

Four Centuries in a Weekend

2011
HISTORIC SITES TOUR

A JOURNEY
THROUGH
UNION COUNTY'S
HISTORY

Saturday, October 15th
(10 am - 5 pm)
Sunday, October 16th
(12 pm - 5 pm)

Visit These Sites Year-Round



Union County
We're Connected to You!

A Service of the
Board of
Chosen Freeholders

Recipient of the New Jersey Governor's Heritage Tourism Award

Four Centuries in a Weekend

Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs
633 Peral Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202
908-558-2550 L NJ Relay 711 L culturalinfo@ucnj.org
It's a *free* ticket to Union County History!

Historic Sites Tour

Saturday, October 15th

(10 am - 5 pm)

Sunday, October 16th

(12 pm - 5 pm)

A Service of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders - We're Connected to You!



Deborah P. Scanlon
Chairman



Alexander Mirabella
Vice Chairman



Linda Carter



Angel G. Estrada



Christopher Hudak



Mohamed S. Jalloh



Bette Jane Kowalski



Daniel P. Sullivan



Nancy Ward

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

Begin the Journey

BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY! Select a Cluster of sites or mix and match from all Clusters. Keep moving and visit as many places as possible during these two days or set a leisurely pace and continue your tour throughout the year by referring to this booklet for the sites' regular open hours.

Sites are listed alphabetically by municipality and are numbered accordingly.

- Each site has its own page giving background information, features and Weekend Highlights.
- Note individual site's special Weekend Hours and regular hours during the year.
- Refer to the section on Clusters to select a theme for your tour.
- Large laminated maps of Union County are available at each site. Refer to them as you plan your route.
- This booklet is a permanent source of information. Use it to plan future visits to these Union County historic sites.
- Some sites are accessible by NJ Transit train or bus. Please e-mail or call the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at (908) 558-2550 to receive the list/schedule.

Plan to come back during next year's
FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND,
an annual event during the
third weekend of October.

**Large print version of this
booklet is available
upon request.
(908) 558-2550
NJ Relay 711
culturalinfo@ucnj.org**

UNION COUNTY

Historical Overview

UNION COUNTY, the last county in New Jersey to be formed (1857), is the site of the first English settlement in the state.

In 1664, Charles II, King of England, gave his emerging empire in the new world to his brother, James, Duke of York. Control of the area was taken from the Dutch when New Amsterdam was surrendered.

At the same time, several Englishmen from Long Island formed the Elizabethtown Associates, and purchased land west of Newark Bay from the Lenape Indians. The deed, signed by Mattano, Seuakheons and Warinanco, granted the Associates the land between the Passaic and Raritan Rivers and the Arthur Kill.

Conflicts over disputed land titles by the Associates and taxes on the land by the Proprietors caused a heated dispute that lasted throughout the colonial period.

Elizabethtown, named in honor of the wife of Sir George Carteret, was established on the banks of the Elizabeth River in 1664. Town lots were laid out on both banks extending two miles up river. Additional land outside the village was distributed to the Associates in 1666.

Elizabethtown thrived with a population of 700. John Ogden built the first saw mill in 1666 near the site of the Broad Street Bridge; a corn mill followed two years later; other mills, located farther up river, were built during the next decade. John Ogden opened a tan yard

on the river and, by 1690, Elizabethtown was a leading leather center. Small ships were able to sail to wharfs located below Ogden's mills.

Villages and clusters of farm houses, generally located on rivers and streams, gradually sprang up beyond Elizabethtown.



UNION COUNTY

Historical Overview

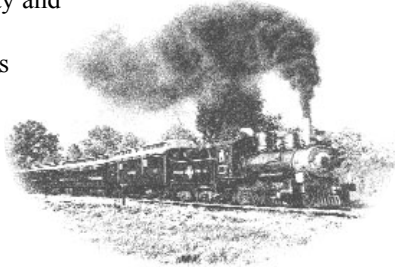
CONTINUED

AMONG THE FIRST of the outlying villages to form was Linden and then Lyon's Farms on the Upper Road to Newark (Hillside), Wade's Farms (Union) along an upper branch of the Elizabeth River, and, at the intersection of St. George's Highway and the Rahway River, several small villages which would eventually form Rahway.

In 1686, Scots Presbyterians began moving into the lower section of the West Fields (Scotch Plains and Plainfield). Cranes Ford (Cranford) and the Watchungs were settled in 1699. Westfield village was a definable community by 1727. A small community at Springfield was in place by 1738 on an upper branch of the Rahway River. A number of Associates traveled over the Watchungs, and by the middle of the 18th century, a small settlement had formed on the corner of present day Springfield Avenue and South Street (New Providence).

The railroads helped transform rural Union County into an industrial extension of metropolitan New York. Manufacturing bases were established in Elizabeth, Rahway and Plainfield, attracting an immigrant workforce that doubled their populations.

Suburbanization began with the construction of the Newark Bay Train Bridge built during the Civil War. Residential development attracted summer and, later, permanent residents along what are now the Raritan Valley and the Morris and Essex Lines of NJ Transit. Many examples of houses built for the workers and the wealthy are still occupied in places such as Roselle Park, Garwood, Summit and Plainfield.



FOUR CENTURIES

The Journey

FOUR CENTURIES IN A WEEKEND tells the story of the evolution and growth of Union County through its historic structures. Built in the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries for homes or businesses, these unique places depict the lives of their owners.

The sites, containing important collections of fine and decorative arts, furniture, farm implements, toys and documents, are primary sources of local history. Most are in their original locations; a few have been moved to avoid demolition, saving them for future generations.

Visitors are welcome to enter and journey through four centuries of history by visiting these early mansions, farmhouses and business establishments, whose walls and grounds hold secrets of colonial discontent and revolutionary fervor, placid farm life and Victorian elegance, early medical care and even the original one-stop shopping.



