

# EXPLORING PRESERVATION ORDINANCES

In 2008, the Committee successfully applied for and received a technical assistance grant from Preservation New Jersey to examine Metuchen's municipal historic preservation program. As part of the evaluation, the Committee explored other towns' historic preservation sections of their municipal master plans.

When Metuchen's master plan is updated, the Committee will work with the Planner, Mayor, and Council on Metuchen's Historic Preservation Element to determine whether or not an ordinance, that would also create a commission, should be proposed. If the Committee does recommend an ordinance to the Mayor and Council, there will be the opportunity for public input throughout that process.

## RESOURCES

National Park Service  
(National Register of Historic Places)  
[www.nps.gov/nr/](http://www.nps.gov/nr/)

National Trust for Historic Preservation  
[www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)

NJ Historic Preservation Office  
[www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/](http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/)

Preservation New Jersey  
[www.preservationnj.org](http://www.preservationnj.org)

Borough of Metuchen  
Historic Preservation Committee  
[www.metuchennj.org](http://www.metuchennj.org)



## NEW JERSEY & NATIONAL REGISTERS

The National Register is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties have significance to the history of their community state, or the nation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the program is a national effort to coordinate and support efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

Private individuals and organizations, local governments, and American Indian tribes initiate this process and prepare the necessary documentation. A professional review board in each state considers each property proposed for listing and makes a recommendation on its eligibility. It is important to note that listing on Registers carries no restrictions on private property owners.

For FAQ and more about what it means to be listed on the National Register, please visit the National Park Service's extremely informative website at [www.nps.gov/nr/](http://www.nps.gov/nr/).



## METUCHEN'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



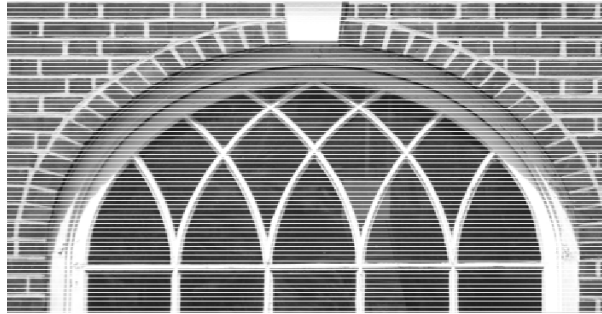
Grant Funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders through a grant provided by New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.



## COMMITTEE AND MISSION

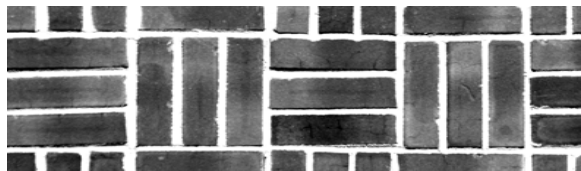
The Metuchen Historic Preservation Committee

was formed in January 2008 to advise the Mayor and Council on steps to strengthen Metuchen's commitment to historic preservation.



## GOALS

The Committee's goals are to **develop public education** on the benefits of historic preservation, **honor Metuchen's historic resources** by increasing the number of structures in town listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, and **explore the development of a Metuchen Historic Preservation Ordinance** to formally recognize and protect the town's distinctive historic and architectural character.



## PUBLIC EDUCATION

### *Celebrate Metuchen Workshop*

Public workshop (held in 2009) that provided an overview of Metuchen's architectural history and tips for taking care of older homes

### *Historic Preservation Scavenger Hunts*

In honor of National Preservation Month, the Borough's Historic Preservation Committee hosts self-paced Scavenger Hunts during the month of May. The Committee widely promotes the hunts, including coordinating with the Metuchen schools and each year's awards are presented at a Borough Council meeting.

### *Community Outreach*

The Committee provides displays for Local History Day, leads walking tours for scout troops, and contributes regular updates to the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society's newsletter.

### *Honoring Metuchen's Historic Resources*

Public workshop (held in 2013) that provided an overview of the architectural and historical significance of one of Metuchen's potential historic districts.

## HONORING METUCHEN'S HISTORIC RESOURCES

The committee has been exploring ways to better recognize and honor Metuchen's wealth of historic resources. Much of this work has been funded in part by grants applied for and received from the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission. While Metuchen is often known for its wealth of historic buildings, it is not well represented on the State and National Registers of Historic places:

Metuchen .....	2
Westfield .....	53
Fanwood .....	58
Summit .....	105
Madison .....	106
Cranbury .....	219
HighlandPark.....	240
Mendham .....	271
Glen Ridge .....	1,958



In order to increase Metuchen's representation on the State and National Registers of Historic places, the Committee has pursued designation of Metuchen's historic resources through grant-funded research projects conducted by professional consultants. These efforts, begun in 2009, have given the committee a firm foundation from which to continue to build.

