

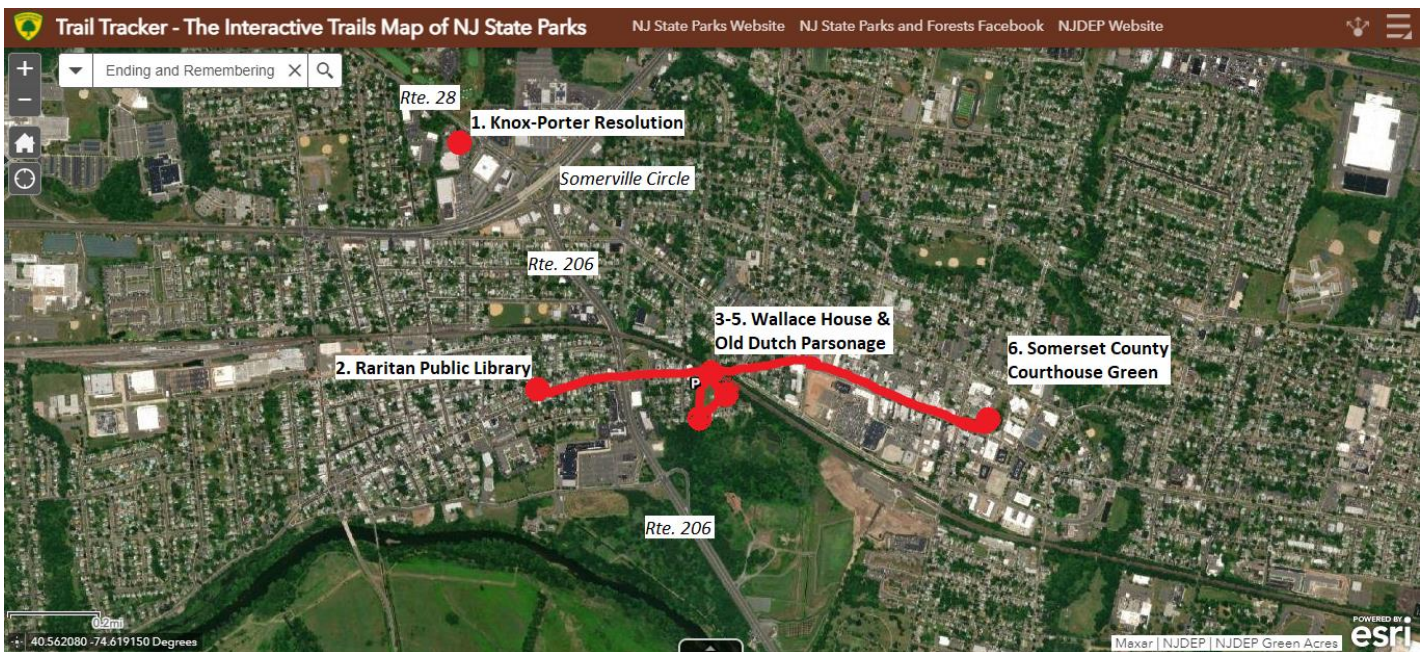


Ending & Remembering World War I

Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage STATE HISTORIC SITES

<https://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/historic/wallacedutch.html>

Over 100 years ago the Great War “Over There” ended “Over Here” in New Jersey. Explore the ending and remembering of World War I on this self-guided tour of Raritan and Somerville.



1. Knox-Porter Resolution is accessible by car only.

2. Raritan Public Library, 3-5. Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage, and 6. Somerset County Courthouse Green are accessible by car or foot.

2. Raritan Public Library and **3-5. Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage** are ½ mile apart on East Somerset Street in Raritan and Somerset Street in Somerville. Be mindful of traffic and safety procedures while crossing Rte. 206 between Raritan and Somerville.

3-5. Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage and **6. Somerset County Courthouse Green** are 1 mile apart on Main Street (Rte. 28) in Somerville.



Self-Guided Hikes



1. Knox-Porter Resolution

Somerville Circle Shopping Center
501 NJ Rte. 28, Raritan, NJ 08869 (Burger King)

Enter Somerville Circle Shopping Center. Turn right towards Burger King and then right to park behind the trees and bushes surrounding two stone pillars. Walk around to the opposite side of the plants to find the plaque marking the signing of the Knox-Porter Resolution facing the traffic lights on Easton Turnpike.



The stone pillars in this grove of bushes and trees are all that remain of Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, Sr.'s country estate in Raritan. These pillars supported the gate to "The Hill." The "Old Mansion" stood about where P.C. Richard & Son stands today.





