TOTTENVILLE STATEN ISLAND

Tottenville

STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

Walking Tour #1

Amboy Road — Main Street

The Tottenville Historical Society invites you to explore the southernmost community in New York State.

This self-guided walking tour will help you become acquainted with the homes and businesses of some of Tottenville's founding families.

You can learn more about Tottenville's history and architecture in *Tottenville, The Town the Oyster Built,* available through our website store, through online book retailers and in major book stores.

While some of our 19th and 20th century buildings remain intact, many offer only a hint of their original appearance. It is our hope that Tottenville will embrace the concept of historic preservation as both a path to honoring the rich heritage of the community as well as a means to developing a sustainable future through economic development and revitalization.

The Tottenville Historical Society hopes this tour will give you a greater appreciation of Tottenville, "a lovely little town on the south shore."

Place of Interest: September 11 Memorial Site Tottenville Memorial Park and Memorial Clock, Amboy Rd. and Main St., were dedicated in 2011 to the Tottenville residents who lost their lives in the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

9/11 Memorial Clock

9/11 Memorial Park

238 234 236 198

180   160   134 116 108 104   76 72 62

MAIN STREET

7528

B

E 249

217 197

7497 Baptist Church

7485

D 7481

179 175 173 169 165 153 151 145 133 127 121 115 111 103

93

5422

5418

5414

5403

ARTHUR KILL ROAD

CHELSEA ST.

7492

7484

7474

BRIGHTON ST.

7448

7440 A

7430 Library

C 7437

JOHNSON AVE.

AMBOY ROAD

CRAIG AVENUE

YETMAN AVE.

START

A Cape House Gallery

B Tottenville Tavern

C Eggers Ice Cream

D Atmosphere Essentials

E Rachel's By The Bay

Walking Tour of Tottenville

Caution: Private homes, please observe courtesy.

1. 7430 Amboy Road. Tottenville Library, a NYC designated landmark (1995), was built in 1904. This was the first library built with money donated by Andrew Carnegie. The original beamed ceiling is a must-see..

2. 7448 Amboy Road. Built in 1903 in the Colonial Revival style, a move away from the overly fancy Victorian style of architecture. The house was built for Charles Thrall, a foreman at the Atlantic Terra Cotta Plant in Tottenville.

3. 7474 Amboy Road. A grand French Second Empire style of architecture. Built in the 1870's for the Sprague family who lived there for 80 years. Notice the original slate mansard roof line. This house has been modified by having the front porch enclosed and a room built on top of it. The side porch has also been enclosed.

Please take a moment to compare this house to the one to its right # 7484.

4. 7484 Amboy Road. The James L. and Lucinda Bedell House, a New York City landmarked building. Built circa 1869-74. James Bedell was part of a prominent family. His eldest brother was the founder of the oldest surviving undertaking business in New York City. (The family business survives just across the street.) James was a carpenter who specialized in making window blinds and sash. He was most likely responsible for the design and building of this house. In the 1890's, James also entered into the funeral business and this house began to be used as a funeral home.

In 1920, the home was acquired by architect Chester Cole who was associated with the prominent firm of Carrere & Hastings. Mr. Cole is well known for his work on the restoration of the Conference House, a National and NYC Landmark English Manor house, built circa 1680.

Numbers 7484 and 7474 Amboy are virtually the same house. Both are graced with mansard roofs (for extra living space), bay windows and dormers, and both were built within a few years of each other.

The James Bedell House, at one time a true gem of architecture, awaits restoration to its former glory.

5. 7481-7485 Amboy Road. These two homes have always been a couple it seems. Built in 1891 as rental properties and owned by Jane Gammon. They are still jointly owned today and house a beauty spa, tea room and office space. A previous owner has added fancy fretwork and color, and they are now prime examples of adaptive reuse of an older building.

6. 7497 Amboy Road. This large home with a nice size yard was built in 1874 for Abraham Latourette whose occupation is listed as oyster planter/dealer. A large and impressive home made possible by the affluent oyster business that made the town of Tottenville grow.

In 1890, Doctor Coleman bought the house. He practiced medicine in town for many years, and delivered countless babies. In fact, there are more than a few men whose middle names are Coleman- a nod to the beloved doctor who delivered them.

7. 7492 Amboy Road. Built in 1886 for John and Ella Hopping. He was a Postmaster's assistant.

*** *Continue to the corner of Main Street to the town clock and make a right.* ***

8. 249 Main Street. Rachel's By The Bay. Delicatessen. Built circa 1870 for confectioner John W. Russell. This site has a long history as an eating establishment.

9. 238 Main Street. Built in 1910 for James Laing as his real estate office. This small store still retains its original fish scale shingles and a wonderful oval window.

