

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Cooper River Historic Trail. The trail takes the historic traveler along a Camden County, New Jersey route connecting historically significant sites linked to the Cooper River, a tributary of the Delaware River.

LOCATION

The Trail starts at Pomona Hall on Park Blvd. and Euclid Ave. in Camden, NJ.

EARLY HISTORY

Originally settled by the Lenai Lenape Indians, a Band of the Delaware Tribe, the Delaware River Valley and its tributaries were explored and settled in the 1600's by Western Europeans, including Swedes, Dutch, and English. Foremost among the early settlers were the Quakers.

The official name of the Quakers was the Society of Friends. This Protestant sect was founded by George Fox in England about 1650 and believed strongly in non-violence forbidding them from participating in war. Leaving England for the new world and religious freedom, they settled and farmed this area.

Since the development of roads was slow, the tributaries to the Delaware River were settled first to assist farmers and other settlers with transportation. In the Camden County area these streams included the Big Timber, Pennsauken, Newton and Cooper.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

This trail was created as a Girl Scout Gold Award project by Camden County Girl Scout Amy L. Gorman of Troop 459, Cherry Hill, NJ in 1996-1997.

TRAIL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. The historic trail is available to individuals, families, Scout and other groups and may be hiked at the convenience of the hiker without pre-registration.
2. Organized groups must conform to all their normal requirements governing outings. Each group will assume full responsibility and liability of the members of its party.
3. Observe all traffic and safety rules.
4. Hikers are reminded that many sites are on private property.
5. Prior coordination for hours of operation is required if the trail hiker wishes to enter or tour any of the sites along the trail. Tours are optional and are not required for the successful completion of the trail.
6. The trail is primarily a walking tour with a total distance of approximately 12 miles beginning at Pamona Hall, Park Blvd. and Euclid Ave. in Camden, NJ.
7. There is no time limit to finish the trail.
8. Picnic sites are available near sites 3, 4, 11 and 15.
9. Hikers who complete the trail and correctly answer the questions contained in this booklet are eligible to obtain a trail patch and/or medal. The Answer Sheet and Order Form with instructions are included at the end of this Trail Guide Booklet.
10. Your comments or suggestions regarding the Cooper River Historic Trail are earnestly solicited. It is hoped you enjoy the Trail and more fully appreciate our national historic heritage.

I. POMONA HALL

In 1679, William and Margaret Cooper came to New Jersey from England as part of a large Quaker settlement in the Delaware Valley. They purchased land and built a home at Pyne Poynt, an area where the Cooper River empties into the Delaware River.

William gave 412 acres to his son, Joseph Cooper, Jr. in 1714.

In 1726, Joseph built a brick house near the current structure and cultivated fruit trees on much of the remaining acres of the farm. Since Pomona was the Roman Goddess of fruit and vegetation, the family home was named after her. During Joseph's time his plantation was full of orchards, pastures, tenant quarters and barns. It was one of the largest homes in the area. Today, it is surrounded by the 85,000 residents of the City of Camden.

Having served in the Colonial New Jersey Legislature for 19 years, "he played a significant role in establishing a healthy legal and social climate for the expanding community." Joseph Cooper also served as a mediator for many disputes between Quakers (Friends) in the region. The Cooper family was influential in the development of the area. They operated a ferry to Philadelphia. In colonial times, what is now Camden was called Cooper's Ferry.

Pomona Hall remained in Cooper family hands until it was bought by the Parkside Land Company in 1901. In 1915, it was sold to Camden City who leased it to the Camden County Historical Society in 1924. It now houses a library and museum that focuses on the changing life of area families from 1726 to 1900.

1. The date of construction of this home is embedded in the chimney brickwork. The date is _____.

DIRECTIONS: Proceed down Park Blvd. to Vesper Blvd., turn right and continue to Haddon Ave. Turn left to the Harleigh Cemetery Gate and enter the cemetery. Follow the signs to Walt Whitman's grave.

