

South Jersey Early America Historic Trail



WWW.VISITSALEMOUNTYNJ.COM



WWW.EXPLORECUMBERLAND.COM



WWW.FALLFORTHEJERSEYCAPE.COM

Over 300 years of history,
in three NJ Counties!

OTHER HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS

FORT MOTT: 454 Fort Mott Rd, Pennsville, NJ 08070. 856-935-3218. Fort Mott was part of a coastal defense system designed for the Delaware River in the late 1800s. The fortifications seen today at Fort Mott were erected in 1896 in anticipation of the Spanish-American War. Today, visitors can wander through the old batteries following interpretive signs with detailed descriptions of the fort.

MILLVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD MUSEUM: 1 Leddon Street, Millville Airport, Millville, NJ 08332. 856-327-2347. The Millville Army Air Field Museum preserves the history of the Millville Army Air Field, which was dedicated by the U.S. War Department in 1941 as America's First Defense Airport. During its four year existence, more than 10,000 men and women served here. www.p47millville.org

US LIFE SAVING STATION 30-OCEAN CITY: 4th Street & Atlantic Ave., Ocean City NJ 08226. 609-398-5553. Built in 1885-86, U.S. Life Saving Station 30 served the U.S. Life Saving Service for 30 years and the U.S. Coast Guard Station #126 for 20 years after that. It was saved from demolition in 2010 and is being restored as a living history museum in Ocean City. www.uslifeguardstation30.org

US LIFE SAVING STATION 35: STONE HARBOR: 11617 2nd Ave., Stone Harbor, NJ 08247. Established in 1871, the Tatham Lifesaving Station is the oldest building in Stone Harbor. Used as a Coast Guard station from 1915 to 1945, the Stone Harbor building now houses the Ludlam American Legion Post 331, war memorabilia and museum displays.

HEREFORD INLET LIGHTHOUSE & GARDENS: 111 N. Central Ave., North Wildwood, NJ 08260. 609-522-4520. Designed by Paul J. Pelz in 1873, is a working lighthouse as well as a museum. Period rooms in the lighthouse recreate the lighthouse keeper's work and home. A park surrounding the building overflows with numerous flower gardens that have won many awards. www.herefordlighthouse.org

OLD CAPE MAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE: N. Main Street, Cape May Court House NJ. The building was built in 1848 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 22, 1981. It is an example of Greek Revival architecture.

NAVAL AIR STATION WILDWOOD AVIATION MUSEUM: 500 Forrestal Rd., Cape May Airport, Rio Grande NJ 08242. 609-886-8787. Commissioned in April 1943, NASW served as an active dive-bomber squadron training facility during World War II. Today, Hangar #1 has been restored and transformed into an Aviation Museum that houses a number of aircraft, engines, special exhibits, and educational interactive displays. www.usnasw.org

WORLD WAR II LOOKOUT TOWER: Sunset Blvd., Lower Township NJ 08204. 609-884-5404. New Jersey's last remaining restored World War II tower, part of the immense Harbor Defense of the Delaware system known as Fort Miles. Built in 1942, the tower was one of 15 towers that helped aim batteries of coastal artillery, stretching from North Wildwood, NJ, to Bethany Beach, DE. www.capemaymac.org

HISTORICAL TOURS

SALEM COUNTY TOURS: A great place to start your exploration is at the Salem County Historical Society Museum in Salem where you will find information on historic buildings, and much more. www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

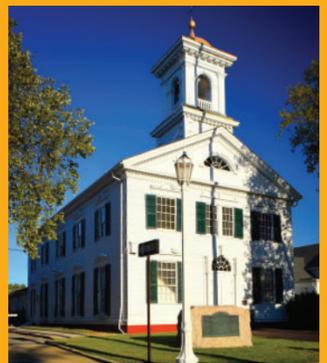
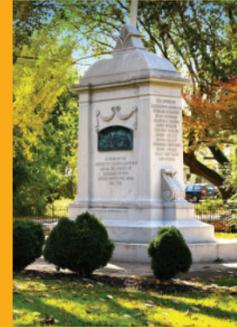
CUMBERLAND COUNTY TOURS: Cumberland County's has over 350 years of architectural history. Home to the last remaining bayside lighthouse in New Jersey and one of the most intact and well preserved 18th-century churches in the country, the county is full of architectural wonders to explore. www.cumberlandnjart.org/cumberland-historic-sites

