

EXPLORE WARREN HISTORY TRAIL



A Self-Guided Tour of Heritage Sites

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1 Millbrook Village



3 Blairstown Historic District



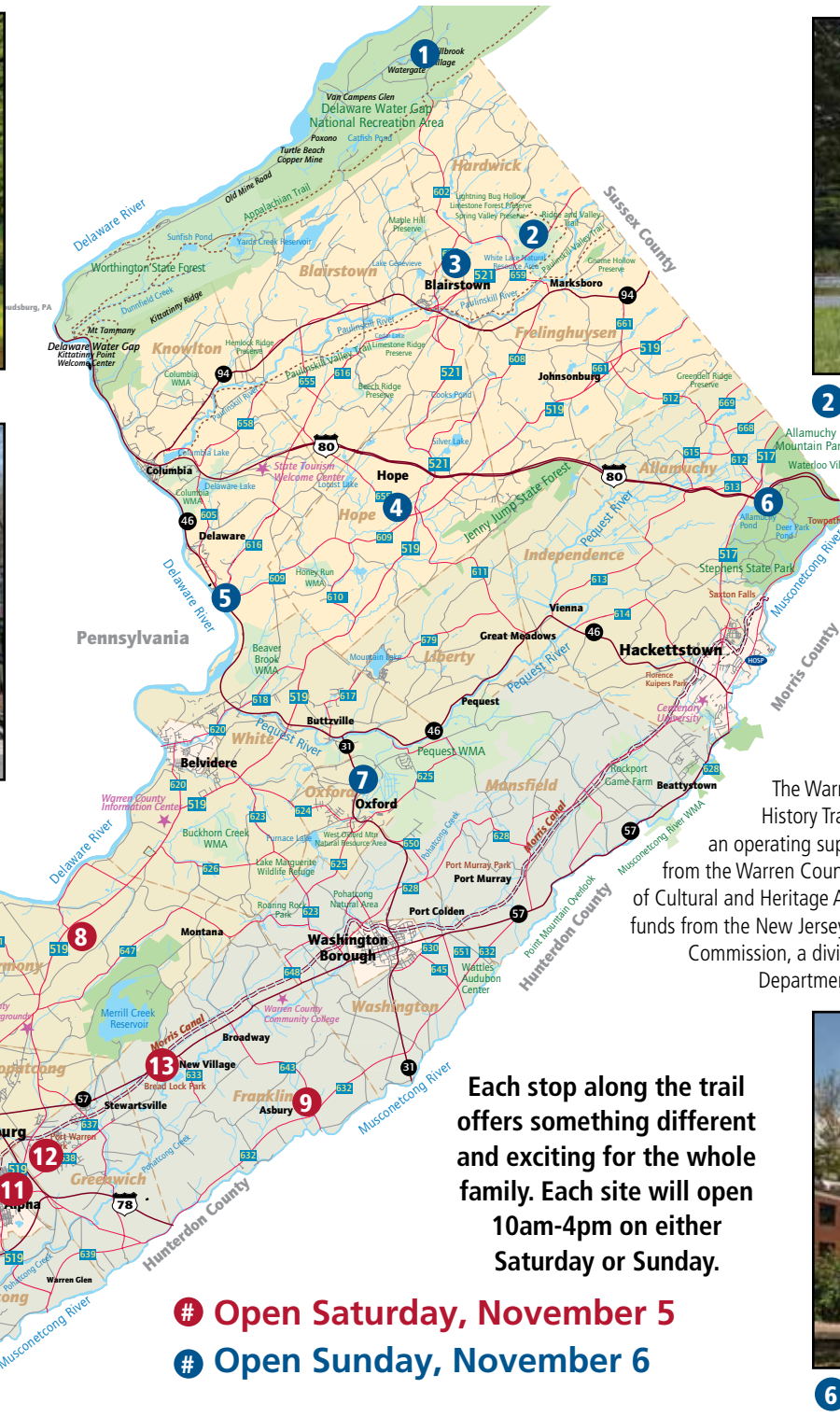
5 Ramsaysburg



7 Shippen Manor



10 Roseberry-Gess House



Each stop along the trail offers something different and exciting for the whole family. Each site will open 10am-4pm on either Saturday or Sunday.

Open Saturday, November 5

Open Sunday, November 6



2 Vass Farmstead



4 Village of Hope



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8 VanNest-Hoff-Vannatta Farm



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As it approaches its bicentennial in 2024-2025, Warren County will celebrate a remarkable history as well as its reputation for the cleanest waterways and richest farmland in New Jersey. Stemming from wilderness times well before its official formation through 1824 legislation, Warren County’s agricultural heritage, in combination with eighteenth and nineteenth century innovations in transportation and industry, formed important chapters in the rural American tradition.