Self-Guided Hikes



Joseph Frelinghuysen represented Somerset County in the Senate of New Jersey from 1906 to 1912 and served as Senate President. In 1916 Sen. Frelinghuysen won election to the U.S. Senate, the first U.S. Senator from New Jersey elected not by the Legislature of New Jersey but by popular vote in accordance with the new 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

A Republican, Sen. Frelinghuysen was a political ally and personal friend of U.S. President Warren G. Harding, a fellow Republican who won election in 1920. President Harding in 1921 and again in 1922 took summer vacations in New Jersey, staying as a guest of Sen. Frelinghuysen at the Hill. They were on the golf course together when the Knox-Porter Resolution arrived from Washington in the afternoon of July 2, 1921. President Harding returned to Sen. Frelinghuysen's home here for a makeshift ceremonial signing of the resolution, fulfilling with the support of Republicans in Congress his campaign promise to rescind the U.S. declaration of war on Germany and effectively end the conflict at the time called "The War to End All Wars."





Self-Guided Hikes



2. New Jersey's Frelinghuysen Family

Raritan Public Library: <https://raritanlibrary.org/history.html>

54 East Somerset Street, Raritan, NJ 08869

Sen. Frelinghuysen was one in a long line of Frelinghuysens in New Jersey and American politics. The first Sen. Frelinghuysen was Frederick, great-great-grandfather of Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, Sr. Frederick Frelinghuysen lived in this house which is today Raritan Public Library.

Frederick Frelinghuysen served as a delegate to the Provincial Congress of New Jersey at Burlington in 1776. The Provincial Congress adopted New Jersey's first Constitution on July 2, 1776 and directed New Jersey's delegates to the Continental Congress downriver in Philadelphia to cast New Jersey's vote in favor of American independence.

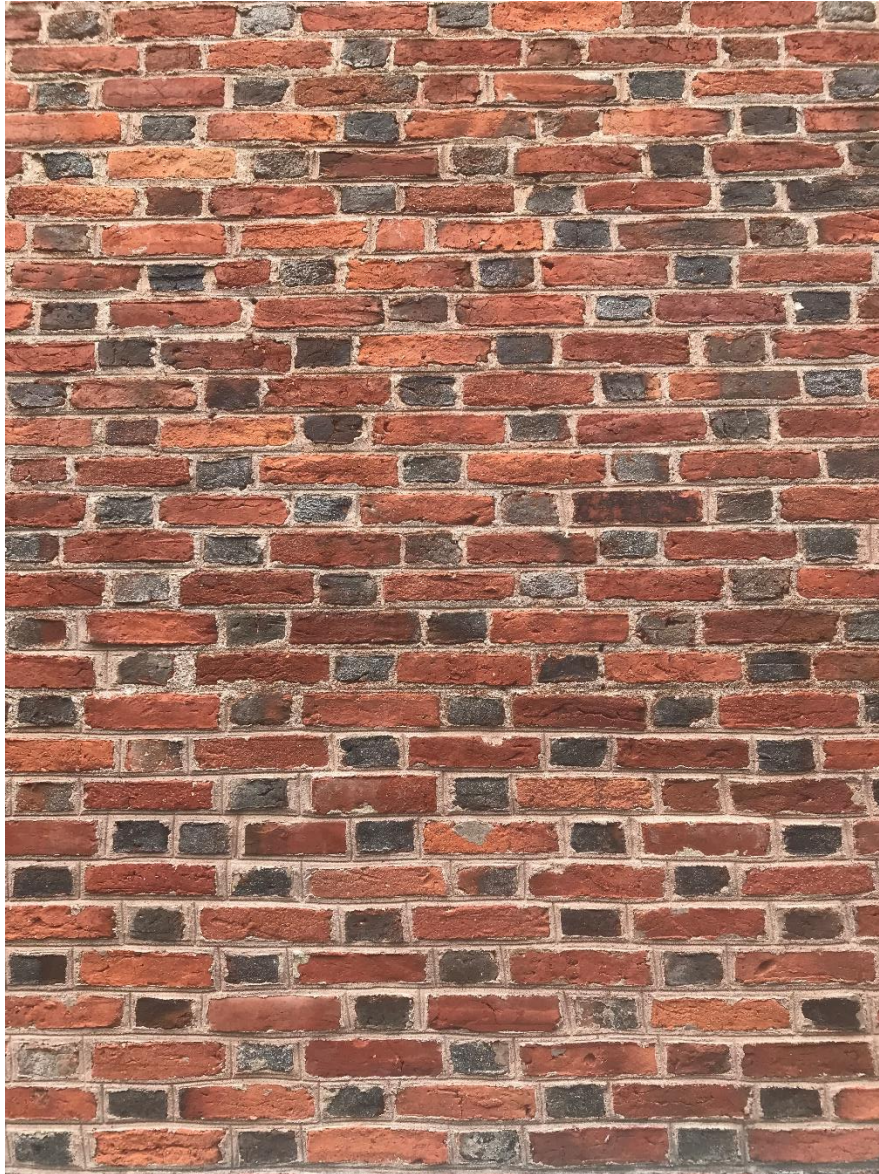




Self-Guided Hikes



Peter Frelinghuysen, who carried on the Frelinghuysen political tradition as U.S. Congressman from New Jersey's 5th Congressional District from 1953 to 1975, also carried on his family's association with this historic house. Rep. Frelinghuysen purchased the house in 1970 and supported its historic preservation as a museum and library for the Borough of Raritan.



