the property and made a fine marriage to James Marcus Prevost, a British Army officer like her father. But come 1776 Theodosia cast her lot with the American cause. With her husband away fighting in the Southern theater she offered the use of the Hermitage during the Monmouth campaign to General Washington. Theodosia struck up an affair with Aaron Burr - ten years her junior - and when she discovered her husband had died in Jamaica, married him. The house was sold to Elijah Rosencrantz, who mixed doctoring with grist milling, in 1807. William Ranlett gave the house a thorough Gothic Revival makeover that resulted in a National Historic Landmark designation for its architecture as well as story.

Sandy Hook Light

Sandy Hook

1764



Sandy Hook is a 7-mile sand spit dangling into the Atlantic Ocean off the northern tip of New Jersey. Ships sailing into New York harbor have always needed to navigate carefully around the shifting sands of Sandy Hook. The first lighthouse was built from lottery funds in 1764. Although it was not the first lighthouse in America - that was on Little Brewster Island in Boston in 1716 - Sandy Hook is one of the few pioneering lights to never have been rebuilt so it is technically the oldest operating beacon in the United States. In its two and one-half centuries the brick sentinel has watched the dynamics of land-building at Sandy Hook - when first built, the National Historic Landmark was a mere 500 feet from shore and today is more than one and one-half miles from the northern end of the peninsula.

Batsto Iron Works

Batsto Village

1766



Wharton State Forest lies at the heart of New Jersey's mysterious Pine Barrens, a tapestry of impenetrable scrub pine, swamps and bogs. Today known for its cranberry and blueberry production, the area's bog ore once supported a booming iron industry which fashioned much of the supplies for the Revolutionary Colonial Army. Charles Read constructed the Batsto

Iron Works to smelt the ore mined from the region's tannin-stained rivers in 1766. By the mid-1800s foundries such as this disappeared as iron production followed the discovery of America's massive upper midwestern iron ranges. Batsto managers tried glassmaking but were soon in bankruptcy. The area's economy became so depressed that Philadelphia financier Joseph Wharton was able to acquire over 100,000 acres of land here in the 1870s. He revived agriculture and forestry operations in the village and introduced cranberry bogs. The state stepped in during the 1950s and today the forest is the largest single tract of land in the New Jersey state park system. More than thirty wooden structures have been restored to their 19th century working purpose, including Batsto Village's 50-room mansion house.

Johnson Ferry House

Titusville

c1770



Garret Johnson's farmhouse and sometimes-tavern was George Washington's command center on the icy night of December 25, 1776 when a demoralized Continental Army snuck across the Delaware River to score a surprise victory over unsuspecting Hessian mercenaries in Trenton. The last of Washington's troops and supplies came ashore here at 3:00 in the morning, more than three hours after he had hoped. The crossing had taken seven hours in snow and hail. Washington then guided his troops seven miles south from this point to the climatic attack. The Continentals killed some 100 enemy and captured another 900, including their arms and artillery. That afternoon the Hessians were marched back through the snow to the Delaware River and rowed to Pennsylvania. On New Year's Day the captives were paraded through the streets of Philadelphia, boosting morale and convincing many that the Revolution was indeed viable.

Liberty Hall

Union

1772



It is likely that there have been more famous footsteps in Liberty Hall than any house in New Jersey. William Livingston constructed the Georgian-style home with two stories and 14 rooms in 1772; a third story, 36 more rooms, and Italianate styling came later. Livingston was a lawyer then - he would later become a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congress, sign the Constitution and settle in as the first Governor of the State of New Jersey. Alexander Hamilton roomed with Livingston early on and John Jay, first Chief Justice of the United States, got married here. After the parade of founding fathers stopped arriving future generations of notables and dignitaries lived in the Union showplace. Now a part of Kean University, it is no wonder that Liberty Hall operates today as a museum.

