Big Book of Boredom Solutions (Things To Do In And Around Clinton Township)



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Additional recreational information can be found on the Township website. <u>https://clintontwpnj.gov/recreation-home</u>

Additional hiking trails can be found on the Township hiking website. <u>https://clintontwpnj.gov/clinton-township-hiking</u>

Additional historical sites can be found on the Township Historic Preservation Commission website. <u>https://clintontwpnj.gov/boards-commissions/historic-preserv</u> ation-commission

All Costs Are Based On January- March 2023 Data and Are Subject To Change

Section 1 - Things To Do For Fun With Kids

1. Northlandz - 495 US- 202 Flemington, NJ

\$36 - 12 to 64 years \$33 - 2 to 11 years \$33 - Seniors, Military, Teachers \$25 - Disabled Train Ride - \$16 Monthly Subscription - \$9.99 Annual Pass - \$100 3

Northlandz is a model train museum with over 8 miles of train tracks and is included in the Guinness Book of World Records. Not only do they have a huge model train collection they also own a music hall and doll museum. To experience the full magic of the train museum you should consider purchasing an outdoor train ride ticket along with the museum ticket. This attraction is good for people of all ages. Daily hours may vary, all hours are online.

Review: **Tiffany F.** - Our 2 year old son is train obsessed so on a very cold Saturday in January we finally ventured here. It was awesome. For kids and adults alike. It took an hour and half to walk through going at a good pace but I could easily see you spending an entire day if you're an enthusiast and take your time. The amount of detail they put into every exhibit, it's amazing, the sound effects, even, so cool! The employees there, were very friendly and seemed to really enjoy their jobs. A woman who checked us in/ worked the register in the gift shop. She was great. There's ample parking. I saw they have Groupons but I actually used a 20% off code from their website and it was cheaper than Groupon. Highly recommend for all ages, my 2 and 5 year old and us adults loved it. (Yelp review)

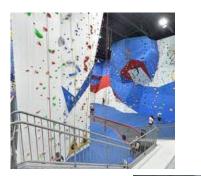


2. Gravity Vault - 17A Minneakoning Rd. Flemington, NJ

\$25 - 2 Climbs	\$28 - Day Pass Adult \$25 - Day Pass Youth (20 and under) \$16 - Belay Only		
1 Hour Private Session	I		
\$65 - 1 or 2 Climbers	Rentals		
\$90 - 3 Climbers	\$5 - Shoes		
\$115 - 4 Climbers	\$4 - Harness		
\$260 - 5 Staff Belay Package	\$3 - Chalk Bag		
	\$9 - Full Rental (all 3)		
1.5 hours Intro to Rock Climbing	l 		
\$33 per Participant - Groups 5 or More	Annual Memberships also available		

The Gravity Vault of Flemington is a great family activity. Especially for parties or a rainy day activity. All of the staff are super nice and helpful. They have a variety of walls for people of all ages. If you enjoy rock climbing you should buy a pass (all pass details are on their website). Daily hours may vary, all hours are online.

Review: **Rob M.** - Great time at the Gravity Vault- James was our man with the plan. He was awesome- very helpful, knowledgeable, helped push us and gave guidance. The walls themselves were in good condition and varying levels of difficulty. Great layout, good for people of all skill levels. Stop in and pay my man James a visit. (Yelp



Review)





https://gravityvault.com/

Hammer & Stain DIY Workshop/ Paint Party Studio-48 Main St. Flemington, NJ

Costs Vary - Daily Projects (use website to sign up!)

Kids Birthday Party \$475 + \$35 per kid - Canvas Painting (maximum 10 kids) \$550 + \$40 per kid - Wood Project (maximum 10 kids) \$525 + \$35 per kid - Cupcake Wars (maximum 10 kids)

Hammer & Stain is a great place to experience art and have fun with friends. They offer a variety of classes and art styles. They have everything from wood working to blanket making. They offer classes that let you meet new people while learning new skills. After the class you will walk away with something that you can cherish for years to come and maybe a new hobby. The staff are very nice and are well equipped to help you with your craft. Daily hours may vary, all hours are online.