10. 234-236 Main Street. Masonic Hall-Huguenot Lodge. Built in 1910. *Note the elaborate and highly colored terra cotta decoration on this building, all made locally at the Atlantic Terra Cotta Company.*

11. 217 Main Street. Built in 1925. The Stadium (*look for the name on the marquee*) was the second theatre in town.

12. 197 Main Street. South Baptist Church. Built in 1860. The brick front section of the church was added at a later date.

13. 198 Main Street. This little store was built in 1870 and was used in 1939 as a barber shop. The house behind the store was built in 1860 for John Sharrot.

14. 180 Main Street. Built in 1870 for Kinsey Pepper. Locally known as Pepper Hall. The Baptist church at one time used the upstairs and it was called Temperance Hall. The Tottenville Coronet Band and Singing School met here also.

15. 179 Main Street. Built in 1915, today it is Richmond County Savings Bank.

16. 175 Main Street. Built in 1908 as a hardware store.

17. 173 Main Street. Built in 1892 for George Cunningham as a meat market. This wonderfully intact diminutive store is a New York City Landmark (2008). *Note the original fish scale shingles and the decorative fretwork as well as the two protruding display bay windows.*

18. 169 Main Street. The storefront was added in 1913, while the house behind it was built in 1855 for oysterman Henry Butler.

19. 165 Main Street. Built in 1845 for James Butler.

20. 153 Main Street. Built in 1926 as South Shore Chevrolet, and owned by Mr. Land who sold both Chevys and Oldsmobiles. In 1949, the company moved to the corner of New Dorp Lane and Hylan Blvd, and was known as H&L Motors.

21. 151 Main Street. Built in 1844 for James Butler. A later resident was sea captain Benjamin Warford.

22. 158-160 Main Street. Built in 1931. Building facade is clad in terra cotta from the local factory.

23. 145 Main Street. Built in 1870 for Gilbert Decker, butcher.

24. 127 Main Street. Built in 1887 for Doctor Walker Washington. An elaborate Queen Anne style of architecture with second-floor porch, fanciful fretwork and wonderful gazebo porch. A true "gift to the street!" Doctor Washington lived and also had his practice here. He was a distant relative of our first President George Washington. **25. 134 Main Street.** Built in 1849 for Henry Butler, this home is a New York City Landmark (2005). Later owned by Theodore DeHart, oysterman.

A Greek Revival style house with an 1870 Victorian fretwork porch and bay window additions. *Note the small "eyebrow" windows on the second floor.*

26. 121 Main Street. Built in 1859 for Abraham Totten, a mariner/speculator.

27. 115 Main Street. Built in 1866 for oysterman Henry Van Name.

28. 111 Main Street. Built in 1895 for Rinalder Fisher. In the 1940's it was a grocery store.

29. 116 Main Street. The 123rd Police Precinct was built in 1926.

30. 108 Main Street. Built in 1850 for John Wood, a ship carpenter. The original wood siding was covered with brick in the 1980's.

31. 104 Main Street. Built in 1845 for boatman Alfred Smith. *Note original fretwork.*

32. 103 Main Street. Pharmacist Rinalder Fisher built this drug store in 1882. Later it became Lehman Pharmacy. The large storefront windows were enclosed.

33. 93 Main Street. Built in 1861 as a tobacco and segars (cigars) store on the main floor. Doctor Hubbard, the first physician, occupied the second floor.
*** *Turn east onto Arthur Kill Road.* ***

34. 5403 Arthur Kill Road. Built in 1853 for Cornelius C. Ellis, tugboat captain and harbor master of NYC.

35. 5422 Arthur Kill Road. Built in 1882 for Rinalder Fisher. In 1893 this building was leased to the Commissioners of Police Richmond County.

36. 5418 Arthur Kill Road. Built in 1900 for Rinalder Fisher as a rental unit. In 1925 it was a barber shop.

37. 5414 Arthur Kill Road. Built in 1866 for the Robinson family. *Note the mansard roof.* A well maintained home complete with gardens.
*** *Head back to Main Street and turn right.* ***

38. 76 Main Street. Built in 1870 for Jacob DeVoe Hopping and his wife Anna Totten Hopping. This home was later used as a bakery by the Hoehn family, who supplied breads for some of the local hotels.

39. 72 Main Street. Built in 1870 for Samuel Webb Hopping and his wife Mary Totten Hopping.

40. 62 Main Street. This home, built circa 1795, is the oldest house in the village of Tottenville. The house sits on an angle to face the north-south-east-west points of the compass, and is often referred to as "The Compass House." You are looking at the back of the house, since originally it was built to face the water.

The most prominent resident was John Totten, Jr. who built a dock and general store nearby.
Note: John Totten also built #72 and #76 Main Street, directly to the left of his house, for his two daughters.

End of Tour

For more information call: 718-887-9125
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www.TottenvilleHistory.com

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