Clarke House

Princeton

1772



Having finally achieved an important victory at Trenton in late December 1776, George Washington was in no mood to remain on the western side of the Delaware River. He came back to New Jersey after the new year hoping to surprise the British at Princeton. His army was spotted at

daybreak by an alert British sentry and the Americans were pushed back through a field of frozen cornhusks. Washington, however, counterattacked and chased the British down the road. Major General Cornwallis had hoped to have all of New Jersey under his control by this time but instead had only the ports around New York City. The terrain of the main fighting at the Battle of Princeton has remained virtually unchanged since that pivotal January day in 1777. Brigadier General Hugh Mercer became one of the most celebrated American casualties of the Revolution when he fell on this field. Mercer was bayoneted seven times but refused to leave the battle and was laid under a white oak tree. He would die nine days later in a Quaker farmhouse the Clarke family had converted into an emergency hospital for soldiers of both sides; the clapboard two-story building is the only structure remaining from the battlefield. The famous Mercer Oak lasted almost as long - until March 3, 2000 when a windstorm toppled the beloved tree.

State House

Trenton

1792



The New Jersey State House began modestly in 1792, in a \$400 capitol built by Jonathan Doane. For decades the State House remained unaltered until a major addition was constructed in 1845 under the direction of John Notman, a well-known Philadelphia architect. He created a one, two and three-story stepped office wing on the north side of the original building. The new entrance had a two-story porch and six fluted Doric columns. Early in the morning of March 21, 1885, a fire broke out and raced through the empty building, totally destroying the State Street wing. Lewis Broome of Jersey City provided a simplified Second Empire style with three stories and limestone facing. He also added a new rotunda and dome that were more proportional to the scale of the building. In 1903, under the direction of Merchantville architect Arnold Moses, the Senate wing was reconstructed in American Renaissance style to mirror the Assembly quarters. Since that time building activity around the State House has focused on preservation and restoration rather than addition.

Old Queens

New Brunswick

1809



Henry Rutgers was a Revolutionary War officer and a large landowner on Manhattan Island but what really earned him notoriety was that he lived into his 80s as a bachelor with no apparent heir to his fortune. Queen's College, founded in 1766 as the eighth institution of higher learning in the country, was struggling in the early 1800s and had actually suspended classes for a dozen years for lack of funds. They did have a tenuous tie to Henry Rutgers, however. His pastor, Philip Milledoler, had been president

of Queen's College. The trustees made an appeal to Henry Rutgers and received a draft of \$200 to buy a bell. This morsel was enough to name the college for Colonel Rutgers in the hope that real life-sustaining funds might be forthcoming. Rutgers donated a bond for \$5,000 but when he died there was no mention of the college in his will. John McComb, who was busy designing some of the most important buildings in New York City in the first decade of the 1800s, City Hall and Castle Clinton among them, came to New Brunswick to design Old Queens and delivered one of the finest examples of Federal architecture to be found on any college campus. McComb used ashlar brownstone on the side facing the city and everyday fieldstone on the elevation on the backside - the side that faces a campus that was only a dream at the time. In fact, the building was Queen's College - it was the sole building for academic instruction for the college, the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, and the Rutgers Grammar School. In 1825 when Henry Rutgers' gift of a bell arrived a cupola was constructed, courtesy of Stephen Van Rensselaer, to hold it.

Burlington County Prison

Mount Holly
1810



This formidable brick building was completed in 1811 at the cost of \$24,201.13 and was at one time the oldest prison in continuous use in the United States. The designer was Robert Mills, a Charleston, South Carolina native celebrated as the first professional American-born architect. Mills would later create the Washington Monument, the U.S. Treasury Building and other iconic works but this was one of his first independent commissions for the 30-year old designer. With vaulted ceilings of poured concrete and brick and stone construction, the prison was one of America's first virtually fireproof buildings. It was essentially maintenance-free and served its role until 1965. The outside of the building has changed very little - the massive front door, the large hinges and the lock are all original. Mills designed the prison with regard for the spirit of incarceration of the times that held that each "guest" of the county could be rehabilitated. Each of the 40 inmates was housed in his own cell with a slit window above eye level. Individual cells had a fireplace and included a prayer book to "improve the soul." Not all made the conversion. Numerous public hangings were conducted in the prison yard - the last being a double hanging of Rufus Johnson and George Small on March 24, 1906. The Burlington County Prison, a National Historic Landmark, is open today as a museum.