CAPE MAY COUNTY TOURS: The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (MAC) offers a variety of historical tours in the Cape May region. They have house tours, trolley tours, walking tours. Check out their website for complete tour information. www.capemaymac.org

South Jersey Early America Historic Trail

The first 100 years of American history were crucial to forming our nation into what it is today. From the founding of our nation to the end of the Civil War, American citizens struggled with the ideas of independence, abolition of slaves, and the American identity. This trail through Southern New Jersey gives an idea of how people lived during this time frame and how South Jersey has impacted our nation's early years. This trail will take you on a journey to see farmsteads, houses, churches, cemeteries and lighthouses that are all preserved in prime condition. Throughout these historic stops, you will get a small slice of what life was like in South Jersey while still connecting back to the popular history that you know and love.

SUPPORTED BY CAPE MAY, CUMBERLAND & SALEM COUNTIES
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS



SUPPORTED BY: THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF TRAVEL & TOURISM. WWW.VISITNJ.ORG. THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE SOUTHERN SHORE REGIONAL DMO. 

MAPS.STAMEN.COM



SALEM COUNTY

1. Pennsville: Churchlanding Farm, Finns Point Lighthouse
2. Salem: Old Salem County Courthouse, Salem Historical Society, Salem Oak, Salem Fire House
3. Quinton: Quinton's Bridge
4. Hancock's Bridge: Hancock Historic House

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

5. Greenwich: Tea Burning Monument, Gibbon House, Bethel AME Church,
6. Bridgeton: Potter's Tavern, Old Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Liberty Bell
7. Mauricetown: Mauricetown Historical Society
8. Heislerville: East Point Lighthouse

CAPE MAY COUNTY

9. Woodbine: Dennis Township Old School House Museum
10. Upper Township: Tuckahoe Railroad Station, J.W. Gandy Farmstead
11. Cape May Court House: Cape May Historical Museum
12. Cape May: Cold Spring Village, Cold Spring Presbyterian Church
13. Cape May City: Colonial House Museum
14. Cape May Point: Cape May Lighthouse

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

15. Fort Mott: Pennsville, Salem County
16. Millville Army Air Field Museum: Millville, Cumberland County
17. U.S. Life Saving Station #30: Ocean City, Cape May County
18. U.S. Life Saving Station #35: Stone Harbor, Cape May County
19. Hereford Inlet Lighthouse: North Wildwood, Cape May County
20. Old Cape May County Courthouse, Cape May County
21. Naval Air Station Wildwood, Rio Grande, Cape May County
22. World War II Lookout Tower, Cape May, Cape May County

SALEM COUNTY

1. PENNSVILLE, NJ:

Well over 325 years have passed since the early colonists arrived in the Penn's Neck area. When the early colonists arrived, there were three clans of the Lenni-Lenape tribe living in the area along the Delaware River which they called Shanaigah. Obisquahassit was the name of the old Indian Chief who sold land to the settlers. Records of land purchases date back to 1665. Shad fishing, in addition to farming, was one of the chief occupations for the residents of Pennsville. In later years industrial development in the area offered employment, the largest being the DuPont Company. www.pennsville.org

CHURCHLANDING FARM AT PENNSVILLE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY: 86 Church Landing Rd., Pennsville. Donation, Open Sundays and Wednesdays April through December, 1pm to 3pm, please check website for special events. 856-678-4453. A restored Gothic style farmhouse, circa 1860, Churchlanding Farm commands a picturesque location on the Delaware River. The museum features exhibits about the early maritime and agricultural



heritage. The society's archives contain a contemporary collection of records, photographs, and scrapbooks which document the history of Pennsville families and their military service, farms and farmers, and schools. From the southern end of NJ Turnpike and I-295 take Route 49 south for approximately .8 of a mile. Turn right onto Churchlanding Rd. and continue .4 of a mile; entrance is on the right. www.phistory.com

FINNS POINT LIGHTHOUSE: Soon after the 1638 landing of Finnish colonists in Delaware, small groups of settlers crossed over to the east bank of Delaware River, where the land was thought to be more fertile. This area remains known to this day as Finns Point. Finns Point Lighthouse which was erected in 1875 to help vessels transition from the Delaware Bay into the Delaware River. It was constructed in Buffalo, New York and transported to Pennsville by trains and mule wagons. It is a classic example of a skeletal cast iron prefabricated lighthouse and was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 30, 1978.

