

FOUR CENTURIES OF UNION COUNTY HISTORY

TEACHER'S KEY

HISTORIC SITE #	HISTORIC SITE	MUNICIPALITY
1	Deserted Village of Feltville-Glenside Park	Berkeley Heights
2	Little-Lord Farmstead	Berkeley Heights
3	Dr. William Robinson Plantation	Clark
4	Crane-Phillips House	Cranford
5	Boxwood Hall	Elizabeth
6	First Presbyterian Church	Elizabeth
7	Historic Fanwood Train Station	Fanwood
8	Evergreen Cemetery	Hillside
9	Woodruff House/Eaton Store	Hillside
10	Oswald J. Nitschke House	Kenilworth
11	Deacon Andrew Hetfield House	Mountainside
12	Salt Box Museum	New Providence
13	Drake House Museum	Plainfield
14	Merchants and Drovers Tavern	Rahway
15	Union County Performing Arts Center	Rahway
16	Abraham Clark House	Roselle
17	Roselle Park Museum	Roselle Park
18	Osborn Cannonball House	Scotch Plains
19	Cannon Ball House	Springfield
20	Carter House	Summit
21	Reeves-Reed Arboretum	Summit
22	Summit Playhouse	Summit
23	Twin Maples	Summit
24	Caldwell Parsonage	Union
25	Liberty Hall	Union
26	Miller-Cory House Museum	Westfield
27	Reeves History & Cultural Resource Center	Westfield



Deserted Village of Feltville-Glenside Park

National and State Registers of Historic Places

Cataract Hollow Road

Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

908-527-4900

www.ucnj.org/dv

The Deserted Village of Feltville-Glenside Park is located in the Watchung **Reservation**. The land was first settled about 1735 by an Englishman named Peter Willcocks and his wife, Phebe Badgely Wilcocks. Peter or his sons built a **dam**. The water powered a **gristmill** where grain was ground into flour. The Willcocks family and their **descendants** lived on the land for more than one hundred years.

In 1845, David Felt, a New York businessman, bought the land to develop a factory site to make his own products. He built a “company town” with a factory, houses, **dormitories**, a store, a church, a school and roads to connect them. All the people who worked for him lived there and found everything that they needed without leaving the town. The village did very well for fifteen years. However, for unknown reasons, in 1860, Mr. Felt left the village. Other people tried to run businesses there but none was successful. Years went by and many of the houses became empty. The property became known as “The Deserted Village”.

In 1882, Warren Ackerman from Scotch Plains bought the property. During this time in history, many city people earned a lot of money, and because they had spare time, the idea of taking a country vacation came about. Mr. Ackerman turned the village into a summer resort called Glenside Park. Glenside Park closed in 1916. The property was divided into small lots, each containing one or more of the houses. They were sold to people as private homes.

In 1927, the County of Union bought all of the houses and made them part of an area being developed as a public park, Watchung Reservation. The 2,142 **acre** park is now operated by the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, and is open during day-light hours.



LITTELL-LORD FARMSTEAD
National and State Registers of Historic Places
31 Horseshoe Road
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922
908-219-4715

Records show that in 1760, Andrew Littell built the central portion of what is now the **Farmstead**. The original house probably consisted of three rooms on the first floor and an open **loft** above where the children slept. Andrew, his wife Mary and their seven children lived in the house and farmed the land. Sometime around 1800, a **lean-to** kitchen was added, which enlarged the house. Although Andrew died in 1790, the property remained in the Littell family until 1817. Later owners made additions to the property including the 1850s **spring house**.

The Lord family purchased the farm in 1867, and continued to make additions to the original property. They added the **summer kitchen** and **pump house**. They built the **Gothic** style "Grandmother House" to serve as a guest house and, also for a time, as a school. The 19th century **corn crib** was moved to the property from a former farm on Mountain Avenue in 1977. Charles Wait Lord and his **descendants** were early commuters from this area to New York City. The last member of the Lord family to live in the farmhouse was Elizabeth Wemett, who sold the property to the Township of Berkeley Heights in 1975.

Now the museum is operated by the Historical Society of Berkeley Heights. The house is open to visitors 2:00 to 4:00 on the third Sunday of each month from April to December and by appointment.



*Dr. William Robinson
Plantation-Museum*

National and State Registers of Historic Places
593 Madison Hill Road
Clark, NJ 07066
732-340-1571
www.DrRobinsonMuseum.org

Research shows that this small farmhouse was built by Dr. William Robinson, a physician and surgeon, who **emigrated** to New Jersey from Scotland. In 1686, Dr. Robinson, his wife and three children, William, Elizabeth and Ann, arrived in New Jersey and purchased land including the property where this house is located. In early **colonial** days, large land holdings were often called **plantations**. An **inventory** of Dr. Robinson's belongings at the time of his death in 1693 refers to the property as the "plantation".

The house is one of the few examples of 17th century **architecture** in the nation and contains many features of the **Tudor** period of architecture. The **exterior** of the building is notable for its steep roof, chimney, diamond **casement** windows and **overhang** on the **gable** end. The first floor of the house originally consisted of a **hall**, medicine room and **lean-to**. A stairway led to the **chamber** which was one large room on the second floor. The building has a huge chestnut **beam** measuring almost 11" x 17". A **cobblestone** ramp leads to the **livestock** cellar under the house. The **fieldstone foundation** is 18 inches thick.

Dr. Robinson was probably Rahway's first physician. A medicine room in the museum is furnished to show his work as a Physic (natural healing through plants and herbs) and Chirurgery (surgery). In the 1600s, doctors treated patients in their homes as there were no hospitals, medical centers or drug stores.

The Dr. William Robinson Plantation is operated by the Clark Historical Society. It is open from 2:00 to 4:00 on the first and third Sundays of the month from April to June and from September to December.