Morris Canal

Waterloo Village
1829



The ambitious entrepreneurs of an early, mostly roadless America quickly became enamored with the potential of canals to transport goods. Pennsylvania was the leading colony in canal building, digging the first locks in 1762. By the 1820s canal building, often a private enterprise, was a full-blown mania. In New Jersey it was Morristown business leader George McCulloch who spearheaded a canal from the Pennsylvania coalfields to the growing industrial towns of Newark and Jersey City. McCulloch's group received authorization from the state legislature but it was the Morris Canal and Banking Company that did the work to build a 90-mile link between the Delaware and Hudson rivers. After canal boats floated into Morris Canal from the basin at Jersey City they would need to ascend 914 feet to Lake Hopatcong and descend 760 feet to reach Phillipsburg. To accomplish this required 23 locks and 23 inclined planes - winches that pulled the boats up short railways as high as 100 feet. A normal water lifting canal would have required 300 locks. It is no wonder the Morris Canal was recognized as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. No matter how innovative the canal was it still took four days to make the journey - the railroad could do it in four hours when they arrived in the middle of the century. In the 1920s the State of New Jersey took over the deteriorating canal and closed it, saving portions for a recreational greenway.

Presbyterian Church Manse

Caldwell

1832



In the long history of the Republic the Garden State has not had much of a presence in the White House. Woodrow Wilson graduated from the governorship of New Jersey to the Oval Office but he was a Virginian before establishing ties with Princeton University. Long Branch native Garret Hobart was the 24th vice president of the United States under William McKinley before dying in office of heart disease in 1899. But to date Grover Cleveland remains the only American President born on New Jersey soil. The birth house was the church parsonage for his Presbyterian pastor father. The family moved to New York four years later in 1841, where Cleveland was to forge his political career. Cleveland became most famous for being the first president to marry in the White House and the only chief executive to serve two non-consecutive terms. He also earned the sobriquet the "Veto President" for nixing more than 300 congressional bills from his desk. Cleveland would return to New Jersey to live out his retirement in the Westland Mansion in Princeton, still a private residence. The church manse is America's only house museum dedicated to Grover Cleveland.

Delaware & Raritan Canal

Lambertville

1834



When canal building fever swept America in the early 1800s it didn't take much imagination to dream of a water route between New York and Philadelphia across central New Jersey. Ships could navigate up the Delaware River to Bordentown and to New Brunswick in the east so all that was required was to dig a ditch between the two villages. Construction began in 1830 and by 1834 the canal was open. The main artery - 75 feet wide and seven feet deep and all hand dug - stretched 44 miles and another feeder line ran down the Delaware River to Trenton for 22 miles. The Delaware and Raritan was one of America's busiest canals and staved off competition from the railroads at a profit until almost 1900. It remained open until 1932 until the last coal barge was grounded. The State of New Jersey took over the property as a water supply system and today the canal remains virtually intact as a 70-mile linear park.

Speedwell Ironworks

Morristown

1837



Few sites of the Industrial Revolution had more far-reaching impact than the Speedwell Ironworks, started as hydraulic forges in a crevasse of the Whippany River. Stephen Vail took control in 1815, specializing in industrial machinery.

Three years later Vail manufactured much of the engine workings for the *SS Savannah* that became the first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean, although much of the transit took place under sail. The pioneering *Savannah* never became a money-maker before scuttling off Long Island in 1821. Vail then became a founding partner of the Baldwin Locomotive Works that grew into the greatest builder of steam locomotives in the world; the first practical iron tire for railroad use was engineered at Speedwell. Steven's son Alfred and Samuel F.B. Morse did most of the work on the invention of the telegraph at the Speedwell Ironworks facilities. When Morse sent his famous message "What hath God wrought?" from the United States Capitol in 1843 to demonstrate telegraphy it was Alfred Vail waiting in a Baltimore train station to send a reply. The ironworks operated until 1873 when its equipment was sold off. Morris County has refurbished the Vail homestead and reconstructed several buildings on the site to offer the public access to the National Historic Landmark.

Grace Church

Newark

1847



Newark's second oldest Episcopal parish was organized in 1837. This church building arrived eleven years later, constructed on designs from Richard Upjohn, the leading cheerleader of the English Gothic style in America. Nearly from its inception, the parish has been famed for its choral music and in 1882 Samuel A. Ward, a choirmaster in Grace Church, composed a hymn tune that would become the melody for "America the Beautiful."