2. SALEM, NJ:

The town and colony of Salem was laid out in 1675 by a Quaker, John Fenwick. Salem was the home of early agricultural pioneers, such as city father Colonel Robert Johnson, famously (but probably falsely) promoted as the first person to publicly promote the consumption of tomatoes. However, the area around Salem grew to be one of America's most prolific tomato growing and canning centers, with products being shipped to and enjoyed in many countries. The Old Salem County Courthouse is the oldest active courthouse in New Jersey and is the second-oldest courthouse in continuous use in the United States. The Courthouse was erected in 1735 during the reign of King George II using locally manufactured bricks. The city's centerpiece is the famous "Salem Oak", a 560-year old oak along Broadway that was recently judged to be the largest white oak tree in New Jersey, and one of the largest in the country. www.cityofsalemnj.gov

OLD SALEM COUNTY COURTHOUSE: Built in 1735, this building is the oldest active courthouse in New Jersey and is the second oldest courthouse still in continuous use in the United States. In 1774, the courthouse was the site of a county petition to King George III to address various colonial grievances and for authorizing county relief to the citizens of Boston to assist them from the King's sanctions from the Boston Tea Party incident.



SALEM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: 83 Market St. (Route 45), Salem, \$5 Admission, Open Tuesday to Saturday 12-4pm. 856-935-5004. The Salem County Historical Society maintains extensive museum and library collections relating to the history of the county.



Housed in four historic houses, the museum showcases decorative arts, period furnishings, farming implements, and regularly changing exhibitions. Researchers utilize the library and archive collections to trace family histories and investigate local history. Special events, lecture series, and other programming are also sponsored by the Society throughout the year. www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

SALEM OAK: Friends Burial Ground. 112 West Broadway (Rt.49) Across from Oak Street, Salem, Dawn to Dusk. 856-935-3381. The Salem Oak fell on June 6, 2019. It left behind a sister tree and remains the symbol of Salem County's unique history. The Salem Oak was an ancient white oak tree thought to be approximately 560 years old. The oak was a survivor of the original forest standing when Salem was founded by John Fenwick in 1675. The lands belonged to the Lenni-Lenape, a Native American tribe, and local lore says that John Fenwick made a treaty with them beneath the branches of the oak to establish the settlement. The Religious Society of Friends in Salem has owned the tree and surrounding property since 1681. www.visitnj.org



SALEM FIRE MUSEUM: 166 East Broadway (Rt. 49), Salem, Free Admission, Open the first Saturday of the month and available for private tours. 856-935-0354. Salem City is home to the oldest entirely volunteer fire company in New Jersey, founded in 1749. The Museum is housed in Union Fire Company's second firehouse, built in 1863, which has been restored to its original appearance. The museum features a collection of historic firefighting equipment including Union's antique pumper and fire service artifacts. www.salemcityfire.com



3. QUINTON'S BRIDGE AT ALLOWAYS CREEK:

Rte. 49 at Quinton-Alloway Road. In March 1778, a group of about 1500 British troops under the command of Lt. Col. Charles Mawhood occupied the town of Salem. Their objective was to confiscate supplies to bring to Philadelphia, which was then controlled by the British. Local citizens had moved some of the cattle south of Salem, past Alloways Creek to keep them from the British. Salem and Cumberland County militiamen took positions at the bridge to stop the British. The British attacked Quinton's Bridge on March 18. During the attack, the British lured about 200-300 of the militiamen across the bridge into an ambush feigning a retreat. Some militia men were captured or killed, but their defense of the bridge held.



