

# HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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1301 Hudson Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030 • 201-656-2240  
[hobokenmuseum.org](http://hobokenmuseum.org)

### THE HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Founded in 1986, the Hoboken Historical Museum's mission is to educate the public about Hoboken's history, diverse culture, architecture and historic landmarks. In 2001, the Museum moved into one of the oldest buildings on the waterfront, in the former Bethlehem Steel shipyard, at 1301 Hudson St., where we welcome visitors six days a week with engaging exhibits that change every six to 12 months. Admission \$5.

The Museum also acquires artifacts relating to our city's rich history and assists in the preservation of historic documents and landmarks. Our collections now comprise over 100,000 objects. We host tours, lectures, and educational programs for adults and children, as well as annual community events such as the House Tour, Secret Garden Tour, and the Frank Sinatra Sing-Off. A schedule of events and a searchable online catalog are available at [hobokenmuseum.org](http://hobokenmuseum.org).

We welcome new volunteers and members. As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) entity, we depend on donations, grants and fundraising events. If you would like to become a Museum member and receive our email newsletter, discounted admission to the Museum and special events, and discounts in the Museum shop, write or call us:



**Hoboken Historical Museum**  
 Visit: 1301 Hudson St., Hoboken  
 Mail: PO Box 3296, Hoboken, NJ 07030  
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### DIRECTIONS

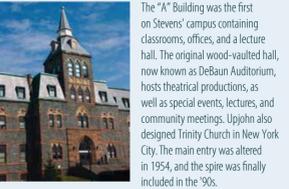
**NY Waterway ferry to North Hoboken (14<sup>th</sup> St.) pier.** Head SW 2 blocks.  
**Southbound NJ Transit bus (126 from NYC, 89 & 22 from NJ) to 14<sup>th</sup> St. & Washington St. stop.** Head SE 2 blocks.  
**NY Waterway Ferry, HBLRT Light Rail, PATH train or NJ Transit train to Hoboken Terminal.** Head North 14 blocks via NJ Transit bus (126, 22, 89) to 13<sup>th</sup> St. & Washington St. stop, or walk, take a local taxi, CitiBike or a

**Northbound from NJ Turnpike.** Take exit 14C towards the Holland Tunnel and follow signs for Hoboken.  
**Southbound from NJ Turnpike.** Take exit 16E towards the Lincoln Tunnel and then the exit marked "Weehawken, Hoboken, Last Exit in NJ!"

2025 Update by Rand Hoppe.  
 Design, Illustrations and Map ©2016 by Claire Luckas.  
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 Photographers: Robert Foster, Jean-Paul Picard, Claire Luckas, Rand Hoppe

### 14 EDWIN A. STEVENS HALL

Hudson Street at 5th Street, 1870. Richard Uppin, architect. High Victorian Gothic style



The "A" Building was the first on Stevens' campus containing classrooms, offices, and a lecture hall. The original wood-vaunted hall, now known as DeBauw Auditorium, hosts theatrical productions, as well as special events, lectures, and community meetings. Uppin also designed Trinity Church in New York City. The main entry was altered in 1954, and the spire was finally included in the '90s.

### 15 GATEHOUSE

Sixth Street off River Street, circa 1856.



The oldest structure on campus, dating to the Stevens family era, is constructed of the same serpentine rock mentioned in Henry Hudson's log. It was the grand entrance through which all guests approached the "Castle." Partially disassembled in 2019 because of construction on campus, it is said to return.

### 16 STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Bordered by approximately 5<sup>th</sup>, Hudson, 10<sup>th</sup> Streets and Castle Point. Enter from 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> Streets.



Stevens Institute was founded in 1870 with a land grant and \$650,000 bequeathed by Edwin Augustus Stevens. Stevens Institute consistently ranks among the top engineering schools in the country. Notable alumni include the co-inventor of bubble wrap, the designer of the Quesnet hut, and Alexander Calder, the American artist (1898-1976) best known for his mobiles. The Williams Library collection includes a Calder mobile, as well as scale models of the multitude of inventions patented by generations of Stevens family members. The iconic 16-foot high aluminum cast statue "The Torch Bearer" sits at the center of Stevens' upper campus, a gift from sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington in April 1964.

### 17 CASTLE POINT

Adjacent to the Howe Center.



At 100 feet, Castle Point is the highest elevation in Hoboken, offering a magnificent vista from the Verazzano Narrows to the George Washington Bridge, with sweeping views of Manhattan. In 1854, Hoboken founder Col. John Stevens built a grand 64-room mansion, dubbed Stevens Castle, atop this promontory of green-veined serpentine rock. The building stood until 1959, when it was razed to make room for the present administration building. The bluff was mentioned in the 1609 log of Henry Hudson's ship, the Half Moon.

### 18 ALFRED STEIGLITZ HOME

Sea Bright Apartment Building, 500 Hudson St.



This 19<sup>th</sup> century apartment building was one of several Hoboken addresses where the family of noted photographer Alfred Steiglitz (1864-1946) resided. Steiglitz is known as the principal advocate of photography as a fine art. His New York salon, called "291," was one of the first galleries in this country to exhibit photography alongside paintings by such modern masters as Picasso and Cezanne. He was quoted as saying "I was born in Hoboken, I am an American."

### 32 HOBOKEN LAND & IMPROVEMENT OFFICE

1 Newark Street, 1889. Charles Fall, architect. Myles Tierney, mason.



The Stevens family's real estate holding corporation oversaw the city's street plan and development of its residential, business, and industrial areas. The building is notable for its exceptional brickwork, with recessed panels and contrasting mortar. The Stevens family requested the central staircase resemble a ferry's staircase. High up on the south facade (in the shady cobblestone "private" walkway) is a terra cotta clock surrounded by sea motifs and the company's monogram. The two sets of narrow-gauge railroad tracks on the south side are remnants of Hoboken's once extensive trolley system.

### 33 WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL & PIER A PARK

First Street at Pier A, 1925.



Dedicated by Knights of Columbus in 1925, this World War I American Expeditionary Forces Memorial honors the two million troops who passed through Hoboken, the official port of embarkation. The slogan, "Heaven, Hell, or Hoboken by Christmas," became popular after a speech by General John J. