National Historic Landmarks
The Historic Preservation Office is committed to enhancing the quality of life for the residents of New Jersey through the preservation and appreciation of our collective past.

Our mission is to assist the residents of New Jersey in identifying, preserving, protecting and sustaining our historic and archaeological resources through the implementation of the state's historic preservation program.

We provide assistance through our annual conference, consultation with staff professionals, training workshops, co-sponsorship of history and historic preservation-related activities, the Historic Preservation Planning Bulletin and other free publications.

Cover Photo: Old Queens, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, Middlesex County, ca. 1948.

Other cover photos identified elsewhere.
National Historic Landmarks (NHL) are buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects that have been determined by the Secretary of the Interior to be nationally significant in American history and culture. Many of the most renowned historic properties in the nation are Landmarks.

Mount Vernon, Pearl Harbor, the Apollo Mission Control Center, Alcatraz, and the Martin Luther King Birthplace in Atlanta, Georgia are Landmarks that illustrate important contributions to the nation’s historical development.

New Jersey has over 50 NHL’s, including Craftsman Farms, Monmouth Battlefield, Paulsdale, Ringwood Manor, Sandy Hook Lighthouse, and the Walt Whitman House.

Potential Landmarks are identified primarily through theme studies undertaken by the National Park Service (NPS); these studies provide a comparative analysis of properties associated with a specific area of American history, such as Labor or Women’s History. The historic importance of candidates for Landmark designation is evaluated by the National Park Service and the National Park System Advisory Board twice yearly at meetings that are open to the public. The Advisory Board includes citizens who are national and community leaders in the conservation of natural, historic and cultural areas. Recommendations by the Advisory Board are made to the Secretary of the Interior on potential National Historic Landmarks. Final
decisions regarding National Historic Landmark designation are made by the Secretary of the Interior.

Nominations prepared by other Federal agencies, State Historic Preservation Officers, and individuals are also accepted for review and represent an increasing number of nominations reviewed each year.

Landmarks that have been recognized by the Secretary of the Interior possess national significance and have exceptional value in representing or illustrating an important theme in the history of the nation. Properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, need to demonstrate only State or local significance. For example, many of New Jersey’s lighthouses are listed in the National Register because of the key roles they played in the state’s history. Sandy Hook Light, however, is nationally significant as the oldest standing lighthouse in the United States.

All National Historic Landmarks are included in the National Register which is the official list of the nation’s historic properties worthy of preservation. Landmarks constitute some 2,100 of almost 65,000 entries in the National Register. The criteria, process and procedures for listing a property in the National Register are different from that for Landmarks designation.

Nominations to the National Register are submitted by the state historic preservation offices and include cultural resources of local, state and national significance. Evaluation and final decision rest with the National Register Office. Conversely, properties must be of national significance to be designated as National Historic Landmarks. Evaluation is conducted by the National Park Service’s National Historic Landmarks Survey. Nominations are then reviewed by the National Park System Advisory Board with designation made by the Secretary of the Interior.

Some properties already listed in the National Register are subsequently identified by the Survey as

Old Queens, Rutgers University, Middlesex County, Drawing 1844.

William Livingston House (Liberty Hall), Union County, Drawing, 1844.
nationally significant; others are identified for the first time during Landmark theme studies or other special studies. Both the National Historic Landmarks and the National Register programs are administered by the National Park Service under the Secretary of the Interior.

Designation as a National Historic Landmark or listing in the National and New Jersey Registers does not generally place restrictions on private property owners. Whenever a project is publicly funded, however, there is a measure of protection afforded to NHL’s. The National Park Service may recommend to private owners various preservation actions, but owners are not obligated to carry out these recommendations. They are free to make whatever changes they wish if public funding, licensing or permits are not involved.

Landmarks owners are provided with a bronze plaque to display at the property. These are available from the National Park Service at no cost to the owner.

The National Park Service also provides technical preservation advice to owners of National Historic Landmarks. Questions regarding preservation issues are routinely answered by phone or letters, or during on-site visits by NPS staff. The following are other forms of assistance the NPS provides to owners:

1. The National Park Service publishes and distributes information available to Landmark owners and administrators on a variety of preservation subjects. For a catalog of NPS publications contact the NHL program manager.

2. From time to time, the National Park Service contacts Landmark owners about the condition of their properties and may ask for permission to visit. The NPS is responsible by law for monitoring the condition of National Historic Landmarks and to report to Congress those that are seriously threatened or damaged. The annual report identifies the nature of the threat and damage and includes recommendations for preserving the endangered Landmark. Its purpose is to inform Congress

Nassau Hall, College of NJ, now Princeton University, Mercer County, Drawing, 1844.
and the preservation community of the endangered status of these properties and to stimulate preservation action. A Landmark’s inclusion in this report requires no compliance action on the part of the owner or the parties causing the threat or damage. However, if the qualities which led to the property’s designation have been lost, the Landmark designation will be removed.

3 Each year, as funding permits, a limited number of Landmark buildings may be selected to receive indepth property assessments funded and coordinated by the National Park Service. The purpose of these inspections is to analyze the specific condition of the Landmark, identify and prioritize recommended work treatments, and estimate the costs for carrying out this work. If funding permits, information derived from the indepth inspection may be compiled in a building condition assessment report which may be made available to owners, preservation organizations, and interested public and private groups. Also, as funding permits, executive summaries of condition assessment reports titled “Landmarks at Risk” may be prepared by the National Park Service for selected Landmarks. Copies of these reports are made available to property owners, local governments, community organizations and visitors. These publications are used to raise awareness of the Landmark’s significance and preservation needs.
**Landmark Assistance Initiative**

The Preservation Initiatives Branch of Heritage Preservation Service of the National Park Service coordinates the National Historic Landmark Assistance Initiative.