Raritan Public Library's Flemish bond brickwork with glazed "headers" forming a checkered pattern dates back to the early 1800s and echoes the brickwork on the earlier **Old Dutch Parsonage**, built in 1751 for Frederick's father Rev. Johannes Frelinghuysen, a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church.





3. “He Kept Us Out of War”

Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage STATE HISTORIC SITES
71 Somerset Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

Today November 11 is a meaningful date around the world, marked as Armistice Day in France and Belgium, Remembrance Day throughout the Commonwealth of Nations, National Independence Day in Poland, and Veterans’ Day here in the United States. These celebrations and observances all remember November 11, 1918 when a ceasefire went into effect at eleven o’clock in the morning on the Western Front of World War I.



The New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution dedicated this flagpole at Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage on November 11, 1916, two years before the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” took on the mythic associations it still bears today.



Self-Guided Hikes



Far from remembering World War I, the United States in November 1916 when this flagpole was dedicated largely hoped to forget about the war “Over There” in Europe. Woodrow Wilson, the only U.S. President elected from New Jersey, had won reelection to the White House just a few days earlier on November 7 on the slogan “He Kept Us Out of War.”

Early in his second term, however, President Wilson reversed course. The increasing attacks of German submarines on American ships and the emergence of the Zimmerman Telegram revealing Germany’s attempts to persuade Mexico to attack the United States prompted President Wilson on April 2, 1917 to ask Congress for a declaration of war to “make the world safe for democracy.”

Following the Armistice in 1918, President Wilson traveled to Europe to represent the United States in peace negotiations, making him the first U.S. president to take an extended overseas trip while in office. President Wilson argued for a League of Nations to resolve future international conflict by diplomacy instead of war.

Republicans at home, however, including Sen. Frelinghuysen, strongly opposed the League of Nations, and the U.S. Senate refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles that President Wilson negotiated with the Allies. Voters, including for the first time women across the nation following the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, rejected President Wilson’s vision for the postwar world in the presidential election in 1920. Instead, war-weary Americans chose the Republican candidate Warren G. Harding who promised a return to “normalcy.”





Self-Guided Hikes



4. A Winter at War and a Summer at Peace

Wallace House STATE HISTORIC SITE
Washington Place, Somerville, NJ 08876

For President Harding, the rolling hills of Somerset County were a comfortable retreat for summer vacations. For his earliest predecessor as Commander-in-Chief, however, the Watchung Mountains were a defensive advantage for an army at war.

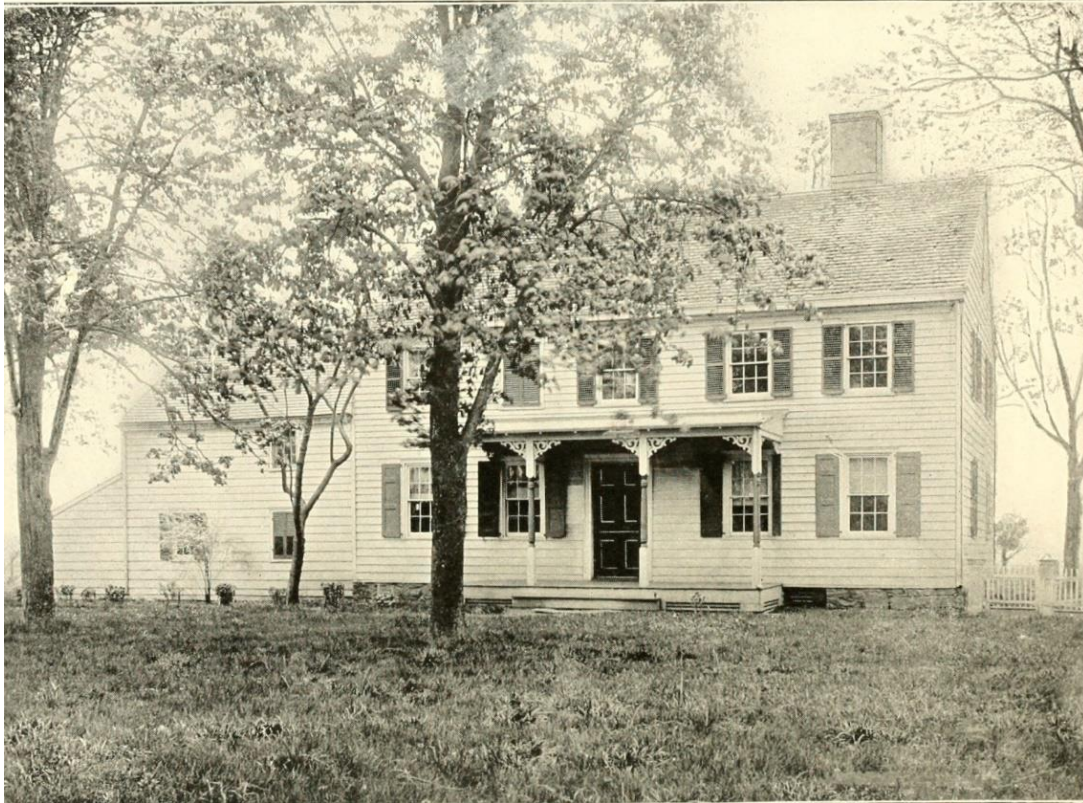
While the Revolutionary War raged on in the fall of 1778, George Washington chose the Middlebrook region between the Watchung Mountains and the Raritan River for the Continental Army's winter camp. The area was close enough to New York to monitor the British garrison centralized there but far out enough to allow retreat into the mountains of northern New Jersey if necessary. The country house of Philadelphia merchant John Wallace was the largest home built in New Jersey during the Revolutionary War, and in preparation for the Middlebrook Cantonment the Continental Army approached Mr. Wallace about renting this house for Gen. Washington's winter headquarters. George Washington stayed here from December 11 - 21, 1778 and February 5 - June 3, 1779, guiding the Continental Army through another winter at war.