Special Thanks to Members of
Union County's History Organizations

The FOUR CENTURIES sites are maintained by non-profit organizations, most of which are volunteer-based.

Their love of history and passion for their properties are the driving force that allows these historic house museums and sites to exist today.

Help preserve these primary sources of history for future generations by inquiring about membership and unique volunteer opportunities.

THEMATIC CLUSTERS

of Historic Sites

THEMATIC CLUSTERING creates context for Four Centuries of Union County history. The sites in each Cluster relate life and events during a particular era. By learning the history of the Clusters and by looking at them collectively, the Four Centuries visitor will understand and appreciate life in Union County today.

As buildings were altered over the centuries to meet changing needs and styles, some sites appear in more than one Cluster. Refer to the site name and number and turn to the site's page to learn its location and address.

Early Aristocracy

Get a glimpse of the birth of our nation and the aristocratic way of life.



Farm Life

Step inside authentic farmhouses and experience the challenges and rewards of life on an 18th-century farmstead.



Revolutionary Front Line

Learn more about this troubled time in our nation's history.



Commerce and Industry

Understand the impact of Union County's industry, trade and residential housing.



Victorian Resorts & Suburbs

Learn more about the Victorian era's influence on architecture, landscaping and social customs.



THEMATIC CLUSTERS

At a Glance

Early Aristocracy 1665-1812

- 5 Boxwood Hall
- 6 First Presbyterian Church
- 24 Liberty Hall



Farm Life 1686-1840

- 3 Dr. William Robinson Plantation-Museum
- 8 Woodruff House/Eaton Store Museum
- 11 Salt Box Museum
- 19 Carter House
- 25 Miller-Cory House Museum



Revolutionary Front Line 1763-1783

- 12 Drake House Museum
- 15 Abraham Clark House
- 17 Osborn Cannonball House
- 18 Cannon Ball House
- 23 Caldwell Parsonage



Commerce & Industry 1820-1928

- 1 Deserted Village of Feltville-Glenside Park
- 8 Woodruff House/Eaton Store
- 9 Oswald J. Nitschke House
- 13 Merchants and Drovers Tavern
- 14 Union County Performing Arts Center
- 16 Roselle Park Museum



Victorian Resorts & Suburbs 1837-1920

- 1 Deserted Village of Feltville-Glenside Park
- 2 Littell-Lord Farmstead
- 4 Crane-Phillips House Museum
- 7 Evergreen Cemetery
- 10 Deacon Andrew Hetfield House
- 12 Drake House Museum
- 20 Reeves-Reed Arboretum
- 21 Summit Playhouse
- 22 Twin Maples



**THEMATIC CLUSTERS OF
HISTORIC SITES**

*Early
Aristocracy* 1663-1812

THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT encouraged settlement of the new country. Many families, who had already emigrated to Long Island and Connecticut, moved to Elizabethtown. They were experienced in the hardships of clearing land for houses and fields, and they sought self-government and freedom in religious matters. By the middle of the 18th century, Elizabethtown had grown into a prosperous community of 800 inhabitants. New houses and additions to existing ones met the demands of the growing population.



Statesmen and leaders of the emerging nation and their families enjoyed life on estates in large houses surrounded by gardens and apple and peach orchards.

Elizabethtown was connected to larger cities through ferry service. Stagecoaches made stops in Elizabethtown during regular trips between New York and Philadelphia.



Get a glimpse of the birth of our nation and the aristocratic way of life by visiting:

- 5 Boxwood Hall
- 6 First Presbyterian Church
- 24 Liberty Hall



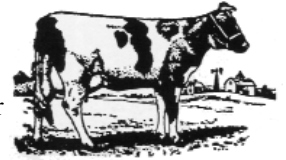
**THEMATIC CLUSTERS OF
HISTORIC SITES**

Farm Life
1686-1840



WHILE THE CITY LIFE of Elizabethtown flourished, outlying areas were largely agricultural. One hundred fifty families tended 40,000 acres of farmland.

Life on the farm was demanding on all members of the family, with taxing chores for the head of the household, the youngest of children and everyone in between. Together with African and Indian slaves, indentures and immigrants, they produced every necessity of life including shelter, food and clothing while caring for their land, crops and livestock.



Step inside authentic farmhouses and experience the challenges and rewards of life on an 18th-century farmstead:

- 3 Dr. William Robinson Plantation-Museum
- 8 Woodruff House/Eaton Store Museum
- 11 Salt Box Museum
- 19 Carter House
- 25 Miller-Cory House Museum



THEMATIC CLUSTERS OF HISTORIC SITES

Revolutionary Front Line 1763-1783

EVERYDAY LIFE WAS INTERRUPTED by skirmishes and battles between British and Colonial troops fighting for independence from England. New Jersey was a battleground of the American Revolution with more major battles fought here than in any other colony. The countryside was ravaged as both British and Colonial troops sought food for their men and horses. The daily lives of Elizabethtown residents were filled with anguish.

People were badly divided on the issues of the conflict. Driven by their desire for freedom, many men left their farms and families to join the militia. In some instances, men within a single family fought against each other and neighbor fought against neighbor. Loyalists or Tories sided with the King. Some enlisted to fight against the rebellion. Some went to live on Staten Island, which was a refuge for Loyalists.

The battles of Connecticut Farms (Union) and Springfield, occurring in June 1780, were a last attempt by the British to re-establish authority in New Jersey. Due to their defense tactics, Colonial troops and the local militia halted the British, making the Battle of Springfield the last major engagement fought in the northern colonies.