Review: Nicole Que - Hammer & Stain was an absolute blast! Tara was an amazing person to work with, super friendly and immensely helpful every step of the way! The studio was clean, well prepared, and a very comfortable environment to work in. My party drove quite the distance to be there and it was worth every minute. Highly recommend and cannot wait to go back! (Facebook Rating)



http://www.thepaintpartystudio.com/

4. Bounce City - 176 US-202 Ringoes, NJ

\$18 - Open Bounce (ages 6 and up)\$0 (with open bounce purchase) -Toddler Zone (ages 5 and down) \$450 - Bounce Birthday Party (15 kids 20 adults) \$650 - Private Birthday Party (20 kids)

Bounce City is a good activity for rainy days and kids of all ages. It is filled with fun bounce houses that will keep a child occupied for hours. Your kids will have the time of their lives running from bounce house to bounce house and jumping with their friends. There is no shortage of fun and excitement for you and your kids at Bounce City. Daily hours may vary, all hours are online.

Review: Jon D. - Awesome place for kids, and it's nice and clean, which is always awesome, but even better to know during COVID. The owner and staff is super friendly as well! The toddler room is amazing, and the choo-choo train inflatable is HUGE! It's nice to know this place is around since there's nothing for kids to do in the area!!! If you haven't been here yet, you're missing out! (Yelp Review)





https://bouncecitynj.com/

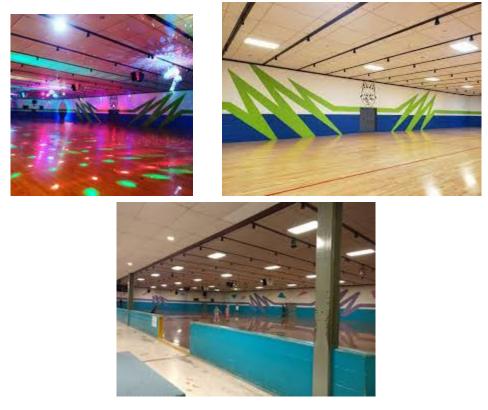
5. Frenchtown Roller Rink - 2998 Daniel Bray Hwy Frenchtown, NJ

\$10 - Admision

\$3 - Regular Rentals (Roller Skates) \$5 - Inline Rentals (Roller Blades)

Frenchtown Roller Rink is a great indoor activity and fun for family members of all ages. It's a blast from the past with a large skating area. Bring your own skates or take advantage of the rentals that are available. A snack stand is also available to purchase food and drinks. Daily hours may vary, all hours are online.

Review: **Luke D.** - Wow. First the [staff] is friendly. Secondly the roller rink is maintained well. And lastly the prices are very affordable. Lots of fun for the kids and adults too. Highly recommended on a rainy day or if your just bored. (Yelp Review)



https://www.facebook.com/Frenchtown-Roller-Rink

6. Branchburg Sports Complex - 47 Readington Rd. Branchburg, NJ

Check Online For Individual Activities Pricing \$349 - Laser \$395 - Archery \$349 - Play M \$349 - All-Sta

Birthday Parties: \$349 - Laser Tag Party (up to 12 kids) \$395 - Archery Tag Party (up to 12 kids) \$349 - Play Maze Party (up to 12 kids) \$349 - All-Star Sports Party (up to 12 kids) \$25 per kid -To Add An Extra Guest For All Parties Options

Branchburg Sports Complex is an excellent place to have your child's birthday party. There is a lot of space for kids to run around, fun arcade games, cool prizes and so many activities to keep your kids busy. You can also go any day to have fun with your kids. Daily hours may vary, all hours are online. The staff are very friendly and helpful. They are also amazing with kids of all ages.

Review: Amy Y - Just had a party for my 10 yrs old daughter, lasertag, about 13 kids. Everyone had a great time, including little ones who opted to do playmaze instead. Nicely ran party host and staff. Facilities very clean and archade has nice variety, no broken machine, and bathrooms are well maintained. Lasertag was quite expansive, lots of nooks to hide and to run around. Our guests like the pizza and the refreshment. Very easy for party mom. We are impressed with the experience and looking forward to come back. (Yelp Review)



7. Hunterdon Art Museum - 7 Lower Center St. Clinton, NJ

\$7 - Adults \$5 - Seniors, Military and Students \$0 - Children Under 12 Check Website for Event and Class/Camp Pricings!

The Hunterdon Art Museum shows changing exhibits of contemporary art, craft and design. The Museum is located in a 19th century stone mill. Hunterdon Art Museum also has summer programs and other classes for kids, teens, and adults. Hunterdon Art Museum also has exhibits that show the work of new contemporary artists. Daily hours may vary, all hours are online.