4. HANCOCK HOUSE:

A NJ State Historic Site. 3 Front St., Hancock's Bridge, Donation. Open Wed. to Sun. 9am - 4pm and available for private tours. 856-935-4373. Built in 1734, the Hancock House is an important tangible link to understanding the history of Salem County and our nation's struggle for independence. It was the scene of a British-led massacre during the Revolutionary War. From Salem, take East Broadway (Rt. 49) to the intersection with York St. (Rt. 658). Turn right and continue 4 miles. The House is on the right immediately after crossing the bridge. www.state.nj.us



CUMBERLAND COUNTY

5. GREENWICH, NJ:

Greenwich Township is anchored by the village of Greenwich and its historic Ye Greate Street, which is graced by dozens of Colonial and Victorian residences, churches, schools and other buildings and landmarks. This includes the John DuBois Maritime Museum, the Old Stone Tavern built in 1728, the Wood House from the 1785-1795 and many more sites. In the Warren and Reba Lumms Genealogical and Historical Library Cumberland County family histories can be researched. There are also house tours, ghost tours and many seasonal events. www.cchistsoc.org

THE GREENWICH TEA BURNING MONUMENT: Ye Greate St. and Market Ln., Outside Monument. In mid-December of 1774, a British ship called the Greyhound was carrying a shipment of tea up the Delaware River towards Philadelphia. Because of unrest in Philadelphia the Greyhound docked at Greenwich, and tea was hidden in the home of a local British sympathizer. On the night of December 22, local residents were meeting to discuss the recent guidelines stated by the Continental Congress. During the meeting, a group of local citizens confiscated the tea and burned it near where the monument stands today. www.revolutionarywarnewjersey.com



THE GIBBON HOUSE: 960 Greate St, Greenwich, NJ 08323, Open Tuesday and Sundays 1-4pm. 856-455-4055. In 1730, Nicholas Gibbon who had inherited more than 3,000 acres of land nearby, bought a 16-acre lot in Greenwich. The home, appropriately furnished with products of 18th and 19th century artisans, contains a reception hall, a paneled dining room, a formal drawing room and a kitchen dominated by a huge walk-in fireplace in which demonstrations of colonial open-fire cooking are conducted. www.cchistsoc.org

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 1092 Sheppards Mill Rd Greenwich, NJ 08323. No visiting hours but interpretive signage outside. The Springtown Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was built between 1838 and 1841 and marked a growing community. Early members of Methodist Episcopal churches were strongly opposed to slavery and until the early 1800's black and white Methodists in southern New Jersey worshipped together. Springtown and its Bethel A.M.E. Church were active in the Underground Railroad and included several members who led the Abolitionist movement in the 19th century. One of the most noted Underground Railroad leaders, Harriet Tubman, is said to have lived in and worked out of Springtown for a time between 1849 and 1852. When the Civil War erupted in 1861, African American men from Springtown and Bethel A.M.E. Church enlisted in the United States Colored Troop regiment. www.cumberlandnjart.org



6. BRIDGETON, NJ:

Visit New Jersey's largest historic district and see over 300 years of American history. Its history formally began in 1686 when Richard Hancock built a sawmill and workmen's houses. In fact, today "Potter's Tavern" and Ebenezer Miller's house remain from Pre-revolutionary times. By the time of the revolution, Bridgeton, as it was then called, had about two hundred inhabitants. Bridgeton's turning point came in 1825 when the Cumberland Nail and Iron Works was founded. By 1838 the population was 2387. Thirty cargo-carrying schooners and sloops were based in Bridgeton and shipped glass, cat nails and lumber up and down the east coast. The prosperous business and professional men built elegant and pretentious homes. Bridgeton continued to be an industrial center in the latter half of the 1800s and the fine Victorian homes of this era reveal this prosperity. Atlantic Street and Commerce Street have the greatest concentration of the remaining Victorian houses. www.co.cumberland.nj.us

OLD BROAD STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CEMETERY: 54 West Ave S, Bridgeton, NJ 08302. Cemetery is open from dawn until dusk and the church is open to the public by appointment only. The basic design of Broad Street Presbyterian Church was set by its congregation and organizers. By December 1792, the brick walls and roof has been completed, but it would take another three years for the interior to be finished. The design of Broad Street Presbyterian Church is that of a meeting house. Today it is identified as one of the most pristine and unaltered examples of eighteenth century church architecture in the United States. The Cemetery has graves dating by to the 18th century and has an entire section dedicated to Civil War veterans. www.cumberlandnjart.org



