

MUNICIPAL OVERVIEW: ROCKAWAY BOROUGH

(NO MOTTO)

TOTAL SQUARE MILES: 2.1 POPULATION: 6,473 (2000 Census)
TOTAL SURVEYED HISTORIC RESOURCES: 58



SITES LOST SINCE 1986¹: 1

- Brick factory building, a part of 1434-0044, Halsey-Maple Workers Historic District. Demolished ca. 1987-1988. Now the site of the Borough's Police Station, located at 33 Maple Avenue.

RESOURCES DOCUMENTED BY HABS/HAER/HALS:

- 1434-0021, Colonel Joseph Jackson House, HABS NJ-507 "Jackson House, 82 East Main Street, Rockaway, Morris, New Jersey." File contains 20 drawings, 4 photos dated 8/11/1938, and 3 data pages.

RESOURCES LISTED IN OR DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER BY NJHPO²: 3

Morris Canal, Existing and former bed
SHPO ID# 2784, NR ID# 74002228

Rockaway Presbyterian Church (35 Church Street)
SHPO ID# 4987

Colonel Joseph Jackson House, Rockaway Public
Library (82 East Main Street)
SHPO ID# 2238, NR ID# 75001155

RESOURCES NOTED IN THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT MORRIS COUNTY (HPEMC):

The Borough of Rockaway is in Region "E", with 6 sites:

- E1** Estille House, 560 West Main Street
- E2** First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway, Church Street at Academy
- E3** Dr. John Jackson House, The Pill Dispensary, 4 West Main Street
- E4** Joseph Jackson House, 82 East Main Street
- E5** Stephen Jackson House and Outbuilding, East Main Street
- E6** Methodist Church of Rockaway, Church Street at Mt. Hope Road

MUNICIPAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION: No

LOCALLY DESIGNATED/REGULATED RESOURCES: Unknown

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT IN MUNICIPAL MASTER PLAN?

Historic sites were noted within Rockaway Borough's Master Plan. However, it appears the "Historic Sites Survey Site Map and Status Report, Appendix A" referenced in the master plan was left out at printing.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The first settlers arrived in Rockaway Borough around 1730. Most of Rockaway Borough's associated residents lived primarily on the outskirts of today's downtown area, establishing forges in the vicinity of the Rockaway River. The Jacksons served as one of the founding families of the area and played a prominent role in the Revolutionary War. Several mid-18th-century residences along Main Street still echo this era of American history. The Morris Canal, located in close proximity to Main Street, spurred the

¹ Documentation gathered, including completed investigative memorandum, can be found in the "Lost Sites Documentation" file, located at the Morris County Planning Office, Morristown, New Jersey.

² Resources with National Park Service and/or NJ Historic Preservation Office determination.

growth of downtown Rockaway. Street grids expanded, specialized practices and stores appeared, and residences were constructed near the Canal. The establishment of the Morris and Essex Railroad allowed Rockaway Borough to develop into an industrial powerhouse during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, supporting several specialized manufacturing companies such as the Union Foundry, the Rockaway Axe Company, and the Liondale Bleach Works. The Union Foundry and machine shop was one of the largest 19th-century iron manufacturers in Rockaway, producing cast iron parts for both the Morris Canal and the Crystal Palace in New York City. Functioning independently as an industrial center, the Borough broke off from Rockaway Township in 1894 to form its own municipality. Today, Rockaway Borough still has resources dating back to the 18th century, although most of the Borough's resources date to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. While many buildings are still present, the Borough's downtown business district has seen the most alteration in storefront material and design.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Yes

The Borough of Rockaway Historical Committee
<http://rockawayhistoricalcommittee.org/home>

MUNICIPAL WEBSITE: <http://www.rockawayborough.com/>

SOURCES: Borough of Rockaway website (<http://www.rockawayborough.com/>); Acroterion; HABS; NJ Historic Preservation Office website (www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/1identify/lists/morris.pdf); Morris County Department of Planning and Development, Preservation Trust; KSK, "Cultural Resources Inventory, Morris County, NJ", Phase II (2011); American FactFinder (<http://factfinder.census.gov>)