CRANE-PHILLIPS HOUSE MUSEUM

National and State Registers of Historic Places

124 Union Avenue North

Cranford, NJ 07016

908-276-0082

www.cranfordhistoricalsociety.com

The little **Victorian** cottage stands next to the Rahway River near the 18th century river crossing known as “Crane’s Ford”. The man for whom Cranford is named, farmer Josiah Crane, built it **circa** 1842. He built the house as a wedding present for his son, Josiah, Jr. The house’s second owners were Henry and Cecelia Phillips. Henry Phillips, who enlarged the house, was an inventor who made an early kitchen range hood. His brother, Dr. Charles H. Phillips, invented Phillips Milk of Magnesia. Henry and Cecelia Phillips changed the house into a Victorian cottage in the style of Andrew Jackson Downing, the first American **architect**. Since the house sits near the bank of the Rahway River, it is called “the Little House on the Rahway”.

The **interior** of the house shows what life was like for an average family in the Victorian era, the late 19th century. The house features a Victorian parlor and a child’s room called “Kate’s Room”. The house contains permanent and changing exhibits including such **artifacts** as farm and kitchen implements, tools, antique clothing and local history collections.

The Crane-Phillips House Museum is operated by the Cranford Historical Society, Inc. The house was named “An American Treasure” by The White House and the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** in 1999. It is open to visitors from 2:00 to 4:00 on Sundays from September through June and by appointment.



***BOXWOOD HALL
STATE HISTORIC SITE***

Boudinot Mansion
National and State Registers of Historic Places
National Historic Landmark
1073 East Jersey Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
908-282-7617

Boxwood Hall was built about 1750, when the city of Elizabeth was known as **Elizabethtown**. Originally there was a **wing** on either side of what is now the present building. There was a wide path from the front door to the river that was lined with **boxwood** from which the house received its name.

This center hall **Georgian** style house is linked to many notable **statesmen** of the late 1700s and early 1800s. In 1772, it became the home of Elias Boudinot, President of the **Continental** Congress.

Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary of the Treasury, lived with the Boudinot family while he attended school in Elizabethtown. George Washington visited and had lunch there before he traveled to New York City for his Presidential **Inauguration** in 1789.

In 1795, the house was sold to Jonathan Dayton, signer of the Constitution, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and member of the United States Senate. Major General, the Marquis de Lafayette, a French statesman who was active in the American cause of freedom, visited there in 1824.

Over the years, Boxwood Hall had several different owners and experienced many changes. It served as a boarding house and later as a home for aged women of Elizabeth. In the late 1930s, the Boxwood Hall Memorial Association was formed by concerned citizens to prevent the building from being **demolished**.

Boxwood Hall is a State Historic Site operated by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Please call for daily hours.



***FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF ELIZABETH & SNYDER ACADEMY***

National and State Registers of Historic Places

42 Broad Street

Elizabeth, NJ 07201

First Presbyterian Church - 908-353-1518

First Presbyterian Church - www.fpcenj.org

Snyder Academy - 908-353-2132

First Presbyterian Church - www.acadenj.org

“Old First” remains at the center of Elizabeth Town, 343 years after a small group of Associators signed a treaty for the land on October 28, 1664. They established the first English speaking congregation in what is now New Jersey, and the first meeting house served as both a public gathering place and house of worship. The first **Colonial** Assembly met in the building on May 26, 1668. Almost three and a half centuries later, the church, parish house, and burial ground still occupy the site, a continuing commitment in the heart of the city.

Among early church members were **patriots** William Livingston, first Governor of the independent New Jersey, Elias Boudinot, first President of the Continental Congress, and Abraham Clark, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Rev. James Caldwell, the “Fighting Parson”, and Hannah Caldwell, shot by a British soldier at Connecticut Farms, are buried in the cemetery. Next to their grave is that of Rev. Jonathan Dickinson, the founder of the College of New Jersey which later became Princeton University.

Today’s **sanctuary**, built after the British burned the **parsonage**, Academy, and meeting house during the Revolutionary War, has walls dating from the 1780’s. A devastating fire in 1946 destroyed the building, leaving only the brick exterior. The interior was rebuilt, but the steeple not replaced due to budgetary constraints. In 2007-2008 a new historically correct **replica** of the steeple will be placed on the existing church tower.

The First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth is assisted in its history and restoration programs by the Old First Historic Trust. Due to construction, please call Tuesday-Thursday between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM to schedule an appointment to visit.



Historic Fanwood Train Station

230 North Avenue
Fanwood, NJ 07023
908-322-8236
www.fanwoodnj.org

In 1874 the right of way to the Central Railroad of New Jersey was moved from present day Midway Avenue to its current location. This Victorian Gothic structure was built and used as a railroad station until 1965. The station is an excellent example of frame **Victorian Gothic architecture**. It is the oldest remaining railroad station in Union County. The building has a fieldstone foundation with exterior **clapboard** siding, a hipped roof with slate shingles, and Gothic arched windows are in the attic level. Wide extending porch eaves with large bracket supports surround the buildings at first floor height.

The museum and archival center houses **artifacts** documenting the Borough's historic ties to the Central Railroad of New Jersey, and its land development company that constructed some of the Victorian and Queen Anne homes that grace the Fanwood Park Historic District.

Open October through June on the first Sunday of each month, 2 pm – 4:00 pm; and by appointment to accommodate researchers, special requests, small groups and educational needs

Operated by The Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission

Designation of the Fanwood Park Historic District on the National and State Registries of historic sites, 2005



EVERGREEN CEMETERY
National and State Registers of Historic Places
1137 North Broad Street
Hillside, NJ 07205
908-352-7940

Evergreen Cemetery was opened in 1853, when the little churchyards of **Elizabethtown** and Newark no longer had room for additional graves. It was the first **rural** cemetery in the area. It is located in what has become one of the most densely populated **urban** areas in New Jersey. The cemetery shows the history of the area and the changing **architecture** over time.

The cemetery was designed by Ernest L. Meyer of Elizabethtown. The young man was an engineer who later became the City Engineer of Elizabeth. He designed 90 of the cemetery's 115 **acres**. He followed the style of the 1850s and designed the cemetery to show the romantic **Victorian** view of death. Many of the **tombstones** have fancy carvings showing flowers, columns and angels. The streets are named for trees that were popular at that time: Elm, Oak and Laurel. The paths are named for flowers: Violet, Primrose and Myrtle.