Learn more about this troubled time in our nation's history by visiting:

- 12 Drake House Museum
- 15 Abraham Clark House
- 17 Osborn Cannonball House
- 18 Cannon Ball House
- 23 Caldwell Parsonage



THEMATIC CLUSTERS OF HISTORIC SITES

Commerce & Industry 1820-1928

STAGECOACHES MADE REGULAR trips along the King's Highway (St. Georges Avenue) and the Old York Road (Route 28). The Stage House Inn in Scotch Plains (still operating as a restaurant) and the Merchants and Drovers Tavern in Rahway were centers of commerce in the early 1800s, witnessing business transactions, elections, public meetings and providing entertainment.



The Elizabethtown area became a major manufacturing center and transportation corridor due to its proximity to New York and Philadelphia. Industries developed near water and rail to move their goods to major markets. Workers left farms for better paying jobs.

With the first railroad charter in 1830, the economic life of the county was greatly affected. Three major railroads ran through the county, opening farmland to developers. Horse-driven wagons and stagecoaches gave way to steam locomotives, accelerating the growth of towns and cities.



In the late 1800s, development of Hillside, Roselle Park, Kenilworth, Rahway and Linden flourished as industries attracted new workers. Housing was built nearby to accommodate the growing number of workers and their families.

Understand the early impact of Union County's industry, trade and residential housing by visiting:

- 1 Deserted Village of Feltville-Glenside Park
- 6 Woodruff House/Eaton Store
- 9 Oswald J. Nitschke House
- 13 Merchants and Drovers Tavern
- 14 Union County Performing Arts Center
- 16 Roselle Park Museum



THEMATIC CLUSTERS OF
HISTORIC SITES

*Victorian Resorts &
Suburbs 1837-1920*

RAPID INDUSTRIAL GROWTH in the first half of the 19th century gave an emerging managerial class wealth and leisure time. Victorians idealized the rural life, and city dwellers looked to the hills and farms of New Jersey for vacation accommodations.



In the 1880s, residents of New York City boarded trains to Plainfield, where they were guests at the city's five resort hotels. Executives of the Central Railroad Company of New Jersey saw the

opportunity for development and promoted housing subdivisions in Plainfield, Fanwood, Westfield, Cranford, Roselle and Roselle Park. Summertime vacationers became year-round residents with 22 daily trains carrying them to and from the city.

Watchung Mountain communities served by the Morris and Essex Railroads were especially attractive vacation destinations. Summit's lavish hotels catered to affluent visitors and, a short distance away, Glenside Park offered a rustic retreat. Eventually, many of these vacationers built substantial houses in the "Hill City," and a suburban community was born.



The long reign of Britain's Queen Victoria influenced all facets of life and culture throughout the Western world. The classical ideal gave way to the romantic. The picturesque and the complex replaced simplicity and balance. Passion, grandeur and lack of restraint were expressed in art, architecture and landscapes.



THEMATIC CLUSTERS OF
HISTORIC SITES



*Victorian Resorts
& Suburbs*



VARIETY OF COLOR, material and design won favor. Victorian architecture included a number of styles, each experiencing a short period of popularity during the 44 years of the Queen's reign. Many

examples of such residential architecture, ranging from Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Stick Style, Queen Anne and Neoclassical, are located throughout Union County.

Garden and cemetery planning was also influenced by the Victorian aesthetic. Park-like cemeteries contained a variety of stones and monuments often decorated with statues and other sculptural embellishments.



To learn more about the Victorian era, visit:

- 1 Deserted Village of Feltville-Glenside Park
- 2 Littell-Lord Farmstead
- 4 Crane-Phillips House Museum
- 7 Evergreen Cemetery
- 10 Deacon Andrew Hetfield House
- 12 Drake House Museum
- 20 Reeves-Reed Arboretum
- 21 Summit Playhouse
- 22 Twin Maples



UNION COUNTY HISTORY

1857 TO PRESENT

Lesser Known Facts

MOST PEOPLE ARE FAMILIAR with Union County's early history because of the pivotal role it played in winning the American Revolution. Here are some lesser-known facts and stories for your education and perhaps, amusement.

1861: President-elect Lincoln made brief stops at the Elizabeth and Rahway train stations enroute to his inauguration in Washington, DC.

1861: Democrats and Republicans met at Liberty Hall in what is now Union to adopt a resolution to preserve the union, but not force a civil war.

1873: Edward Clark, partner of Isaac Singer (Singer Sewing Machine Co. in Elizabeth), introduced credit buying.

1883: Thomas Edison located his Company for Isolated Lighting in Roselle making it the first municipality in the world lighted by electricity.



Thomas Alva Edison

1885: Nikola Tesla founded the Tesla Electric Light & Manufacturing company in Rahway.

1892: John Philip Sousa (the March King) and his New Marine Band made their public debut in Plainfield at the Stillman Music Hall, 216 W. Front Street.

1900: The first US Navy submarine, the SS Holland, was built in Elizabeth's Crescent Ship Yard.



The SS Holland

1910: The Free Acres Association was created; it is a single tax community that continues to exist in Berkeley Heights.

1920: Mary Minor of Elizabeth was the first woman to cast a vote in Union County.



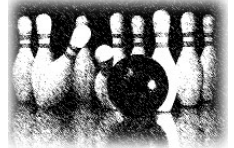
Catherine Bauer Wurster

1939: Urban planner Catherine Bauer Wurster of Westfield worked on the design of the New York World's Fair.

1947: William Shockley, John Bardeen and Walter Brattain built the first point-contact transistor at Bell Labs, when it was part of AT&T, in Murray Hill, New Providence.

1949: Dr. Virginia Apgar of Westfield invented the "Apgar Score", still used today to determine a newborn's physical condition.

1956: Roselle Lanes was the first bowling alley in the county to install automatic pinsetter machines.



1962: Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe of Cranford became Education Chief of the US House of Representatives' Committee on Education and Labor.

1979: Amalya Lyle Kears of Vauxhall was appointed to the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan.



