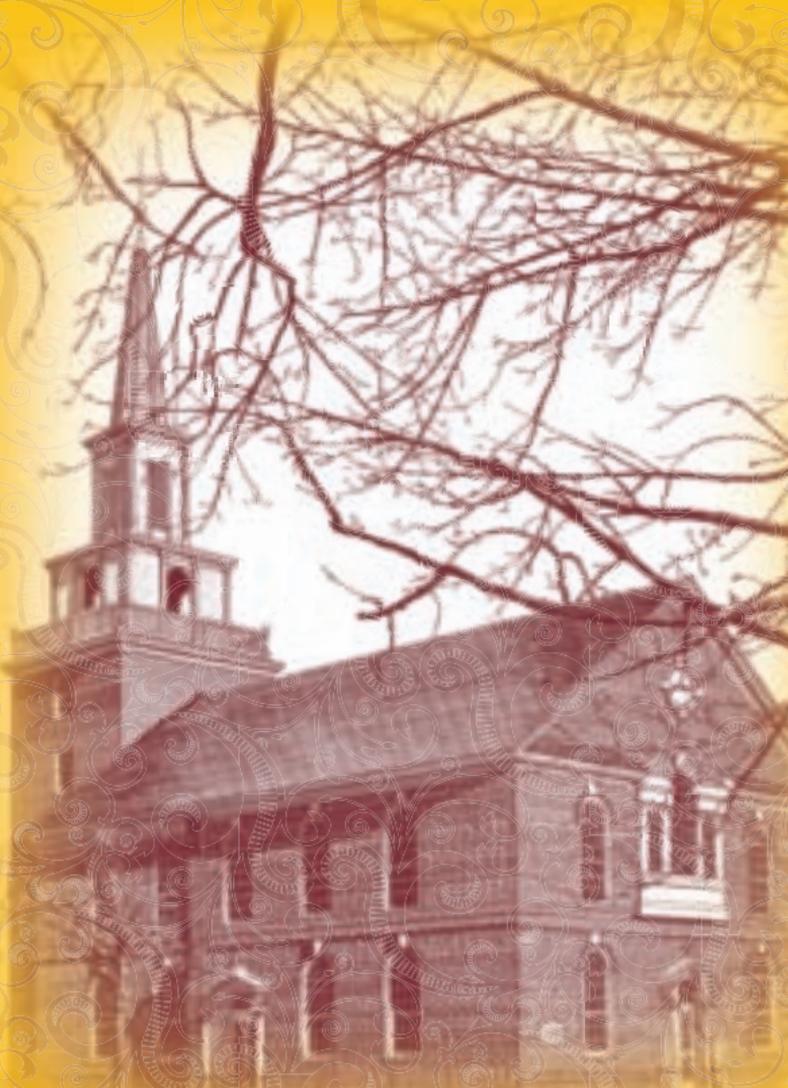


Stroll Through
Swedesboro, NJ
Take Our Walking Tour



www.swedesboro-nj.us

As you stroll through Swedesboro, enjoy our architectural dwellings that personify the Victorian era complete with gables, pointed arches and windows, lacy gingerbread trim and wrap around porches. Colonial, Gothic Revival, Victorian and Georgian architecture styles are throughout the town.

Our town was settled by a small group of Swedes from Pennsylvania and Delaware in the mid-1600's. The English Colonial government needed a road between the towns of Burlington and Salem so they built Kings Highway in 1691 which opened the southern portion of Gloucester County to more settlers. The area offered an abundance of fertile sandy soil, prime farmland and vast tracks of oak, birch, maple and pine trees. Originally, the town was called Raccoon. In 1765, the name was changed to Swedesboro, NJ.

The early Swedes and Finns were fishermen, hunters and farmers. Through the late 1800's, Raccoon Creek was a water route that was naturally deep enough to transport wood and farming projects to Philadelphia by the Delaware River. Statistics show that more produce was shipped from Swedesboro than from any other station in the United States. Today, a walk along the main street attests to the spirit of the original settlement and the eclectic elements of the community.



Mortenson-Van Leer Log Cabin (C. 1640's)

Cemetery located behind Trinity Church.

- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Example of Swedish-Finnish cabin structure brought with the Swedes & Finns when the

area was settled c. 1642.

- The caulking between the dove-tailed logs was removed in summer to allow ventilation and replaced in winter to conserve warmth.
- Originally located along the Raccoon Creek on the Morton Mortenson "Grand Sprute Plantation" it could have served as a "birthing cabin," housing for animals or the first shelter for property owner.
- Reputed to have been a stop on the Underground Railroad.
- Donated by Schorn Family to the Gloucester County Historical Society.
- Reconstructed in New Sweden Park in 1989.