The great number of trees attracts hundreds of birds and small animals as a **sanctuary**. The cemetery has funeral monuments that are typical of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. There are more than 100,000 monuments ranging from a simple monument of **colonial** times to fancier styles of the Victorian era.

Many famous people are buried in Evergreen Cemetery. They include three **Congressional Medal of Honor** winners: Rufus King of Hillside and J. Madison Drake and William Brant of Elizabeth. Famous authors include Edward Stratemeyer (*The Bobbsey Twins* and *Tom Swift*), Mary Mapes Dodge (*Hans Brinker of the Silver Skates*), and Stephen Crane (*The Red Badge of Courage*).

The grounds include a chapel built in 1932 in the English Tudor style. It was designed by noted Elizabeth architect, C. Godfrey Poggi, who designed other city structures including the original Battin High School and the 1926 Union County Park Commission Administration Building on Acme Street. Mr. Poggi is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

Evergreen Cemetery, open daily from 8:00 to 4:30, is operated by the Evergreen Cemetery Trustees.



***WOODRUFF HOUSE/
EATON STORE MUSEUM***

National and State Registers of Historic Places

111 Conant Street
Hillside, NJ 07205
908-353-8828

John Woodruff, born in England, sailed to and settled on Long Island. In 1666, he received a **land grant** of 292 **acres** in what is now New Jersey and moved to the **Elizabethtown** area. The Woodruff House was built in 1735, by Timothy Woodruff (1683-1766), a **descendant** of John Woodruff. Timothy and his brothers, Jacob and Thomas, were volunteers in the **militia** during the American Revolution and fought in the battles that took place in Elizabethtown, Morristown and Long Island. Several generations of Woodruff men farmed the land and enlarged the house to fit their families' growing needs.

Around 1900, the Woodruff family decided to add a new **wing** onto the old house. Family history says that some lumber was left over from the construction of the new house, and Mrs. Woodruff suggested that a small store be built in front of the old house so that she could sell apples and other fruits from the Woodruff **orchards**.

In 1910, Gilbert Eaton rented the house and store from the Woodruffs. He was well known in the area because he traveled selling groceries, fruits and vegetables from his horse-drawn wagon. While he continued his door-to-door business, his wife, Sarah Baxter Eaton, operated the store. Today the store is outfitted with the original counter, bread box, gas lamp and coffee grinder. Store shelves are stocked with hundreds of products from long ago. A cash register, candy counter and even a checkerboard set up near the corner **potbelly stove** show the neighborhood store as it may have appeared about 1920.

The Woodruff House/Eaton store is now operated by the Hillside Historical Society. It is open to visitors from 2:00 to 4:00 on the third Sunday of each month and by appointment.



OSWALD J. NITSCHKE HOUSE

49 South 21st Street

Kenilworth, NJ 07033

908-276-9090

www.kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org

The Nitschke House is one of Kenilworth's original **clapboard**, wood-frame **vernacular** farmhouses and is the best **preserved** of the community's few remaining 19th century buildings. A reminder of Union County's **agricultural** past, it represents the **architectural** style that is typical of homes built in the area in the 1800s.

This originally L-shaped structure is now square in shape due to an addition, believed to have been made in the early 1900s, that filled in the front corner of the building. Most of the original features and historic elements of the house have been well **preserved**, thereby contributing to the historic and architectural **integrity** of the structure.

The house is named for one of Kenilworth's **pioneers**, Oswald J. Nitschke, who owned the house 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 of the borough, Nitschke was responsible for development of the unique 120 foot wide Kenilworth **Boulevard** and its extension through the Union County Park System.

In 2002, the house was in danger of being **demolished** because land developers wanted to build a commercial structure on the property. The new owner **donated** the house to the Kenilworth Historical Society, which arranged to have the house moved. Over a period of several weeks in 2003, the house-moving company carefully lifted the house off of its original **foundation**, placed it on a special trailer and slowly moved it down the street to its present location.

The Historical Society is restoring the house. It will be transformed into a **living museum** and cultural arts center. Because of their preservation efforts, the Society received the 2008 New Jersey Historic Preservation Award.

The House is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

DEACON ANDREW HETFIELD HOUSE

National and State Registers of Historic Places

Constitution Plaza

Mountainside, NJ 07092

908-789-9420

www.mountainsidehistory.org



According to old records, **Deacon** Andrew Hetfield began building his home around 1760. He and his descendants added on to the house over a period of 70 years. It was built in three stages to meet the changing needs of the families who lived there. By 1830, the house looked like it does today.

The house remained the property of the Hetfield family for 186 years. Besides being a family home, the building was also used as a tea house and as an antique shop.

When the property was sold in 1984, the new owners wanted to use the land for business purposes. Since they had no use for the old house, they planned to tear it down. The Mountainside Historic **Preservation Committee** and the **Borough** of Mountainside worked to save the house from **demolition**. Through their efforts the house was moved to its present location in 1985. Hundreds of people stood and watched as the house rode along Route 22 to its new site.

The Deacon Andrew Hetfield House is now operated by the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee. The house is open to visitors from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. on the third Sunday of the month from March through May and during September and October.



SALT BOX MUSEUM

1350 Springfield Avenue
New Providence, NJ 07974
908-665-6465

www.newprovidencehistorical.com

The earliest **inhabitants** of the New Providence area were the Lenni-Lenape Indians. The first European settlers were colonists who arrived around 1720. They came through the “West Fields” of **Elizabethtown** and over the Watchung Mountains because the area was good for farming and there was a great supply of fruits, berries, fish and game to hunt. There were so many wild turkeys that the original name of the area was “Turkey”.

This house is a combination of two houses built in other locations during the 1840s. The house got its **saltbox** shape when two houses were joined during the mid 19th century.