Over 125 years later, President Harding arrived in Somerset County under very different circumstances. The Wallace House was now an historic house museum, purchased and preserved two decades earlier in 1897 by the Revolutionary Memorial Society of New Jersey.





Self-Guided Hikes



This photograph from the Revolutionary Memorial Society of New Jersey shows the Wallace House in the early twentieth century. The Greek Revival porch was a nineteenth-century addition later removed as part of the restoration of the house to its appearance during the American Revolution. Compare this picture of the north front, the side facing the railroad tracks, with the house today.

Before urban development around Rte. 206 later in the twentieth century, Raritan and Somerville remained rural. The view from the Wallace House to Sen. Frelinghuysen's country home at the Hill a mile away was clear and uninterrupted. On July 3, 1921, *The New-York Tribune* covering the signing of the Knox-Porter Resolution on the previous day reported,

"From where he sat the President could look down the little valley a few hundred feet and view the site of the old Wallace home, where George Washington had his headquarters during the winter of 1778, or he could look just beyond the range of hills where the Continental Army was encamped that winter."





5. Preservation and Peace

Old Dutch Parsonage STATE HISTORIC SITE
Washington Place, Somerville, NJ 08876

The first minister of the Dutch Reformed Church who lived here at the Old Dutch Parsonage was Rev. Johannes Frelinghuysen, son of the Great Awakening preacher Rev. Theodorus Jacobus Frelinghuysen who emigrated from the Netherlands to New Jersey and great-great-great-grandfather of Sen. Joseph Frelinghuysen who hosted President Harding in 1921.

Johannes Frelinghuysen moved into the new house in 1751, returning to New Jersey with his new wife Dinah Van Bergh after a journey to the Netherlands. Dinah Van Bergh, Joseph Frelinghuysen's great-great-great-grandmother, was herself a Dutch emigrant of pietist faith. Johannes Frelinghuysen met and married Dinah Van Bergh in Amsterdam where he had traveled to receive a license to preach in the Dutch Reformed Church. Johannes Frelinghuysen lived in this house only a few years until his death in 1754 but during this time he boarded and tutored students preparing for Dutch Reformed ministry and Dinah gave birth to their two children Frederick and Eva Frelinghuysen. After Johannes Frelinghuysen's death, Dinah married one of her first husband's former students and remained in the Old Dutch Parsonage when her second husband took up her first husband's ministry.

Following the Revolutionary War, the Old Dutch Parsonage passed out of the ownership of the Dutch Reformed Church. The house was unoccupied in 1912 when the Central Railroad of New Jersey purchased it to demolish and make way for raised railroad tracks through Somerville. Local outcry against the proposed demolition followed. Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, Sr. intervened in 1913, purchasing the Old Dutch Parsonage and relocating the house 500 yards to the west to its present location, safely beyond the railroad's right of way.

Sen. Frelinghuysen leased the Frelinghuysen family's ancestral home for a time to the Third Reformed Church of Raritan, a successor to the Dutch Reformed congregations that had built the Old Dutch Parsonage in the eighteenth century. The Frederick Frelinghuysen Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution helped care for the historic house and used it as their meeting place, an appropriate venue in consideration of their chapter's namesake. In 1937, Sen. Frelinghuysen donated the Old Dutch Parsonage to the D.A.R.'s Frederick Frelinghuysen Chapter who in turn transferred the historic house to the State of New Jersey in 1947 in the same transaction by which the Revolutionary Memorial Society similarly handed over the neighboring Wallace House.



