



12 Taylor Street – Neighborhood House

centuries. Stores included a dealer in “groceries, flour, feed, grain and hay”, a liquor store, a fertilizer and grain store, a shoe shop, an iron monger, etc. The only commercial establishment remaining is the

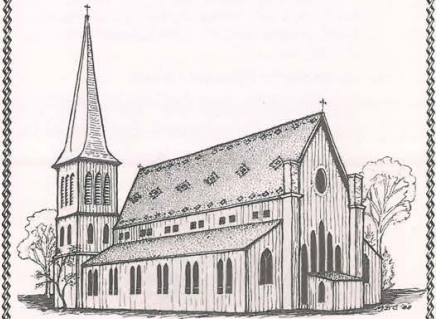
11. Tichenor Iron and Rail Company
22 Taylor Street
12. 30 Taylor Street
A 3 bay, shingled homestead set back on a large lot.
13. 28 Taylor Street
c. 1872. A large 3 bay homestead with decorative porch trim.
14. 25 Taylor Street
c. 1915. Shingle Style with round windowed front bay and an angled side bay.
15. 26 Taylor Street
is one of the earliest structures in the area. The right side was built before 1850 and the left side added later to accommodate a hat shop. The oversize eyebrow or frieze windows under the roof and the side-gable construction are typical of late Colonial design.
16. 18 Taylor Street
c. 1874. An unembellished 3 bay homestead relatively unaltered except for new siding and roofing. The half instead of full width porch changes its appearance.
17. 12 Taylor Street, “Neighborhood House”
Pre-Civil War, once the residence of the Taylors for whom the street and the park are named. They donated it to the Town in 1918 as a headquarters for community services. The house is an eclectic blend of Gothic Revival and Italianate with corbel bracketing under the roof, curved windows and bays. The unusual decoration under the windows and the pendants under the gables illustrate the dexterity of local carpenters who often added fanciful embellishments that can’t be described in precise architectural terms.
18. First Baptist Church, 132 Spring Street
This Gothic Revival church with a tower, buttresses and turrets was completed in 1869. The original board-and-batten exterior was replaced in 1888 by Lamb & Rich, an architectural firm that was a leading proponent of the Shingle style. Now green with white trim, it was once painted dark brown. The south side of Millburn Avenue between the Baptist Church and the Education Center is a pleasant streetscape of homestead houses interspersed with homes built in the early 1900s.

19. 402, 404, 406, 408 Millburn Avenue
c. 1872. 3-bay homesteads. Note windows and additions, especially the third story window on #406.
412 Millburn Avenue c. 1872. A good example of an unaltered temple homestead.
418 Millburn Avenue c. 1920. Gambrel roof, pillared porch, flared window in front.
426, 428, 430 Millburn Avenue c. 1905. 3-bay homestead houses.
20. 431 Millburn Avenue “Bodwell House”
The house is a good example of Carpenter Gothic with Italianate trim but was originally a simple farmhouse. Rough hewn beams used in the front three rooms indicate that this section was constructed before 1830 when post-and-girt framing was common. By mid-century balloon framing replaced the older, more laborious method. The house is named for a mill owner who made alterations and additions in the 1860’s. It has six fireplaces including one in the basement for cooking. The shingled well is one of the oldest still remaining in Millburn.
21. St. Stephen’s Cemetery
These eight acres where scores of Millburn notables lie were donated by Israel Condit. The caretaker’s “lodge” near the entrance is pointed Gothic style with a patterned roof similar to that of the church. Circumstantial evidence and local legend say that the architect was James Renwick, who designed St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York and the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. James was the brother of Edward, who was a prolific inventor and lived in Millburn. Harry Devlin wrote of the caretaker’s lodge in *To Grandfather’s House We Go*:
“...the lodge lacks only board-and-batten to be a dictionary of the Gothic Revival in America. It has pointed eaves with foliated bargeboards; it has pendants and finials, picturesque chimneys and diamond-paned windows with Tudor hood moldings.”
Look for the graves of Hartshorns and Whittinghams, Campbells, Tichenors and Meekers as you stroll the serene and secluded cemetery on a fine day.
22. St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church
Although masses were being said in a home on Old Short Hills Road as early as 1847, St. Rose formed as a congregation in Springfield in 1852. In 1869 the original clapboard church was moved from Springfield to the present site of the church and a converted hat factory served as a convent and school. By 1890 the church had grown so much that a large Romanesque church and brick convent school were built. Only the Convent school remains. The present church and rectory were built in 1952 in classic American Colonial style.
Return on Millburn Avenue in an easterly direction, and note the
23. Senior High School
Built in 1956 to replace the present Junior High School on Old Short Hills Road. It was designed by the architectural firm of Heppel-Seaman and has been enlarged and altered several times.
24. 387 Millburn Avenue
The first occupant of this late 19th century commercial building was Genzel’s grocery store. The brick and clapboard exterior, front gabled roof, and rear shed are faithful to the original plan despite the altered facade windows and the added porch.