The house was in danger of **demolition** in 1967, when plans were made to build a professional building on the land where it stood. The New Providence Historical Society was formed and arranged for the house to be moved across the street to its present location. Today, the first floor is furnished to represent a typical New Jersey farmhouse, showing life in the New Providence area in the mid-1800s.

The Saltbox Museum is now operated by the New Providence Historical Society. It is open from 1:00 to 3:00 on the first and third Sundays of each month and from 10:00 to noon on Thursdays, March through November.



DRAKE HOUSE MUSEUM

National and State Registers of Historic Places

602 West Front Street

Plainfield, NJ 07060

908-755-5831

www.drakehouseplainfieldnj.org

In the 1700s, the Plainfield area was made up of many farms. In 1746, Isaac Drake built a house for his son, Nathaniel. The farmhouse was a typical one-and-a-half-storied building with four rooms and a **lean-to** kitchen on the first floor and a **loft** above for sleeping. Nathaniel was married twice, and had five children with each wife. All the children helped with the many chores on the farm and in the house.

At the time of the American Revolution, Nathaniel, his wife Dorothy, and their children, Sarah, Phoebe, Abraham, Cornelius and Isaac, were all **patriots**. Their sons served in the Essex and Somerset Counties **militia**. Their freed slave, Caesar, drove a wagon for the **Continental** forces. It was at the Drake House that General George Washington met with his officers during and after the Battle of Short Hills, which was fought over the entire Plainfield area on June 25-27, 1777.

By the middle of the 1800s, Plainfield was growing into a small city and there were only a few farms. In 1864, John S. Harberger of New York City purchased the Drake House to use as a summer home. He was the president of the Manhattan Banking Company which later became the Chase Manhattan Bank. **Victorian** architecture was popular then and he made many changes to the house in that style. He extended the downstairs hall and added a back room. By raising the roof, he made the loft into a large music room for entertaining guests. Towers gave added interest to the shape of the house.

Today the Drake House Museum displays different periods in history. The first floor kitchen, bedroom and dining room are furnished in the **colonial** style to show family life during the 18th century. The **parlor** furnishings represent the late **Empire** and early **Victorian** times. The Harberger Library, furnished in the **opulent** style popular in the mid 1870s, contains a 7'x 9' oil painting, *The Death of General Sedgwick*, by the noted Civil War painter, Julian Scott. Scott and other Civil War veterans are buried in nearby Woodland Cemetery.

Visiting hours at the Drake House are from 10:00 to 1:00 on Saturdays, 2:00 to 4:00 on Sundays and by appointment. The museum is operated by the Historical Society of Plainfield.

UNION COUNTY OFFICE OF CULTURAL & HERITAGE AFFAIRS

908-558-2550 culturalinfo@ucnj.org www.ucnj.org/cultural



MERCHANTS AND DROVERS TAVERN

National and State Registers of Historic Places

1632 St. Georges Avenue

Rahway, NJ 07065

732-381-0441

www.merchantsanddrovers.org

The Merchants and Drovers Tavern is an outstanding example of an early 19th century hotel. At that time most towns had no office buildings, meeting halls or government buildings, and the Tavern served all these uses. Besides serving food and drink, the Tavern was a center of activity that was used for elections, entertainment and as a place to discuss the news of the day. The Tavern was an important place to both travelers and local residents.

Although it began as a two story house and store in the 1790s, the building became a **tavern** in 1798. It was enlarged again about 1820 to create the hotel we see today. A remarkable point of interest is that the structure was continuously operated as an inn from the time of the first tavern license in 1798 until the 1930s.

The building was closed in 1999 for a complete **interior restoration** resulting in an imposing structure containing a taproom, two parlors, twelve bedrooms and a kitchen wing with a working fireplace. The smaller, mid-18th century Terrill Tavern was moved to the property in the 1970s where it now serves as the Museum shop.

The Tavern is owned and operated by the Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum Association. Visiting hours are as follows:

Every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10:00 to 4:00

First and third Saturdays & Second and fourth Sundays of each month



Union County Performing Arts Center

*National and State Registers of Historic Places,
as well as PreservationDirectory.com*

1601 Irving Street

Rahway, NJ 07065

Administration Office: 732-499-0441

Box Office: 732-499-8226

www.ucpac.org

Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC) is housed in the restored Rahway Theatre; conveniently located in downtown Rahway, within close proximity to a NJ Transit train station. This historic landmark is the cornerstone of the Rahway Arts District. UCPAC has played a vital role in the revitalization and cultural renaissance of the community.

Part of the magic of the Performing Arts Center is experiencing live performances in a vintage 1928 **vaudeville** and silent movie palace of just over 1300 seats. Lovingly restored to its golden age grandeur, it is a monument to an age gone by. The original building is the Rahway Theatre, and with its 1300 seats, it is one of the largest functioning centers for the performing arts in Union County.

One of the special features of the Union County Performing Arts Center is its original Wurlitzer organ, a modest Wurlitzer of seven ranks (500 pipes, plus percussive). It was the catalyst for the **preservation** effort from which the Performing Arts Center emerged. Since the 1960s, when the organ was first restored, it has been played regularly, and frequently recorded by celebrity organists and Performing Arts Center volunteers. Because of its enormous sound, though small size, it has become known as the "Biggest Little Wurlitzer." You can learn more about the history and restoration of our theater organ from the Garden State Theater Organ Society.

The Union County Performing Arts Center is a living **landmark**. The theater is listed on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places and is now operating as a multi-purpose **venue** for the **performing arts**. It is also listed on PreservationDirectory.com, an online directory and resource center for historic preservation, building restoration and cultural resource management.

The UCPAC continues to provide exciting performances that are educational, affordable and responsive to the diverse interests of our communities. Please check our web site for upcoming programs and come and visit us!

ABRAHAM CLARK MEMORIAL HOUSE

101 West Ninth Avenue
Roselle, NJ 07203
732-221-7211



The Abraham Clark House, as it now stands, is a **replica** of the original house built circa 1737. Although the house stands on what was original farmland, the replica is located 150 feet from the site of the first house.

