

MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY VISION

Warren County has become a state-wide leader in the protection of the remnants of the Morris Canal by promoting the Morris Canal Greenway. The purpose of the Morris Canal Greenway is to preserve and enhance the historic Morris Canal, a national engineering treasure, and the cultural landscape through which it passes in a manner that....

...highlights its distinctive characteristics and the ingenuity used in its construction to distinguish it from other historic resources and canals;

...tells the story of life along the canal, its influence on past events and its relevance to today's society to support public education and foster community pride;

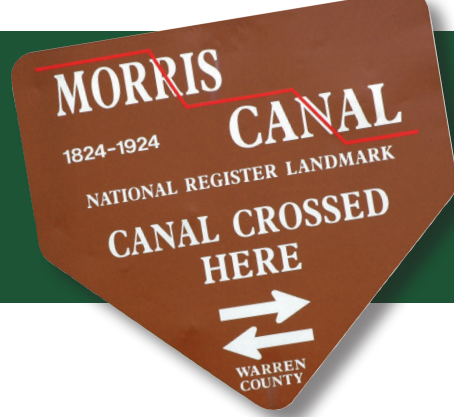
...interconnects communities and links points of interest by serving as a continuous greenway of open space across the county;

...provides convenient access to a towpath trail for non-motorized passive recreational use as an integral part of a unique educational, travel and fitness experience;

...stimulates the local economy through heritage tourism;

...leverages the value of the canal to support sound land use planning decisions;

...increases public and private support for and involvement in canal preservation efforts.



For Further Information Contact:

WARREN COUNTY MORRIS CANAL COMMITTEE & WARREN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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Web Sites:

www.morriscanal.org
www.warrenparks.com
www.canalsocietynj.org

EXPLORE WARREN TOURISM PARTNERSHIP WARREN COUNTY PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPT.

908-475-6580

800-554-8540

www.explorewarren.org

Prepared by:

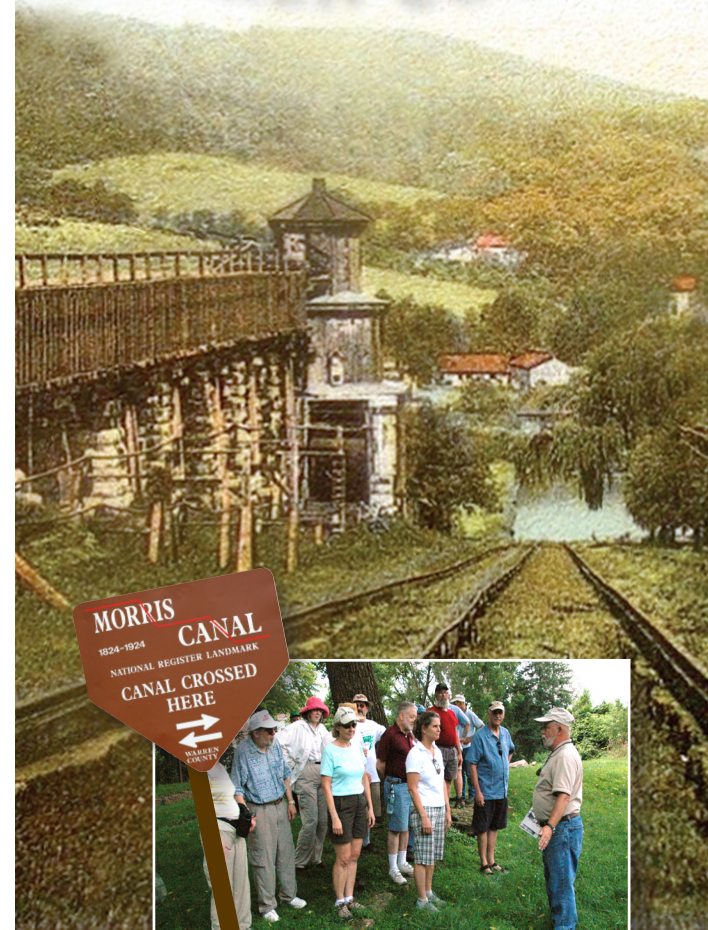
WARREN COUNTY MORRIS CANAL COMMITTEE

Funding provided by
Warren County Board of
Chosen Freeholders

Historic Photos from the Collection of James Lee Sr.