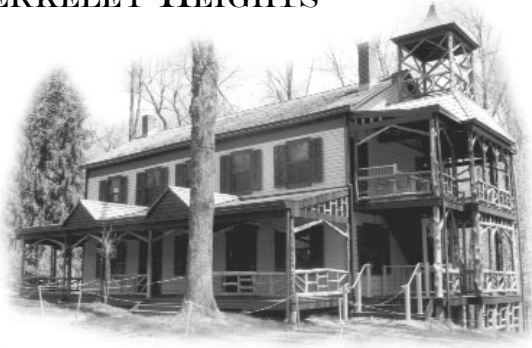
Amalya Lyle Kears

1986: Elizabeth schoolchildren paid for and dedicated a monument in memory of the crew of the Challenger.

1994: Nima Warfield, Plainfield High School graduate, was the first Black Rhodes Scholar to graduate from a historically Black college/university.

2005: In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Union County Courthouse, the 1905 time capsule was retrieved from its base and exhibited. The time capsule was replaced there along with a 2005 time capsule.

BERKELEY HEIGHTS



BERKELEY HEIGHTS



1

DESERTED VILLAGE OF FELTVILLE-GLENSIDE PARK

Cataract Hollow Road

THIS 1845 TOWN was the creation of New York businessman David Felt. Today, it contains 10 buildings and the archaeological remains of a vibrant community populated, in part, by European immigrants. At its height, Feltville included a school, church/general store and a factory on the Blue Brook. Rows of cottages housed workers and their families. “King David” sold Feltville in 1860. After several failed enterprises, it was reborn in 1882 as Glenside Park, a summer resort. Adirondack porches transformed workers’ houses into vacation cottages enjoyed by city dwellers.

Suburbanization led to the resort’s closure in 1916. Today, the Deserted Village is nestled in the Watchung Reservation, Union County’s 2,065-acre nature preserve.

Year-Round Hours:

Grounds open everyday during daylight hours

Operated by Union County Dept. of Parks and Community Renewal

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places

(908) 527-4900

2

LITTELL-LORD FARMSTEAD

31 Horseshoe Road

A PASTORAL SITE that includes a 19th-century Gothic cottage, stone springhouse, summer kitchen, Osage orange trees and a pond, provides the setting for the Littell-Lord House. The charming rural complex is a rare reminder of Union County’s agricultural past. Built about 1760 by Andrew Littell, a farmer and weaver, the house was owned and lived in for more than 100 years by the Lord family, who purchased the site in 1867. The first floor features an Empire-Victorian parlor and a 19th-century kitchen. A staircase leads to an enlarged second floor, once a small loft. Upstairs is a child’s room containing antique toys and a Victorian bedroom with cottage furniture.

Featuring:

- “Hands-on” replica 19th-century toys
- Last stone springhouse in Union County
- Pump house
- Corncrib

Year-Round Hours:

Third Sunday 2-4 pm (April-December) and by appointment

Operated by the Historical Society of Berkeley Heights

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places

(908) 464-3947

(908) 771-8875



CLARK



3 DR. WILLIAM ROBINSON PLANTATION MUSEUM

593 Madison Hill Road

A RARE EXAMPLE of 17th-century architecture in New Jersey, this post-medieval English-style house was built about 1690. A medicine room reflects the profession of Dr. William Robinson, one of the few physicians in East Jersey at the time. He practiced Physick, a popular form of healing with plants and herbs, and also performed Chirurgery, or surgery. Unusual architectural features abound, including wide floorboards and a 20-inch wide summer beam. The hall, with its large fireplace, is complete with period furnishings. A box-like winder staircase leads to the second floor, where Dr. Robinson's last will and maps are displayed.

Featuring:

- Open Hearth Cooking
- A blacksmith
- Revolutionary War gunsmith
- Medicine room and related items
- Original wood peg rafters
- Indian mortar stone, corn crib, old stepping stone
- Cobblestone ramp to livestock cellar
- Milk wagon from 1912
- Antique Hand & Farming tools on display
- Museum shop
- Garrison roof overhang (one of the few examples in existence)

Year-Round Hours:

Open house every 3rd Sunday of the month, except July
Available for private tours

Operated by the Clark Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places
(732) 340-1571

www.clarkhistoricalsociety.org

17



CRANFORD



4 CRANE-PHILLIPS MUSEUM

124 North Union Avenue

KNOWN AS "CRANFORD'S HISTORIC GEM," this quaint Victorian cottage stands next to the Rahway River near the 18th-century river crossing, "Crane's Ford." An outstanding example of Andrew Jackson Downing architecture, it is dressed in its original 1870s Victorian colors. The museum offers a rare glimpse of the life of a modest family in the Victorian Era of opulence. An inviting parlor offers a look at times long past. Permanent and changing exhibits, featuring items from the Society's costume, tool and local history collections, are displayed.

The House has been named to "Save America's Treasures" by the White House and National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is among only 27 such sites in the state of New Jersey, and it is the only "American Treasure" in Union County. Nearby, the Hanson House, Society headquarters at 38 Springfield Avenue, contains a library and archives.

Year-Round Hours:

Sunday 2 - 4 pm (September - June), and by appointment

Operated by the Cranford Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places
(908) 276-0082



18

ELIZABETH



5

BOXWOOD HALL STATE HISTORIC SITE

Boudinot Mansion - 1073 East Jersey Street

PROMINENT AMERICAN STATESMEN of the late 18th and early 19th centuries had ties to this handsome Georgian house. In 1772, it became the home of Elias Boudinot, who served as a President of the Continental Congress. For a year during Boudinot's residency, young Alexander Hamilton lived at Boxwood Hall while attending school in Elizabethtown. George Washington lunched with Boudinot and a committee of Congress in 1789 en route to his inauguration. In 1795, the house was sold to Jonathan Dayton, signer of the Constitution, Speaker of the US House of Representatives and member of the US Senate. In 1824, Dayton hosted the Marquis de Lafayette during his American tour.

