



# **A Walk Through Time**

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# The Nathan James House



## The Nathan James House 110 North Main Street



This is one of the most unique houses in the borough.

The first house on our tour was built in 1888 for Mr. and Mrs. Nathan James, Esquire. Nathan James was the district attorney of Bucks County from 1853 to 1859.

He was the President of the Bucks County Bar Association and his wife was an original member of the Bucks County Historical Society.

Nathan had a passion for music which led him to join a band called the "Doylestown Brass Band." He was also interested in clockwork and so in his spare time he was an apprentice under Samuel Soliday, a clockmaker in Doylestown.

## The Nathan James House

110 North Main Street



This is one of the most unique houses in the borough.

The house contains a combination of different architectural styles with emphasis in the Shingle style and the Queen Anne style.

The Shingle style, an architectural style highly influenced by H.H. Richardson, can be seen in the broad gambrel roof and the shingled upper floor exterior.

The Queen Anne style, which is a form of the classic Victorian style, is found in the spherical turret, tall, corbeled chimneys, and varying sized windows with miniature square panes.

Much of the Victorian architecture similar to this found in the Borough was based on and modeled after the design of the second courthouse which was built in 1877.

# The James-Lorah Memorial Home



## The James-Lorah Memorial Home

132 North Main Street



This plot of land was the original site of the Zerick Titus Harness and Saddle Shop. The property was sold to Abraham Chapman who gave the harness and saddle shop to his son Henry who adapted it for his law office.

This home was built in 1844 by Judge Henry Chapman, the grandfather of the famous Henry Mercer. He owned and lived in the house until 1869 when he sold it to Dr. Oliver James for \$10,000. The doctor, his wife, son, and two daughters lived there. The son died in 1890, followed by his father in 1894, and his mother in 1906.

The building is now  
open to the public  
for tours.

After that, his daughter, Martha, who had married the Reverend Doctor George Lorah, and her sister Sarah used the home as a summer vacation house. Sarah was a charter member of the Village Improvement Association ( which owns and oversees the operation of Doylestown Hospital) from its organization in 1895 and so when she died in June, 1954 she willed the residence to the VIA.

## The James-Lorah Memorial Home

132 North Main Street



The house exhibits three main architectural styles :

- the Federal style
- the Greek Revival style
- the Italianate style

The earlier Federal style can be found in the flat front elevation, symmetrical shape of the main structure, the connected double chimneys, and the fanlight found atop the side entrance door.

The Greek Revival style is seen in the small third floor "eyebrow" windows (named this for their positioning above the other windows as an eyebrow is to an eye).

The building is now  
open to the public  
for tours.

The Italianate style is evident in the window hood moldings found over top of the first, second, and third floor windows.

# The W.H. Kirk House



**The W.H. Kirk House  
87-89 North Broad Street**



Over 100,000 bricks were used to construct this home which is now used as law offices.

The next house on our tour was built in 1888 with a combination of two Victorian styles, the Shingle style and the Queen Anne style. It was designed as a duplex home with one side for William Kirk and his wife and the other side for William's mother.

The staircase that rises through the middle of the structure originally had a wall through the middle and the risers were at two different levels on the different sides of the wall. On the mother's side, the rises were shorter so that she could go up them easier and so when the wall was removed after her death, the stairs had to be rebuilt.

The Shingle style can be seen in the shingled upper floor where shingles are used as siding. The Queen Anne style is evident in the tall decorative chimneys, gingerbread on the porch columns, and other decorative detail such as the elaborate cornice treatment. The pediment over the front entrance is a feature of the Greek Revival style.

# The Charles Myers House



## The Charles Myers House 77-79 North Broad Street



This beautiful house is designed almost entirely of the Queen Anne Victorian style. It was built in 1887 and competes with the Nathan James House as one of the most unique houses in the Borough.



One of the most obvious characteristics of the Queen Anne Style is the wide variety of textured wall surfaces such as stone, pebbles, brick, and decorative brick, and concrete aggregate.