Millbrook Village

Old Mine Road and Route 602, Hardwick
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Millbrook Village, part of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA), is a re-created community of the 1800s where aspects of pioneer life are exhibited and occasionally demonstrated by skilled and dedicated docents throughout the village. Although most of the buildings at the site are replications, Millbrook has a real past. A few of the old structures have survived the ravages of Mother Nature, and escaped condemnation to make way for the ill-fated Tocks Island Dam project in the 1960s. Although the project sealed the fate of this and other villages in what is now a National Park, the Millbrook Village Society has worked hard and consistently to bring the village back to life.

Several buildings will be open and staffed for interpretation and various demonstrations on Sunday, 10am - 4pm.

Vass Farmstead

97 Stillwater Road (CR 521), Hardwick
Hardwick Historical Society • www.vassfarmstead.org

Jon Vass of German extraction purchased the original parcel in 1802 and built the first section of the farmstead house in 1812, later expanding the house made of hand cut stone to accommodate a growing family. In1997 a consortium of agencies pulled together the resources to purchase the site to preserve the open space, and volunteers undertook the preservation of the house and large barn. Today the Vass Farmstead is transitioning from a museum to a venue that will support a variety of uses in support of continuing preservation efforts. Located across from the White Lake Natural Resources Area, visitors can split their time between the historic structures and the shoreline of White Lake, enjoying a stroll on the trail system circumventing the lake.

A Hardwick Township Historical Society docent will conduct tours of the house and barn on Sunday, 10am - 4pm.

Blairstown Historic District

Blairstown Historic Preservation Committee
www.blairstowntownship.org

In 1839, the village known as Gravel Hill was renamed Blairstown in honor of its most celebrated citizen, thirty-seven-year-old John Insley Blair. Blair was born near Belvidere and by 1820 he had moved to the hamlet going into partnership as a storekeeper and becoming the postmaster. Throughout the 1800s Blair grew his empire to include ownership of banking firms, plantations, mills, and mines. In 1853 he established the Warren Railroad becoming a mogul who was instrumental in expanding railroad lines throughout the West. He operated his businesses from his beloved village, much of which has remained unchanged since his death in 1899. Blairstown’s Main Street boasts an 1825 flouring mill and Victorian Era architecture. The Blairstown Historic District was established on the National Registry of Historic Places in 2007.

Visit the BHPC tent to the right of the Old Mill at 12 Main Street, Sunday, 10am - 4pm.

Moravian Village of Hope

Hope Historical Society • www.hopenjhistory.com

When Moravian missionaries arrived in the vicinity of Jenny Jump Mountain, they enjoyed the hospitality of Samuel Green, Jr. and his family, who eventually offered a thousand acres of their land on which to build the planned settlement called Hope. Founded in 1769, this beautiful village with its collection of fine old stone structures is, in itself, a museum. The Moravians constructed a gristmill, mechanics’ shops, a store, a distillery, tavern, tannery, and a church, along with private homes. Most of their buildings were sturdy stone structures, many of which have survived to the current day. The Moravians departed Hope in 1808 , but they left behind the unique architecture that enchants visitors when they come to town, buildings that have been restored and adapted for commercial businesses or contemporary homes.

There will be self-guided walking tours with representatives at prominent buildings to offer historical facts on Sunday, 10am - 4pm.

Ramsaysburg Historic Homestead

140 Route 46, Delaware
Friends of Ramsaysburg • www.ramsaysburg.org

The buildings that you see at this twelve-acre historical park — a tavern, barn, cottage, smokehouse and shed — were built from 1800 to 1870, and are the remains of a fifty-acre tract settled in 1795 by Irish immigrants James and Adam Ramsay in what was then New Jersey’s northwestern frontier. Although they’ve seen their share of abuse and neglect, the remaining structures are relatively true to their original form and are irreplaceable. Visitors exploring the site, listed on State and National Historic Registers, can experience the cultural changes wrought by the extraordinary confluence of river, railroad and highway innovations. The site also provides links to the area’s abundant cultural resources to be found in historic villages and along scenic byways.

Trail visitors will enjoy interpretive tours of the grounds as well as seasonal family activities and live music on Sunday, 10am - 4pm.

Rutherfurd Hall

1686 Route 517, Allamuchy
Friends of Rutherfurd Hall
908-280-3654 • www.rutherfurdhall.org

Rutherfurd Hall was designed between 1903-1905 by famed New York architect Whitney Warren. His work resulted in an 18,000 square foot Tudor-style summer cottage for his clients and friends, Winthrop (1862-1944) and Alice (Morton) Rutherfurd (1879-1917). The mansion is one of the last extant, large-country estates in New Jersey constructed during the Country Place Era (1890-1920). Among its many noteworthy visitors and events, Franklin D Roosevelt’s lunch with Lucy M Rutherfurd, Winthrop’s widow, in September, 1944, stands out. Our goal is to bring history to life by telling meaningful historical stories about a cross section of New Jersey citizens during the first half of the twentieth century. Our exhibition space has recently been expanded to include Mr. Rutherfurd’s bedroom, a servants’ quarters, a linen room, a research room, and an Allamuchy School room.

Open Sunday, 10am - 4pm for tours starting on the hour.



