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Published by:  
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Prepared and Printed by the Ocean County  
 Department of Printing & Graphic Arts



## Water Street Historic Walking Tour Toms River Township Home of Toms River

*"The Official Ocean County Seat"*

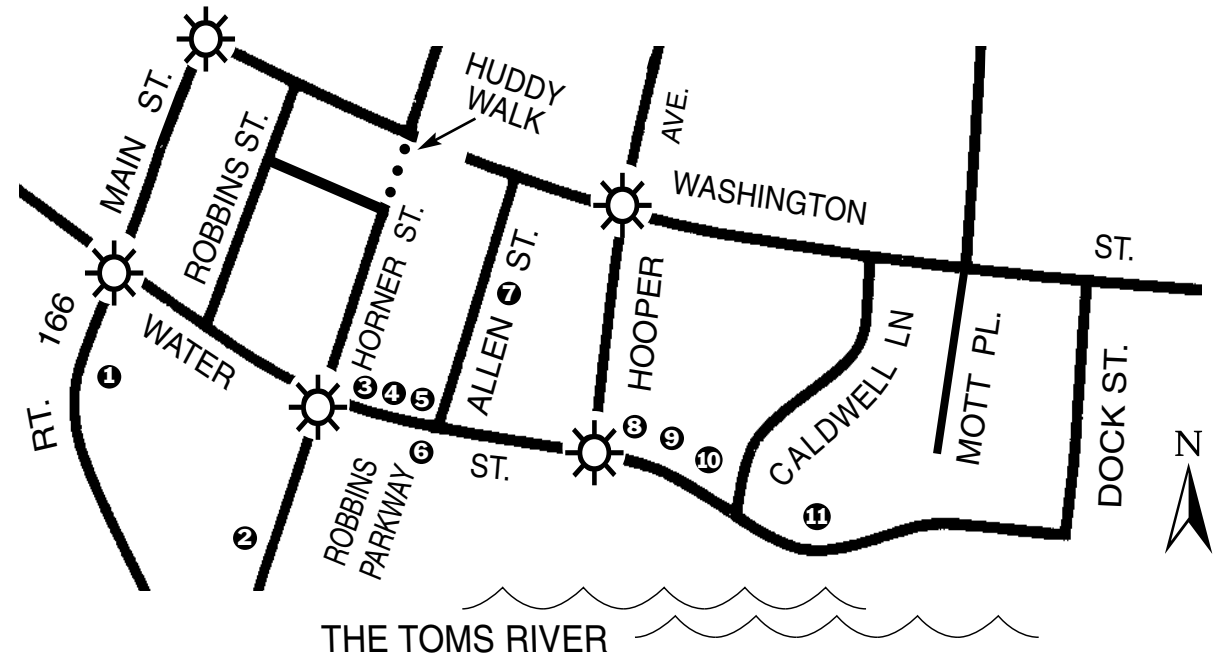


c. 1868

**Victorian Stoutenburgh - Minturn House**

**Ocean County  
 Board of Chosen Freeholders**

John C. Bartlett, Jr. • James F. Lacey  
 John P. Kelly • Gerry P. Little  
 Joseph H. Vicari



### ABOUT TOMS RIVER:

Toms River's waterfront has been the hub of commercial coastal trade since its founding around 1702. The British attack on March 24, 1782 burned the village to ashes, leaving the sea captains of the area homeless. By 1783, taverns and housing revitalized the village into a thriving inland coastal port.

Two and three masted schooners brought goods and supplies from foreign ports and returned with lumber and charcoal from the Pine Barrens.

Always named *Water Street*, County Historian, Polly Miller, says it might well have been named *Sea Captain's Row* because so many resided there.

It is one of three historical districts in downtown Toms River, the other two being along Washington Street and Main Street. Most of the residences now house professional offices whose owners still maintain much of the area's original charm.

Start your walk at the south end of modern downtown Toms River at the intersection of Main and East Water Streets.

- 1 HUDDY PARK**  
Once a swamp, this area was converted to a land-filled island where small sailing crafts could be docked while their owners conducted business in town. A replica of the Toms River Block House serves as a reminder of the community's place in international history. On the east side of the Block House is a monument placed by the Joshua Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in memory of the Block House Attack. Be sure to read the explanatory narrative found on the sign at the front of the pedestrian Luker Bridge which is sponsored by the Toms River Rotary Club. Festivals, art shows and reenactments keep the park humming from Spring into Fall.
- 2 STOUTENBURGH PLACE**  
Walk east and turn right onto Robbins Parkway at the traffic light. Walk south to the end, where the River Lady paddle wheeler is usually docked. Imagine this area welcoming 500 schooners a week. After delivering their cargo, local charcoal and lumber was picked up and delivered to eastern coastal ports.
- 3 HORNER HOUSE** (c. 1824)  
44 East Water St.  
Continue walking along Water Street to the house built by Captain Stephen Gulick, the oldest existing house in Toms River. The original house, built in the vernacular Georgian Survival style, was a small two-story structure with two rooms to each floor. Later

additions were made as the family grew in size. The house was built for J. Horner, who passed before it was completed and never knew the pleasure of residing in it, and is now professional offices.