Review: **Jeff W.** - This small museum in Clinton is in a beautiful building in a scenic location. The current exhibit of wood carvings by David Ellsworth and bead designs by Susan Ellsworth, is worth the trip. The staff is always helpful, nearby parking is free and Clinton is a nice small town to visit. The admission fee is a recommended \$5. The museum accepts NARM cards too.

It's not a big place but what makes it impressive is the ability to bring art to rural New Jersey. (Yelp Review)





<u>http://hunterdonartmuseum.org</u>

8. Red Mill Museum - 56 Main St. Clinton, NJ

\$12 - Adults and Children 13+ \$8 - Seniors and Children \$0 - Members, Children Under 6, Veterans, Active Military and Their Families \$45 - Family Membership

Other programs and souvenir prices are online.

The Red Mill Museum and Village consists of a 19th century mill, in the back there is a school house, wagon shed and corn crib that were relocated to the site. The Mill has a working water wheel and an amazing view. The Red Mill Museum and Village also has many different activities based on the time of year, but they are also open to the public to walk through the museum, daily hours can be found online.

Review: **Kathy B.** - Perfect day trip. The museum offers tools and machinery from years ago but the best part is the village. There is an old one room school. My favorite is the ice house that tells the story of how ice was taken from the frozen river and delivered. Relaxing and make sure to take plenty of pictures. Beautiful scenery! (Yelp Review)



https://theredmill.org

9. Hunterdon Hills Playhouse - 88 Route 173 West Hampton, NJ

Pricing depends on show, show time, date, and seat. Please Check online to book tickets or call. (<u>Book here</u>, or call -800-447-7313) Gift Certificates - Gift Certificate forms can be found online.

Hunterdon Hills Playhouse is the perfect dinner theater to visit when you're looking for something unique, special and fun to do. Hunterdon Hills Playhouse strives to keep the seasons filled with energetic performances ranging from Broadway shows and comedies, to vibrant musicals, special music events and more. The food is delicious and freshly prepared. All food and including a famous dessert buffet is included in the ticket price. Show dates and times very <u>Book here</u>, or call -800-447-7313 to book a show time.

Review: **Kathy P.** - Was so glad to return to Hunterton Hills for the Christmas 2021 Show with the Seward Seniors. The cast was A joy!! Great return and hope for the future. Great performance very talented young dancers and singers and a wonderful meal. Thank you (Yelp Review)



<u>https://www.hhplayhouse.com</u>

10. Yellow Dog Paddle - 27 Center St. Clinton, NJ

Half Day (4 hours) Fishing Trip -	
\$275 - Single	
\$350 - Two Anglers	8
\$390 (\$130/each) - Three Anglers	1
Paddle Board Rentals Town of Clinton	
\$25 - Per Hour / Per Paddler	
\$35 - Per 1.5 Hours / Per Paddler	1 4
\$45 - Per 2 Hours / Per Paddler	-
\$179 - Private Instruction 2 Hour Course	1

Paddle Board Rentals and other costs online.

SUP Yoga \$40 - Per Class

\$25 - Bring your own board(No reservation required)

Yellow Dog Paddle has many fun activities to do with your family or friends, including kayaking, fishing, paddle boarding, and SUP Yoga. Daily hours may vary and can be found online. They also offer other events such as Full Moon and Sunset Paddles and Full Moon Meditation. Yellow Dog Paddle has many locations in and out of Clinton Township, like the Town of Clinton, Spruce Run, Round Valley, Merrill Creek and the Delaware River. Yellow Dog Paddle is also dog friendly so you and your dog can have the best time.

Review: **Ashley F.** - We are so glad we found Yellow Dog Paddle! Used their off site rental of paddle boards to head over to Round Valley. Easy pickup in Clinton, they set us up with boards the right size for us with our dogs on the board, strapped everything to the top of our truck, gave us some pointers, and away we went. Nice boards and nice people. They happened to be there for a drop off later in the day so we were able to drop off and keep on going with our day. Had a really nice time, Jill and Mike are great people. Will definitely make another reservation when I see the forecast looks favorable again! (Yelp Review)