25. 380 Millburn Avenue
Little is known about this late Colonial 3-bay structure. The eyebrow windows, side gable construction and shingle exterior suggest a date around 1800.
26. Town Hall, 373 Millburn Avenue
Horatio Olcott designed the central portion of this hip-roofed Neo-Classical building in 1922; it was remodelled in 1935 and 1956. The three arched facade windows replaced the doors that accommodated Township fire engines until the department moved to Essex Street in the 1950’s. The first Town Hall stood across the street where Schoolhouse Plaza is today in a clapboard structure that had been the original Washington School. A plaque in front of the present Town Hall commemorates the Battle of Springfield:
“The last and deepest thrust towards Morristown and Washington’s supplies was stopped here by American militia on June 23, 1770. After a punishing retreat, the British never entered New Jersey again in force.”
27. 370 Millburn Avenue
Schoolhouse Plaza is an adaptive reuse of a Township school built in 1895. Neil Greydanus designed the complex which opened in 1978-9. The new section has a slate frieze under the roof. Brown anodized aluminum windows, one-over-one rather than mullioned, are used in both the old and new parts. The steep front gable of the old school is similar to others on commercial buildings in the Center.
28. Intersection of Millburn Avenue and Main Street
Known locally as “the four corners”, archaeologists and students of New Jersey Indians believe this is where two Leni-Lenape trails intersected. The trails were used for annual migrations from Lake Minnissink in the north to Atlantic shore points. In the 19th century Aaron Hand’s hotel and tavern on the northwest corner was a stop for the Morristown to New York stagecoach, and later became headquarters for the Memorial Day bicycle race. From 1890 to 1910, cyclers coursed a 25 mile circuit between Millburn and Irvington in the sporting event that was of state wide importance. On the southwest corner was McCollum’s General Store, purveyors of “choice groceries, drygoods, crockery, hardware and wooden ware” and the first to offer home delivery. Behind it was Washington Hall where social and public meetings were held. Mundy’s General Store was on the northeast corner, and scattered about were squalid tenements that were home to immigrants hired to work in the quarries or the elaborate gardens fancied by the wealthy new suburbanites. The intersection was a stop on the trolley that connected Millburn with Newark, Springfield and Morristown from 1905-6 until buses replaced it in the 1930’s.
29. 40 Main Street
Now a restaurant painted green with striped awnings, it was known as the “Vauxhall” in the 18th century. During the Revolution it was the headquarters for a quartermaster in Washington’s army. Old rough hewn timbers and supports have been found in the building. Over the years it has been, variously, a news store, a dress factory and shop, a meat market, a barber shop, etc.
30. 14 Main Street
Dates from about 1917 in its present guise but may be a remodelled version of an earlier building. It was originally a mission for new immigrants supported by all the Township churches. Pointed side windows and a slightly raised dais can be seen inside.
31. Taylor Park, Wallbridge Rose Garden
Donated to the town by Mr. and Mrs. William Wallbridge in 1981, it is popular spot for summer weddings with the gazebo as a focal point.

Millburn Center Walking Tour

36 Buildings
2.7 Miles



St. Stephen’s Church



Return to Millburn Avenue and continue west on a block that was very lively in the late 19th century. The Vaux Hall Inn was on the north side next to Egbeson’s Bridge which the British had captured on their way to defeat at Town Hall. It had the reputation for the best fifty-cent meal in the state – chicken and milk punch! The Lonergan family owned much of the block on the south and had a blacksmith shop named The Prairie Rose. Today there is a gift shop by the same name at 328 Main Street.

31. Taylor Park, Wallbridge Rose Garden
Donated to the town by Mr. and Mrs. William Wallbridge in 1981, it is popular spot for summer weddings with the gazebo as a focal point.

Millburn Center Walking Tour

36 Buildings

2.7 Miles

Estimated Walking Time: 1-1/2 Hours

★ "Downtown" in the late 20th century may no longer be the focus of economic and social activities in a town. Cars, malls, supermarkets and widely scattered job sites have made older definitions obsolete. Millburn Center is an example of how the character of many small towns has changed, especially since World War II. Walking the streets is the best way to understand how the past has shaped the present.