Design: MacGraphics

Find us on "The Morris Canal Greenway"



A LINK TO OUR HISTORY
A PATHWAY TO OUR FUTURE

The Morris Canal

Listed on the
State and National Registers of Historic Places

www.warrenparks.com
www.morriscanal.org

A BRIEF HISTORY

In the early 1800s canals became an alternative transportation route to the rut-ridden, mud-mired highways. New Jersey's Morris Canal was different from all the other canals. Unique, this canal defied the terrain, literally climbing mountains by way of inclined planes, as it challenged what seemed like an insurmountable elevation, a total of 1,674 feet of elevation changes. The route contained 23 lift locks and 23 inclined planes; 7 of each were in Warren County.

George P. Macculloch, a businessman from Morristown, envisioned an artificial waterway stretching across northern New Jersey as a means of bringing Pennsylvania coal to the fuel starved furnaces of the east and distributing raw materials to the industrialized areas of the state. The Morris Canal was chartered on December 31, 1824 "to form an artificial navigation between the Passaic and Delaware rivers".

In 1831, the Morris Canal was opened to through traffic from Phillipsburg to Newark. By 1836 it reached Jersey City for a total of 102 miles. Lake Hopatcong was the main source of water and near the summit of elevation change. The technology used on the Morris Canal was simple but innovative. Flat bottomed canal boats were steered with a tiller while the boat was pulled

by two mules guided by a young mule driver. The boats traveled through locks and over inclined planes.

It was the water from the canal entering the powerhouse that set the water powered turbines into motion to raise or lower cradled boats on the inclined plane by means of a cable. This operation was unique to the Morris Canal.

With the advent of the faster, more efficient railroads, business on the canal declined. By 1924, despite all efforts, the canal was abandoned, drained, and all but forgotten.

PRESERVATION EFFORTS

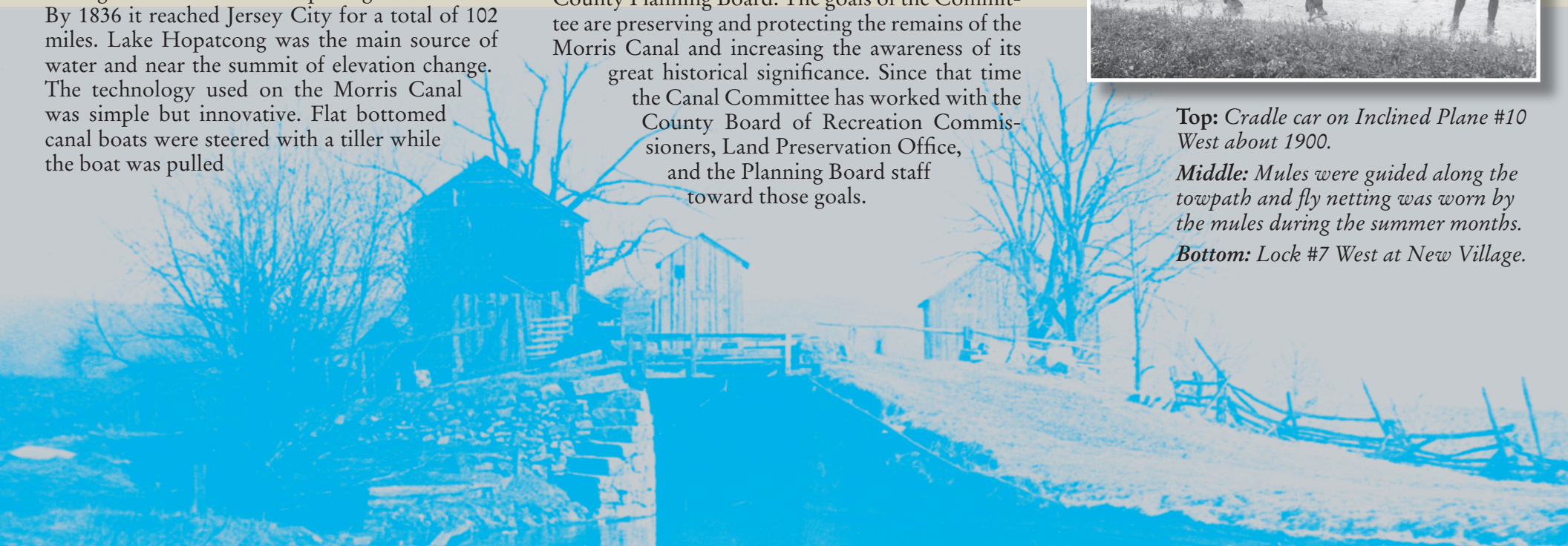
In 1981 the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders made the Morris Canal a part of the County's open space plan and established the Morris Canal Committee as a special committee of the County Planning Board. The goals of the Committee are preserving and protecting the remains of the Morris Canal and increasing the awareness of its great historical significance. Since that time the Canal Committee has worked with the County Board of Recreation Commissioners, Land Preservation Office, and the Planning Board staff toward those goals.