II. Harleigh Cemetery

Within Harleigh Cemetery is the grave of famous American poet and writer Whitman. In 1855, he issued the first edition of 12 poems called "Leaves of Grass". It used a new kind of verse structure.

During the Civil War Whitman cared for the wounded soldiers in Union Hospitals.

While serving as a government clerk he suffered a stroke and became partially paralyzed. Despite failing health, he moved to Camden in 1873 and continued to write there until his death.

Walt Whitman's work boldly asserted the worth of the individual and the oneness of all humanity. His defiant break with traditional poetic style exerted a major influence on American literature.

He designed his own tomb, styling it after the Temple of Solomon and positioning it to overlook one of his favorite knolls in Camden. Whitman's tomb is a famous pilgrimage site attracting thousands annually from around the world.

- 2a. Walt Whitman was born in _____.
- b. He died in _____.

DIRECTIONS: Exit the cemetery, turn left onto Haddon Avenue and continue under the overpass to Browning Road. Turn right and follow this road until it ends at Collins Ave. Locate:

III. COLLINS-KNIGHT HOUSE

This two and a half story Federal style, brick farmhouse is named for its builder Edward Collins, the namesake of the town, Collingswood, and his nephew, Edward Collins Knight who bought the homestead forty years after it was built. It is registered on the National Register of Historic Places.

E. C. Knight was one of the Homestead's most notable owners. He bought up vast tracks of land in the area. Knight was a sugar baron, railroad executive and real estate developer. In 1888, he dedicated over 100 acres of land known as Knight Park.

Tours of the restored homestead are available. Call 609-858-6205 for information.

3. When was the house built?

DIRECTIONS: Return to Browning Road and continue walking until it ends at South Park Drive. Turn right.

IV. HOPKINS HOUSE

This property was originally owned by a rich Dublin merchant named Robert Turner. Turner received the land from William Penn in the 1600's. After passing through a number of owners, it was bought by John Estaugh and later sold to the nephew and adopted son of John and Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh, settlers in the early 1700's in the Cooper river area, and founders of what is now Haddonfield. This house is named after Ebenezer Hopkins who is credited with building the current structure in the first half of the 1700's. The eastern wing was built by the W.P.A. in 1939.

The Hopkins House is the only original dwelling in Camden County which can be linked to the first generation of Haddon-Estaugh-Hopkins families in America.

The house is now owned and operated by the Camden County Board of Freeholders and is home to the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

4a. What geometric shape is part of the chimney's upper brickwork?

b. The house has a commanding view of what body of water?

DIRECTIONS: Continue on S. Park Drive. to Cuthbert Blvd., turn left. Cross the bridge and then right at the light on Park Ave. Walk east until the road ends. Follow the paved footpath to the right until it ends on Grove St. Turn right and continue to Maple Ave.

V. HADROSAURUS DINOSAUR

The first dinosaur bones found in America were discovered in Haddonfield, NJ at this site by the owner of the land, John Hopkins, in 1838. However, he did not understand the significance of the discovery.

In the summer of 1858, William Park Foulke, a fossil hobbyist and member of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, was vacationing in Haddonfield where he met Hopkins and learned of large bones that were uncovered in a layer of marl soil. Redigging at the site, Foulke found the world's first nearly complete dinosaur skeleton. This gave New Jersey the title of "the birthplace of American paleontology", the study of fossils.

The Hadrosaurus is interesting in that its physical characteristics were both reptilian and bird-like. Not only did it give evidence that dinosaurs could support themselves on their hind legs, but it also linked them to birds. This discovery proved to be a huge step in the study of dinosaurs.

The *Hadrosaurus Foulkii*, as it is scientifically termed, lived in the late Cretaceous period, 70-80 million years ago. This duck billed dinosaur ate vegetation and grew to length of 25 feet.