Trinity Church - Founded 1703

(present building 1784)

Kings Highway & Church Street

- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The last Swedish Pastor, Rev. Nicholas Collin, patterned the Trinity Church after Christ Church in Philadelphia. The Church is

60' long by 40' wide with a seating capacity of 300.

- Oldest continuing parish in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey.
- Georgian style architecture; brick is Flemish Bond.
- Gable roof - gable faces street.
- Interior has entry Vestry and U-Shaped balcony.
- Note the brick water table and belt course (4 bricks wide) along top of first floor windows. Windows have wood inlay keystones.
- First Swedish Church in New Jersey; third in America.
- Bell tower added in 1839. Identical internal structure to Wm. Strickland's design for Independence Hall Tower with "ship's knees." Tower with steeple is 106' high.
- Suffered roof-truss failure in 1992 and has undergone \$1.3 million in restoration work to preserve the structure with assistance by three NJHT grants.



Swedesboro Grammar School

1225 Kings Highway

- St. Joseph's RC Church Parish Center Present Building 1909.
- Originally founded as the first free school in Swedesboro and run by the

Swedish Lutheran Church on a site adjacent to the church. Later known as Swedesboro Academy in the 1800's.

- This replacement building is Romanesque, three-story building with Palladian window over entryway. Hip roof with cross gable through center with denticulated pediment and stone arch lintel over windows. Stone arch lintel remains over the entry ways.
- The cornerstone in this building was one used in previous structure built since the 1700's.
- Original Deed is part of a Lease System that was established by Trinity "Old Swedes" Church in the 1700's stating that the building must always be used as a public meeting place or for education.
- Free public school education has been on this lot for over 230 years.



Swedes Inn - Founded 1771. (Present style c. 1870s.)

1301 Kings Highway

- Originally built as Rambo's Tavern and part of the Lease System founded by Trinity Church to develop the town.

Evidence of the original fieldstone building can be seen above the main front entrance and with the cage bar support system in the basement. (Right front of building under main dining area).

- Present style is Second Empire Victorian with mansard roof, five dormers, tin ceiling in second dining room, pocket doors and French doors to porch in Main Dining area.
- The tile in the bar entrance has the name "Shoemaker" dating to Willard Shoemaker's ownership of a car dealership and supply store in the 1930's during Prohibition when the bar was closed. Cafe area was a former car showroom.
- Building was a hotel serving travelers on the railroad system through Swedesboro.



Bank of America (c. 1909)

1427 Kings Highway

- Classic Greek Revival style which was an adaptation of the classic Greek Temple front employing details of Doric, Ionic or Corinthian order.

- The columns support a full entablature (cornice) and a low pitch pediment. The classical column entryway with marble pediment has a smaller version over doorway with columns and half elliptical pediment denticulated.
- Large half arch window on top with multi-pane lights.
- Sash windows with 15/15 with half-arch fanlight on top.
- Projective dentils on cornice. Marble course above windows (which have keystones) and below windows.
- Exterior walls: brick/stretcher bond.
- Formerly Swedesboro National Bank.
- Building replaced the bank formerly located in present Swedesboro Public Library.



Bethesda United Methodist Church (c.1883)

1433 Kings Highway

- Built in Gothic Revival style, with Lancet windows above the front entrance and gable roof.
- Present building replaced the original, one-story, 40 x 50 foot house of worship with interior vestibule built in 1838.

- Remodeled in 1894 with the main auditorium located on the second floor with Sunday School and meeting rooms on the first floor. Between 1900 and 1902 the sanctuary was removed with the floor being raised so the congregation could see the preacher better.
- In 1941, the altar, communion rail and paneling across the front of the sanctuary were built. All the woodwork was designed and handcrafted by Josef Liener, a Swedesboro resident at the time.
- The Education Fellowship Building was added to the rear of the complex in 1961.



Headley House (Dr. Serri's house) (c.1894)

1447 Kings Highway

- Known as the house of seven gables.
- Late Victorian with unique stone wrap-around porch.
- Built by Benjamin Headley who was a wholesale fruit and produce handler and

proprietor of a large storehouse in Swedesboro.

- In 1920's, it was converted into a two family dwelling.
- Sold by family in 1942.
- Served as Doctor Serri's office from late 1940s to 1960s.



Amos Hurff House

1455 Kings Highway

- Late Queen Ann Victorian style.
- Round classic columns.
- Wrap porches.
- Hipped roof with lower cross gables.
- Round tower.
- This style used many efforts to avoid "flat walled" surfaces.



Richardson Avenue School (c. 1931)

Richardson Ave & Second St.

- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- This cinder block structure was originally built as a Masonic Hall.
- Original exterior walls were made up of faceted cinder blocks on the first story and clapboard on the second floor that was later covered with asbestos siding.