Top: Cradle car on Inclined Plane #10 West about 1900.

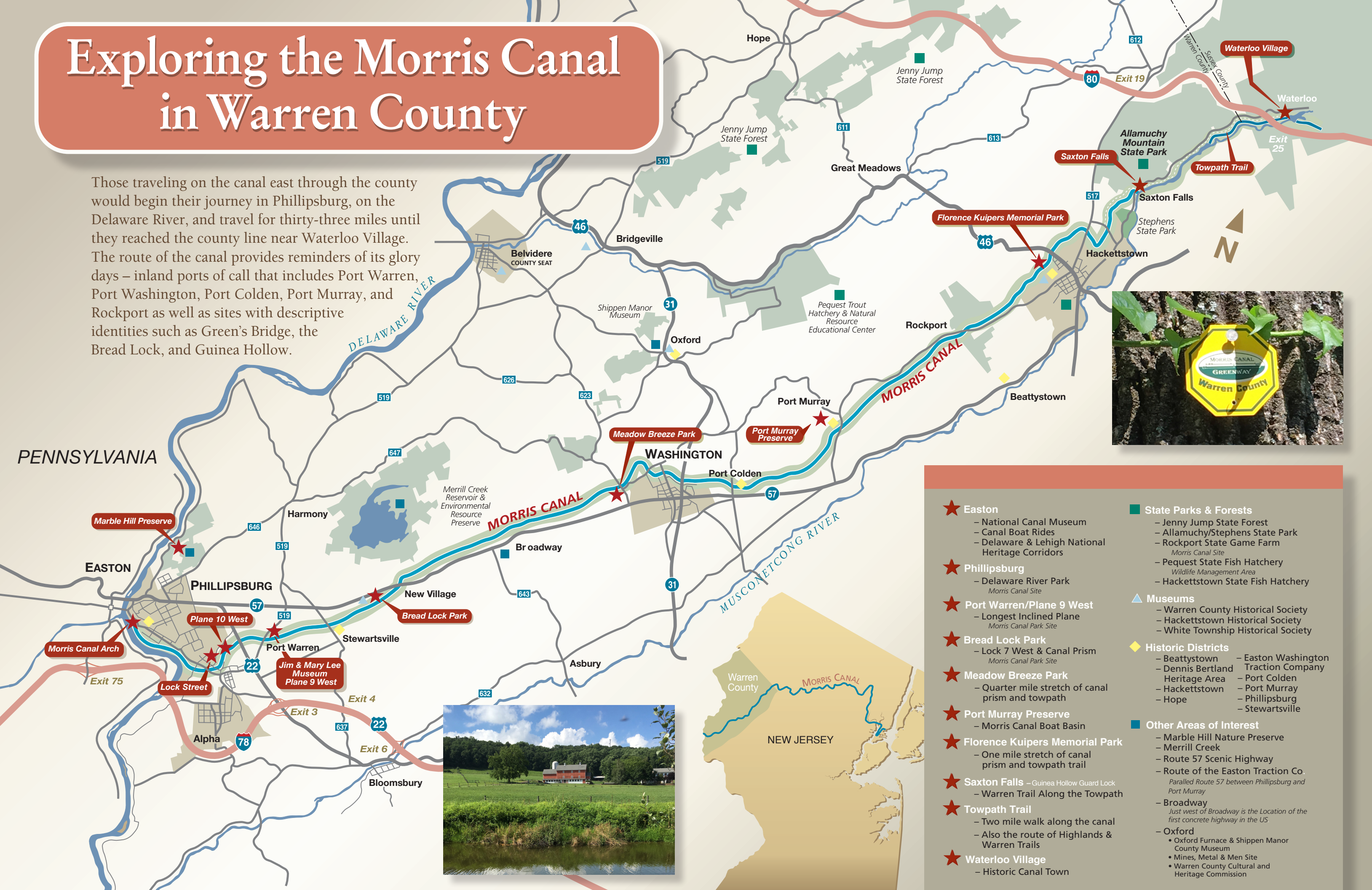
Middle: Mules were guided along the towpath and fly netting was worn by the mules during the summer months.