Featuring:

- Outstanding collection of 18th and 19th-century furniture

Year-Round Hours:

Usually Monday - Friday: 9 am - noon and 1 - 5 pm
Saturdays in summer (call to confirm).

*Operated by Boxwood Hall State Historic Site,
New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry*

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places
National Historic Landmark
(908) 282-7617



ELIZABETH



6

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ELIZABETH

42 Broad Street

“OLD FIRST” REMAINS at the center of Elizabeth Town, 345 years after a small group of Associates signed a treaty for the land on October 28, 1664, establishing the first English speaking congregation in New Jersey. The original building was the weekday meeting house for public affairs and a house of worship on Sundays. The sanctuary was built after the British burned the earlier buildings in 1780. A new steeple was installed in August 2008, replacing the spire lost to fire in 1946.

Featuring:

- Building dating from the 1780s, restored to the style of the period.
- American Revolutionary Burial Ground with over 2,350 grave sites spanning four centuries; final resting place of Rev. James Caldwell, Church pastor during the Revolutionary War and wife Hanna, both of whom were killed.

Year Round Hours: Currently by appointment due to construction; call Tues.-Thurs. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to schedule.

Operated by the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, and the Old Historic Trust.

Listed on the National and State
Registers of Historic Places.
(908) 353-1518



HILLSIDE



7

EVERGREEN CEMETERY 1137 North Broad Street

WHEN SMALL CHURCH GRAVEYARDS became too crowded, Evergreen Cemetery was created in 1853 as an interdenominational, rural burial ground. Its picturesque landscape, designed to preserve the natural terrain and existing trees, reflects the romantic, Victorian view of death. Today, the cemetery's expansive park-like grounds double as a nature preserve. Mausoleums and more than 10,000 monuments make Evergreen a virtual museum of funerary art. Special sections, such as the plot devoted to Civil War soldiers, illustrate historical and social developments in American History.

Drive by the English Tudor Chapel designed by Elizabeth architect, C. Godfrey Poggi in 1932, located at the Dayton Avenue Entrance.

Featuring:

- 300-year-old white oak and copper beech trees
- Historic Hebrew burial plot and areas devoted to ethnic groups, including the Gypsy section
- Graves of well-known writers, including Stephen Crane, Mary Mapes Dodge and Edward Stratemeyer
- Self-guided tour booklet

Year Round Hours:

Daily hours 8 am - 4:30 pm

Operated by Evergreen Cemetery Trustees

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places

(908) 352-7940



HILLSIDE



8

WOODRUFF HOUSE/ EATON STORE MUSEUM 111 Conant Street

THE WOODRUFF HOUSE was built in 1735 on land granted to John Woodruff in 1666. The first floor is furnished with circa 1800 antiques, including Woodruff memorabilia from the Earl and Lyon families. The house consists of the original 1735 side, an addition from 1790, an 1890 kitchen and the 1900 Eaton Store. The restored Eaton Store illustrates a vast difference between a neighborhood store of the early 1900s and a supermarket of today. The store has the original counter, coffee grinder and gas lamp; the shelves are stocked with hundreds of products from long ago.

The property, originally an apple orchard, now has a reproduction post and beam barn with various items on display, old farm equipment, a two-seater privy, water pump, well and archival center. The Phil Rizzuto All Sports Museum houses a collection of memorabilia from Hillside resident and Baseball Hall of Famer, the late Phil Rizzuto, along with some memorabilia from other Hillside sports figures.

Year-Round Hours:

Third Sunday 2 - 4 pm and by appointment

Operated by the Hillside Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places

(908) 353-8828

www.woodruffhouse.org



KENILWORTH



photo by Wing Wong (Memories, TTL)

MOUNTAINSIDE



9

OSWALD J. NITSCHKE HOUSE 49 South 21st Street

THE NITSCHKE HOUSE (c. 1880) is one of Kenilworth's original clapboard, wood-frame farmhouses, and represents the architectural style typical of homes built in the area in the 1800s. The house is named for one of Kenilworth's pioneers, Oswald J. Nitschke, who owned the home and resided there in the early 1900s. He advocated the 1907 incorporation of Kenilworth and was elected to the first Council, serving more than seven years. A three term mayor, Nitschke was responsible for development of the unique 120' wide Boulevard and its extension through the Union County Park System. The Kenilworth Historical Society, which in 2003 moved the house to its present site to save it from demolition, is restoring and transforming the Nitschke House into a "living museum" and cultural arts center.

Featuring:

- Guided tour of the Nitschke House, which is undergoing restoration
- The site's vintage gardens, including a World War 1 Victory Garden

No Year-Round hours at this time

Operated by the Kenilworth Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places
Recipient of 2008 New Jersey Historic Preservation Award

(908) 276-9090 www.kenilworthnj.com



10

DEACON ANDREW HETFIELD HOUSE Constitution Plaza

ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED by Deacon Andrew Hetfield about 1760, this house expanded in stages to meet the needs of the Hetfield family during their 186-year occupancy. By 1830, a simple colonial farmhouse had been transformed into a center-hall Georgian residence. Also known as the "Dutch Oven House," the building has been moved twice, first to protect it from a Route 22 widening. Used briefly as a tea room and antiques shop, the house was once rented to MacKinlay Kantor, author of the Civil War novel *Andersonville*. The structure was saved from demolition in 1985, when it was moved a second time to another part of the original Hetfield property.

Featuring:

- 19th-century Victorian-era bay window
- Recreated colonial kitchen
- Victorian parlor furnished with antiques

Year-Round Hours:

Third Sunday 1 - 3 pm

(March - May/September - October).