POTTER'S TAVERN: 49-51 W Broad St, Bridgeton, NJ 08302. Open Sunday's in July from 1-4pm. 856-455-8580. By the time of the revolution, Potter's Tavern was a popular meeting place just before the Revolution due to its proximity to the Cumberland County Courthouse. In 1775 patriots published a manuscript newspaper called The Plain Dealer at Potter's Tavern. As revolutionary sentiment spread through the colonies, the humble tavern became the principal hostelry in this County Seat. www.co.cumberland.nj.us

CUMBERLAND COUNTY LIBERTY BELL: Across the street from Potter's Tavern in the County Courthouse sits the Cumberland County Liberty Bell. The bell, cast in the key of F, was made in Bridgewater, England before 1776. This bell has been used in many ways in Bridgeton and once in Philadelphia. It called people together for important news and meetings when hanging in the Court House that was built in 1760-61. It rang for liberty when the Declaration of Independence was signed. It was used as a warning signal during the War of 1812. This Liberty Bell may not be as well known as the one in Philadelphia, but it also has an interesting history of its own, and no crack!

7. MAURICETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

1229 Front Street, Mauricetown, New Jersey 08329. 856-785-0457. Open on the first and third Sundays of each month and available for private tours. Mauricetown (pronounced Morristown) was originally settled by the Swedes in 1730. Sometime prior to 1789, Luke Mattox became owner of the village and operated a landing there until 1812. The landing was used primarily for shipping tomatoes, lumber, iron and cordwood. In 1837, Captin Charles Sharp of Mauricetown operated the Coast Wide Trading Center. Most of the men of the village led seafaring lives, working on the boats sailing and trading from Maine to the West Indies and South America. The village is built on high ground overlooking the Maurice River, which supported the Mauricetown's economic boom during the 19th century, when the village was active in coastal trade and shipbuilding. The Mauricetown Historical Society is in the Edward Compton House, built in 1864. www.mauricetownhistoricalsociety.org



8. EAST POINT LIGHTHOUSE:

10 Lighthouse Rd, Heislerville, NJ 08324. 856-758-0349, Open most weekends 1-4pm and has interpretive signage. The East Point Lighthouse was built in 1849 at the mouth of the Maurice River. For many years it was known as the Maurice River Lighthouse. The lighthouse site was deeded to the U.S. Government by Joshua Brick for the sum of \$250. The lighthouse became operational on or about September 10, 1849. This makes it the second oldest lighthouse still standing in New Jersey. www.eastpointlight.com



CAPE MAY COUNTY

9. DENNIS TOWNSHIP OLD SCHOOL HOUSE:

681 Petersburg Road, Woodbine NJ 08270. 609-861-1899, Open 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month and private tours. This Museum provides artifacts to explore the 8 villages of Dennis Township. During early America, this area was primarily known for its ship making and shingle-making. The shingles that are on Independence Hall today came from 19th century Dennisville. A lot of these historic houses are still standing today and can be seen through your drive in Dennis Township. Dennisville the Township has historic homes dating back to the 1700s and you can explore these houses during their Christmas house tours. www.dennistwpmuseum.org



10. UPPER TOWNSHIP:

Home to two notable locations, the J.W. Gandy Farmstead and the Tuckahoe Railroad Station. The Gandy Farmstead was built in 1815. From 1815 to 1950, the house sheltered, and the land supported, generations of farmers, mariners, shipbuilders, weavers, preachers and public office holders. 26 Tyler Rd. (Rte 616), Greenfield NJ 08250. www.uppertwpshistory.org. The Tuckahoe Station was built in 1894, in Queen Anne style. The coming of the railroad was an economic boon to the village of Tuckahoe, as it was the main junction to Cape May County's seashore communities. Railroad Ave & Mill Rd., Tuckahoe, NJ 08250. www.uppertwpshistory.org