**The Charles Myers House**  
**77-79 North Broad Street**



Queen Anne is also evident in the multi-leveled roof profile, recessed upper story porches, projecting bay windows, the encircling veranda, and the circular turret.

Another unique feature of the Queen Anne style which is seen in this home are the Queen Anne windows which have upper sashes of small square panes (also found in the Nathan James House).

# The Honorable Harman Yerkes Carriage House



**The Honorable Harman Yerkes  
Carriage House**

**1 West State St & 1 North Main St**



Often times, where you find alleys, you will find carriage houses and fortunately Doylestown has many of both.

This particular carriage house was owned by the Honorable Harman Yerkes. Yerkes was born in Warminster on October 8, 1843. He was admitted to the Doylestown bar association in November of 1865 and elected District Attorney of Bucks County in 1868.

He married Emma Buckman on June 24, 1869. After serving as district attorney, he was elected to the State Senate in 1873 and then re-elected for a second term in 1876.

As a State Senator, Harman Yerkes advocated a bill which created the 'Hospital for the Insane' in Norristown.

## The Honorable Harman Yerkes Carriage House

1 West State St & 1 North Main St



Often times, where you find alleys, you will find carriage houses and fortunately Doylestown has many of both.

This carriage house exemplifies the Shingle style, which can be seen in the broad gambrel roof and the shingles used as siding on the exterior.

The first floor of the carriage house would be used as a stable to keep horses and carriages.

The upper floor would be used to board the grooms and drivers employed by the owner of the carriage house.

# The Lenape Building



## The Lenape Building

1 South Main St & 1 East State St



Over 500,000 bricks were used to construct this enormous building which cost \$50,000.

This unique building was designed by Addison Hutton, who was known as the "Quaker Architect of Bryn Mawr", and Thomas Cernea, two very influential architects from Philadelphia. It was built by the Doylestown Improvement Agency, headed by Henry T. Darlington, in 1874 after many Doylestownians expressed the need for a meeting place, consolidated store area, and indoor market.

Before its construction the Borough Council held an outdoor farmers market in this approximate vicinity. Everyday wagons full of goods would arrive at 4:00 AM waiting for the 6:00 AM opening no matter what the weather.

Upon completion, the building housed five stores, offices, a drug store, an auditorium, a meeting room, and an indoor market. The market was not as successful as was first anticipated, so it was renovated for other enterprises.

## The Lenape Building

1 South Main St & 1 East State St



Over 500,000 bricks were used to construct this enormous building which cost \$50,000.

It is the largest example of commercial architecture found in the borough. The building displays a combination of the Romanesque Revival and Classic Greek Revival.

The Romanesque Revival can be found in the arch shape of the tall windows which are accented by the belt courses running horizontally along the exterior.

The classic Greek Revival can be seen in the roof pediments and the suggestion of supporting columns in the pilasters.

# The Fountain House



## The Fountain House

1 West State St and 1 North Main St



This building has  
been called  
The Fountain House  
since 1873.

This building was originally William Doyle's second colonial roadhouse. In 1776 it was conveyed to Richard Swaniwick. Shortly thereafter, Swaniwick was arrested for high treason and therefore the property was sold on June 8, 1780 to Enoch Harvey. Harvey named the building the Doylestown Hotel and retained ownership until 1873.

In that year, William Carson bought the building, added the mansard roof and replaced the pump in front of the structure with a fountain. He renamed the tavern The Fountain House Hotel. The hotel eventually became a furniture store and a bank and is now being a Starbucks Coffee.

This building exemplifies the Second Empire Style with its mansard roof and protruding dormer windows along with the second story porch wraparound porch.

# The Hannah Green House



# The Hannah-Green House

54 West State Street



This Victorian Queen Anne residential home was built in 1889 and stands out from the structures surrounding it because most of them have been remodeled to conform to modern architectural designs.

This is another one of the homes in town which was highly influenced by the construction of the Victorian courthouse in 1877. The Queen Anne style is evident in the flat-roofed turret, the large double-bay window on the side, the corbeled chimney, and the Queen Anne windows.