The first floor of the house contains a large meeting room with a fireplace, exhibits and a research library containing information on **genealogy** and the American Revolution. The building also houses the **archives** of the New Jersey State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Private living quarters are on the second floor.

Abraham Clark, for whom the house is named, was born on February 15, 1726. He was the only child of Thomas Clark who moved from Long Island to **Elizabethtown**. In 1749, Abraham married Sarah Hatfield and they moved to his family's farm in what is now Roselle. The couple had ten children.

Although Abraham was not strong enough for farm work, he enjoyed studying. His natural ability for mathematics resulted in his becoming a surveyor. Abraham studied the law so that he would be able to settle land disputes. He earned the title, "Poor Man's **Counselor**", because he did not charge a fee to anyone who could not afford to pay for his services.

Abraham was a **patriot** during the American Revolution. He was one of the five New Jersey signers of the Declaration of Independence. "Congressman Abraham" served in the New Jersey Legislature and the United States Congress. With Sarah's support, Abraham gave nearly thirty years to the service of his state and country before his death on September 15, 1794. He is buried in the cemetery of the Rahway Presbyterian Church, where he was a long-time member.

The Abraham Clark House is now operated by the Abraham Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Tours are by appointment.



ROSELLE PARK MUSEUM

9 West Grand Avenue
Roselle Park, NJ 07204
908-245-1776

Located in a store front in a brick apartment building that was built in 1940, the Roselle Park Museum contains the collections and **archives** of the Roselle Park Historical Society. The Society collects, preserves, and displays photographs, documents, and **memorabilia** relating to the history of Roselle Park, which celebrated its **centennial** in 2001.

The Society's displays focus on historical subjects, such as the importance of the Rahway Valley and the Lehigh Valley Railroads on the development of Roselle Park. The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America was located in Roselle Park as was the Edison Electrical plant. Most building lots in the town had been developed by the end of World War II.

The Roselle Park Museum is operated by the Roselle Park Historical Society. The museum is open from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays (please call to confirm) and by appointment.



OSBORN CANNONBALL HOUSE

1840 Front Street
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
908-757-1885
www.historicalsocietyspfnj.org

This small white **clapboard** house was built in the early 1700s by Jonathan and Abigail Osborn, who raised their thirteen children there. Jonathan was an **innkeeper**, farmer and tailor.

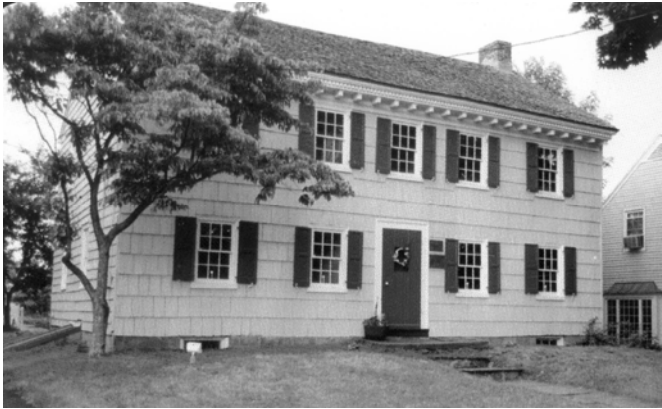
The careful construction of the house is typical of the early period. Wooden **pegs** were used rather than nails. **Plaster** was made of crushed shells strengthened with animal hair. Doors and brick-filled walls were low to **conserve** materials and heat in the winter time.

The two oldest Osborn sons **enlisted** in the **Continental** Army when the Revolutionary War broke out. John Baldwin, the eldest, fought in the Revolution. The second son, Jonathan Hand, was only 16 years old when he joined the troops as a drummer boy.

Both British and Continental troops marched past the house during the Revolutionary War in June, 1777 following the Battle of Short Hills fought near Ash Swamp in Scotch Plains. The American Army retreated from the British and headed toward the safety of the Watchung Mountains. Continental cannons were fired in the direction of the oncoming British. A misdirected cannonball thudded into the house. From then on the townspeople called it the Cannonball House.

The Osborns were prominent members in the community. John Baldwin married Mary Darby in 1774. He lived his life as a farmer and acquired over 400 acres of land. He served for many years as a **Deacon** in the Scotch Plains Baptist Church. Jonathan Hand became a fine stone cutter whose work can be seen on the headstones in "God's Little Acre," the cemetery next to the Baptist Church. David, one of the younger brothers, became the first clerk of the newly formed Westfield Township in 1794 and was the first postmaster of Scotch Plains beginning in 1804. Henry followed in the footsteps of his older brother Jonathan by becoming a skilled stone cutter; examples of his work can also be found in "God's Little Acre."

The Osborn home has been carefully restored and furnished and is operated as a museum by the Historical Society of Scotch Plains/Fanwood. It is also well known for its beautiful gardens. It is open to visitors from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on the first Sunday of each month.



CANNON BALL HOUSE

National and State Registers of Historic Places

126 Morris Avenue

Springfield, NJ 07081

973-912-4464

www.springfieldhistoricalsociety.webs.com

Built **circa** 1740, this is one of only four houses to escape burning by the British during the battle of Springfield on June 23, 1780. It is possible that the house escaped destruction because the British used it as a hospital.

Imagine narrow escapes from the weapons of war as you look at the cannon ball that had lodged in a wall of the house during the Battle of Springfield. The museum also contains **relics** of the Battle, antique furniture, clothing, weapons, tools and kitchen implements presenting early family life.

Although it was built as a farmhouse, the building has been used for various purposes over the years. In the late 18th century, the house was a **tavern** stop along the road linking **Elizabethtown** and Morristown. In the 20th century, it was used as a boarding house and a tea room.

Two rooms of the house, the kitchen and a bedroom, were re-created through the efforts of students at the Florence M. Gaudineer School to represent a **colonial** setting. The bedroom depicts the typical bedroom of a young girl as she might have lived in 1740.