- Gable roof.
- Served the education needs of African American children from 1933-1942. As a school, the Masonic Hall consisted of three classrooms, two classrooms on the first floor and one on the second floor.
- The only remaining school building in NJ that specifically served African students as a segregated school.
- The building is currently administered by the Historical and Educational Lodge Hall Preservation, Inc. (H.E.L.P.) and is under restoration by NJHT.



Dupper House (c. 1908)

1514 Kings Highway
home of American Institute of
History Education

- First of three homes built by Charles Peddle of Philadelphia. All three are beautiful examples of the early 20th Century Craftsman

style. Each originally had tile roofs and stucco work on the outer walls.

- Originally owned by Mr. Longacre, then purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Harry Dupper.



Isaac Bradshaw (c. 1920)

1510 Kings Highway
a.k.a. Harry Black House
presently owned by Harold
Twiss family.

- Second of three homes built by Charles Peddle of Philadelphia. All three are

beautiful examples of the early 20th Century Craftsman style. Each originally had tile roofs and stucco work on the outer walls.

- Sold in 1930's to Harry Black. At his death his widow sold the house to Harold Twiss in 1965.



Swedesboro Borough Hall (c.1915)

1500 Kings Highway

- NJ State Register of Historic Places.
- Colonial Revival - two story brick.
- Wood dentils under cornice.

- Hip roof with square tower in center
- Built originally to house municipal office and the Woolwich Fire Company.
- Remodeled in 1977 after the new fire house was built between Kings Highway and Auburn Avenue.
- Clock tower was refurbished in 2007. The clock is wound every week by hand.
- Horse trough that is located on the front lawn of borough hall is constructed of granite and weighs four tons. It was designed and delivered in 1910 as a monument to John C. Rulon. The wording on it says "Erected as a Memorial to John C. Rulon (1910) Active in Public Interests An Upright Man A Useful Citizen". It is seven feet in diameter with a rim 6 1/2" wide. Below the rim, the granite is rough and reaches approximately thirty inches to the base.

When it was delivered in 1910 it was placed in the center of the intersection of Lake Avenue, Grant Street, Kings Highway and Auburn Avenue. A postcard from the mid 1920's shows it sitting on the dirt further north on Kings Highway. During the late 1930's, there are photographs showing it placed in front of Borough Hall to the left of the door. It was moved back and placed on the island in the center of the intersection on Kings Highway until its most recent move during the streetscape project and resurfacing of Kings Highway in 2007.



Davidson House (late 1800s)

1446 Kings Highway

- Romanesque Revival - (1885-1900)
- Reminiscent of a Victorian New York brownstone townhouse.
- Features original chestnut woodwork, unique mantel pieces, stained glass windows and carved stone pillars on door entry.
- Contained the first bomb shelter built before WWI.

- Original finials on Queen Anne turret.



Swedesboro Library (c.1914)

1442 Kings Highway

- Example of Neoclassic style architecture.
- Before this building was erected a home owned by William Davidson sat on this site that also served as the Post Office.

- Donated to the borough by Edgar F. Hurff to use as a public library in 1942.
- Building is almost perfectly square and all exterior details are symmetrical. Front of the building represents a Greek Temple.
- Entry features a classical mosaic floor.
- Swedesboro Public Library is one of the oldest libraries in New Jersey, established in 1783 and incorporated in 1937. The library was originally housed at the Trinity Episcopal Church. After several moves, the library settled in its current location, the Swedesboro Trust Company building.



The John C. Rulon House (c.1813 present style 1884)

1428 Kings Highway

- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Originally a two room, two-story house; evidence exists of this first building noted in the change in brick

style on the right front of the building.

- Expanded in 1820 by John Rink with revisions in 1840's and 1880's. Victorian home with ornate Italianate porch railing installed in 1884 by John Rulon.
- Presently Gothic Revival style with cross gables.
- Home has original hardwood floors, steam heat installed by Rulon, pocket doors, brass steeple hinges on doors, brass window pulls and unique lamp in newel post at base of stairs.



Ashton-Crispin Building (1911)

1422 Kings Highway

- Early 20th c. Commercial Style (1900-1930).
- Built on former site of the original Swedesboro Trust Company building established by John Rulon.

- Served as Altman's Five & Ten Store from 1940's to late 1950's
- Original phone company was on the second floor.



William Talman House (1906)

1324 Kings Highway

- Two and a half story building reputed to be a "Sears House."
- Queen Anne style with wrap-around porch. Many original features remain with stained glass windows and chestnut woodwork.
- Wm. Talman made and sold shoes

from his home and later moved his business to a nearby shop.



Samuel Dyer House (1812)

1320 Kings Highway

- Often referred to as a "Trinity" because of its three sections.
- Federal style architecture.
- Structural system in the basement indicates portion of the building predates the 1800s.
- Flemish Bond on front facade.



