

**Main Street, Hackensack, NJ**  
**Historic Walking Tour**  
(Courthouse to Sears)

The distance of this walking tour is about two miles from the Courthouse Green to Sears and back. Plan on spending at least two hours and make sure to stop and eat at one of Main Street's great restaurants for lunch or dinner. You can also get in some shopping. For a complete business directory, visit [www.uppermain.org](http://www.uppermain.org).

The tour starts at the Courthouse Green which is the southern terminus for Main Street. This is also the area with greatest historic significance considering its connection to General Washington and the Revolutionary War. If you would like, you can peek in the First Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery which can be accessed off Court Street. You can also walk to the top of the Courthouse steps for a great view of the Green and surrounding buildings. Then, proceed north on Main Street, noting the buildings in the following list. You can note the buildings on either side of the street as you go north, or walk one side and then the other on the return trip. Do not try crisscrossing the street which is very dangerous. It is one mile from the Courthouse to Sears.

This following list was extracted from the Hackensack portions of the Bergen County Historic Site Survey, compiled by the *Bergen County Office of Cultural and Historic Affairs* in 1980 and revised in 2002. Some descriptions were modified due to changes in buildings. For more information, the original site survey can be consulted. We could use better photos for these buildings, so feel free to take some pictures. This is an ongoing project which will be amended from time to time.




We welcome your comments and suggestions. If you would like more information about Hackensack's history, please email me at [adib@hackensack.org](mailto:adib@hackensack.org).









Thanks also to Jeffrey Muller for his ongoing support and contributions.







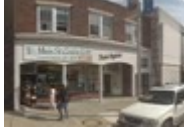
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Hackensack Municipal Historian








## Main Street, Hackensack, NJ Historic Walking Tour









(Updated 12/22/10)









#	Address/Historic Name	Image	Description
1	14 Washington Place Bank House		One block east of Main Street on the Courthouse Green. For more information, visit: <a href="http://www.bergencountyhistory.org/Pages/bankhouse.html">http://www.bergencountyhistory.org/Pages/bankhouse.html</a>
2	Courthouse Green		Hackensack was a small village centered around The Green which served as a strategic point during the American Revolution. Washington headquartered here in November 1776 while he surveyed the local roads and bridges. <a href="http://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=6867">http://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=6867</a>
3	42 Court St. First Dutch Reformed Church		The congregation was founded in 1686 and this stone church, the second on the site, was erected in 1781. It more-or-less sets the basic plan for most of the other early Reformed churches in Bergen County and elsewhere in the state. It was renovated in 1847 and "rebuilt" in 1869. The burial ground to the rear is fascinating as well. Note especially, the Gothic arch fanlight over the three doors, and the fenestration of the tower: door-window-oculus-window—a pattern you will find repeated in many other Reformed churches in the state. Source.
4	46 Court St. Church Cemetery		First Dutch Reformed Church, also known as the "Old Church on the Green" is located in Hackensack, where it sits in the churchyard of the church by the same name, the current building being constructed in 1791. The east wall of the building is of particular interest because it incorporates several carved stones from the first church building erected on the site. These stones bear the monogram of several of the founding families. The Congregation was founded by Dutch Settlers in 1686. For the first ten years the congregation worshipped in various locations, and in 1696 the first building was built on the current site. In 1780 Colonial General Enoch Poor was buried in the Cemetery. George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette attended the funeral. The church is the oldest church in Bergen County and the second oldest church in New Jersey.
5	Mansion House		Peter Zabriskie built a home here in 1751 which contained fine appointments including Dutch tile fireplaces depicting biblical scenes. Enlarged in 1776, the home was called Mansion House, later Mansion Hotel. The structure was demolished in 1945. It was here that George Washington made his headquarters in November of 1776 when he and the American Army began its retreat through New Jersey. In 1780, Washington also attended the military funeral of General Enoch Poor at the nearby cemetery of the Dutch Reformed Church. (BCHS).
6	10 Main Street Bergen County Courthouse		Bergen County Courthouse. Best Neo-Classical style edifice in New Jersey. For a history, please visit: <a href="http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/bergen/history.htm">http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/bergen/history.htm</a>