Shippen Manor/ Oxford Furnace

8 Belvidere Ave, Oxford
Warren County Land Preservation Div. Cultural Affairs
www.warrenparks.com/wcch/ • 908/453-4381

Shippen Manor is located in the heart of Oxford (formerly known as “Oxford Furnace”). The town developed around the old iron furnace that was built around 1741 by Jonathan Robeson. It was one of the first three furnaces built during the colonial era in America and the only one built near the source of ore. The hillside was graded in the early 1750s and brothers Joseph and Dr. William Shippen, Sr. had the main (south) block of the Manor house constructed around 1754. Two years later, the Furnace was well-established and included lands, plantations, and improvements that included around 4,000 acres, a gristmill, blacksmith shop, sawmill and stamping mill. During the Revolutionary War, it is believed that the Furnace produced cannonballs for the Continental Army.

Museum tours and Co. F, 27th NJ Reg’t encampment on Sunday, 10am – 4pm. Oxford Colonial Methodist Church (formerly the gristmill) will offer tours of the church from noon to 4pm.

VanNest-Hoff-Vannatta Farm

3026 Belvidere Road (CR 519), Harmony Township
Historic Preservation Commission of Harmony Township
www.hoffvannattafarm.org

The remarkably intact farmstead, listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places in 2005, reflects three centuries of agricultural practices and rural architecture. At its center is the farmhouse, originally built circa 1755, with an addition extending eastward circa 1810. The summer kitchen, circa 1810, sits in the southern yard of the farmhouse. An outhouse and smokehouse sit just to the east of the farmhouse. Three wagon houses, built and altered throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, line the gravel drive leading to the massive barn. A remarkable structure, the barn’s heavy timber frame is a unique hybrid of building styles with an integral timber hay chute and a central swing post.

The main farmhouse and summer kitchen will be open Saturday, 10am - 4pm.

Asbury Mill

478 Old Main St., Asbury
Musconetcong Watershed Association
908/537-7060 • www.musconetcong.org

Since the Mill’s construction along the Musconetcong River as a gristmill — and later as a graphite mill — it has characterized the early industrial might of New Jersey with its use of water wheel and a turbine to power the early machines of commerce. The Musconetcong Watershed Association is committed to preserving the Asbury Mill and to raising public awareness of the rich social, agricultural and industrial heritage of the area. The turbine that powered the building and grain processing equipment remain in the building to illustrate how the Mill was operated. Once completed, the ground floor will serve as a public meeting space and classroom with dedicated interpretive exhibit areas.

Open Saturday, 10am - 4pm.

Roseberry-Gess House

540 Warren Street, Phillipsburg
Phillipsburg Area Historical Society
www.phillipsburghistorical.org

Come visit the historic Roseberry House. It is known to be the oldest standing structure in the town of Phillipsburg. It is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and is maintained by the Phillipsburg Historical Society. We will be having a fire pit dedication for our outside fire pit built with the help of Lafayette College students as well as a fire going inside our restored kitchen. Artifacts found on site are displayed inside the original kitchen.

There will be a slide show in the main room as well as local historians present to offer information and field any questions, Saturday, 10am - 4pm. Light refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!

Shimer Mansion

100 Sussex Street, Phillipsburg
Pohatcong History and Heritage Society
www.pohatconghistory.weebly.com

Built on a bluff overlooking the well-traveled Easton-Brunswick turnpike in 1850, the house was the centerpiece for a 120-acre rural estate about a half-mile east of Morris Canal Lock 10 in the Green’s Bridge section of Phillipsburg. As it followed the Lopatcong Creek out of town, the canal was likely visible from the third story of the stylish Italianate residence, built by banker and gentleman farmer William B. Shimer. 150 years later the historic house stood abandoned until the Pohatcong History and Heritage Society took on stewardship through a generous donation by the Carpenter Family in 2015. The Pohatcong History and Heritage Society is working to restore the property as a community center and gallery for local artists.

Open Saturday, 10am - 4pm.

Morris Canal Greenway

Jim and Mary Lee Museum, 477 County Route 519, Stewartsville
Bread Lock Park and Museum, 2627 State Route 57, Stewartsville
www.warrenparks.com/morris-canal-greenway/

Just outside of Phillipsburg, the Morris Canal met Plane 9 West, the longest of twenty-three inclined planes that conquered the 1,674-foot change in elevation along the canal’s journey to Jersey City, now the site of the Jim and Mary Lee Museum. Further along the former canal route, Lock 7 West, another premiere site along the historic Morris Canal Greenway, became known as the “Bread Lock” because a small store at the end of the lock sold goods to boatmen passing through in the mid-19th century, including homemade bread and pies. While still buried, the remains of the lock speak to the historical significance of this site, and a full scale replica canal boat is located next to the lock. The Greenway is envisioned as an eventual 111-mile continuous pedestrian and bicycle trail connecting six counties in northern New Jersey, extending from the Delaware River on the west to the Hudson River on the east.

Open Saturday, 10am - 4pm.

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