Operated by the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places
(908) 232-9282



NEW PROVIDENCE



11

SALT BOX MUSEUM 1350 Springfield Avenue

WHEN TWO HOUSES constructed at different locations during the 1840s were joined in the mid-19th century, the house, now known as the Salt Box Museum, was created. The house's shape, with its steep, sloping rear roof, resembles the box in which salt used to be kept. In 1967, the entire house was moved across Springfield Avenue to its present site. Today, the first floor is furnished to represent a typical New Jersey farmhouse of the mid-19th century. The Mason Room at the New Providence Library, 377 Elkwood Avenue, houses the Society's collection of rare documents, maps, photographs and oral history tapes.

Featuring:

1840s furnishings including:

- Worth of Paris evening gown
- Hand-woven coverlet
- Brewster clock
- Copper lustre tea set
- Hay wagon on lawn with farm equipment

Year-Round Hours:

First and third Sunday 1-3 pm (March – November)
or by appointment

Operated by the New Providence Historical Society
(908) 665-1034



PLAINFIELD



12

DRAKE HOUSE MUSEUM 602 West Front Street

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PLAINFIELD is one of the oldest societies in New Jersey. The Nathaniel Drake house, which is the headquarters of the Historical Society of Plainfield, was built in 1746. Nestled within the towers and slate roof is the original farmhouse of Nathaniel Drake, once used as George Washington's headquarters during the Revolutionary War.

In 1864, John S. Harberger, a New York City bank president, enlarged and embellished the house in the Victorian style, making it his summer home during the period of Plainfield's development as a commuter suburb.

Today, period rooms portray both the farm life of the Drakes and the suburban life of the Harbergers. Significant American paintings, folk art, period furniture and decorative pieces make this site a museum of both history and art.

The exterior of the house has recently undergone significant restoration. In addition, an air conditioning and dehumidification system have been installed.

Featuring:

- 7' x 9' Civil War painting by Julian Scott
- The opulent Harberger Library
- Exhibit Gallery

Year-Round Hours:

Saturday, 10 am-1 pm
Sunday, 2-4 and by appointment

Operated by the Historical Society of Plainfield

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places
(908)755-5831

www.drakehousemuseumtripod.com



RAHWAY



13 **MERCHANTS AND DROVERS TAVERN**
1632 St Georges Avenue

AS A TAVERN AND STAGECOACH STOP, this early 19th-century hotel was the scene of auctions, public meetings, elections, business transactions, entertainment, horse breeding and a host of other activities. The handsome Federal style inn contains a taproom, two parlors, 12 bedrooms and a kitchen wing with working fireplace. Originally a house and store, the 1790s structure was adapted to tavern use in 1798. A circa 1820 addition created the imposing building that stands today, its four stories making it a rare example of an early public house. The smaller, mid-18th century Terrill Tavern was moved to the property in the 1970s where it now stands as the museum shop.

Featuring:

- Restored early 19th-century hotel
- Period rooms furnished with antiques
- First person accounts of the early 1800s
- Exhibits on tavern life and stagecoach transportation
- Tavern yard restoration in progress

Year-Round Hours:

Tuesday by appointment, Thursday & Friday 10am - 4 pm
 1st & 3rd Saturday 10 am - 4pm
 2nd & 4th Sunday 1 - 4 pm

*Owned and operated by the Merchants and Drovers Tavern
 Museum Association*

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places
 (732) 381-0441
www.merchantsanddrovers.org



RAHWAY



14 **UNION COUNTY
 PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**
1601 Irving Street

THIS CLASSIC VAUDEVILLE HOUSE opened as the Rahway Theater on October 16, 1928 and featured a magnificent Wurlitzer pipe organ. This organ was the catalyst for the preservation effort from which the 1,300+ seat Arts Center emerged. Carefully restored to its golden age of grandeur, the Arts Center is a monument of an age gone by. The Union County Performing Arts Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation operating in the historic Rahway Theatre. Enjoying a prime location in Union County, UCPAC is dedicated to making this landmark theatre your choice for the performing arts - for education, inspiration and entertainment. This historic landmark is the cornerstone of the Rahway Arts District.

Featuring:

- Historic marquee with 2,500 lights
- Restored Orchestra Pit
- 9-foot chandelier with over 500 lights
- The "Biggest Little Wurlitzer" organ

Year-Round Hours:

Please check www.ucpac.org for scheduled events.
 Tours are available by appointment.

Operated by the Union County Performing Arts Center, Inc.

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places,
 New Jersey Cultural Trust

Admin Office: (732) 499-0441
 Box Office: (732) 499-8226
www.ucpac.org



ROSELLE



15

ABRAHAM CLARK HOUSE 101 West Ninth Avenue

ABRAHAM CLARK boldly demonstrated his support of the Revolution as a New Jersey signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was born in what is now Roselle on February 15, 1726, the only child of Judge Thomas Clark. He became a surveyor and studied common law. Clark and his wife Sarah raised ten children in their farmhouse, built in 1705.

The house burned in 1900, but a replica was constructed in 1941. The original house stood a short distance from the current site on what is now Crane Street, near Wheatsheaf Road which was known as Springfield Road in Colonial times. The design of the house was based on old photographs and existing known facts from later owners and residents. The lot on which it stands was donated to the Chapter by Mr. William M. Crane and had once been a part of the original Clark Farm in the eighteenth century when this area was part of Elizabethtown and Essex County.

Featuring:

- Early American equipment and weapons
- Display of items from collections including original documents signed by Clark, American revolution and the Civil War and an exhibit of personal collection of arms

Operated by the Sons of the American Revolution

Houses the Archives of the New Jersey State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)

(908) 245-1777



ROSELLE PARK



16

ROSELLE PARK MUSEUM 9 West Grant Avenue

THE ROSELLE PARK MUSEUM displays photographs, documents and memorabilia related to the history of Roselle Park and offers changing exhibits of topical interest. The town was shaped by the railroad and by the 1860s, the station had become the nucleus of a small village. Farming remained prominent into the 1880s. By 1882, the Charles E. Stone store at Westfield Avenue and Chestnut Street had become the first electrically-lighted store in the world. Industrial development along the railroad corridor included the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co., established in 1912. RCA's radio station WDY, the first licensed in the state, broadcast from the site in 1921.