7	41 Main Street Bank of Bergen Co.		The Bank of Bergen Co. Constructed in 1874. Currently the Breslin Building. Best example of Victorian Gothic architecture in Bergen County. The Bank of Bergen County Building is one of the most architecturally interesting commercial buildings in the city. The Bank of Bergen County was founded in 1872. The building was formerly the old Campbell Tavern which was frequented by George Washington during the Revolution. The building's architect is unknown. Once called the Court Square Building, it housed the offices of Sen. William Johnson, benefactor of the Johnson Public Library. It was also the home of the Union League Club.
8	47 Main Street National Hotel		Currently General Poors Tavern. Formerly the "National Hotel". Dance Hall in Rear (13) was torn down. An advertisement in the 1879 Hackensack Directory reads: "Hall, 30x81 fee, with Commodious Galleries, to let for Balls, Parties and Entertainments at Reasonable Rates." A 1920's Sanborn map lists it as a factory for Ladies Tailoring. After prohibition, it appears to have reverted back to dance hall until World War II.
9	53 Main Street The Sign of the Angel		One of Hackensack's earliest businesses, a tavern called the "The Sign of the Angel" was opened here in 1740 by John & Mary Watson. Reputed to have served Hackensack's leading citizens, before the Revolution, portions of what became the "Widow Watson's Tavern" may be incorporated in the present structure. Later, it was a cigar store, electric and bicycle supply store and shoe store. Thomas H. Cumming, a well-known Hackensack businessman had his real estate office there in 1916. A lawyer, John R. Ramsey, elected to Congress in 1916, also maintained offices here in 1920.
10	60 Main Street Smith & Schafer Building		Smith & Schafer Building. Well preserved example of late 19th century small-town commercial architecture. In 1896, this building was described as "on the finest in the county". In 1896 A.H. Smith and John Shafer operated a butcher shop in the building. IN 1908, the meat store was still in the building. Otto Mille operated as a restaurant in 1919.
11	61 Main Street		Rare surviving structure originally built as a residence. It is possible that this is the same building located on the Slator, Hopkins and Hughes maps of Hackensack in 1860. At some point, the first floor was converted to storefronts, housing businesses such as a tailor, paint shop, grocery and confectionery in the early part of the 20th century. It is a good example of domestic architecture.
12	75 Main Street Doremus House		Doremus House. This is an old sandstone house which is unrecognizable now. The old sandstone is still visible from the interior. This is the only sandstone building remaining on Main Street. Albert G. Doremus (died 1957) was a stage owner, justice of the peace and judge of Common Please Court. He operated a stage rout between Hackensack and Hoboken. At one time, he had a contract for carrying mails on the west side of the Hudson between NYC and Albany.
13	76 Main Street R.P. Terhune Building		R.P. Terhune Building. Vernacular with Italianate elements. The Beers Atlas of 1872 lists Terhune as "Hardware, Builders Hardware, Architectural Implements, Coal and Wood, House Furnishings, Goods." The building at 8 Bridge Street was used for auto repair.
14	80 Main Street Lawyer's Building		Lawyer's Building. Handsome terra cotta classical entablature with anthemion on frieze, cornice with dentils and molding with egg-and-dart motif. In 1919, this building was called the "Lawyer's Building" and housed law offices, office of the YMCA, a realy company and the Commissioner of Deeds."