The house has been painted in its authentic, researched colors of the 18th century. A formal colonial garden and **orchard** are also at the site.

The Cannon Ball House is now operated by the Springfield Historical Society. It is open for tours by appointment. A letter signed by George Washington, written in Springfield, is displayed annually during a February open house.



CARTER HOUSE

90 Butler Parkway
Summit, NJ 07901
908-277-1747
www.summitnjhistory.org

The Carter House, built **circa** 1740, is believed to be the oldest existing building in Summit. It was constructed by Benjamin Carter, a farmer. It contains much of the framing and building materials used in mid-nineteenth century construction. Over the years several owners lived in the house at various times, building a **forge** on the property as well as a **sawmill** and a **gristmill**. The property operated as a dairy farm from the late 1800s to 1937. Other owners, including a doctor, lived in the house until 1985, when plans were made to **demolish** it to make room for a business.

The final owner donated the house to the Summit Historical Society. In 1986, the house was moved from its original location at River Road near the Passaic River to its present site, which is still on original Carter farmland. A barn on the museum property contains an exhibit of farm tools.

The Carter House is now operated as a museum by the Summit Historical Society. It is open Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to noon, Wednesday 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. and by appointment.



REEVES-REED ARBORETUM
National and State Registers of Historic Places
165 Hobart Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901-3977
908-273-8787
www.reeves-reedarboretum.org

During the time of the Revolutionary War this property was part of a farm in Summit. In 1889, John H. Wisner turned it into his country **estate**, which included a large house and grounds. To make the grounds special, he hired Calvert Vaux, a partner with Frederick Law Olmsted; their company designed Central Park in New York City and many of Union County's parks.

The Wisner family sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Reeves in 1916. They expanded the gardens on the 12.5 **acres** of land. In 1968, Charles L. Reed purchased the property. He, too, made the gardens larger, adding an herb garden and woodland trails.

When the property was put up for sale in 1974, the residents of Summit raised money to purchase the estate to **preserve** it as an **arboretum**. Because it is an arboretum rather than a park, visitors may walk, look at the flowers, observe wildlife, study rocks and carry out other quiet activities. However, they may not walk dogs, picnic, or go sledding. Trees, shrubs, and plants are identified in their natural setting so that visitors and students may learn about them. The property is an outdoor **laboratory** for studying nature.

The house and gardens are now operated by the Reeves-Reed Arboretum, Inc. The office and library are in the Wisner House and are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The grounds are open every day, dawn to dusk. The Garden Shop is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Summit Playhouse

10 New England Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901
908-273-2192
www.summitplayhouse.org

Summit is one of the Union County communities that grew as a result of the growth of the Morris and Essex Railroad. Growth increased after the **American Civil War**. Many people moved to Summit and built homes in which to raise their families. Many men rode the commuter rail line into Newark and New York City where they worked.

The Summit Library Association was established in 1874. There was no central location to store books and so they were kept in a number of places including a store and a doctor's office. As the city grew, there was great interest in having a public library where the collection of books would be readily available to residents. One resident, George Manley, donated land where the library would be built. Additional residents donated \$3,720 for construction of the building in a then popular style of architecture, Richardsonian Romanesque. The new library opened on June 10, 1891. Miss Louise Le Hurary was the first librarian. The library operation soon outgrew the space and moved into a larger structure in 1911.

In 1918, the Dramatic Club leased the original library building for \$1.00 per year. The building is now a good example of **adaptive reuse** of the building -- from a library to a theater. A 120-seat auditorium was added to the original library in 1960 through the generosity of Summit resident, Marjorie Cranstoun Jefferson. What had been the original library then became the stage.

Now known as the Summit Playhouse, the theater is operated by The Playhouse Association. Visitors are welcome at performance times during fall, winter and spring productions, during the summer youth program and by appointment.

The Summit Playhouse continues to put on plays, making it one of the oldest **community theater companies** in the country.



TWIN MAPLES

National and State Registers of Historic Places

214 Springfield Ave

Summit, NJ 07901

908-273-0301

In the 1880s, wealthy people from New York City and Newark took the train to vacation at resort hotels in Summit to get away from hot summers in the city. Frequent train service made it easy and convenient for people to commute to their city jobs. Many eventually built their own homes so that they could live in the **suburbs** all year round.

Twin Maples is a fine example of a suburban **estate** typical of those built in the Summit area between 1880 and 1920. This **colonial revival** style structure was built in 1908 as a one family house for Mrs. and Mrs. James Foley. While it was designed by **architect** Alfred F. Norris of Montclair, NJ, it is somewhat similar in appearance to the White House in Washington, D.C.

The house remained a privately owned home until 1949 when it was purchased by an organization named the Fortnightly Club, a women's club founded in 1893. The building is now available for rent for meetings, wedding receptions and other similar events. The members of the Fortnightly Club maintain the building and the grounds, and also sponsor educational programs and exhibits.

This property is quite different from most of the other historic houses and sites in Union County. It is newer in age, very large and more elaborate in design, representing the time in which it was built.

Twin Maples is open during programs and by appointment.



CALDWELL PARSONAGE

National and State Registers of Historic Places

909 Caldwell Avenue

Union, NJ 07083

908-687-7977

www.unionhistory.org

www.uniontwphistoricalsociety.webs.com

On June 7, 1780, British troops passed by the Presbyterian **parsonage** in Connecticut Farms (now Union Township). Suddenly a shot was fired through the bedroom window and Hannah Caldwell fell dead. Was it a mistake, or was the wife of the **Continental** Army's "Fighting Parson", James Caldwell, murdered?

The British then burned the parsonage, the church and other buildings in the area. The present parsonage was built two years later on the old **foundation**. Hannah Caldwell's death appears on the official seal of Union County (see below).

The museum at the Caldwell Parsonage contains furniture, clothing, personal belongings and other items relating to the families who established Union. **Artifacts** on display date from the 18th century to the very early 20th century.