Featuring:

- Spotlight on the decade of the 1950's
- Collections of vintage Roselle Park photographs
- Roselle Park memorabilia/permanent exhibits
- On-going historic videos

Year-Round Hours:

Wednesday 10 am - 1 pm

(call to confirm) and by appointment

Operated by the Roselle Park Historical Society

(908) 245-1776



SCOTCH PLAINS



17

OSBORN CANNONBALL HOUSE

1840 Front Street

THE WHITE CLAPBOARD Osborn Cannonball House is a small jewel in the center of Scotch Plains. Brick walks, an arbor and formal gardens surrounded by a white board fence give this property a “Williamsburg” feel. Its location, adjacent to the town green and across from the Stage House Inn, adds to its interest. Inside, four furnished rooms appointed with colonial and early 19th century furnishings will delight the visitor. A parlor reflects Victorian tastes. Built in the 1700s by Jonathan and Abigail Osborn, the house takes its name from the cannonball that struck it during a Revolutionary War skirmish.

Featuring:

- Formal gardens
- Changing exhibits of period clothing

Year-Round Hours:

First Sunday 2 – 4 pm

Operated by the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood

(908) 322-6700, Ext. 230 (weekdays)

(908) 232-1199 (weekends)



SPRINGFIELD



18

CANNON BALL HOUSE

126 Morris Avenue

REOPENING FOR FOUR CENTURIES.

BUILT ABOUT 1740, this was one of only four houses to escape burning by the British during the Battle of Springfield on June 23, 1780. Legend has it that the house escaped destruction because the British used it as a hospital. A cannonball retrieved from its northwest gable is on display inside the museum, along with items of military, domestic and agricultural interest. Fine woodwork enhances the building’s charming interior. Built as a farmhouse, it served as a tavern along the road linking Elizabeth and Morristown in the late 18th century. In the 20th century, it was used as a boardinghouse and a tea room.

Featuring:

- Cannonball that struck house
- Period rooms with antiques and artifacts
- House repainted in historic colors
- Garden

Weekend Hours:

Saturday 11 am - 4 pm, Sunday 12 - 4 pm

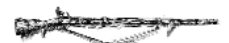
Year-Round Hours:

Open by appointment only. Call to schedule a tour.

Operated by the Springfield Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places

(973) 376-4784



SUMMIT



19

CARTER HOUSE 90 Butler Parkway

SUMMIT'S OLDEST HOUSE, built by Benjamin Carter in the 1740's, was moved in 1986 from its original location near the Passaic River to its present site, part of the original Carter farm. An East Jersey cottage, it shows a Dutch influence that is unusual in this part of the state. A 1740-1820 kitchen, 1820-1860 dining room and late Victorian library are interpreted with antique furnishings. The house is also the archival center of the Summit Historical Society. Collections document Summit's early development as a resort and commuter suburb as well as its more recent history.

Featuring:

- Furnished rooms and special exhibits
- Collection of period kitchen implements
- Local history library

Year-Round Hours:

Tuesday 9:30 am - noon, Wednesday 1:30 - 4 pm
and by appointment

Operated by the Summit Historical Society

(908) 277-1747

www.summitnjhistory.org



SUMMIT



20

REEVES - REED ARBORETUM 165 Hobart Avenue

THE SERENITY AND PEACEFULNESS OF THE ARBORETUM offers a quiet respite from the hectic pace of everyday living. Thirteen and a half acres of rolling lawns, gardens and woodlands beckon visitors to enjoy the seasonal displays of flowers and foliage. Known originally as "The Clearing," the site was developed as a country estate when New Yorker John H. Wisner built his Colonial Revival house in 1889 for his family. He hired Calvert Vaux, one of the premier landscape architects in America, to design the grounds. The Richard Reeves family bought the property in 1918 and hired Ellen Biddle Shipman and Carl F. Pilat, leading landscape architects, to expand and formalize the gardens. The Charles L. Reed Jr. family purchased the property in 1968 and created an herb garden and woodland trails.

Featuring:

- Two Kettle Bowls crated by the Wisconsin glacier
- Restored 1889 Wisner House and Carriage House
- Perennial Border, Rock, Azalea Herb and Rose Gardens
- Woodland Trails, Wildlife Habitat and Greenhouse

Weekend Hours:

SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 1 pm - 4 pm

Year-Round Hours: Grounds, open every day: dawn to dusk
Wisner House, Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Operated by the Reeves-Reed Arboretum

Listed on the National and State Registers
of Historic Places

(908) 273-8787

www.reeves-reedarboretum.org



SUMMIT



21

SUMMIT PLAYHOUSE 10 New England Avenue

SUMMIT, A DESIRABLE COMMUTER CITY, grew as new residents built lavish homes after the Civil War. The Summit Library Association, incorporated in 1874, kept its books in various locations, including a doctor's office and a store, until George Manley offered a site for the library. Residents donated \$3,720 to build the Richardsonian Romanesque structure designed by Arthur Jennings. The library opened on June 10, 1891 and moved to a more spacious building in 1911. In 1918, the empty library building was leased for \$1/year to the Dramatic Club (later incorporated as The Playhouse Association), which was formed as a relief organization during WWI. In 1960, Playhouse co-founder and benefactor, Marjorie Cranstoun Jefferson (1887-1988), donated funds that added a 120-seat auditorium to the original building. What had been the library is now the stage. Mrs. Jefferson directed over 130 plays during her career at the Playhouse.