https://yellowdogpaddle.com

Section 2 - Outdoor Activities/Locations

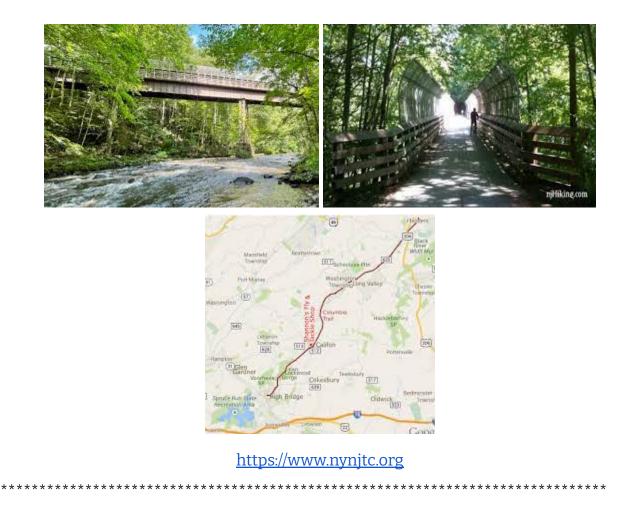
1. Columbia Trail- Main St. at Church St. High Bridge, NJ

This 15 mile trail is a relatively flat trail made of packed dirt and gravel. It runs from High Bridge to Bartley Road in Long Valley (Morris County). The trail has a lovely gnome village and a medium sized parking lot. The trail is perfect for dogs. Bicycles are also allowed on the trail. It has many sights to see along the trail like a waterfall and many arts and crafts throughout the trees and plants. Portable toilets are available in the High Bridge parking lot and along the trail in Long Valley just after crossing Rte 517.



2.	Ken Lockwood	Gorge -	Raritan	River	Rd.	Califon.	NJ	

The Ken Lockwood Gorge is a 500 acre Wildlife Management Area between Califon and High Bridge. A 2.5 mile stretch of the South Branch of the Raritan River flows through the gorge with a mostly flat trail running alongside. Lots of greenery and small wildlife can be seen on the trail. This trail allows dogs and biking but it does have limited parking spaces in the small lot. The Ken Loockwood Gorge also allows some trout fishing from the river with necessary permits.



3. Bundt Park - Red Schoolhouse Rd. Lebanon, NJ

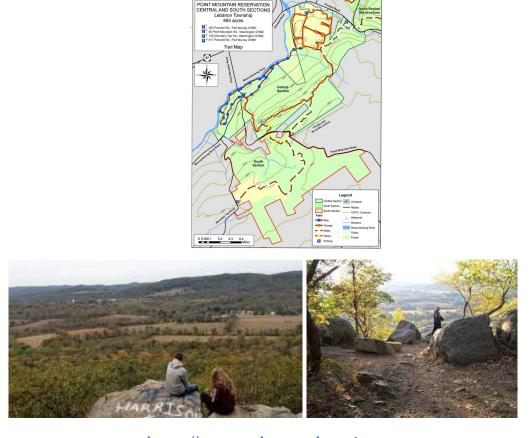
This park located in Clinton Township is large and mostly flat. It has large grassy areas with baseball and softball fields, soccer fields, a pavilion with picnic tables under it and a newly renovated playground area with a pickleball court. There are paved trails and a large parking lot with a dog park and a community garden. Restrooms are also available.



https://www.clintontwpnj.com

Point Mountain (South/Central Sections) - 132 Mountain Top Rd. & 80 Point Mountain Rd. Washington, NJ

Point Mountain offers various trails for adventurous people, including the Ridge Trail, Riverwalk Trail, Overlook Trail, White Trail and Field Trail. Amazing views await when you get to the top of Point Mountain as it is the third highest peak in Hunterdon County. Point Mountain is a perfect place for a picnic! Dogs are welcome, but the trail can get narrow. Along with hiking, horseback riding, cross country skiing and mountain biking is permitted. Rock climbing is prohibited in the park.



https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us

5. Beaver Brook Ravine - 170 E. Main St. Annandale, NJ

A 45 acre parcel of land used for hiking and bird watching. There are three hiking trails (White, Yellow and Green) and they range from easy to hard and are very scenic. There are a few relics on the sides of the trails including one from the 1800's. The trails also go across some small streams creating a more challenging experience for hikers. The parking lot and trailhead are located at Foran Field.