15	107 Main Street National Grocery Company		The original structure was demolished. In 1931, the National Grocery Company and the Bergen County Third District Court occupied this space.
16	134 Main Street		Currently Harwood Lloyd Law Firm, 126-130 Main Street. Constructed circa 1920 in the Vernacular style.
17	137 Main Street		Constructed between 1876 - 1908 in the Queen Anne Style. It was once noted as the best example of "Queen Anne style" commercial building in downtown Hackensack. It housed the Central Market, a grocery store operated by the politically prominent Van Buskirk family. The store was opened in 1876 by Jacob L. Van Buskirk but it is likely that the building was erected later, perhaps in 1898 when the Buskirk became Sheriff of Bergen County and turned the business over to his sons. In 1905, the store was described thus: "The store fixtures are of oak and marble and air is in circulation by electric fans". Elmer MacDonald, a druggist, had his store in the building and George Van Buskirk and family lived above it. Van Buskirk was tax collector from 1906 to 1915. From 1915 to 1920, he was the Bergen County Clerk. In 1921, he was made Judge of the Court of Errors and Appeals. In 1926, the house lost its residential function and housed offices in addition to the store.
18	149 Main Street F.W. Woolworth		Former F.W. Woolworth Building, construction between 1926 and 1931. Terracotta, cream and orange, sides stuccoed and brick. The Hackensack Woolworth Store is/was a well-preserved example of the architectural idiom developed by F.W. Woolworth Company.
19	152 Main Street Marcus Jewelers		Formerly Marcus Jewelers, Constructed between 1940 & 1949. Front: stone or terra cotta, smooth ashlar, glass block. This elegant small store (now a restaurant) is an excellent example of modern commercial architecture of the 1940's. The masonry wall is interrupted by a large curving panel of glass blocks.
20	153 Main Street Marcus Jewelers		Second Marcus Jewelers. Constructed 1897. Architect: William Augustus Lambert. Style: Romanesque Revival. Facade: Pair of gablets with large, arched opening with projecting bay window (now gone) on 2nd story. The Odd Fellows Hall is an interesting, eclectic building with bold, round arched openings with conspicuous rock faced stone trim. In 1898, the building was described as "one of the finest in town". The building was erected in 1897 as the second hall for the oldest paternal lodge in Bergen County, founded in 1848. The U.S. Post Office was located here until 1910. In 1910, the stores were leased to J.G. McCrory & Co., five and dime store. The building as listed in Forbe's Key to the Architects of Greater New York of 1899, 1900 and 1901 as the only representative work of William Augustus Lambert who had offices in Manhattan until 1896 and lived in Hackensack. He designed a large number of houses in Hackensack.
21	158 Main Street Romaine Hardware		Formerly Romaine Hardware Co. constructed in 1910 by C.V.R. Bogert. This building represents the type of small commercial buildings which were being erected in Hackensack's downtown in 1910. This building was under construction in 1910 as a hardware store for Demarest and Theodore Romaine. It was designed by C.V.R. Bogert, a Bergen County native who graduated from University of Pennsylvania Architecture School in 1905. Bogert became one of the leading architects practicing in the County in the early 20th Century. In 1919, the building also housed the Bergen County Bible Society, Demarest Romaine, Treasurer.

22	170 Main Street Union Bank Building		"Union Bank Building" Constructed in 1906. Mowbray & Uffinger, architects. Renaissance Revival style, Beaux Arts. In 1908, the Building was jointly occupied by the 1st Hackensack Trust Company (east of central Mercer Street entrance) and the Hackensack National Trust Company. In 1922, the Trust Co. took over the National Bank.
23	179 Main Street Bakman Building		"Bakman Building" Constructed in 1890. Vernacular with Queen Anne style elements. The Bakman Building in 1896 was described as "on of the most prominent business houses in the town" (Hackensack Illustrated, p. 17). Erected by Joseph Bakman in 1890, the building is a conservative design with its major design feature its massing. For many years, the building housed one of the city's noteworthy restaurants. This restaurant was started by Bakman. He was succeeded by Henry C. Renner. By 1896, Henry Struss was the proprietor of the Susquehanna Cafe, Oyster and Chop House (undoubtedly named by the railroad line to the immediate north). Renner continued to operate a market in the building in 1896. In 1898, Herman Abbenseth succeeded Struss as proprietor of the restaurant. Just prior to 1910, Abbenseth remodelled the building, installing a new bar, electric lights, and remodeling rooms. Delaney and Febar wer contractors for this work. Primary sources reveal that the building functioned as the Susequehanna Hotel in 1908 and 1919. However, about 1920, the hotel close. Other twentieth century occupants have included a music school, a business school, a Chinese restaurant, and a variety of offices.
24	189 Main Street		Erected in 1870. Only Second Empire vernacular in the downtown which retains architectural integrity. Midland R.W. & Co. (1876), millinery (1908).
25	193 Main Street		Construction: 1920's. Eclectic commercial vernacular Gothic Revival. Interesting and reasonably well-preserved example of "Main Street" commercial architecture. Built by Otis, a music teacher.
26	200 Main Street		Construction: 1920's. Commercial vernacular/Art Deco.
27	210 Main Street Peoples Trust Co. Bank		"Peoples Trust Co. Bank Bldg" (on left in picture) Constructed 1925-1926. C.V.R. Bogert, architect. Eclectic/Art Deco Skyscraper. Hackensack's first Skyscraper, it remained the tallest building here until well after World War II. Bogert was probably Bergen County's leading early 20th century architect. The building is the best example of a 1920's skyscraper in Bergen County and has a visually prominent location on Main Street at the foot of Banta Place.
28	221 Main Street		This 2-4 story commercial row building on Main Street is significant in the early 20th century commercial and architectural history of the city of Hackensack. The Renaissance style elements include terra cotta and design details such as key stones and paneled areas.