Featuring:

- Jack Manley Rose mural
- Metropolitan Opera House water fountain
- Mrs. Jefferson's portrait
- Cast photos from 1918 to present

Year-Round Hours:

At performance times during fall, winter and spring productions, and by appointment.

Operated by The Playhouse Association

908-273-2192

www.summitplayhouse.org



SUMMIT



22

TWIN MAPLES 214 Springfield Avenue

TWIN MAPLES is a textbook example of a neoclassical house. Like our nation's White House, the facade is dominated by a full-height porch supported by classical columns. Designed by Alfred F. Norris, the mansion was built for Karoline Davis and James Foley, who lived there until his death in 1916. The house was sold in 1918 to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Collins. In 1949, Mrs. Collins sold the property to the Fortnightly Club, which was founded in 1893 by Mary Burlington Wilcox, wife of Summit's first mayor.

Fulfill your dream of living in such a house by renting it for a special occasion. Contact the Fortnightly Club to book a date for a wedding, conference, birthday or anniversary party.

Weekend Hours:

Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday: 12 pm - 5 pm

Year-Round Hours:

By Appointment

Operated by The Fortnightly Club of Summit, Inc

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places
(908) 273-0301



UNION



23

CALDWELL PARSONAGE
909 Caldwell Avenue

ON JUNE 7, 1780, British Troops passed the Presbyterian parsonage at Connecticut Farms (now Union). A shot was fired through a window and Hannah Caldwell, wife of the “Fighting Parson” James Caldwell, fell dead. The event is depicted on the Union County seal. The British burned the church and the parsonage, which was rebuilt two years later on the old foundation. Today, the parsonage is a repository of furniture, clothing, personal effects, archival materials and other artifacts related to Union Township’s history from the 18th century through the early 20th century.

Featuring:

- Painting of the June 7, 1780 Battle of Connecticut Farms
- Personal effects of Union’s founding families

Weekend Hours:

Saturday and Sunday Noon - 5 pm

Year-Round Hours:

Third Sunday 2 - 4 pm and by appointment
(Closed December and January)

Operated by the Union Township Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places
(908) 687-7977
(908) 354-4927



UNION



24

LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM
AT KEAN UNIVERSITY
1003 Morris Avenue

AS THE ANCESTRAL HOME of the Livingston/Kean families, Liberty Hall has been a silent witness to 200 years of American history. William Livingston, a New York lawyer, built the house in 1772. He served in the Second Continental Congress and signed the Constitution. In 1776, he was elected the first governor of New Jersey and served until his death in 1790. Many important people of the time visited Liberty Hall including General and Mrs. Washington, John Jay and Alexander Hamilton, a student at an Elizabeth academy.

The governor’s niece, Susan Livingston Kean Niemcewicz, was the first member of the Kean family to live at Liberty Hall. Her descendants resided there for the next 200 years, until 1995. Liberty Hall is now in partnership with Kean University to facilitate development of an on-site landmark educational center devoted to the study of early American history.

Featuring:

- Outstanding 17th to 20th century collections
- 23 acres of formal gardens and grounds
- Fire House Museum

Year-round Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10 am to 4 pm
Sunday Noon to 4 pm Last tour 2:30 pm

Operated by the Liberty Hall Museum, Inc.

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places
National Historic Landmark
908-527-0400

Website: www.kean.edu/libertyhall
email: libertyhall@kean.edu



WESTFIELD



25

MILLER-CORY HOUSE MUSEUM 614 Mountain Avenue

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY OUTBUILDINGS, herb and kitchen gardens help create a colonial atmosphere at the Miller-Cory House, where interactive tours engage the imagination of children and adults. Built about 1740, the small, neat and authentically furnished farmhouse stands on its original site along the “road to the mountains.” Visitors are introduced to colonial skills and practices as costumed interpreters recreate the daily chores and seasonal farm work of rural life in the Westfields circa 1740 - 1820. An education complex houses special exhibits.

Featuring:

- Corn crib, necessary and well house
- Costumed interpreters
- Museum shop

Year-Round Hours:

Sunday 2 - 4 pm (September - June) and by appointment

Operated by the Miller-Cory House Museum Volunteers

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places and a site on the New Jersey Women’s Heritage Trail
(908) 232-1776
website: www.westfieldnj.com



County of Union

BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Deborah P. Scanlon, *Chairman*
Alexander Mirabella, *Vice Chairman*
Linda Carter
Angel G. Estrada
Christopher Hudak
Mohamed S. Jalloh
Bette Jane Kowalski
Daniel P. Sullivan
Nancy Ward

George W. Devanney, *County Manager*
M. Elizabeth Genievich, *C.M.C., M.P.A.,
Deputy County Manager / Director of Administrative Services*
Nicole L. DiRado, *C.M.C., M.P.A., Clerk of the Board*

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & COMMUNITY RENEWAL

Alfred J. Faella, *Director*

CULTURAL & HERITAGE PROGRAMS ADVISORY BOARD

Susan Albert; Michel Bitritto, *Ph.D.*; Barbara-Jude Brady;
Clara C. Fernandez; Nora Mislán; Conrad Person;
Nancy Piwowar; Vernell V. Wright
Bette Jane Kowalski, *Freeholder Liaison*

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND HERITAGE AFFAIRS

Barbara A. Fuller, *Administrator*
Ethel Washington, *History Programs Coordinator*
Kathy Kakaletis, *Tourism Coordinator*
Teya David, *Arts Coordinator*
Paula I. Long, *Local Arts Coordinator*
Libby Reid, *Arts Coordinator*
Julied Rendon, *Supervising Clerk Typist*
Melissa Carrasco, *Senior Clerk Typist*
Thomas Leonard, *Data Processing Programmer*
633 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202
908-558-2550 NJ Relay 711
culturalinfo@ucnj.org www.ucnj.org/cultural

Funded in part by the
New Jersey Historical Commission,
a division of the Department of State.