https://clintontwpnj.gov

6. Cramer's Creek - 1 Regional Rd. Annandale, NJ

Property includes disc golf, a 3.1 mile cross-country running/walking path and exercise stations. Parking is available for trail users in the lot on Regional Rd. New construction in progress but playable short 10 hole course cleared from the woods. Based on reviews, visitors note that this course is for developing players who want more challenge, for tags and league play, and for a quick round for mids and putters. Great use of natural features like the creek on #5, the placing of basket #6 on a mound, setting basket #9 at the edge of a trench and old trees guarding various greens.



https://clintontwpnj.gov

7. Round Valley State Park - 1220 Stanton Lebanon Rd. Lebanon, NJ

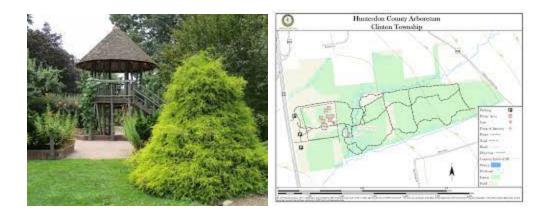
There is something for everyone at Round Valley State Park. There are trails, swimming, fishing, boating and hiking. The boat launch is attractive for small boats, kayakers and paddle boarders. It's very easy to pull your car close to the water to unload and then go and park. It's even fun to watch the boat launch while sitting in the grass and picnicking. The trails are for hikers, runners and bikers and range between easy to medium in difficulty. The swimming beach attracts crowds during the summer and is great for cooling off and spending the day.



https://nj.gov

8. Hunterdon County Arboretum - 1020 NJ-31 Lebanon, NJ

At the Hunterdon County Arboretum you can combine a visit to a lovely display garden with a gentle stroll on two miles of trail through mixed hardwood and evergreen woods and along a boardwalk through a rich wetland alive with skunk cabbage, cattails and ferns. Visitors can do a self guided nature trail, following explanations of the 27 numbered markers in a brochure available at the Park office or at Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation Department. In the winter, this park is great for cross country skiing!



https://njtrails.org

9. Echo Hill - 41 Lilac Dr. Lebanon, NJ

Echo Hill offers many forms of recreational activities. Visitors can enjoy the new playground, picnic or hike over two miles of easy trails. Horseback riding, cross-country skiing and mountain biking are permitted on the trail system. Visitors are exposed to a variety of habitats along the trail, which include meadows, wooded areas and Echo Hill pond. It's a clean park where you can spend a few hours!



https://www.jerseyfamilyfun.com

10. Prostak Farms - Stanton Mountain Rd & Rte 629 Lebanon, NJ

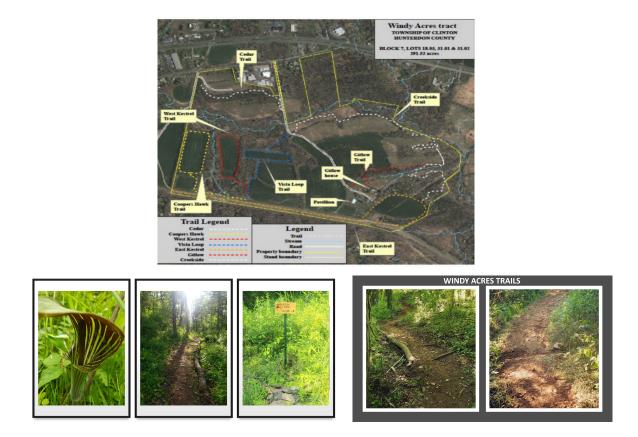
53 acre park with wooded trails that run along meadows – good for walking and hiking. Parking lot is across from 278 Stanton Mountain Rd. The views of the Raritan Valley are stunning. This farm was formerly called Paradise Farm and it was owned by the Prostak Family, who ran a dairy farm on the property. The farm is open from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.



https://clintontwpnj.gov

11. Windy Acres - Corporate Dr. near E. Main St. Lebanon, NJ

Windy Acres is an open space nature preserve. Once part of two working farms, the property has a long history that is still evident today. In order to keep the trails nice and proper for the future, please remove litter, clean up after your dog, and hike on the designated trails only. Also, ATVs, bicycles, and horses are prohibited. The trails contain lots of plants and wildlife, abandoned farm structures and they are mostly flat with dirt trails. Parking lot accessed via Google Map coordinates 40.642029,-74.821273.



https://clintontownshipnj.gov

Section 3 - Historical Activities/Locations

1. Red Mill Museum - 56 Main St. Clinton, NJ 08809

\$12 - Adults and Children 13+ \$8 - Seniors and Children \$0 - Members, Children Under 6, Veterans, Active Military and Their Families \$45 - Family Membership