The Hadrosaurus was the first dinosaur to be reassembled and put on public display anywhere in the world. This occurred at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Currently, it can be viewed in the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, NJ.

5. The commemoration of the events occurring on this site was the subject of what type of youth service project? _____

DIRECTIONS: Return on Maple Ave. to Grove St., Cross Grove St. and then turn right. Continue on Grove St. to Hawthorne Ave. Turn right on Hawthorne Ave. Go one block and turn left on Wood Lane.

VI. HADDON HOUSE

John Haddon, a Quaker living in England, purchased 450 acres of land in this area in 1698 from Richard Matthews, the original non-native owner of the property presently called the Croft Farm. (Stop # 12 on the Historic Trail). The property was bounded by Kings Highway, Ellis Street and Cooper Creek, now called Cooper River. Thomas Willis also offered Haddon 100 acres farther down Cooper Creek. In the contract, however, John Haddon needed to occupy the land for six months. Business in England prevented him from living here, so he sent his 21 year old daughter, Elizabeth. She was given full power of attorney to claim, occupy, and purchase land.

She arrived in 1701 and in 1702 married John Estaugh, a minister in the Religious Society of Friends, who was on a mission to visit the Friends Meeting in America. In 1713, the Estaugh homestead, called New Haddonfield in honor of her father, was built on Wood Lane. The community grew and adopted the name of Haddonfield, a Quaker friendly environment that freed them from the persecution they suffered in England.

The original house was destroyed by fire in 1842 and the current structure was built on the original home's foundation. The style of the new house was different. Greek Revival was the architectural style popular when the house was being rebuilt in the 1840's. That style is reflected in the columns in the front of the house. They are the Doric type of column as characterized by the square on top of the columns.

The outbuildings currently on the property survived the fire of 1842. Elizabeth Haddon-Estaugh planted boxwood and yew in the front of the house. They are still growing.

6. How many columns support the porch roof? _____

DIRECTIONS: Continue on Wood Lane, turn right onto Hopkins Ave., then left on Haddon Ave. Continue to Lake Ave. Turn left, go one block and turn right on Friends Ave.

VII. FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

The Quakers have been a large influence in Haddonfield since its founding. They were the first denomination to build a church in Haddonfield and it remained the only place of worship in town for 90 years.

There are two types of Quaker worship services. The first is to gather in silence with no prearranged activities or minister. Something is said only when one feels they have some religious insight to share. The Meeting is considered over when two designated people shake hands. Everyone else then shakes hands and the meeting is closed. The second type is more structured. It was adopted in the 1800's during a major revival and renewal of American Protestantism. These services feature hymn singing, sermons, and pastoral prayer.

The first Friends meetinghouse in Haddonfield was built in 1721 when Elizabeth Estaugh got a deed from her father, John Haddon, to build the church on about the spot where the firehouse stands today. This small log building, however, was soon outgrown, and in 1760, a larger brick meeting house was constructed. During the 1820's, there was a large theological dispute among the Quakers, known as the "Separation." It was headed by Elias Hicker from New York who opposed the movement toward conformity and evangelism. He reaffirmed one of the key parts of Quakerism: to follow one's "inner light."

In 1828, there was an official spiritual break in Haddonfield of the two groups; the Orthodox and the Hicksites. They shared the same building for a number of years but their many disagreements led to a physical break in 1851. The Orthodox Friends moved to the current site and demolished the 1760 meeting house because it was on their land. The Hicksites were greatly enraged and quickly constructed their own building in 1851.

For over 101 years, the two sects remained separated until 1962 when they reunited. They agreed to move to this site, and the Hicksites sold their land to Acme with the condition that the meeting house would be incorporated into the construction of the supermarket. The Friends Meeting House is still in use.

7. A stone marker on the side of the meeting house indicates that the date of construction is _____.

DIRECTIONS: Return on Friends Ave. to Lake St. and turn left. Go one block to Haddon Ave. and turn left.