The Caldwell Parsonage is now operated as a museum by the Union Township Historical Society. The museum is open on the third Sunday of each month, except December and January, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and by appointment.





LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM
National and State Registers of Historic Places
National Historic Landmark
1003 Morris Avenue
Union Township, NJ 07083
908-527-0400
www.kean.edu/libertyhall

When Liberty Hall was built in 1772, it was not the 50 room mansion we see today. The original structure was a 14 room **Georgian** house. The owner of the property, William Livingston, was a New York City lawyer who planned to retire to a life of raising fruit trees on his 120 **acres** of land in Elizabethtown.

Soon after the colonies declared independence from England in 1776, Livingston was elected the first governor of New Jersey. He was a leader of the new state and the new nation. He was a friend and consultant to General George Washington. When the British officers came to Liberty Hall in 1779, Livingston escaped. His daughter, Susan, hid her father's important documents and tricked the British into taking useless papers instead. The soldiers, angry because they could not find Livingston, searched the house resulting in sword marks on the stairway banister that can still be seen today.

Governor Livingston entertained important people of the time at Liberty Hall including John Jay and Alexander Hamilton in addition to George and Martha Washington. Livingston lived at Liberty Hall until his death in 1790. In 1833, Col. John Kean, great-grandnephew of Governor Livingston, inherited the property. He enlarged the house in the style popular of that time in order to make the house fit the needs of his large family.

In 1914, Captain John Kean inherited the house and lived there with his wife, Mary Alice Barney Kean, and their three children. Mrs. Kean worked tirelessly to **preserve** the house and its gardens until her death in 1995. Two years later the property was donated to the Liberty Hall Foundation. Liberty Hall is open as a museum documenting over 225 years of American family life as was the wish of Mrs. Kean.

Liberty hall is operated by the Liberty Hall Foundation. The museum is open to visitors Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., April through December.



MILLER-CORY HOUSE MUSEUM

National and State Registers of Historic Places

614 Mountain Avenue

Westfield, NJ 07090

908-232-1776

www.millercoryhouse.org

Built in 1740, the Miller-Cory House stands on the “road to the mountains” in Westfield. The Miller-Cory House was named for the two owners who lived there at different times in the 18th century, Samuel Miller and Joseph Cory. Each was a **descendent** of the earliest settlers in this area.

The Miller-Cory House is a story-and-a-half **clapboard** farmhouse. It was built in 1740, when Samuel Miller was married to his wife, Sabra. Joseph Cory bought the farm in 1784. The property stayed in the Cory family until 1921.

Both the Miller and the Cory families were farmers. Besides farm chores, all members of the family helped with the tasks that were necessary in the 1700s. The women baked in a **beehive oven** and cooked on an **open hearth** fireplace using heavy iron pots and pans. They had to be careful with their long skirts when they worked near the fire. The children helped to make candles to light the house at night. Clothing was also made at home. Sheep were **sheared** in the springtime, the wool was **spun** into thread, and the threads were then **woven** into fabric. Life on the farm was hard work for all the members of the family.

The Miller-Cory House Museum is now operated by the Miller-Cory House Museum Volunteers. Visitors may tour the museum and grounds on Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. between September and June and by appointment.



*REEVE HISTORY & CULTURAL
RESOURCE CENTER*

314 Mountain Avenue

Westfield, NJ 07090

908-654-1794

www.westfieldhistorysociety.org

The Reeve History & Cultural Resource Center is housed at the Westfield Historical Society headquarters. The newly restored 1870's **Victorian** Italianate home is **resplendent** with many period appropriate Victorian antiques and artifacts. It was part of the Presbyterian Church property but later sold to the Reeve family of Westfield. The Reeve family lived in the home for almost 100 years. William Reeve served the community through a variety of local projects such as the establishment of the YMCA and the creation of the Mindowaskin Park in 1918.

The home currently serves the community as a historical resource center for Westfield as well as an exhibit center for special events throughout the year. A future carriage house, which will house the Westfield Historical Society's archives, is in the planning and funding stage.

Open year round Sundays 1:00 to 3:00 pm (except Holidays)

Operated by the Westfield Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places

FOUR CENTURIES OF UNION COUNTY HISTORY Lesson Plan - GLOSSARY

The Historic site Information Sheets contain words that appear in **bold** lettering. The definitions of those words are listed below.

acre – a measurement of land equal to 4,840 square yards; used to define an amount of property

adaptive reuse – changing the use of a building that is different from its original or previous use; the change often involves conversion work

advocate – to speak or write in support of; to be in favor of

agricultural – related to farming

arboretum – a place where trees, shrubs and plants are viewed for educational and recreational purposes

architect – a person who designs and supervise the construction of buildings

architecture – the art and science of designing and erecting buildings

archives – a place where historical documents are collected and preserved; also refers to the documents themselves

artifact – an object representing a particular culture or time

association – an organized group of people who share a common interest or purpose

beam – a squared-off log, or large oblong piece of wood, metal or stone, used to support walls, floor and ceilings in buildings

beehive oven – a baking chamber made of brick that is in the shape of a beehive

borough – a self-governing town

boulevard – a broad city street, often tree-lined and landscaped

boxwood – an evergreen shrub or tree used for hedges, borders and garden mazes

casement – a window that opens outward or inward on hinges at the side

centennial – a 100th anniversary or its celebration

chamber – a room in a house, especially a bedroom

G2

circa – about; used before approximate dates

clapboard – a long, narrow wooden board with one edge thicker than the other, overlapped to cover the outside wall of a house

cobblestone – a naturally rounded stone used for paving streets and used to construct walls

colonial – relating to the period in history before the 13 colonies became the United States

colonial revival – an architectural style popular in the United States from 1880 to 1950; based on styles popular in the American colonies just before and during the Revolution

community theater company – a group of non-professional (not paid) actors

Congressional Medal of Honor – the highest US military decoration awarded in the name of Congress to members of the armed forces for bravery beyond the call of duty

conserve – to protect from loss

continental – relating to the American colonies during and immediately after the Revolutionary War, such as Continental soldiers in the Continental Army