Self-Guided Hikes



This picture from a 1913 Somerville newspaper shows the Old Dutch Parsonage at its original location about 500 yards to the east of its present site. The garret on top of the house includes a front-facing gabled room that was added in the nineteenth century. A porch adorns the front of the house and the front windows have been extended into fashionable French windows reaching from floor to ceiling. To the right is a nineteenth-century outbuilding that was left behind and demolished following the Old Dutch Parsonage's relocation.



Self-Guided Hikes



This photograph of the Old Dutch Parsonage at its present location following the 1913 move shows partial progress in the restoration of the house to its eighteenth-century appearance. The front windows are now returned to their original dimensions: if you approach the house today you can still distinguish the original bricks from the replacements added in the early twentieth century just below the first-floor windows. The porch was also removed but the gable remains in the garret.

Eventually the gable was removed and visitors today see the roof as Johannes Frelinghuysen and Dinah Van Bergh saw it when they first arrived here in 1751. Work remains to preserve the brickwork and interior plaster and complete the historic house's restoration.





Self-Guided Hikes



While Joseph Frelinghuysen chose not to live at the Old Dutch Parsonage, he remained involved in its historic preservation. The politician was also a preservationist, and Sen. Frelinghuysen is the gentleman next to the mirror in this this photograph of a Washington's Birthday celebration with the Frederick Frelinghuysen Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution dressed in the costume of the Colonial Revival.



6. A Memorial in Reverse

Fourth New Jersey Infantry Appreciation to Somerville

Somerset County Courthouse Green, 35 East Main Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

While most memorials remember at home those who went off to war, this stone on Somerset County Courthouse Green takes the opposite approach. Here the Fourth New Jersey Infantry thanked local residents for their hospitality when they stayed in Somerville during World War I.



The stone was installed on Decoration Day, an occasion for decorating the graves of fallen soldiers that predated World War I and has evolved today into Memorial Day in the United States. While the veterans of the Fourth New Jersey offered this stone in appreciation of local civilians, they also used the stone to remember their comrades who died fighting in Europe, with one evocative line assuring,

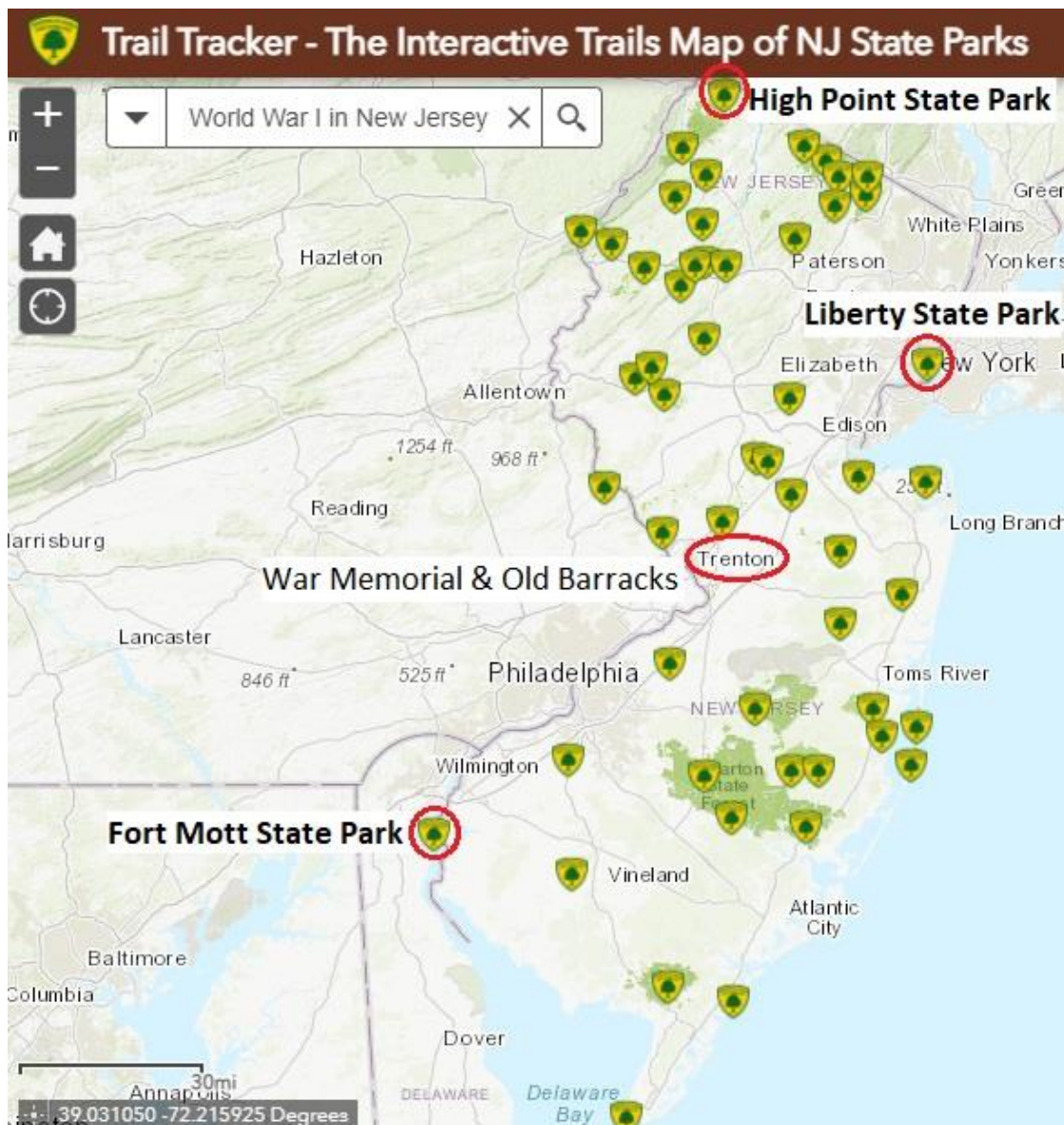
"We also speak for those who sleep in France."



