The Hopewell Public Library and the Hopewell Borough Historic Preservation Commission sponsored architectural walking tours on Saturday, May 25, 2019 as part of the Hopewell Valley Heritage Weekend.

The one-hour tours focused on Hopewell Borough's architectural history, so participants could experience the different architectural styles and see examples “in the wild.”

Now you can enjoy your own self-guided version of the tour, and explore the variety of architectural styles in the town.

Have fun!
Hopewell Architecture Walking Tour

- A self-guided tour around the Borough of Hopewell
- Total walking time: about 30 minutes

Hopewell Borough buildings have a variety of architectural styles, but very few buildings in Hopewell are “pure,” with elements of only one architectural period. People liked to mix and match, and older houses were often renovated or expanded.

The tour includes examples of Colonial, Italianate, Stick Style, Queen Anne, and the classic “foursquare.”
Hopewell Boro Architectural Walking Tour
May 25, 2019

Start at Hopewell Public Library,
13 East Broad Street
1. Hopewell Public Library

13 East Broad Street

Built in 1890
Originally housed Hopewell National Bank.

Has Neo-Grecian details with stone keystones and impost blocks at the arched window heads.

Multi-pane arched wood windows could be original

Italianate wood brackets at cornice

The original library (founded 1914) was above the harness shop that is now Franco's Pizza on Mercer Street.

Cross East Broad Street at the pedestrian crosswalk with flashing lights.
2. 10 East Broad Street
1875-1887

Italianate w/ Stick Style elements

Tall, 4-story tower at inside “ell” with wraparound porch roofs

Broad, low-pitched roof overhang w/ flush board soffits.

Pointed finials w/ drops at the gables, also a found in Stick Style

Paired windows w/ pedimented head trim at second floor and arched heads at the third

Cross gable w/ paired curved top windows that extend below the eave line

Chamfered corners on the porch posts

Cross Blackwell Avenue
3. 14 East Broad Street
1875-1887

Elaborated I-house with Italianate eave brackets

Italianate porches and bay window similar to the bay design at 12 E. Broad

Note decorative triangles at the cornice lines

Cross gables with arched windows at attic

High level of integrity

Tall narrow windows with 2/2 sash panes

Walk along Blackwell Avenue
4. 9 Blackwell Avenue

Estimated 1902 or later

Foursquare design: four major rooms on each floor.

Foundation is Hummelstown brick from PA, similar to Hopewell Presbyterian Church and the former bank building at the corner of Greenwood and Broad.

Low pitch hip roof with hipped dormers on all sides.

Deep over-hanging eaves with exposed rafter tails.

Round columns on brick piers.

Variety of materials and pattern in shingles.

Continue along Blackwell Avenue
5. 13 Blackwell Avenue
Built 1880
A grand Queen Anne Stick Style house.

Decorative lattice work at main gable
Arched brackets at porch and gables

Gable trusses with no finial
Vertical siding at gable
Bay window slightly different from the Italianate bays on Bldgs 2 and 3.

Continue along Blackwell Avenue
6. 25 Blackwell Avenue: The Ganz House

Built 1891

Most elaborate Queen Anne in the Boro: shingles, tower, highly detailed porch and decoration

Ornate Victorian paint scheme to highlight architectural details

Reversed curve porch balustrade (catenary shape)

Mix of materials and patterns in materials
Stained glass windows
Flared skirt at side bay

Finials and drops at peaks of cross gables.

Cross gable cut back below roof to create bay window.

Continue along Blackwell Avenue and turn right
7. 37 Railroad Place
“The Chocolate Factory”

Built 1889. Originally Vaughn Shirt Factory, later a candy factory, “Hopewell Dainties”

Brick and wood framed 2-storey industrial loft space

Converted to loft apartments in 1970

Turn around and walk back to the Railroad Station
8. 1 Railroad Place
Hopewell Railroad Station

Built in 1876

Arguably NJ’s oldest extant station: predates Pennington by a few months

Historic photos show striped awning and roof cresting

Stick-style porch wraparound

Hooded windows with pediments
Color scheme based on historic paint analysis

Second Empire roof; decorative bargeboards surround cross gable; metal roof balustrade

A Reading Railroad station, but at one time was part of NJ Central RR Service into the Jersey City Terminal. Passenger service stopped in 1982.

Cross Greenwood and follow Model Avenue
9. 12-16 Model Ave.
Built 1888 (west wing) and 1907 (east wing)

Former “Lincoln/Model Elementary School” — replaced Hopewell Academy

By 1907 it had grown from 2 rooms to 8 rooms

Apartments since 1925

Stripped down detailing includes brackets and sunshades on the south face.

Paired windows

Originally all clapboard.

Continue down Model Avenue
10. 18 Model Ave.
Built 1915

Originally part of the elementary school next door — “School Annex”

Tennis champion Arthur Ashe’s famous aluminum “Head” tennis racket was originally designed here

Currently houses T Johnson Design

Continue down Model Avenue. Turn left on Mercer Street, then cross W. Broad and turn left.
11. 19 W. Broad St. “Runyon House” 1750

One of the oldest houses in Hopewell

The First Baptist school in America was opened here in 1757, a precursor of Brown University

Colonial Vernacular: a mid-18th century Georgian house at its core

Many Federal, late 18th & early 19th century details on the interior, mantels, door trim, doors, etc..

Remodeled 2nd quarter of 19th century. 18th century front porch removed. Late 19th century kitchen wing. The triple, “picture” window is an early 20th century modernization. Note different placement of 2nd floor windows.
12. 15 W. Broad St.
1912

Massive, classic foursquare

Large center hall

Porte cochere

Centered projecting entry bay, unlike Building 4.

Wide paired windows emphasize horizontality.

Open railing with columns that sit on the porch deck.
Sunporch on the side.

Continue east on West Broad Street to return to the library.
The walking tour was originally run on May 25, 2019 by Hopewell Public Library, as part of the Hopewell Heritage Weekend. It was created by Ian Burrow, Michael Mills, Alison Baxter, and librarians Annie Anderson and Connie Dixon.

Tours were given by Ian Burrow, Alison Baxter, and Max Hayden. Additional support was provided by the Hopewell Borough Historic Preservation Committee members.

Hopewell Public Library is grateful for the contributions of all these dedicated people.

Thank you for taking the Hopewell Borough architecture walking tour! We hope you enjoyed it.

Back: Max Hayden, Alison Baxter
Front: Michael Mills, Ian Burrow