29	235 Main Street		Construction Date 1920. Commercial/Vernacular Renaissance revival elements. A handsome building with little alterations above the 1st story facade, which has survived in the busy area on Main Street.
30	241 Main Street		(239 Main Street). Construction date: circa 1920. Art Deco Style. This handsome 20th century bank building is transitional in style between the classical designs in the 1920's and the reduced design elements of this style of the later Deco and Modern eras. [Editor's note: I have pictures of this building under construction if anyone is interested].
31	266 Main Street		Construction date: circa 1920. Renaissance Revival style. This 20th century apartment/commercial building is an example of this building type found elsewhere in Bergen County. In Hackensack, these smaller apartment/commercial buildings are fast disappearing.
32	274 Main Street Johnson Public Library		Johnson Public Library. Construction date: 1900-1901. Rossiter & Wright, NYC, architects. Renaissance Revival style. The building's romantic, loosely Renaissance revival style, with high stone walls and asymmetrical massing was a bit anachronistic in 1900, a time when Neo-Classical or Beaux-Arts designs inspired by the Columbia Exposition were popular. The third library association in Hackensack was formed in 1871 and shared space in the Wilson building until 1901 when it moved to this building. The building lot and \$5000 were a gift from Sen. William Johnson for whom the library is named. In 1916, Johnson gave an additional \$30,000 for the rear addition. The building has architectural significance due to its high quality design and educational significance due to its role as a public library.
33	287 Main Street		Constructed circa 1940. Art Moderne. This small building was a fine example of Art Moderne commercial, although its lower facade was irreparably altered.
34	295 Main Street		Constructed in the 1920's, this was the former "Bergen Evening Record" Building. Eclectic vernacular/Renaissance revival. The original display windows were unfortunately replaced.
35	300 Main Street		Former Oritani Theater? (needs correcting). Strip Mall, erected in 1926. Renaissance Revival/eclectic vernacular. Fine example of Main Street Commercial architecture.
36	311 Main Street		Former site of the "Fox Theater". Now a parking lot.

37	312 Main Street		Former "Oritani Movie Theater". (302 Main St.?) Constructed in 1926. 20th century eclectic/Renaissance Revival style. Substantially altered.
38	360 Main Street YMCA		YMCA. Construction date: 1927-1928. Louis E. Jallade, NYC, architect. Colonial Revival style. The Y building is one of the most imposing examples of colonial revival architecture of the 1920's in Bergen County. The institution which became the Hackensack Y was founded about 1890 and reorganized in 1917 as the YMCA. This building, costing over \$600,000, opened Feb. 12, 1928. The building also housed the YMCA until it moved to its own building in 1969. The building has both architectural and social significance due to its function as the "Y".
39	374 Main Street Capt. John J. Ward House		Capt. John J. Ward House (building to left of one shown above, now Geri's). Construction date: 1839. Federal Vernacular style. The Capt. John J. Ward House is one of the oldest buildings extant in Hackensack today. It is the only example there of a vernacular brick, two story, 3-bay wide house with federal period detailing. Although the house is unimposing in its current condition with attached store, it could be restored to an appearance compatible with its age. Due to its current rarity, the building has historical value as a contributor to the general history of Hackensack development. Capt. John J. Ward was probably involved in the transportation of goods along the Hackensack River.
40	380 Main Street		The Bergen Co. Site Survey lists a vernacular, Colonial Revival style building at this location. The one shown may have replaced it or the original structure is completely unrecognizable.
41	408 Main Street		Residential Apartment Buildings. Construction circa 1920.
42	431 Main Street		(429 Main Street) Construction date 1920. Vernacular style. This H-shaped apartment building with commercial storefronts is typical of the building type in Hackensack. The H-shape offers all apartments light and air and was very popular in urban areas during this time period.
43	437 Main Street		(435 Main St.). Construction date circa 1920. Vernacular with Renaissance Revival design features. This imposing commercial warehouse building occupies a prominent site on Main and Anderson Streets. The use of terra cotta design elements for the Renaissance Revival details is unusual for the mundane purpose of the building.
44	460 Main Street Sears		Sears Building. More information to come.