Ending & Remembering World War I

New Jersey STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

From President Wilson's attempts to "Keep Us Out of War" to President Harding's signing of the Knox-Porter Resolution, New Jersey is home to historic events and memorial significant to the beginning, ending and remembering of World War I. Explore the history and memory of the Great War at State Parks & Historic Sites from the shores of the Delaware Bay to the Skylands of High Point.





The "War Emergency" on the Delaware Bay

Fort Mott STATE PARK

<https://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/historic/fortmott.html>

454 Fort Mott Road, Pennsville, NJ 08070

Fort Mott was part of a late nineteenth-century coastal defensive plan to protect the nation's ports of industry and trade. In conjunction with Fort DuPont and Fort Delaware, Fort Mott's main role was to restrict the advance of any enemy vessel making its way up the Delaware River and attacking the Delaware Valley. Fort Mott consisted of six large caliber guns with a range of at least 7.5 miles downriver.

When war broke out in Europe, Fort Mott was ready to defend against any enemy warship if the conflict spilled over the Atlantic. Fort Mott's garrison of Coast Artillery troops were also bolstered with more soldiers as part of the "War Emergency." Some of these new soldiers would later be deployed to artillery units in the battlefields of Europe. Additionally, with the advent of airplanes as an instrument of war, soldiers from Fort Mott were assigned to anti-aircraft weapons around industrial complexes such as the E.I. duPont ammunition plant in Carneys Point.



Today, the large concrete fortifications and some buildings remain and can be toured by the public. A museum in the historic Ordnance Storehouse tells the story of Fort Mott's place in history and displays the technology used defending the river.



Useful Monuments

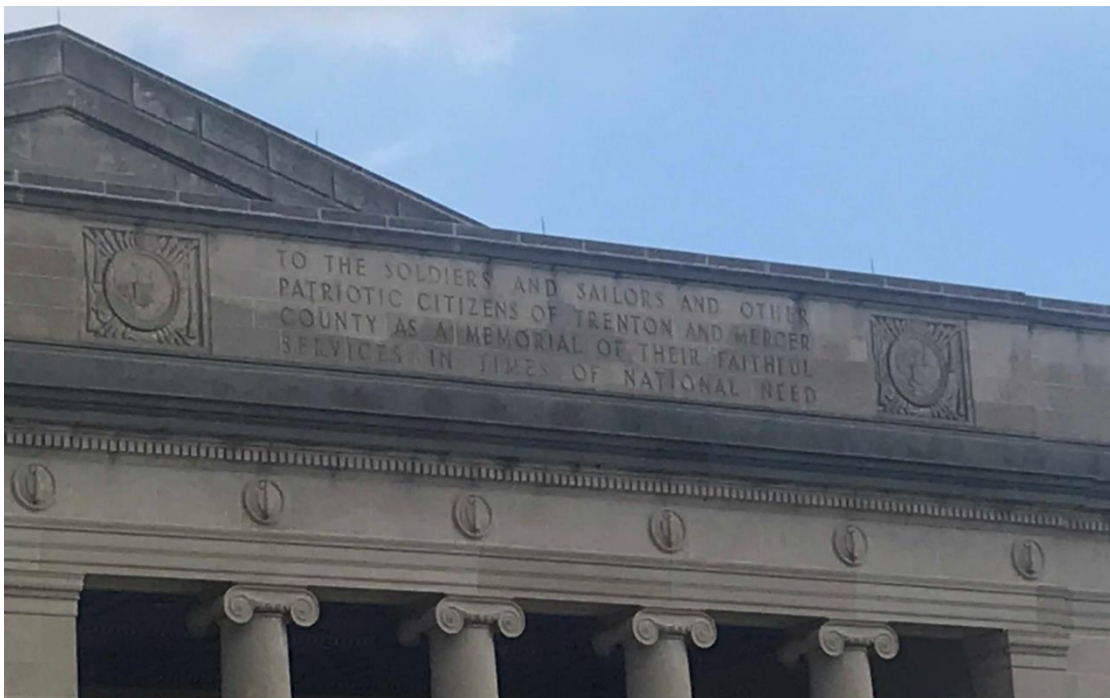
The War Memorial: <https://nj.gov/state/memorial/index.shtml>

1 Memorial Dr, Trenton, NJ 08608

On November 11, 1921, President Harding participated in the interment of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington, the national cemetery comprised of the former estate of Martha Washington's grandson George Washington Parke Custis, seized from his son-in-law Confederate General Robert E. Lee during the Civil War.

