

## Hightstown's History

Hightstown, one of the oldest towns in New Jersey, was founded in 1721 by John and Mary Hight after purchasing 3000 acres from the British Crown. They erected a log cabin on the north side of Rocky Brook, currently the site of the firehouse, and later built a mill, blacksmith shop, and other buildings nearby.

Downtown Hightstown, c. 1900



Incorporated as a Borough in 1853, Hightstown has ties to early transportation history as a former railstop on the first regularly scheduled passenger train: the John Bull, which traveled through town from New York to Philadelphia. Today, Hightstown retains a great deal of its period architecture and Victorian homes, including lovingly restored "painted ladies" as well as the Smith House, dating back to the 1770s. Hightstown's Stockton Street Historic District is proudly listed on the Federal and State Registers of Historic Places.



Stockton Street Historic District

Hightstown is also home to the internationally renowned Peddie School, founded in 1864, now a coeducational, nondenominational preparatory school.

With its quaint lakeside business district and small-town charm, Hightstown is committed to restoring and preserving this Mercer County, New Jersey heritage area for generations to come.

Designed by Delameana Design, LLC.

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## Downtown Hightstown

Got a few hours to explore?



Stroll along scenic Peddie Lake, browse the family-owned shops, admire the architecture of our Historic District, then enjoy a meal at one of our diverse eateries or hometown diner. Or linger over a cup of joe at our coffee house, then cross the street to study the carvings on our obelisk fountain that commemorates Hightstown's history. In the evening, grab a drink and dine outside at our local tavern, or view an art opening at a local gallery. Year-round, Hightstown offers special events to entice visitors and residents alike. Find out more at [www.downtownhightstown.org](http://www.downtownhightstown.org)!

### At the "Center" of it All!



When you think of "Central Jersey," think Hightstown! Seconds away from NJ Turnpike Exit 8, just an hour from NYC and Philadelphia, 45 minutes from the Jersey shore and New Hope, PA., 15 minutes from New Brunswick and Princeton, surrounded by East Windsor Township, historic Hightstown is truly at the center of it all!

**From NJ Turnpike Exit 8 & East:** Route 33 West to Route 539

**From West:** Route 571 East to the center of town

**From North:** Route 130 South to Route 539 to the center of town

**From South:** Take Route 130 North to Route 571, or take Route 539 North to the center of town

For online directions to the downtown, go to:  
[www.downtownhightstown.org/contact/directions](http://www.downtownhightstown.org/contact/directions)

# Visit Downtown HIGHTSTOWN

New Jersey, 08520



[www.DowntownHightstown.org](http://www.DowntownHightstown.org)