Whitman House

Camden

1848



Walt Whitman was born on Long Island in 1819 and spent his most productive years in Brooklyn. He came to Camden in 1873 after suffering a paralytic stroke, to live with his brother. He spent the remaining 19 years of his life in the city, buying this frame house in 1884. Internationally renowned by that time, Whitman spent his days in Camden mostly as an aging literary lion, although he continued to produce editions of his seminal work, *Leaves of Grass*. He died in 1892 and was buried at Harleigh Cemetery in Camden in a granite mausoleum of his choosing that cost a reported \$4,000. His passing was a national event, summoning accolades from far and wide as having been the nation's poet. The house was bought by the City in 1923 and serves as a museum today.

Roebling Wire Mill

Trenton

1849



When the first wire-cable suspension bridge was erected in the United States - a temporary footbridge in Philadelphia - John Roebling was celebrating his 10th birthday in Prussia. By the time he sailed for America in 1831 at the age of 25 Roebling had studied the early suspension bridges being built in Europe. Within ten years he was manufacturing the first wire rope in America and starting work on suspension bridge projects. He moved operations to Trenton where John A. Roebling's Sons Company became the city's major employer and inspiration for the slogan: "Trenton Makes, the World Takes." John Roebling died from an accident in the early stages of building the Brooklyn Bridge, which was eventually finished by his son Washington. The manufacturing complex was modernized in the early 1900s and Roebling steel wire used in bridge projects around the globe. The brick buildings that remain are in various stages of rehabilitation.

Long-a-Coming Depot

Berlin

1856



John Stevens was a lawyer whose legal legacy includes the Congressional bill from April 10, 1790 that created United States patent law to protect American inventors. Those inventors who would benefit would include Stevens himself who constructed the first screw-driven steamboat to navigate the open ocean. Stevens

was granted the first railroad charter in the United States in 1815 and a decade later, when he was 76 years old, he gave New Jersey a claim to the birthplace of modern railroading when he built a steam locomotive and piloted it around a circular track on his Hoboken estate. Steven's sons Robert and John operated the Camden & Amboy Railroad beginning in 1832. From that modest beginning sprang 1,650 miles of track across the Garden State, connected by nearly 1,000 passenger stations. New Jersey claims more heritage railroad stations than any state and Berlin's depot is the oldest. When it was constructed for the single line Camden & Atlantic Railroad its original name was Long-a-Coming, a jumble of the Lenni Lenape Indian phrase for "where paths meet." After serving freight and passenger trains for more than a century the modest Italianate structure closed in 1969. After a quarter-century of abandonment the Long-A-Coming Historical Society spent two years restoring the state's oldest railroading souvenir.

Eberhardt Hall

Newark

1857



While "orphan's homes" often conjure up dire images, such was not the case in New Jersey in the 1850s. The Newark Orphan Asylum offered parentless children comforts not even experienced in most of the state's most elaborate mansions - hot and cold running water, steam heat, and a pioneering fire-extinguishing system. The exterior was assembled with such care that it was scarcely attended to during a multi-million dollar restoration 150 years after construction. John Welch, a founding member of the American Institute of Architects, took on the design duties and his Victorian Gothic showplace is one of only a handful on the East Coast. When the care of orphaned children shifted from institutions to foster homes in the middle of the 20th century the red brick-and-brownstone "castle" was purchased by the New Jersey Institute of Technology for the next chapter in its life.

Fort Hancock

Sandy Hook
1859



The strategic peninsula has been fortified since the War of 1812 but the United States Army only got serious about permanent defenses in the 1850s. The Civil War intervened, however, and the fort was never completed. In 1874 the Hook became the site of the first United States Army Proving Ground to test military ordnance. The army was back in 1895 with a mandate to protect New York City from sea invaders. Yellow brick buildings were added to the fortifications and an official name, Fort Hancock, was installed as well. By World War II the base was a busy place with 7,000 soldiers but the defenses designed for menacing warships were now obsolete. Fort Hancock closed in 1974 but the United States Coast Guard still maintains an active presence at Sandy Hook as visitors come to the Gateway National Recreation Area for trails and beaches tucked among the gun batteries.