VIII. HADDON FIRE COMPANY #1

Roman Emperor Augustus is credited with starting the first “Fire Department” staffed by “vigilis” (watchman) in 24 B.C. The first fire regulations were established after a major fire in Boston in 1631, 11 years after the Pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock. New Amsterdam, now New York City, created the first public fire department in 1648.

On March 8, 1764, the more prominent figures in Haddonfield met at the Old Friends Meeting House to form the Friendship Company of Haddonfield. Currently called Haddonfield Fire Company #1, it is the second oldest volunteer Fire Company in continuous service in the U.S.

Early fire departments used engines that were merely tubs carried on runners, poles, or wheels. Bucket brigades delivered water to the fire from the fire engine. In 1672, the Dutch invented a leather hose that was stitched together to deliver water in greater quantity and accuracy. This replaced the bucket brigade. Hand operated pumps were developed about the same time allowing fire fighters to get water from streams, ponds and lakes.

Steam-powered fire engines were in use in large cities by the 1850’s. They were pulled to the fire by horses and pumped water to the fire. Cotton covered rubber hoses replaced leather hoses after their development in the 1870’s.

To see old fire fighting equipment on display in the firehouse ask a firefighter on duty to open the museum.

8. What is on top of the weathervane located on the peak of the firehouse roof?
-

DIRECTIONS: Continue on Haddon Ave. for one block and turn left at the corner onto Kings Highway.

IX. INDIAN KING TAVERN

This famous tavern was built in 1730 and housed many noteworthy visitors including Nathaniel Green, Marquis de Lafayette and General George Washington. It has been suggested that Dolly Madison’s uncle operated the inn and that she visited the inn, but this has never been confirmed. During that time, women, especially respectable women, would never stay in a tavern.

Taverns often served as community bulletin boards where current news was posted by locals and travelers. All types of people, the rich, their servants and even bounty hunters would sleep, drink, and talk under this roof. Because taverns were in a central location and were large, they provided a perfect place to hold large functions.

The NJ Colonial Assembly met here and at five other locations in 1777 to reorganize New Jersey as a state government. The NJ Council of Safety was then organized to suppress opposition to the American Revolution. Members of the legislature were empowered to raise a militia against loyalists, hold hearings, and convict. New Jersey’s first Legislature met at the Indian King and approved the State’s Seal.

The New Jersey Rebel Militia occupied a house across the street to hold prisoners who were in opposition to the Revolution. The center house was chosen so only the front and rear needed to be guarded. A plaque on the house commemorates its role in the Revolutionary War.

9. The plaque on the Indian King Tavern refers to a building across the street.
What is it called? _____

DIRECTIONS: Continue traveling the same direction on Kings Highway and cross Grove St.

X. HADDON FORTNIGHTLY

Built in 1857 as a Methodist church, it was later remodeled into a Greek Revival style structure. In 1931, it was purchased by a women’s club called the Haddon Fortnightly.

It is on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act created the National Register of Historic Places. Not only properties of national interest, but also sites, buildings, objects, and districts of state and local interest qualify for consideration for addition to the Register. The Act established a matching grant program to acquire and preserve historic properties on the National Register.

Most of Haddonfield along Kings Highway is part of the Historic District and is on the National Register. This designation has helped to preserve the historic character of the buildings and the town. Many of the homes in the district display the construction date and original owner. The Township of Haddonfield has a pamphlet available describing the homes and their architectural features.

Many of the sites on the Cooper River Historic Trail are on the Register.

- 10a. How many large circular windows are built into the structure? _____
 b. What Federal agency designated this building on the National Register of Historic Places? _____

DIRECTIONS: Continue traveling the same direction on Kings Highway for approximately 2 blocks.

