

# Guide to Museums in New Jersey

This issue of *Social Science Dockets* reports on museums in New Jersey. The list of museums is organized alphabetically. The third installment of this series will focus on museums on Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk Counties) and the fourth on museums in New York City. This four-part guide to museums was compiled by Christa Kadletz, Justin Sulsky, Andrew Sarli, Christopher Baker, Paul Reilly, and Kevin Breslin. Please recommend additional museums that have not been included. A useful online guide is located at <http://www.new-jersey-leisure-guide.com/New-Jersey-museums.html>.

**Absecon Lighthouse Museum (Atlantic City).** New Jersey's tallest lighthouse and one of the oldest in the country. Includes a replica of the light keeper's dwelling, an educational museum, a Fresnel Lens exhibit in the original Oil House, and expansive grounds (<http://www.abseconlighthouse.org>).

**Adventure Aquarium (Camden).** The NJ State Aquarium is located on the Delaware River waterfront. It features approximately eight thousand animals living in varied forms of semi-aquatic, freshwater, and marine habitats (<http://www.njaquarium.org>).

**African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey (Newtonville).** This museum uses the experience of African Americans to understand the history of the U.S. in the 20th century. There is a permanent home and a traveling museum with access to over 3,000 historical and cultural artifacts. The museum offers a unique opportunity to open a window to the mindset of successive generations of African Americans and provides an understanding to the group's cultural evolution (<http://www.aahmsnj.org>).

**Afro-American Historical Society Museum (Jersey City).** Located at a branch of the public library, the museum has galleries for lectures, special exhibits, and a permanent collection of material culture of New Jersey's African Americans as well as African artifacts (<http://www.cityofjerseycity.org/docs/afroam.shtml>).

**AIDS Museum (Newark).** The museum sponsors exhibits of artwork related to AIDS and art by HIV-positive artists. The museum does not have a permanent location (<http://www.aidsmuseum.org>).

**Air Victory Museum (Lumberton).** This is an educational organization dedicated to inspiring today's youth through the technology and achievements in aviation history. (<http://www.airvictorymuseum.org>).

**Allaire Historic Village (Farmingdale).** A 19th Century industrial community demonstrates brick oven baking, blacksmithing, carpentry and quilting using authentic methods (<http://www.allairevillage.org>).

**American Indian Heritage Museum (Rancocas).** An Indian owned and operated museum that offers a multifaceted look at Native American culture. Focus on the Powhatan Renape (<http://www.powhatan.org>).

**American Labor Museum (Haledon).** Housed in the Botto House National Landmark, a 1908 Victorian home that belonged to silk mill worker Pietro Botto and his wife Maria. It was the meeting place for over 20,000 silk mill workers during the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike (<http://www.labormuseum.org>).

**Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum (Teterboro).** Dedicated to the preservation of the Garden State's aviation and space heritage. Exhibits include historic air and space equipment and artifacts, photographs, fine art and an extensive model collection. The men and women whose outstanding aeronautical achievements have won worldwide recognition are enshrined in the Hall of Fame (<http://www.njahof.org>).

**Barclay Farmstead (Cherry Hill).** Early American Quaker farm with a restored brick farmhouse built in 1816 (<http://www.barclayfarmstead.org>).

**Batsto Village (Wharton State Forest).** Located in the South Central Pinelands. Batsto Village can be traced back to 1766. Visitors experience an earlier time when life was different (<http://www.batstovillage.org>).

**Belskie Museum of Art and Science (Closter).** The goal of the Belskie Museum of Art and Science is the preservation and display of the work of Abram Belskie, a major 20th century sculptor, medallic artist, and medical illustrator of the twentieth century (<http://belskiemuseum.com>).

**Blackwells Mills Canal House (Somerset).** Built around 1835 on the D&R Canal as a dwelling for the men and women who operated the swinging bridges (<http://www.themeadowsfoundation.org/blackwell-mills.html>).

**Bridgeton Hall of Fame All Sports Museum (Bridgeton).** Dedicated to individuals and teams of all sports in southern New Jersey. Includes photos, equipment, scrapbooks, and other memorabilia of well-known male and female sports figures ([www.co.cumberland.nj.us/content/171/217/836.aspx](http://www.co.cumberland.nj.us/content/171/217/836.aspx)).

**Burlington County Prison Museum (Mount Holly).** National Landmark built in 1811 and was the oldest continually used prison until closed in 1965. Gallows, dungeons, and old cells decorated with mannequins and artifacts (<http://www.prisonmuseum.net>).

**Camp Olden Civil War Round Table & Museum (Hamilton).** Camp Olden was an 1861 military training camp named after the Civil war era governor of New Jersey (<http://www.campolden.org>).

**Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society (Cape May).** Preserves the diverse history of Cape May County (<http://www.cmcmuseum.org>).

**Cooper Gristmill (Chester).** Built in 1826 by Nathan Cooper. Massive water wheel power shafts and gears turn 2,000-pound millstones as the master miller explains the history of the mill and the community once called Milltown (<http://www.morrisparks.net/aspparks/coopermillmain.asp>).

**East Brunswick Museum (East Brunswick).** A repository for area artifacts, documents, household, and personal items portraying the heritage of the area (<http://www.eastbrunswickmuseum.org>).