Kate Talman House (now Mattioni Attorneys) (1810)

1316 Kings Highway

- Fine example of a true brick Colonial structure.
- Recessed doorway and wide window sills.
- Interior features include an open stairway in the entrance foyer, step down dining room and back servant's

stairway.

- Original occupant Kate Talman was a sister of William Talman who owned and operated the Talman Shoe store adjacent to this house.



Lizzie Wallace House 1884 (currently home of Mugs Coffee Shop)

1226 Kings Highway

- Victorian-era house.
- Traditional front and back staircases.
- Porch replaced to accommodate present commercial use.
- Has original copper tub encased in wood dated to 1902, the year

the water company was established in Swedesboro.

- Stained glass windows on north side and yellow pine plank floors.
- Note original 2/2 windows still in use.



**Herbert Sickler House
1928 (presently Russo
Builders)**

1220 Kings Highway

- Third of three homes built by Charles Peddle of Philadelphia. All three are beautiful examples of the

early 20th Century Craftsman style. Each originally had tile roofs and stucco work on the outer walls.

- Built for Herbert Sickler who had lived next door (in Poinsett House).
- Mr. Sickler served as Gloucester County Superintendent of Roads and kept the Gloucester County road equipment at this location (property extended to banks of Church Run, a part of Raccoon Creek at that time).
- Original fireplace and hardwood floors.



Poinsett House 1892

1214 Kings Highway

- An example of a Queen Ann Stick style late Victorian House. It was enlarged twice.
- Hip roof, stone foundation, wrap-around wooden porch.

- Built as a wedding gift for William Poinsett and his bride Revilla Vanneman.
- Wm. Poinsett was a relative of Dr. Joel Poinsett of South Carolina for whom poinsettia plant is named.
- Currently a single family home featuring chestnut woodwork, pocket doors, stained glass and inlaid parquet floors.



**Trinity Church Rectory
c late 1700s to 1846**

1208 Kings Highway

- Federal style - three story with decorative transom over main entrance door.
- Two single homes put together. Features center hall and winding staircase to third floor.
- Bay window moved from a

home on Lake Avenue in the 1920's.

- Parish Rectors resided here from 1846 to late 1990's.



Trinity Church Parish House 1854

1202 Kings Highway

- Used for Church Sunday School and church functions.
- Building was financed by the Women's Guilds for social use and for fund raiser events.
- Two additions to the original building visible on the right

facade facing the church rectory.

- Original roof was tin over cedar shakes; it was replaced in 1998.
- Features plaster ceiling medallion and chandelier dating to original building.



Samuel S. Guest House 1883

1128 Kings Highway

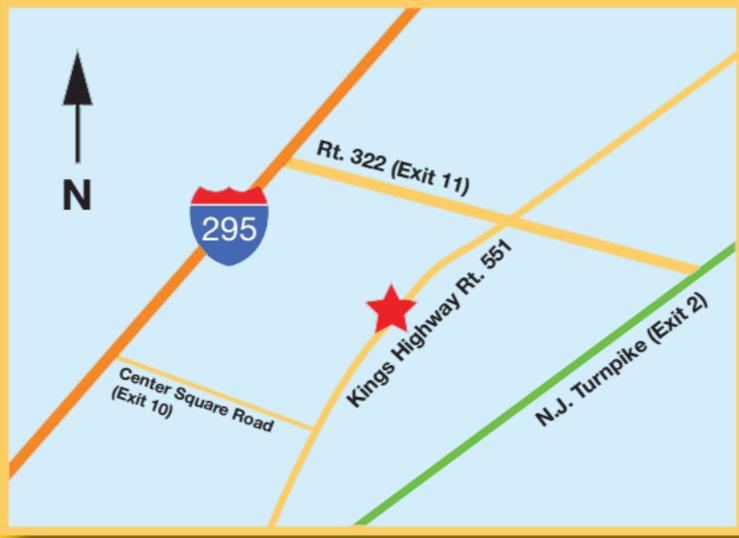
- 2.5 story Second Empire style structure with mansard roof.
- Originally large brick home of Daniel England. Current house built 1890.

- Exterior walls are scored stucco to look like block.
- Five bay facade
- Three dormers with eye brow shaped hoods.

Swedesboro is conveniently located
One mile south of Rt. 322
Two miles east of Rt. 295
Two miles west of NJ Turnpike

Before visiting Swedesboro you may want to download a podcast audio tour created by Gloucester County and South Jersey Tourism, highlighting seven historical sites. www.4revolutionaryideatour.com

Group tours of Trinity Church are available by appointment call 856-467-1227.



We are so close to:

- Center City 26 miles - 34 min.**
- Cherry Hill 29 miles - 32 min.**
- West Chester 25 miles - 38 min.**
- New Castle, DE 19 miles - 22 min.**
- Atlantic City 69 miles - 76 min.**

Produced by Swedesboro Economic Development.

www.swedesboro-nj.us

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