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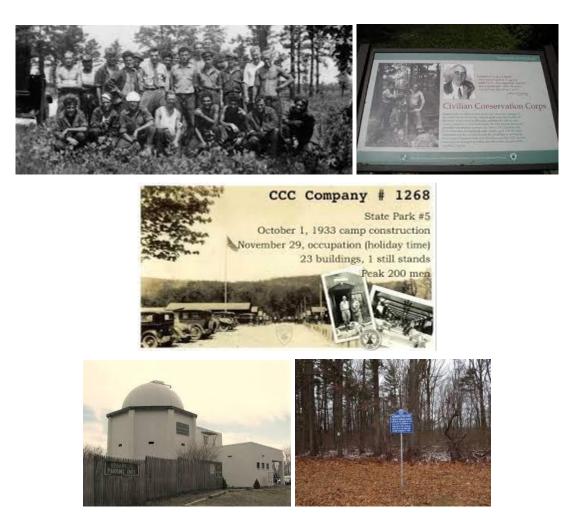
The Red Mill has themed activities around some holidays for people of all ages, including the Haunted Mill. Inside the area of the Red Mill consists of over 40,000 historical artifacts. The Mill tells the stories of the community that had lived in the area around 1928 when the mill was closed.



https://theredmill.org

2. Voorhees State Park - 251 County Rd 513 Glen Gardner, NJ

Voorhees State Park served as a camp for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from 1933-1941. The CCC was a work relief program that gave millions of young men employment during the Great Depression. It was constructed by President Roosevelt, thought to be one of the most successful of his New Deal programs. They had planted more than 3 billion trees and made shelters in more than 800 parks nationwide during the 9 years of its existence. Throughout this park specifically, this group planted trees, constructed shelters, picnic areas, and trails. Today, Voorhees State Park offers camping, scenic hiking trails and an observatory.



https://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests

3. Solitude House - 7 River Rd. High Bridge, NJ

This house is one of High Bridge's most historic homes. This home was owned by the Taylor family who operated the iron and steel company. In the decades before the Revolutionary War, Union Iron Works had produced such items as horseshoes, farm tools, and fireplace backs. Among the Revolutionary War figures who visited Solitude House are George and Martha Washington, General Lafayette, Colonel Charles Stewart, and Aaron Burr. The house is a Germanic style stone home built on more than 10 thousand acres in size. The entire property takes up part of the towns Bethlehem, Clinton, High Bridge, and Lebanon.



https://highbridge.org

4. Joseph Turner House - 117 Van Syckles Rd. Hampton, NJ

The Union Ironworks built this house in 1760 for the residence of the superintendent. When the Revolutionary War began, Joseph Turner had to flee the property because he was a Loyalist. This house was purchased by NJ in the 1960's when the reservoir was being built. It is now open as a historical museum, on the first and third Sundays of each month, May-November, from 2-4 P.M.

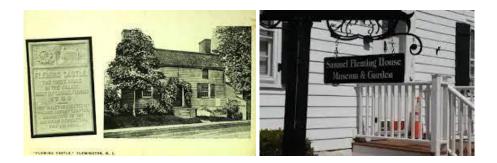


https://www.hmdb.org

5. Fleming Castle Museum - 5 Bonnell St. Flemington, NJ

The Samuel Fleming House, known as Fleming Castle was built in 1756. It was built by Samuel Fleming who was born in Ireland in 1707. Fleming came to Amwell in the colony of New Jersey in 1740. Fleming worked as a local tavern master. He received 210 acres of land in today's Flemington from Thomas Penn, son of William Penn, the founder of the Province of Pennsylvania. Fleming's property included multiple structures including a tavern. The tavern was said to have been visited by George Washington himself, who it was claimed wrote about "stopping at Fleming's" in his journal. This Castle has been arranged to depict life in the 18th century including a colonial-style kitchen, ladies parlor, and a tavern room.





https://www.samuelfleminghouse.org/

6. The Doric House - 114 Main St. Flemington, NJ

The Doric House was built in the Greek Revival style in 1845 by Mahlon Fisher (a country carpenter) as his private residence. Fisher also built several other Flemington residences in the same kind of style. The quality of Fisher's design was most likely his own but it is likely he used the Minard LeFevres' architectural plan book of the period for reference. This house was acquired by the Hunterdon County Historical Society in 1970 from the neighboring Methodist church with the help of leading citizens and business people of Hunterdon County. The Doric House has served as a residence, Odd Fellows headquarters, restaurant, Methodist Church School and now finally a museum and library.