XI. GREENFIELD HALL

John Gill came to West Jersey in the first decade of the 18th century. He was a wealthy farmer and attorney to John and Elizabeth Estaugh. In 1728, the Estaughs conveyed a parcel of land to Gill. It adjoined the north side of their property and ran from Cooper Creek to Grove St. It was common practice during Colonial times to give a plot of land to one's children. John Gill IV rebuilt the current Georgianstyle house in 1841 as a wedding present for his bride, Elizabeth French. It was constructed on the site of an earlier 18th Century Gill house.

The site featured in the Battle of Fort Mercer in 1777. In this year, the British had taken control of Philadelphia and planned to secure the Delaware River for their fleet. Americans hastily constructed a fort in Red Bank, near present day Woodbury, to protect the Delaware River. General Howe decided to attack the fort by land. A Hessian Colonel who had been partially responsible for their loss at the Battle of Trenton, desired to redeem himself and volunteered his 2000 German mercenaries for the mission. Crossing from Philadelphia to Coopers Ferry, later Camden, his troops marched to Haddonfield after a slight skirmish with a small number of New Jersey militia while enroute. The Hessians chose this property as an encampment and their Commander, Colonel Von Donop, used Greenfield Hall as his headquarters for the night. The next day they left Haddonfield and proceeded to Ft. Mercer where the Americans under Colonel Greene defeated the Hessians.

Greenfield Hall is now the home of the Historical Society of Haddonfield.

11. A plaque on the right part of the house (not the front) indicates the original owner and date of construction.
 a. Date: _____ b. Owner's Name: _____

DIRECTIONS: Continue traveling the same direction on Kings Highway for approximately 4 blocks, then turn right on Evans Mill Rd. and cross the bridge.

XII. CROFT FARM

The first survey of the Croft Farm land was in 1683 for Richard Matthews who bought 500 acres. Salem Road (See Stop #13 on the Historic Trail) passed through the property prior to construction of the dam. In 1779, a dam was constructed on the South Branch of the Cooper River just below the current farmhouse and that created Evans Pond for mill operations. The Cooper River Historic Trail crosses the dam at this site.

A mill was built on the north side of the dam for grinding grain into flour and meal. Mills were important for the farmers in this area. Later mills on this site were used in the production of cloth and to

cut wood. Although a number of mills were in operation on the south Branch of the Cooper River, none currently remain.

The property and its Quaker owners figured prominently during the Civil War when Josiah Evans, a member of the Abolition Society, used the farm as a stop on the Underground Railroad for slaves fleeing from the South. Runaways would stay a night at Croft Farm then be transported by wagon to Mount Holly the next day. The "Underground Railroad" was in operation from approximately 1830-1860. Quakers were Abolitionists and wanted slavery declared illegal. Although they assisted in helping runaway slaves flee the South, free blacks played the major role.

Cherry Hill Township bought the farm from the Croft family and has preserved it for use as a recreational, educational and cultural site. The ice house and spring house can be viewed in the back of the main house.

- 12a. How many sides does the ice house building have? _____
 b. What date is attached to the side of the main farm house? _____

DIRECTIONS: Exit the farm and turn right on Evans Mill Road. At the light on Brace Rd., turn left.

XIII. OLD SALEM ROAD

Roads in colonial times were developed following established Indian trails. Old Salem Road connected two key New Jersey colonial ports; Salem and Burlington.

Although the first Europeans to settle what is now New Jersey were from Holland and Sweden, England took control under King Charles II. He granted land to his brother, the Duke of York, who in turn granted it to two of his friends, Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. Berkeley was given the western part of the land between the Hudson and the Delaware Rivers. But sold it to a group of English Quakers when he got into financial difficulties. This group of owners was headed by William Penn. Under his leadership the area was officially divided into East and West Jersey in 1676. In 1681, the first Assembly of West New Jersey met in the capital of Burlington. Old Salem Road was laid out in 1681-1685 under the authority of this legislature. East and West New Jersey were ultimately united as a British Colony in 1702 and named New Jersey.

