

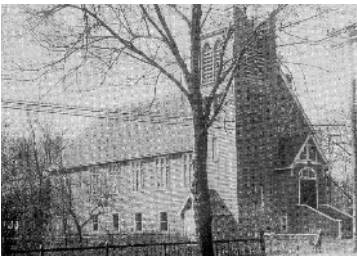
9 - D.P. Patterson/J.H. Riley House

This Second Empire home was built in the 1860's by D.P. Patterson, who brought the rail line to Hillsdale and created the first sub-division here. He also built Hillsdale's first store and donated land for Memorial Park in 1871 and the Methodist Church in 1876. His house was considered one of the grandest estates in the Pascack Valley, containing Victorian gardens and stables. Before 1899, the home was bought by J.H. Riley, who built the Riley Building on Broadway and Hillsdale Avenue in 1906. Riley also served as County Freeholder and the Fire Department's first President. The property was sold to St. John's in 1953, and the school was built between 1954-55. The house served as a convent and preschool. It was demolished in 2002 as the school was expanded.



Brook Side Drive, residence of John H. Riley.

10 - Nathan Interiors/ St. John the Baptist Church



The original St. John's Church was built in 1925 on land donated by Mrs. Helen Riley, wife of J.H. Riley. The building was used as a church until 1968. It later became a dance studio until Ron Nathan converted the building into a showroom for his interior decorating business in 1991.

11 - Trall House - 520 Hillsdale Avenue

This Second Empire home was built on a 26 acre farm in the 1860's by Selden Trall, a retired druggist from NY. It was inherited by son Orrin Trall, a farmer and one of Hillsdale's founding fathers and founding Fire Dept. members as well as town and county tax collector. It passed on to daughter Myra in 1924, who was married to George Yates, first Borough Clerk and 3rd Mayor of Hillsdale. At that time, the property had a tennis court, a popular social venue, on the properties directly west of it. Modified c. 1900 in Colonial Revival style, it was restored to its original Victorian period from 1995 to 2002.



12 - Hillsdale Library - 509 Hillsdale Avenue

The Free Public Library was formed in 1936. In 1956, the Borough acquired the Peter Vorrath house, a Queen Anne style structure built in the early 1900's, and the collections were moved from the Leddy Building (#8) in March 1957. The building was expanded in 1970-72 and remodeled in 2003-06.



13 - Vorrath House - 109 Yesler Way

Located on the west side of Yesler Way, this 1893 Queen Anne Victorian house was also built by Peter Vorrath. He lived there until he built and moved into the original portion of the home that has since become the present day library. 109 Yesler served as the original rectory for St. John's from 1927 until the new rectory on Valley Street was dedicated in 1965. The sloping hill from the house to the Pascack Brook was a popular sledding destination.

14 - Cemetery

The cemetery on Hazelwood was part of the Westervelt family farm from 1808 to 1879 and is the final resting place for 35 early residents of Hillsdale. This plot was abandoned sometime after the last recorded burial in 1884.



15 - Koenig's Hofbrau

A popular restaurant and dance hall from the 1920s through the late 60s was located where Walgreens stands today. The Fire and Police Departments regularly held dances there. Local political organizations met there frequently. At one time the owner, Mr. Kohler, established a small zoo on the property that included monkeys. Cement steps that led to a bridge over the Pascack Brook are still visible today.



Created/compiled/written by: David Franz and Melissa Giancarlo
Sources: Bergen County Historic Sites Survey, 1982-83; Hillsdale Centennial Journal, 1989-1998; Christopher Statile, PA, Borough Engineer; Relics issued by Pascack Historical Society, Vol. 48, No. 229

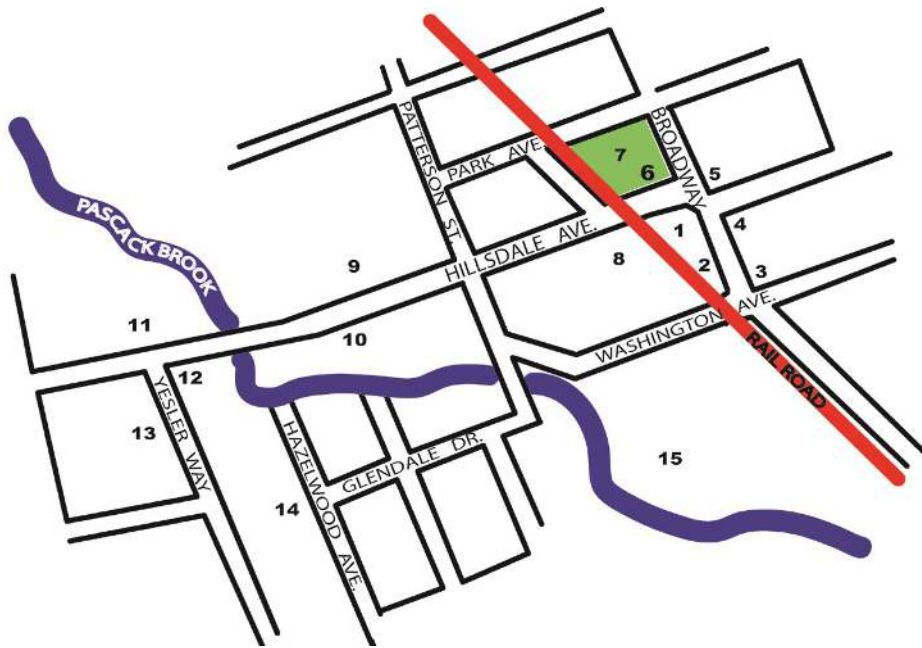
A WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC HILLSDALE