**East Jersey Olde Towne Village (Piscataway).** A collection of original, replica, and reconstructed 18th and 19th century structures (<http://co.middlesex.nj.us/culturalheritage/village.asp>).

**Emlen Physick Estate (Cape May).** Victorian housemuseum located in an 18-room mansion with garden. ([http://www.capemaymac.org/content/subpage\\_main.aspx?id=1086](http://www.capemaymac.org/content/subpage_main.aspx?id=1086)).

**Garden State Discovery Museum and Center for Learning (Cherry Hill).** Combines discovery and exploration with hands on fun (<http://www.discoverymuseum.com>).

**Goodwin Holocaust Museum and Education Center (Cherry Hill).** Uses lessons of the Holocaust to reduce hatred, bigotry, and violence against all groups (<http://www.jewishsouthjersey.org/page.aspx?id=183109>).

**Grover Cleveland Memorial House (Caldwell).** Includes objects from the time of Cleveland's birth, although the majority are from his later family life and public career (<http://www.clevelandbirthplace.org>).

**Heritage Glass Museum (East Glassboro).** Reflects Glassboro's heritage as one of the leading glass manufacturers ([www.fieldtrip.com/nj/98817468.htm](http://www.fieldtrip.com/nj/98817468.htm)).

**Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University (Union).** Home to William Livingston, New Jersey's first elected governor and a signer of the Constitution (<http://www.kean.edu/libertyhall/home.asp>).

**Liberty State Park (Jersey City).** On New York Harbor, less than 2,000 feet from the Statue of Liberty. During the 19th and early 20th centuries the area was a major waterfront industrial area with an extensive freight and passenger transportation network. (<http://www.libertystatepark.org>).

**Montclair State University George Segal Gallery (Montclair).** A collection of 16th to 19th Century European paintings form the foundation of the gallery (<http://www.montclair.edu/Arts/galleries>).

**Old Barracks Museum (Trenton).** Built in 1758 by the Colony of New Jersey during the French and Indian War. An educational center for Colonial and American history (<http://www.barracks.org>).

**Pomona Hall (Camden).** A Quaker mansion built by a prominent Camden County family. Authentically reproduced to reflect how the family lived in the 18th century (<http://www.cchsnj.com>).

**Ranch Hope Carriage Museum (Alloway).** Includes a carriage outfitted with a speaking tube used to communicate with the driver whose riding seat is flanked by two kerosene lanterns and an assortment of sleighs (<http://www.ranchhope.org>).

**Red Mill Museum Village (Clinton).** Includes the historic Red Mill, the Mulligan Quarry, the Bunker Hill Schoolhouse, and a replica log cabin. The museum collection includes textiles, baskets, household accessories, woodworking tools, farm equipment, and other tools (<http://www.theredmill.org>).

**Rutgers – Camden Center For The Arts (RCCA) Stedman Gallery & Gordon Theater (Camden).** Provides performances, exhibitions, education programs, and community projects, that inspire enjoyment of the arts. It offers meaningful opportunities to participate in the art, and advances the central role of the arts in preK-12 education (<http://rcca.camden.rutgers.edu/exhibitions2010.html>).

**Rutgers University Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum (New Brunswick).** Russian and Soviet, French, and American 19th and 20th century art (<http://www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu>).

**Salem County Historical Society (Salem).** Four interconnected historic houses including the Alexander Grant Mansion House (1721). Exhibits include Salem in the Revolutionary War and Wistarburg Glass (<http://www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com>).

**Shippen Manor Museum (Oxford).** Restored 1754 stone manor house. French & Indian War reenactors display and discuss flintlock weapons of early settlers and militia (<http://www.wcchc.org>).

**Sterling Hill Mining Museum (Ogdensburg).** 1,300-ft underground walking tour through a zinc mine (<http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org>) and the Franklin Mineral Museum ([www.franklinmineralmuseum.com](http://www.franklinmineralmuseum.com)).

**Thomas Edison National Park & Museum (West Orange).** The laboratory and residence preserve the

work and character of America’s foremost inventor, Thomas Edison, and the family, friends, and business associates who played a key role in his success (<http://www.nps.gov/edis/index.htm>).

**Toms River Maritime Museum (Toms River).** An 1868 former carriage house for the Joseph Francis estate. The Seaport Society has a library, ship’s store, ship model displays, and a small boat display area (<http://www.tomsriverseaport.org/hankins.shtml>).

**U.S. Army Communications Electronics Museum (Fort Monmouth).** - Displays and exhibits about the history of Fort Monmouth ([www.monmouth.army.mil/C4ISR/services/museum.shtml](http://www.monmouth.army.mil/C4ISR/services/museum.shtml)).

**U.S.S. Battleship New Jersey (Cape May).** America’s most decorated battleship. (<http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org>).

**Walt Whitman House (Camden).** Walt Whitman lived here until his death in 1892 at the age of seventy-two. Provides an intimate glimpse into the life of the poet. Whitman's original letters, personal belongings, the bed in which he died, and the death notice that was nailed to the front door have all been preserved (<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/historic/whitman/index.html>).

**Woodruff Museum of Indian Artifacts (Bridgeton).** Houses 30,000 Native American relics found in South Jersey. ([www.bridgetonlibrary.org/Museum.htm](http://www.bridgetonlibrary.org/Museum.htm)).

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