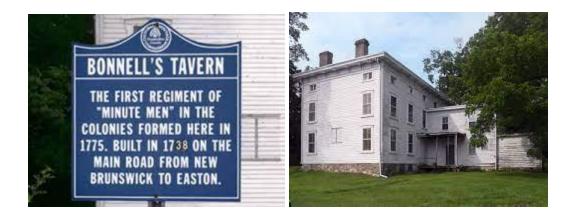


https://hunterdonhistory.org/facilities/doric-house

7. The Bonnell Tavern - 2 Pittstown Rd. Clinton, NJ

This tavern has been a key part of Clinton's history since the mid 1700's, although it is not technically in the Town of Clinton. The tavern itself sits just across the town border in the Township of Union. Abraham Bonnell opened this tavern in 1767, as he was one of the most prominent landowners in the area. This family descended from William Bonnell, who came from England. The tavern was an important meeting place during the Revolutionary War. A regiment of "minutemen" was organized there for the first time in this region of New Jersey. The tavern is also known to have had Aaron Burr and his daughter as patrons before he became the 3rd Vice President of the United States.

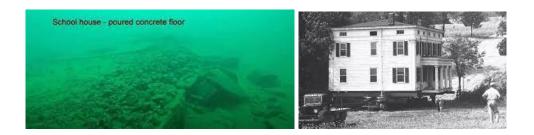




http://www.bonnelltavern.com/

8. Round Valley Reservoir - 1220 Stanton Lebanon Rd. Lebanon NJ

People of New Jersey did not want to sell, but the state responded telling them they had no choice. This reservoir has to be built to reach demands for water in the area. The benefits of Round Valley are appreciated today but its creation was heartbreaking to residents who called the now flooded valley home. The houses of this town that did not relocate are still submerged under this water. Crops were lost and animals were sold. People were even offered money so they would be more willing to move away from the town. This body of water is perfect for swimmers, boaters, fishermen, picnickers and campers at the scenic shores. The swimming area was created by the construction of an earth dam across a narrow waterway on the west side, separating it from the main reservoir. This reservoir covers about 2,350 acres of land, and 180 feet deep, one of the deepest lakes in New Jersey.



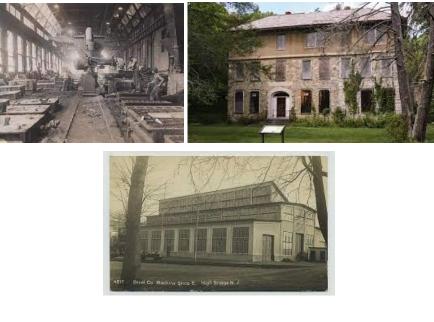


https://www.onlyinyourstate.com

9. TISCO complex - High Bridge, NJ

This complex was once part of the Union Forge Iron Works, which was once America's oldest continuously working foundry. The Union Forge supplied munitions in every American war from Independence through Korea. This site has two buildings; a three story mid 18th century stone structure which was once the centerpiece of the Iron Works but was last used as the company's office. The second building is an early 20th century steel grinding shop, known as "Shop-E." This building is not officially a museum with an inside tour, but it is an interesting building to see and learn about.





https://www.preservationnj.org

10. Christoffel Vought Farmstead - 35 Grayrock Rd. Clinton, NJ

This house is another one of Hunterdon County's Revolutionary War Sites, sitting right outside of the Clinton Township Middle School entrance. The house is an 18th Century German Style "bank house." The builders of this house were local leaders, Christoffel/Christopher Vought and his son John Vought. In June of 1776, John led a group of loyalists in a raid to intimidate a neighbor, who was militia captain Thomas Jones; the group members were arrested and briefly taken into custody. Later, in December 1776, both Christpher and John organized a band of 75 loyalists from Hunterdon and joined British forces on Staten Island. They served with the NJ volunteers until the end of the war in 1783. The house is most known as the "Serpent House" because of the ceiling design that has a serpent winding overhead, right over where the militia came to knock on the door for the arrest of the father and son, Christopher and John.



https://www.nj.gov