Over 100 Years of History...
Just around the Corner



With The
The Hillsdale Historic Preservation
Committee



Hillsdale Station District:

Hillsdale's Station District is an architecturally and historically significant area that has served as the transportation and commercial center of Hillsdale from 1869 to the present. In 1860, David P. Patterson, a key figure in extending the railroad to Hillsdale, purchased the 56 acre property, then a Demarest farm, that currently makes up the town center. This purchase and the concurrent building of the rail lines triggered Hillsdale's transition from rural farmland to residential railroad suburb. With the transition came buildings of picturesque country house character not found in the earlier farmhouses of the area. As a result, the landmarks which comprise this district, along with many other structures throughout town, are constructed in Victorian styles that include Second Empire, Italianate and Gothic Revival.

1 - Train Station

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, this combined Stick and Second Empire style structure is one of the most distinctive on the rail line. Designed by Post & Camp of Hudson County, it was built in 1869 as a depot along the newly constructed rail line that connected the Pascack Valley to Hackensack, Hoboken and Jersey City. Originally, the second floor of the building served as the corporate offices of the rail line, and the southernmost room was the coal bin.

Over 100 years of history...

just around the corner.

Today the first floor serves as a waiting room for train commuters and as a museum of old photographs of Hillsdale. The large rock located to the south (2) was brought to Hillsdale in 1921 for use in a WWI monument in Memorial Park. During its transfer to the park from a flatbed, the rock broke away and fell to the ground, well away from its original destination, and there it has remained ever since!

3 - Hemme Building

This Medieval Revival structure was built in 1930 and is notable for its architectural style and large size. Its construction essentially completed the downtown area that now comprises Hillsdale's commercial Station District. It is now home to the Cornerstone restaurant along with several other businesses.

4 - Hillsdale House

Built in 1870, Hillsdale House was an Italianate style hotel-tavern built opposite the depot. It has a low-pitched hip roof with a cupola. Originally this was a freestanding building with an adjacent stable. The original wraparound open veranda was replaced with its first story additions between 1913-1931. Over the years the building has served as a hotel-tavern, drug store, hardware store and department store. It is currently a beauty parlor and restaurant with residential apartments in the upper floors.



5 - Riley Building

This Renaissance Revival building, constructed in 1906 by John H. Riley, is recognized as a rare survivor since it is unusual for a small town in Bergen County to have such a large commercial building from the period. Noteworthy in its architecture, it is embellished with artistic concrete blocks, an oriel accenting its corner, and an elaborate pressed metal cornice with ornate modillions or brackets, frieze with garlands, dentil band and egg-and-dart molding. The Riley Building served as a hotel in the early 1900's and has since been the site of various commercial businesses as well as apartments on the second floor.

6 - Police Booth

This Mediterranean Revival octagonal structure built in 1925 by John Henry Olley is recognized as one of the symbols of Hillsdale. Over the years it has been maintained by members of the Olley family, particularly after a car crashed into it in 1985 and its relocation from the middle of Hillside Avenue and Broadway to its current location in Memorial Park. In the early days, a police officer would manually operate the traffic light at the intersection from within the booth or switch it to automatic operation when he was not present. [Note: Olley was also the builder of another Hillsdale landmark, the Beechwood Park Bandshell, with Julius Carpena in 1966.]

7 - Memorial Park

This one block space which borders the train tracks was donated to the town in 1871 by David P. Patterson. Originally marshland and following numerous wagonloads of ashes from the railroad yard, this park has become the village green of Hillsdale with its manicured lawn, sidewalks and landscaped gardens. It is now home to several park benches, picnic tables and the Centennial Gazebo built in 1998. Also located here are the 1922 War Memorial and the 1977 Firemen's Memorial.

8 - Leddy Building

The Leddy Building stood approximately where Wendy's is now and faced the train station. This Second Empire building served several functions throughout its history, including post office, public library, and coal & oil depot.