Many Americans following World War I argued for the erection of "useful monuments," channeling funds for memorials to soldiers and sailors lost overseas to support the communities for which they fought and died at home.

The War Memorial in Trenton is New Jersey's own useful monument to World War I. The War Memorial opened in 1932 as "a great community center" combining "beauty, dignity, and civic utility." First dedicated "In affectionate memory of the citizens of Trenton and Mercer County who made the supreme sacrifice for freedom in the World War" the War Memorial was restored and rededicated in 1999 "in honor of all those from this state who served with courage, dignity, and patriotism in the Armed Forces of the United States of America." The refurbished Patriots Theater at the War Memorial remains a center for artistic performances and civic occasions including gubernatorial inaugurations in New Jersey's capital.





Self-Guided Hikes



When the need for social distancing following the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 required New Jersey's emergency response team to relocate from the State Police's Regional Operations & Intelligence Center, the Governor and Commissioner of Health moved their daily briefings to the War Memorial's George Washington Ballroom. This "useful monument" steered New Jersey through a public emergency a century after the conclusion of the war that inspired its construction.





Self-Guided Hikes

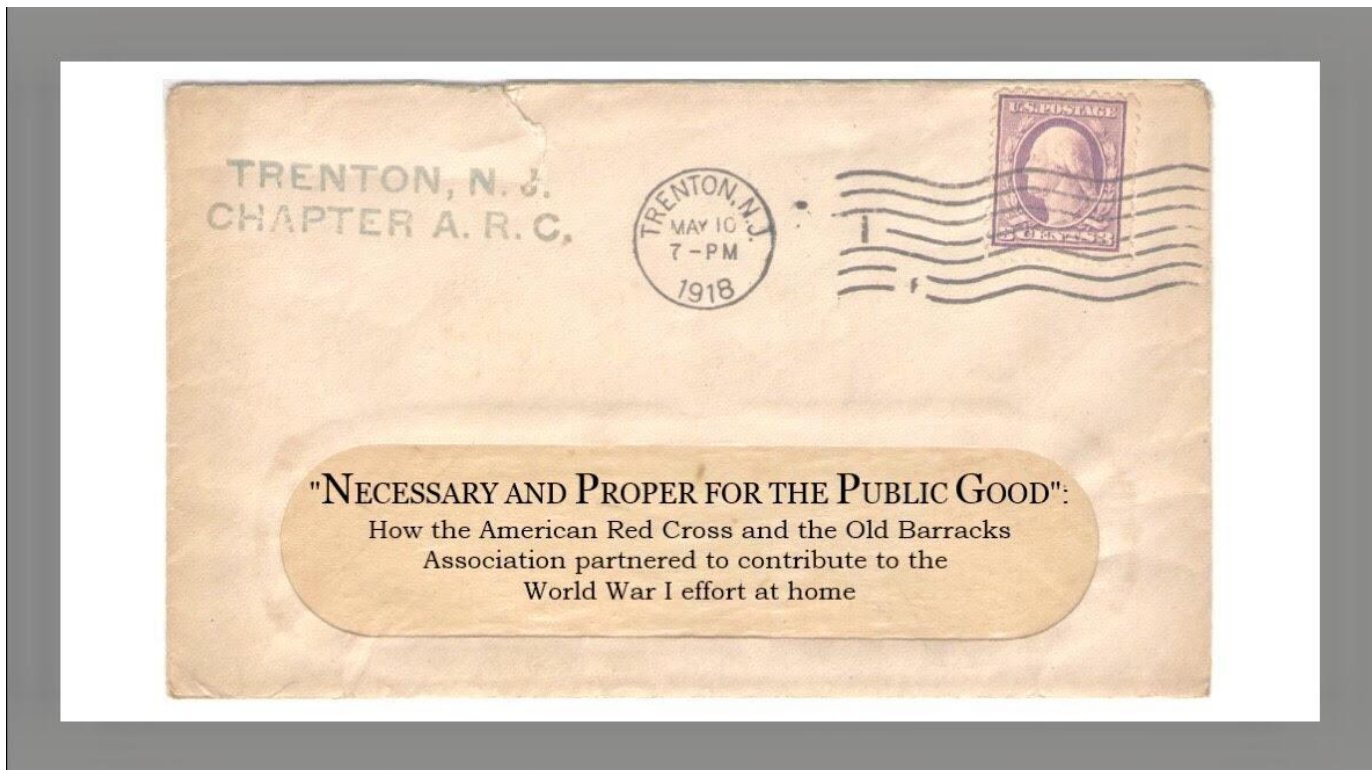


“Necessary and Proper for the Public Good”

Old Barracks: <https://www.barracks.org/>
101 Barrack Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Even before the United States entered World War I, the American Red Cross steadily increased its efforts to provide aid and support. Women accepted the task of Red Cross work with honor and determination, and quickly proved their capability.