- 4 CRAWFORD HOUSE** (c. 1827)  
46 East Water Street  
Richard Crawford built the original house in the vernacular Georgian/Federal style. In the late 1800's an eastern extension doubled its size. Visiting yachtsmen used it as a rooming house. In 1929, the east section was removed. The current additions were added to the original section. Now occupied by professional offices.
- 5 GIBERSON HOUSE**  
(c. 1850 – 1853)  
54 East Water Street  
Captain George W. Giberson, gave up his life upon the seas to operate a sawmill which provided the cedar lumber from which the house was constructed. His father, Captain William Giberson, owned the Double Trouble sawmill.
- 6 STEWART HOUSE** (c. 1849)  
57 East Water Street  
Captain Samuel C. Dunham, the Toms River dockmaster, built this house in 1849 on lands acquired from his father-in-law, Ebenezer Applegate. In 1860, the house was sold to Charles Stewart who converted it into a boarding house. In 1865, after the Civil War, sea captains began racing their yachts in the area. This led to the formation of the Toms River Yacht Club, which held its first meeting in the house on July 6, 1871. Professional offices now occupy it.

- 7 A. A. BRANT HOUSE** (c. 1867)  
9 Allan Street  
Edward Taylor built the house, in the vernacular Queen Ann style, on a cliff above the Toms River. In 1882, he sold the house to Julia A. Hanington, a Brooklyn, NY, artist. Robert, her son, built a studio in the rear of the house that connected to the carriage house. They used it to paint many scenes in and around Toms River. In 1899, the house was sold to A. A. Brandt, a local banker, who also was a coal and lumber dealer. It was again sold to another artist, Florence A. Chalfont of Philadelphia in 1927. Since 1934 the house has been used for professional offices.
- 8 TOMS RIVER SEAPORT MARITIME MUSEUM** (c. 1903)  
80 East Water Street  
A Victorian house overlooking the waterfront replaced the 1806 Joseph and Mary E. Lawrence house. In 1903, Ringland Kilpatrick, the manager of Madison Square Garden in New York, bought the house. He kept his coach, the "Tally-Ho," in the carriage house on the grounds. The house was torn down and the grounds became the area now used by the Museum for the display of classic boats indigenous to the Barnegat Bay area. The carriage house remains and houses the museum and visitor's center.
- 9 LILLIE HOUSE** (c. 1849)  
82 East Water Street  
The Chamberlains constructed the original section of this house about 1839. It was the first to be built on Water Street east of Hooper Avenue. Albert and Alma Lillie bought and remodeled the house, which is currently owned by Jim and Marion Caldwell.

- 10 STOUTENBURGH-MINTURN HOUSE** (c. 1868)  
86 East Water Street  
Rebecca Finn built this house in the vernacular Victorian Gothic style house, easily located by the large anchor on the lawn. The only major alterations occurred in 1905 when a wide porch was added and an octagonal extension on the southeast corner was constructed. John Stoutenburgh, a prominent New Yorker, bought the house before 1900. One of the organizers of the Toms River Yacht Club, he served as its commander for twenty-three years. A Stoutenburgh ancestor, who was among the first Dutch settlers at Hyde Park, NY, married the heiress of Eliza Robbins, a prominent business and landowner in Toms River. James F. Minturn, a judge of the New Jersey Supreme Court, purchased the house in 1924. Upon the death of her heirs, James D. Caldwell bought and restored the house to its present condition. A title company and medical offices now occupy it.
- 11 WILLIAMS HOUSE** (c. 1859)  
96 East Water Street  
In 1859, Elisha Walton, a local builder, constructed this vernacular Victorian with Georgian survival elements. It is the oldest remaining house on Water Street that retains its original architectural features. Captain Frank Williams purchased the house in 1887, living in it until his death in 1926. Williams was a machinist and built some of the first engines for boats by Faunce's Boat Works, located across the Toms River at Crabbe Point. Early yachts in Toms River were serviced and maintained by Captain Williams. It is now an art gallery owned by Virginia Perle.