

HISTORIC BARNEGAT WALKING TOUR



The town of Barnegat was an important location on the New Jersey shore throughout much of the 1800s and early 1900s. Barnegat had two railroads running through it, the Central Railroad of New Jersey and Tuckerton Railroad. It was an important commercial hub for the surrounding area, with an early Great Atlantic & Pacific food store, a lumber company and other businesses on East Bay Avenue. It was also a cultural hub that included an opera house that later became one of the first moving picture theaters in the county. Barnegat was home to a number of merchant sailing ship captains and many other residents who made a living off of the ocean and bay. This walking tour attempts to highlight just a small part of the rich history of Barnegat.

1. Almont Inn

The Almont Inn was once located on the current site of the park. Built in 1820, it went through many owners and names, starting as the Mullen House, then becoming the Almont Inn, and, finally, the Hotel Richmond.



Eagle Scout Project
Christopher Brower
Troup 26, Barnegat, N.J.

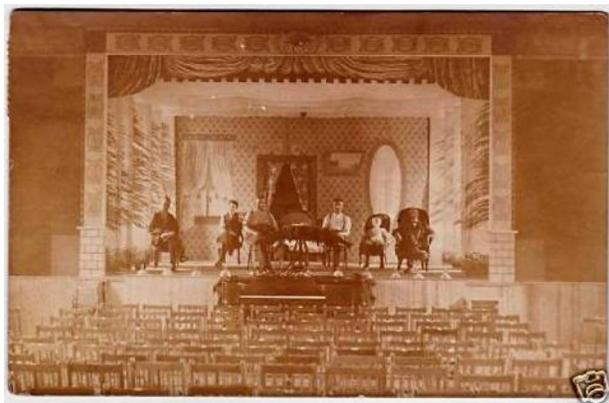


2. Captains' Houses

Many of the older houses in the area along the tour were built and owned by ship captains. The Cox House was built by Captain William (Billy) Cox. Capt. Cox was not a sea-going captain, but instead financed sailing ships. The Cox family later owned the local water company and later yet the Times Beacon newspaper. The Cox House is on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

3. Opera House

The Barnegat opera house was located on this site. It was built in the early 1900s, and was used for opera until 1915, when movies first came to Barnegat. The opera house was then converted into a movie theater and extensively modified to the structure seen on the sign.

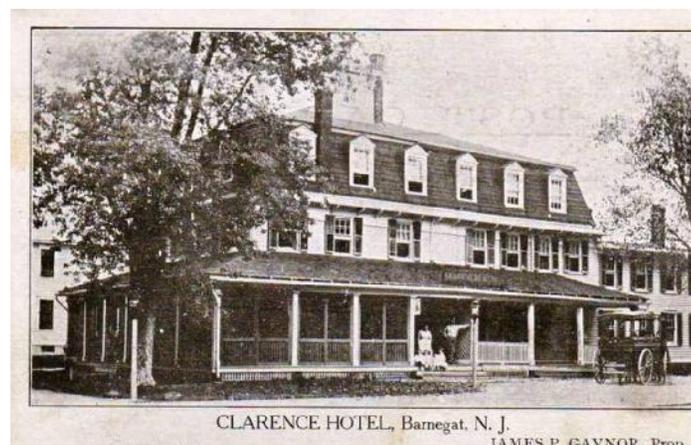


4. Rail Trail Extension

At this point on the tour, you can take a detour onto the rail trail. This trail leads through the woods and parallels Route 9. On it you will find signs detailing the local flora and fauna as well as information on the railroad, and the remnants of a railroad turntable and the base of a water tower that were once used by the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

5 - 6. Railroad Station and Railroad Coal Dump

The house across the street was once the station for the Tuckerton Railroad in Barnegat. The Tuckerton Railroad was one of two railroads that ran through Barnegat, the other being the Central Railroad of New Jersey. The next stop on the tour is a railroad coal dump remaining from the Tuckerton Railroad. As you walk to the coal dump, you'll pass the former location of the Clarence House, which was located on the northwest corner of West Bay Avenue and Railroad Avenue (picture below). Information about the Tuckerton Railroad and the coal dump is presented on a sign placed as part of Matthew Stofko's Troop 26 Eagle Scout project.



7. Wright Memorial Presbyterian Church

Wright Memorial Presbyterian Church was founded in 1876, with its first pastor being Rev. James M. Denton. The current building was previously used as an opera house. It was named Wright Memorial Presbyterian Church in honor of Rev. Ormond W. Wright, the pastor from 1886 to 1916. He had a colorful history, having run a church in Dodge City for 6 years, and knew both Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson when there.

8. Perrine Boat Works

Perrine Boat Works was a boat building business started by J. H. Perrine in the early 1900's. Perrine specialized in building the Barnegat sneak box, a type of boat used for duck hunting. In its time in operation, Perrine Boat Works produced more than thirty-six hundred boats.



9. Barnegat Historical Society Village

At this point in the tour, you may choose to take the extended trail east on East Bay Avenue to the Barnegat Friends Meeting House and Cemetery and the Barnegat Historical Society's Heritage Center. The meeting house was built in 1767 and was the third church building in Ocean County. The Historical Society Heritage Center is a collection of old buildings including two residences, a barber shop, a butcher shop, and a three seat "privy" moved to their current location. The Center displays a collection of local artifacts. The buildings are open for tours from Memorial Day to Labor Day on Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

10. Barnegat United Methodist Church

The first Methodist Society was founded in 1829, but services were being held in Barnegat as far back as the Revolution. It is now Saint Mary and Saint Paul Coptic Orthodox Church. Note the sign from Russell Takeall's Eagle Scout project.

11. Masonic Hall

Mariners' Lodge 150 of Free and Accepted Masons was formed in 1881 by a group of masons from Tuckerton Lodge. The first master was Jerome Storms. The lodge has served the community in many charitable ways. At one point it was used as a temporary school after the school was burned down by a forest fire. Members of the lodge received a commendation from the State of New Jersey for their part in the rescue of a crew of a floundering ship. This commendation and many other documents are housed in the lodge.



Special thanks to:

- Home Depot, Manahawkin
- Thomas V. Massa, DMD
- Barnegat Historical Society
- Curtis F. Watts
- John Chadwick
- Wright Presbyterian Church
- Chenna Nukala
- McDuffy Barrow, III
- Kurt Stofko
- Mary Catherine Kennedy
- Anne Warren, The Secretary Shop