When called upon to help with the war effort, the women of Trenton, through community volunteerism within the Old Barracks Association and the Red Cross, selflessly provided supplies and a willing workforce. The women of the Old Barracks Association did not hesitate to offer their historic building to the Red Cross for its war work, and they wasted no time in organizing and volunteering. Though such women were expected to participate in charitable causes due to their social status, the enthusiasm with which Trentonians served was truly a credit to New Jersey’s capital.



The Old Barracks Museum presents a digital exhibit which highlights the use of the Old Barracks by the Trenton Chapter of the American Red Cross during World War I:

<https://www.barracks.org/necessary-and-proper-for-the-public-good-world-war-i-exhibit.html>





Explosion at Black Tom Island

Liberty STATE PARK: <https://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/libertystatepark.html>
Black Tom Wayside at Pesin Drive East Lot
200 Morris Pesin Drive, Jersey City, NJ 07305

In the summer of 1914, when World War I broke out in Europe, President Woodrow Wilson was determined to keep the United States neutral. Foreign governments purchased millions of tons of American-made munitions and supplies, boosting the American economy. Strategically located off the coast of what is now Liberty State Park, Black Tom was the largest munitions depot in the United States. A constant stream of trains unloaded cargo from all over the U.S. onto ships and barges that headed out of New York Bay to the Atlantic Ocean.

As the war escalated, German aggression could not be ignored. The British passenger liner *Lusitania* was sunk by a U-boat in the spring of 1915 in the Celtic Sea. There were about 100 fires or explosions on merchant ships leaving New York harbor and at chemical and munitions factories from New Jersey to California. On July 30, 1916 dozens of train cars and barges filled with hundreds of thousands of tons of ammunition exploded on Black Tom. Railroad officials were initially held responsible for improperly storing the munitions. Within weeks, rumors of German sabotage were widespread but the federal government was slow to act.





Self-Guided Hikes



This photograph shows the wreckage on Black Tom after the explosion. The Statue of Liberty stands in the bay to the left.

By the time the Zimmermann Telegram was intercepted in January 1917, anti-German sentiment was rampant in America. In the telegram Germany proposed an alliance with Mexico against the United States. This proved to be the last straw and the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

Liberty State Park offers a free interpretive program "Explosion at Black Tom" once a month. For a monthly schedule of history and nature programs, please email LSPNatureCenter@dep.nj.gov.





Self-Guided Hikes



To End All Wars, To Remember All Wars

High Point STATE PARK

<https://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/historic/highpointmonument.html>

1480 State Route 23, Wantage, NJ 07461

In 1910 Anthony and Susie Dryden Kuser purchased a large Adirondack-style hotel known as the High Point Inn and 1,700 surrounding acres at the top of New Jersey. In 1911 they inherited an additional adjacent 7,000 acres from Susie's father John Dryden. For over a decade the mountaintop property served as the Kuser family's private summer estate, and in 1923 they donated the nearly-10,000 acres to the State of New Jersey for a public park and nature preserve. They initially hoped to sell the property to the State as part of a larger proposed "living memorial forest" to honor veterans. Although the plan and funding fell through, the idea of a memorial remained.

In the years following the conclusion of World War I, patriotic spirit in the United States remained high. As a result, in 1927, Colonel Kuser wrote to Governor Harry Moore, and proposed the construction of a monument at High Point dedicated to New Jersey's veterans:

Mrs. Kuser and I hereby make formal offer to give to the State of New Jersey...the construction of a monument at High Point in tribute to all citizens of the State of New Jersey who have served or who shall serve in any war in either the land, sea, or air forces of this country. We feel that all such service, regardless of station or accomplishment, is of an heroic character that should be recognized, and that it is altogether fitting to place such a memorial on the highest promontory without [sic] our borders.

Governor Moore accepted the Kusers' generous offer, and in August of 1928 the construction of a granite obelisk modeled after the Bunker Hill Monument began at the summit of Kittatinny Mountain, the highest elevation in the State of New Jersey. Construction was completed in the spring of 1930 and on June 21 the official dedication took place. A large bronze plaque on the front of the Monument is engraved with the words of author Albert Payson Terhune: "To the Glory and Honor and Eternal Memory of New Jersey's heroes by land, sea, and air, in all wars of our Country."