1. Taylor Park

The 13 acres comprising Taylor Park were assembled by Mrs. John Taylor and dedicated to the Town in 1924 in memory of her husband. Frederick Law Olmstead, son of the man who designed Central Park, did the initial landscape plan of the area that was once the site of the heaviest concentration of the town's mills. Strolling through the Park today, enjoying its ponds and bridges, trees and shrubs, is a leisurely way to ponder the importance of water in the development of the Town. North of the bridge is a new water-efficient garden including holly, juniper, illex, etc. An exercise trail rings the complex.

2. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

119 Main Street - named for the first Christian martyr, consecrated in 1855. The architect, aptly named J.B. Priest, wrought a splendid example of American Pointed Gothic, sometimes called Carpenter Gothic. Now white, it was originally painted in tones of beige to resemble Gothic stone. The slate roof has an ecclesiastical pattern; the clerestory beneath is decorated with quatrefoil windows symbolizing the cross. Some of the stained glass windows were designed by local architect Joy Wheeler Dow, who worshipped at St. Stephen's.

The church is not a New England church-on-the-green. The "high church" founders, proponents of the Oxford Movement, wanted a building related to the medieval church and newly fashionable American Gothic seemed appropriate. The supporting oak timbers were hewn from trees felled on or near the site. Extending behind the church is the Parish House (1898), a shingled structure with a large 1961 addition. Israel Condit (1802-97), whose hat manufacturing patent fostered the industrial growth of the town in the mid-18th century, donated the land for St. Stephen's.

3. The Rectory

135 Main Street - was probably originally painted in colors similar to those on the Church. Built in 1869, it is Pointed Gothic style with a gabled roof and lancet windows that compliment St. Stephen's. The architect was C. Harrison Condit, no relation to Israel. Bargeboards carved with quatrefoils, Tudor chimneys, paired side gables, horizontal window trim, and pendants illustrate the whimsicality of this style.

From 1800 to 1900, the area between Main Street and the Senior High School was a melange of small farms, gardens and an occasional house. Gradually more houses, new shops and factories filled in the open spaces. James Elliot Lindsley wrote in "A Short History of St. Stephen's Church":

As a new century dawned (1900), the town of Millburn presented a far different picture (than it does today)... Millburn Avenue was a broad, unpaved

thoroughfare, heavy with dust in summer and at other times deep in mud. Old Short Hills Road was a country lane which began in Livingston and meandered down the hill into Millburn...and twisted a narrow way past St. Stephen's Church toward Springfield. Opposite the church, on Main Street, there were rows of deteriorating tenements which had been built for factory workers in a former era.

From Lackawanna Place east to Maplewood, only a few houses interrupted the fields. Rural Millburn coexisted with its industries.

4. 17 Rector Street

Dating from shortly after the Civil War, this gabled stucco house with slate roof is an early example of stucco applied to wood framing. The technique became widespread after 1900. The porch with bracketed supports and modillions under the eaves was added later.

Dozens of houses in this part of Millburn were built by or for factory and mill workers. The basic plan is a steep front gable roof over a 2 or 3 bay facade sited on a small, narrow lot. Quick and inexpensive to construct, it was eminently practical for worker housing. The design is known as a "folk house" or "temple homestead". Many have been extensively altered over the years.

5. 39 Rector Street

c. 1872, is a good example of a 3-bay temple homestead with a lean-to at the back and a partial cross side gable which was typical of larger houses. Matching, rounded third story windows in the sides and front carry out the basic plan.

6. 94 and 96 Rector Street

c. 1872. Side by side, one house is 3 bay, 2 1/2 story; the other is a 2 bay, 2 story.

The west end of Rector Street, abutting the High School athletic field, was the site of Bill Smith's binder-board works. A drawing of the power wheel from this factory was adopted as the Town logo in 1939.

7. 49 and 45 Blaine Street

are almost identical shingled houses with New England gambrel roofs and shallow bays on the left side.

8. 35 Blaine Street

faces north and has the same set-back as houses on Church Street, indicating that it was built on a hypothetical extension of that street. The front gable is decorated with sawtooth shingles.

9. Mount Zion AME Church

54 Church Street, 1902. American Vernacular influenced by American Gothic, the church has a shingled exterior, a pair of lancet windows in the facade and four narrow windows with triangular tops on each side. The congregation was formed in 1881 by a minister and two communicants. As it grew, members met in a local blacksmith shop until the church was completed.

The Township jail was at the corner of Church and Spring Streets until it was torn down in 1886.

10. 130 Spring Street

c. 1872. The original 3 bay design has been enlarged by an Italianate side addition. The double, panelled door is typical of the period, but few remain in this area.

Now residential, Taylor Street was a busy shopping center in the mid 19th to early 20th