This initiative has three goals:

1. To preserve National Historic Landmarks.

2. To improve service and technical assistance to the owners of National Historic Landmarks.

3. To build a constituency for cultural resources through education of the public about National Historic Landmarks.

As part of this initiative, the National Park Service will attempt to provide owners of NHLs with basic information about the program, including sources of technical and financial assistance for preservation and to facilitate communication among owners, State Historic Preservation Offices and the National Park Service.

This article was developed from information provided by the National Historic Landmarks Program. For further information and publications on National Historic Landmarks please contact:

**NHL Program**

National Park Service
Northeast Field Area,
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 597-7946.

For specific information on New Jersey’s National Historic Landmarks, please contact:

**Historic Preservation Office**

P.O. Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625-0404
(609) 984-6018

---

**Prospect House, Mercer County, Photo 1989.**
National Historic Landmarks

Abbott Farm Historic District
12/08/76
Trenton
Mercer County

All Saints Memorial Church
12/23/87
Navesink, Middletown Township
Monmouth County

Atlantic City Convention Hall
02/27/87
Atlantic City
Atlantic County

Ballantine (John) House
02/04/85
Newark
Essex County

Botto (Pietro & Maria) House
12/17/82
Haledon
Passaic County

Boxwood Hall
11/28/72
Elizabeth
Union County

Burlington County Prison
06/24/86
Mt. Holly
Burlington County

Cape May Historic District
05/11/76
Cape May County

Clark Thread Co. Historic District
06/02/78
East Newark
Hudson County
Cleveland (Grover) Home
06/23/65
Princeton
Mercer County

Craftsman Farms
12/14/90
Parsippany-Troy Hills
Morris County

Einstein (Albert) House
01/07/76
Princeton
Mercer County

Factory, Speedwell Village
05/30/74
Morristown
Morris County

Fort Hancock & Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District
12/17/82
Sandy Hook
Monmouth County

Fortune (T. Thomas) House
12/08/76
Red Bank
Monmouth County

Georgian Court
(George Jay Gould Estate)
02/04/85
Lakewood
Ocean County

Grace Church
12/23/87
Newark
Essex County

Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company Warehouse
06/02/78
Jersey City
Hudson County

Great Falls of the Passaic Society for Useful Manufactures Historic District
05/11/76
Paterson
Passaic County

Hanger #1, Lakehurst Naval Air Station
05/23/68
Lakehurst
Ocean County

Above: Burlington County Prison, Burlington County, drawing, 1844.

Below: Elias Boudinot, Boxwood Hall, Union County, portrait by Charles Wilson Peale, ca. 1810
Hadrosaurus Foulkii Leidy Site
10/12/94
Haddonfield
Camden County

Henry (Joseph) House
01/12/65
Princeton
Mercer County

Hermitage
08/29/70
Hohokus
Bergen County

Holland Tunnel
11/04/93
Jersey City
Hudson County, NJ
& Lower Manhattan, NY

Hopkinson (Francis) House
07/17/71
Bordentown
Burlington County

Horn Antenna
12/20/89
Holmdel
Monmouth County

Lawrenceville School
02/24/86
Lawrenceville,
Township of Lawrence,
Mercer County

Livingston (William) House
11/28/72
Union
Union County

Lucy, the Margate Elephant
05/11/76
Margate City
Atlantic County

Maybury Hill
11/11/71
Princeton
Mercer County
Minisink Archaeological Site  
04/19/93  
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Sussex County, NJ & Pike County, Pa.

Monmouth Battlefield  
01/20/61  
Manalapan Monmouth County

Morven  
07/17/71  
Princeton Mercer County

Nassau Hall  
10/09/60  
Princeton Mercer County

Nast (Thomas) Home  
01/29/64  
Morristown Morris County

New St. Mary’s Episcopal Church  
06/24/86  
Burlington Burlington County

Old Barracks  
11/28/72  
Trenton Mercer County

Old Queens, Rutgers University  
05/11/76  
New Brunswick Middlesex County

Above: Cape May Historic District (Chalfonte Hotel), Cape May County, photo 1977.

Left: Hadrousaurosaurus Foulkii Leidy Site, Camden County, sketch, 1994.

Below: Hermitage, Bergen County, drawing, 1844.
Palisades Interstate Park
01/12/65
Alpine
Bergen County, NJ and New York

Paulsdale
12/04/91
Mt. Laurel Township
Burlington County

Presidents House
07/17/71
Princeton
Mercer County

Princeton Battlefield
01/20/61
Princeton
Mercer County

Prospect
02/04/85
Princeton
Mercer County

Red Bank Battlefield
11/28/72
National Park Borough
Gloucester County

Ringwood Manor
11/13/66
Ringwood Borough
Passaic County

Sandy Hook Light
01/29/64
Sandy Hook
Monmouth County

Seabright Lawn Tennis & Cricket Club
10/05/92
Rumson
Monmouth County

Shadow Lawn
02/04/85
West Long Branch
Monmouth County
Stanton (Elizabeth Cady) House
05/15/75
Tenafly
Bergen County

Trent (William) House
04/15/70
Trenton, Mercer County

Washington’s Crossing
01/20/61
Hopewell Township,
Mercer County,
NJ & New Hope,
Bucks County, Pa.

Whitman (Walt) House
12/29/62
Camden
Camden County

Above: Lucy the Margate Elephant, Atlantic County, patent, 1882

Left: Alice Paul of Paulsdale, Burlington County, photo, ca. 1930.
Above: Old Barracks, Mercer County

Right: Walt Whitman at home, Camden County, ca. 1887 photo by Thomas Eakins.

Below: Trent House in foreground, Mercer County, watercolor, 1798.