The circular tower was at one time crowned, but after several years, the wood rotted and the crown had to be removed and was never replaced, leaving the turret with a flat top. The window fanlight over the central window above the entrance and the wooden fanlight above the third floor Queen Anne windows are features of the Federal style.

# The Shaw-Swartzlander



# The Shaw-Swartzlander House

43 South Main Street



This building has been recently renovated restoring much of its charm.

This building was built in 1801 for Josiah Shaw, who was once a Justice of the Peace in Doylestown.

It's design contains a combination of architectural styles including the Federal style and the earlier Shingle style.

The Federal style is prominent and is exemplified by the chimneys on each side, the symmetrical shape, the flat front elevation, and dormer windows which project from a sloped roof.

The Shingle style is seen in the outbuilding which was built in 1894 by veterinarian W.G. Benner to be used as a horse hospital.

# The Hart Buildings



## The Hart Buildings

22-24 North Main Street



It was said at the time when they were built that the buildings made the handsomest block in the county.

These two buildings, built in 1896 and 1900, are two of the first buildings that were constructed specifically to be used as offices.

They are linked to Lenape Hall because they are part of a small group of industrial buildings found in the Borough. Both are designed with components of the Romanesque Revival style and the Second Empire Style.

The Romanesque Revival can be seen in the vertical pilasters (both cement and brick) and the massive round arches. The Second Empire style is found in the mansard roofs, the terra cotta, and the paired windows.

# The Josiah Hart Bank



## The Josiah Hart Bank

21 North Main Street



This is one of Doylestown Borough's only definitive Greek Revival buildings. It was probably designed by Thomas Cernea, however, the documentation is confusing and so no one is certain.

It was built for Josiah Hart and Company Bankers in 1858.

The Greek Revival style is obvious in the projecting pediment and large supporting columns.

This building resembles the temples of ancient Greece which is what gives it the designation of Greek Revival.

# The Old Intelligencer Building Bank



**The Old Intelligencer Bank  
Building**  
10 East Court Street



This intricate "old lady" was designed and built in 1876 by the team of Thomas L. Cernea and David E. Supplee the famous Philadelphian architects.

It is very uncharacteristic of Hutton because of its informality. It is an impressive example of the Second Empire style and the Queen Anne style.

The Second Empire style can be seen in the mansard roof and projecting central tower.

Some interesting aspects of the Queen Anne style seen here are the white belt courses and carved keystones, the balconies, the crowned tower, the tall thin windows, and elaborate ornamentation.

# The Charles Meredith House



**The Charles Meredith  
House**  
90 North Main Street



This house is an example of a county version of the Federal style often referred to as the Georgian style.

Dr. Hugh Meredith built this house for his son Charles and his son's wife in 1805. Dr. Meredith was Doylestown's first physician, practicing as early as 1776 in and around the Borough.

The house was originally laid out face down Main Street towards the Hart Buildings because Dr. Meredith didn't like to build homes parallel to streets. However, the night before the foundation was to be laid, Charles snuck out and straightened the layout strings so that the building faced the road.

He later said, "I will not have my house spoiled." Charles continued the family practice after his father died and he and his wife had a daughter named Elizabeth who later married Abraham Chapman.

# The Charles Meredith House

90 North Main Street



This house is an example of a county version of the Federal style often referred to as the Georgian style.

The Georgian style is characterized by the symmetrical shape of the entire structure (especially the five bay roof), the chimneys on each end, and the wooden fanlight over the front entrance.

There can also be found a hint of the Greek Revival style in the temple like pediment forming the front entrance and the columns which support the front entrance overhang.

## **CREDITS:**

- Text and photographs provided by THE LENAPE PROJECT, an educational Partnership among the Doylestown Revitalization Board, the Lenape Middle School, the Doylestown Historical Society, the Mercer Museum, and the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce, in order to foster awareness of the cultural heritage and historical assets of the extended Doylestown community.