

9. Community Center: This was formerly a Presbyterian Church dating from the late 1800s. Pews, windows, and some woodwork were salvaged from the Little Church Around the Corner in NYC and brought by barge to Red Bank and Eatontown Dock and then by wagon to this location.



10. Masonic Lodge: Organized by Dr. Lewis in 1815, the building was erected 1822-1824. It has been used as a school, church, and also a library. It was the oldest active Lodge in NJ.



11. Columbian House: Built c. 1831 as a hotel to accommodate travelers who came to attend meetings at the Masonic Lodge. It once housed the first Eatontown Post Office.



(Cross at the corner to 1 Main Street and follow Broad Street to return to the museum.)

12. One Main Street: On this site stood a series of hotels dating back to the 1700s. Businessmen and farmers stayed at them when bringing goods and produce to the dock. It had been known as the Wheeler Hotel and later as the Metropolitan Hotel. It was then used as the Borough Hall housing offices, the fire department, library, and post office. The building was razed in 1966 when a new Borough Hall was built.



13. 21 Broad Street: It was built in 1801 and housed a bakery. A stone oven remains. In 1877 it served as an office for *The Eatontown Advertiser*, a hometown newspaper.



13. Episcopal Church: Before the church was built in 1866, services were held in private homes and the Masonic Temple. It is the only building in Eatontown to be on the National Registry of Historical Buildings.



Thank you for taking our tour. To learn more about Eatontown, please visit our museum. It is open the first Sunday of each month, 1-4pm.

# Be Historically Fit

## A Self-guided Walking Tour Of Eatontown Historic Sites and Buildings on Broad Street



Eatontown Historical Museum

Prepared by  
Eatontown Historical Committee

In its earliest years, Eatontown was a village with hotels, taverns, churches, schools, a variety of businesses, and much farmland. On this tour you will pass many buildings a century older or more.

The walking tour in this brochure takes you along Broad Street which was once known as the Eatontown-Long Branch Turnpike. This road dates from the mid-1700s.

Your tour begins at the Eatontown Historical Museum. Turn left when leaving the museum, walk east towards Wyckoff Road where you will reverse your direction, and come back to the intersection of Broad Street and Highway 35. From there you will return to the museum. Total distance is approximately two miles. Buildings and sites in this brochure are listed in the order of the travel route.



Let's begin . . .

**1. Eatontown Historical Museum:**

The former Read House dates from the 1700s. Originally the house was one room. Examples of mortise and tenon frame construction using wooden pegs can be seen in the house, as well as mud and straw used for insulation.

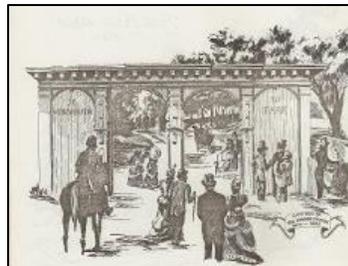
**2. Blacksmith Shop:** Next to the museum, the old forge was located on the site of the former bank. It was built in 1839 and remained in business for 81 years.



**3. Steelman School:** Built in 1907, it was known as Eatontown Public School No. 1 and had 6 classrooms. It is the oldest school building still standing in town.



**4. Park Avenue:** In this area was the entrance to the original Monmouth Park which was open from 1870-1893. During World War I most of the land was acquired by the War Department and became Camp Vail, which later was renamed Fort Monmouth.



(Illustration from *Eatontown New Jersey 1670 Story Coloring Book*, 1978)

**5. Libby Apartments:** Built c. 1815, this building was once a tavern or hotel serving the many people who came to attend races at Monmouth Park.



(Cross Broad Street and return to Hwy 35. A crosswalk is located at Park Avenue.)

**6. Maida Farm:** House on corner of Broad and Wyckoff was the home of Dominic Maida who arrived from Italy in 1907. He was known for his scientific farming methods and high quality produce. Meadowbrook School is built on this property.



**7. and 8. Byrnes Lane and Collier Property:** The street is named after Matt Byrnes and marks the entrance to the Collier Estate. Matt Byrnes was a noted trainer of racehorses. This area, including the F. Bliss Price Arboretum, was part of the estate of Peter F. Collier, the book publisher and founder of Collier's Magazine. This land featured extensive stables for his horses.