Information about sites of historic interest in Burlington City and County is available by hiking the Oyster Shell Creek Historic Trail. Trail information can be obtained from the Burlington County Boy Scout Council in Rancocas, New Jersey.

During the Revolutionary War, the road was used by the British on their way to Monmouth Courthouse. The right wing of the British Army turned off of Salem Road and used Tuckerton Road that somewhat parallels the present day NJ State Route 70. The left wing continued north to Moorestown, then to freehold to encounter the Continental Army.

13. The marker for the "Old Salem Road" is located near a bridge crossing what body of water?

DIRECTIONS Continue on Brace Rd. to Bowood Ave. Turn right and continue for two blocks. Bear left onto Brookmeade. Turn right on Midway Ave.

XIV. BONNIE'S BRIDGE

This is the last surviving stone arch bridge in Camden County. The bridge spanned a stream feeding into the North Branch of the Cooper River.

It is thought that the British Army used it when they evacuated Philadelphia in June, 1778 in pursuit of General George Washington and the Continental Army. After turning off Old Salem Road, the British continued toward Monmouth and on June 19, 1778 the Battle of Monmouth ensued. The Battle of Monmouth Historic Trail provides more information on the important Revolutionary War conflict. Contact the Monmouth County Boy Scout Council in Oakhurst, NJ 07755.

The bridge was named after Bonnie Cocchiarley who worked to protect the bridge and to have it placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

14. When was Bonnie's Bridge placed on the National Register of Historic Places? _____

DIRECTIONS: Continue on Midway Ave. It will turn into Wayland Dr. Bear left on Sharrowvale Ave. for one block then right on Barclay Ave. and go approximately five blocks.

XV. BARCLAY FARMSTEAD

Sold to the English Quakers by the Lenai Lenape Indians in the 1600's, the land transferred ownership many times until being sold to Joseph Cooper, a sixth generation decedent of the founder of Camden and the builder of Pomona Hall (See Stop #1 on the Historic Trail).

Many colonial farms in this area of New Jersey sent their products to the growing market in Philadelphia. More information regarding farming in colonial times is presented using interpretive materials around the present day three-story brick farmhouse.

The farmhouse is on the State and National Register of Historic Places. The Township of Cherry Hill has preserved the farmhouse and outbuildings for educational and cultural activities and as a community garden plot site.

15. Name four existing features or outbuildings on the farmstead.
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

CONCLUSION

This is the last stop on the Cooper River Historic Trail. It is hoped you have enjoyed your experience and have learned some of the historical significance of the Cooper River area of Camden County, New Jersey and its part in our nation's heritage and development.

COOPER RIVER HISTORIC TRAIL ANSWER SHEET

1. _____
2. a. _____ b. _____
3. _____
4. a. _____ b. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
- 10.a. _____ b. _____
- 11.a. _____ b. _____
- 12.a. _____ b. _____
13. _____
14. _____
- 15.a. _____ b. _____
c. _____ d. _____

COOPER RIVER HISTORIC TRAIL HIKING RECORD

UNIT GROUP _____

DATE HIKE TAKEN _____

HIKER REGISTRATION—PRINT

No.	Name	Patch	Medal
1.	_____		
2.	_____		
3.	_____		
4.	_____		
5.	_____		
6.	_____		
7.	_____		
8.	_____		
9.	_____		
10.	_____		
11.	_____		
12.	_____		
13.	_____		
14.	_____		
15.	_____		

I certify that the above named persons have successfully completed the **Cooper River Historic Trail** and that they have answered all of the questions pertaining to the hike.

Trail Leader _____

_____ Patches @ \$2.25 each \$ _____

_____ Medals @ 12.50 each _____

_____ Patch holders @ .50 each _____

NC Residents add 6.75% Sales Tax _____

POSTAGE AND HANDLING SCHEDULE

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\$20.01 to \$30.00	add \$4.75	\$30.01 to \$50.00	add \$6.00
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