Bottom: Lock #7 West at New Village.



Exploring the Morris Canal in Warren County

Those traveling on the canal east through the county would begin their journey in Phillipsburg, on the Delaware River, and travel for thirty-three miles until they reached the county line near Waterloo Village. The route of the canal provides reminders of its glory days – inland ports of call that includes Port Warren, Port Washington, Port Colden, Port Murray, and Rockport as well as sites with descriptive identities such as Green's Bridge, the Bread Lock, and Guinea Hollow.



- ★ **Easton**
 - National Canal Museum
 - Canal Boat Rides
 - Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridors
- ★ **Phillipsburg**
 - Delaware River Park
Morris Canal Site
- ★ **Port Warren/Plane 9 West**
 - Longest Inclined Plane
Morris Canal Park Site
- ★ **Bread Lock Park**
 - Lock 7 West & Canal Prism
Morris Canal Park Site
- ★ **Meadow Breeze Park**
 - Quarter mile stretch of canal prism and towpath
- ★ **Port Murray Preserve**
 - Morris Canal Boat Basin
- ★ **Florence Kuipers Memorial Park**
 - One mile stretch of canal prism and towpath trail
- ★ **Saxton Falls**
 - Guinea Hollow Guard Lock
 - Warren Trail Along the Towpath
- ★ **Towpath Trail**
 - Two mile walk along the canal
 - Also the route of Highlands & Warren Trails
- ★ **Waterloo Village**
 - Historic Canal Town
- **State Parks & Forests**
 - Jenny Jump State Forest
 - Allamuchy/Stephens State Park
 - Rockport State Game Farm
Morris Canal Site
 - Pequest State Fish Hatchery
Wildlife Management Area
 - Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery
- ▲ **Museums**
 - Warren County Historical Society
 - Hackettstown Historical Society
 - White Township Historical Society
- ◆ **Historic Districts**
 - Beattystown
 - Dennis Bertland
 - Hackettstown
 - Hope
 - Easton Washington Traction Company
 - Port Colden
 - Port Murray
 - Phillipsburg
 - Stewartville
- **Other Areas of Interest**
 - Marble Hill Nature Preserve
 - Merrill Creek
 - Route 57 Scenic Highway
 - Route of the Easton Traction Co.
Paralleled Route 57 between Phillipsburg and Port Murray
 - **Broadway**
Just west of Broadway is the Location of the first concrete highway in the US.
 - **Oxford**
 - Oxford Furnace & Shippen Manor County Museum
 - Mines, Metal & Men Site
 - Warren County Cultural and Heritage Commission

PENNSYLVANIA

NEW JERSEY