corn crib – a structure for storing and drying ears of corn; it has slatted sides for air circulation

councilman – a member of a local governing body of a city or town

counselor – an advisor; a lawyer

dam – a barrier constructed across a waterway to hold back and control the flow of water

deacon – a clergyman or layman who assists a minister in various religious functions

deeded – transferred ownership

demolish – the act or process of destroying

descendant – the child or children in each generation in a family; usually used with ancestor

dormitory – a large room or building containing numerous beds

drover – a driver of cattle or sheep

G3

Elizabethtown – founded in 1664, New Jersey's first English settlement and its first seat of colonial government; the area that is now Union County

emigrate – to leave one's country or region to live in another place

Empire – a style of furniture from the 1700s made of hard woods with massive detail or ornate trim

enlist – to enter the armed forces voluntarily

estate – a sizable piece of land, usually with a large house and other buildings

exterior – a part or surface that is the outside

farmstead – a farm including its land and buildings

Federal – an architectural style found in the United States from 1783 to 1815; buildings are usually square or rectangular in shape and made of brick or wood with simple doors, windows and columns

fieldstone – a stone naturally occurring in fields, often used as building material

forge – a furnace where metals are heated and shaped by hammering with tools

foundation – the base on which a building is constructed

gable – the three sided end piece of a roof

genealogy – the study or investigation of ancestry and family histories

Georgian – an architectural style used throughout most of the 1700 – 1800s; box-like form made of brick, wood or stone with elaborate doors, windows and chimneys

glossary – a collection of terms with definitions

Gothic – an architectural style developed in Europe from 12th to 15th centuries; seen in America after 1800 especially in churches; stone, brick and wood; pointed arches and windows, steep roofs

gristmill – a building equipped with machinery for grinding grain into flour

hall – the principal room of a house used for eating, entertaining and sleeping

inauguration – a swearing-in ceremony of the president or other official

inhabitant – one who lives in a place

G4

inn – a public lodging house serving food and drink to travelers; hotel; motel; hostel

innkeeper – one who owns or manages an inn or hotel

integrity (historic, architectural) – the quality of being pure, real, actual, genuine

interior – a part or surface that is the inside

inventory – a detailed list of things

laboratory – a place equipped for scientific experimentation, research or testing

landmark – a building or site with historical significance, especially one marked for preservation by a municipal or national government

land grant – the transfer of public land from government ownership to that of a private individual or entity

lean-to – a shed with a slanted roof attached to the side of a building

livestock – domestic animals, such as cattle, horses, sheep, hogs or goats, raised for home use or for profit

lobby – a hall or waiting room near the entrance to a building

loft – an open space under a roof

memorabilia – things worthy of remembering; mementoes, artifacts

merchant – a person who runs a business; shopkeeper

militia – organized armed forces

millpond – a body of water made by damming a stream to produce a power source for operating machinery

National and State Registers of Historic Places – official government lists of special historic structures and sites

open hearth – the floor of a fireplace, usually extending into a room and paved with brick or flagstone

opulent – lavish, extravagant, rich, fancy

orchard – an area of land devoted to the growing of fruit or nut trees

G5

outbuilding – a structure separate from but associated with a main building

overhang – the part of a roof that extends outward beyond a wall

parlor – a room in a private home set apart for the entertainment of visitors

parsonage – the house provided by a church for its pastor

patriot – a person who loves, supports and defends his/her country

peg – a small wooden pin used to fasten things, such as floor boards

performing arts – are those forms of art that use the artist's own body, face and presence as a medium to create art

pioneer – a person who goes before in time, preparing the way for others, such as an early settler

plantation – a large estate or farm where crops are grown

plaster – a mixture of lime, sand and water, sometimes with hair or other fiber added, that hardens on drying and is used for coating walls and ceilings

playhouse - theater

preservation committee – a group of people working together to protect or maintain property of a historic nature

preserve – to keep or maintain

potbelly stove – a short rounded heating device in which wood or coal is burned

public house – an inn, tavern, bar or similar place licensed to sell alcoholic beverages

pump house – a building that contains the machinery used to force water from its source to the place it is needed

relic – something that has survived the passage of time and is valued for its association with a special person, place or event

replica – a copy or close reproduction

reservation – land set apart by the government for a special purpose

G6

resplendent - attractive and impressive through being richly colorful or sumptuous

restoration – the act of returning a building or object to its original condition

royal – relating to a king, queen or other monarch

rural – an area where there is more farmland than tall buildings

saltbox – a gabled-roof house in which the rear slope is much longer than the front

sawmill – a building where lumber is machine-cut into boards

sanctuary – a place of safety and protection

shear – to remove the coat of wool of a sheep by cutting or clipping with a sharp instrument

spring house – a small house built over a natural source of water and used to keep food cool

spin (spun) – to draw out and twist fibers into thread

statesman – one who is a leader in national or international affairs

suburb – a residential area near a city

summer kitchen – a building that is usually attached to a house and used as a kitchen in warm weather to keep heat out of the living quarters

tap room – a bar or bar room

tavern – a public house or inn for travelers or others

tombstone – a stone or monument, usually engraved, marking a burial site; gravestone

Tudor – an architectural style from the Tudor period (1485 – 1603) in England; mixes rough finished stone and wood; casement windows, tall chimneys and arches

urban – an area where houses and tall buildings are generally close together

vacant – not being used or occupied

vaudeville – a type of variety entertainment, popular from the early 1800s until the early 1930s, created from a series of separate unrelated acts such as slapstick turns, song-and-dance routines, pantomime and juggling performances.

G7

venue – derives from the Latin for *to come*, and implies a place that people come to. The word may refer to a venue as the location of an event.

vernacular – a building style that is typical of houses constructed in a particular area

Victorian – anything relating to the period of Queen Victoria's long reign in Great Britain from 1837 to 1901; many fancy details

wing – the part of a structure that is attached to the main or central part of a building

weave (wove) – to make cloth by interlacing threads on a machine called a loom