11. THE MUSEUM OF CAPE MAY COUNTY:

504 U.S. 9, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210. 609-465-3535, 2018 Summer tours resume May 23, run Tuesday through Saturday at 10am, 12 noon and 2pm and available for private tours. Housed in three historic buildings, the museum is a treasure trove of exhibits showcasing county life from Native American times through the 21st century. The 1704 Colonial period home, 1830 Federal period addition, carriage shed, and barn offer a fascinating look at how life in this seaside community has evolved. From the 1704 colonial kitchen and loft bedroom to the Victorian dining and sitting rooms all are decorated and furnished with period pieces. The Museum also has a resident genealogist and will be open a self-touring barn featuring military history and Native American exhibits. www.cmcmuseum.org



12. HISTORIC COLD SPRING VILLAGE:

720 Route 9 Cape May NJ 08204. 609-898-2300, Summer hours: open Tuesday through Sunday 10am-4:30pm. Historic Cold Spring Village is New Jersey's largest living history museum. Its 27 restored antique buildings are located on 22 wooded acres adjacent to an eight-acre farm field which is reserved for heritage farming. Visitors are introduced to rural life in southern New Jersey in the early 19th century through active demonstrations of 19th century trades and crafts by knowledgeable historically clothed interpreters, exhibits of collections, and a variety of family oriented special programs. Cold Spring Brewery opened at the Village in 2016 in a heavy timber frame barn. The brewery uses contemporary techniques inspired by historic recipes to allow visitors to enjoy a taste of history. www.hcsv.org



COLD SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 780 Seashore Road Cold Spring, NJ 08204 USA, Phone Number: 609-884-4065, Tours in the summer on Saturdays at 10am and available for private tours during the week. The current church building, known as "Old Brick", was constructed in 1823 by Thomas H. Hughes, who was also the architect of Congress Hall in Cape May, New Jersey. This red brick building replaced a frame and shingle church erected in 1764, which itself replaced a 1714 log meetinghouse. The Rev. Samuel Finley served as pastor for several years. Finley, who was a graduate of the Log College, later became president of the College of New Jersey, the predecessor of Princeton University. The church's cemetery is the site of a 1742 grave (that of Sarah Eldridge Spicer) and of the most Mayflower descendants anywhere outside Massachusetts. The cemetery also has a section for veterans, including a veteran of the battle of Turtle Gut Inlet. www.coldspringchurch.com



13. CAPE MAY, NJ:

Following sighting by Sir Henry Hudson in 1609, and exploration by Cornelius Jacobsen Mey in 1621, the first residents purchased land from the Indians in the 1630s and developed a prosperous fishing and whaling industry. In 1766, that Cape Island's development as a place where many people resort for their health and pleasure began. The visitors came first from Philadelphia, by horse-drawn wagons, stagecoaches, sloops and schooners. By 1834, there were six boarding houses and Cape Island began to attract the elite of New York, Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia. A two week stay by Henry Clay, in 1847, reinforced Cape Island's position as the major seaside retreat in the country, and so began its reign as the Queen of the Seaside Resorts. History is a very important part of the Cape May attractions today, and many of the sights can still be seen throughout the city.

THE COLONIAL HOUSE: 653-1/2 Washington St, Cape May, NJ 08204. 609-884-9100. Open June 15th to September 15, Wednesdays through Saturdays from 1pm-4pm and available for private tours. The Colonial House or Memucan Hughes House was originally a tavern and the family home of Revolutionary War patriot Memucan Hughes. The house is an unsung survivor from Cape Island's very beginning and thought to be one of the oldest surviving houses on Cape Island. The Hughes family were one of the first people to advertise vacationing on Cape Island in a Philadelphia newspaper. The Colonial House is also the headquarters of the Greater Cape May Historical Society. www.capemayhistory.org



14. CAPE MAY LIGHTHOUSE:

215 Lighthouse Ave Cape May Point NJ 08201. Open every day 9am-8pm. 609-884-5404. Learn about our rich maritime history and enjoy an unparalleled view of the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean with a climb to the top of the Cape May Lighthouse. The present tower, which is the third documented lighthouse at the southern tip of New Jersey, has been an aid to mariners and attraction for visitors since it was built in 1859. More than 2.5 million visitors have climbed the lighthouse since it opened to the public in 1988. For those who choose not to climb, the Oil House on the grounds contains a fully accessible Visitors' Orientation Center and Museum Shop carrying souvenirs, books and maritime items. www.capemaymac.org