Navesink Light Station

Navesink
1862



In the nascent days of lighthouse engineering multiple light stations were built to distinguish one lighthouse from its coastal neighbors. There were seven sets of twin lights and one triple light on the Atlantic Seaboard; Navesink is one of only two that survive. The first twin lights were erected on the 246-foot Highlands in 1828 to aid navigation into New York harbor which was bursting with activity from the opening of the Erie Canal. Navesink was the first light in America to employ the powerful compact lens created by French physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel. Outfitted with "the invention that saved a million ships" the Navesink twin lights were reported in 1852 to be "the best lights on the coast of the United States." The rubble stone light station was not faring so well. In 1862 the towers were replaced with a fortress-like confection that was singular in lighthouse design, with both lights constructed in a single building. Before its deactivation in 1949 and conversion into a New Jersey state park the light station helped pioneer electrical lights and was the site of Guglielmo Marconi's first demonstration of wireless telegraphy.

Fort Mott

Salem

1863



Fort Mott was envisioned as part of a three-fort defense of Philadelphia that dangled across the Delaware River. Following the Civil War, work began on eleven gun emplacements but only two were completed when the fort was abandoned in 1876. In preparation for the Spanish-American War in 1896, Fort Mott, named to honor Major General Gershom Mott, a native of Bordentown, was completed and outfitted with three 10-inch and three 12-inch guns capable of accurately firing 1,000-pound projectiles eight miles. The concrete walls were poured 35 feet thick with an additional 60 feet of earth piled in front. Landscaping made the fort look like a big hill from the Delaware River. Nearby Finn's Point National Cemetery is the final resting place for 2,436 Confederate soldiers who perished in a Civil War prisoner of war camp at Fort Delaware. The fort remained active until 1943, although during its last two decades the guns were dismantled and shipped elsewhere. In 1947 the State of New Jersey purchased Fort Mott as an historic site and opened the state park on June 24, 1951.

Villa Fontana

Morristown

1866



Thomas Nast was born in Bavarian army barracks in what is now Germany in 1840. His family emigrated to New York City when Thomas was only six but when he began what would be a 25-year stint at *Harp-er's Weekly* in 1861 drawing cartoons and caricatures his work was still strongly influenced by German tradition and political culture. His scathing political cartoons against the New York City political machine of Tammany Hall and William Magear "Boss" Tweed led to physical threats that Nast took seriously enough to move his family to Morristown in 1872. He bought Villa Fontana that had been constructed in 1866. Nast became a fixture about town just as his depictions of Santa Claus, the Republican elephant, the Democrat donkey, and Uncle Sam became fixtures in American culture.

Maple Hall

Red Bank

1870



Timothy Thomas Fortune rose from slavery in Florida to become American journalism's leading Black voice in such newspapers as the *New York Globe*, the *New York Freeman*, and the *New York Age*. The *Age* became the nation's most impactful Black newspaper with Fortune as editor, protesting mob violence and discrimination in its pages. Fortune was among the founders of the National Afro-American League in 1890, a pioneering equal rights organization. He moved to this Victorian frame house in 1901 when he was 45 years old. Fortune sold the *New York Age* - then the most widely-read black newspaper - in 1907 and it continued publication until 1960.

Boardwalk

Atlantic City

1870



Philadelphians Jonathan Pitney, a prominent physician, and engineer Richard Osborne got the idea that the salt air might be a health boon to the denizens of increasingly sooty Philadelphia. The visionary partners launched the Camden-Atlantic City Railroad and on July 5, 1854 the first train chugged onto Absecon Island after a 150-minute trip.

Osborne got to name the new town and Pitney named the grid of streets so those running parallel to the ocean would be called after the earth's great bodies of water and the cross streets would be named after the existing states. The street names would become the most famous in America when Charles Darrow used them for his new game of Monopoly in 1935. The first hotel, the Belloe House, was already in business by the time that first train arrived and massive block-hogging hotels would soon follow. But these new hotel owners were having a problem they never encountered back in Philadelphia. There was sand all over the hotel carpets and passenger cars on the trains. Alexander Boardman got to thinking about the problem and he proposed creating an eight-foot wide wooden walkway from the beach to the town. The world's first boardwalk was laid in 1870; it was taken up and stored every winter. Today's Boardwalk, placed in a herringbone pattern of two-by-fours made of Bethabara hardwood from Brazil and Longleaf Yellow Southern Pine, is 60 feet wide, and 6 miles long.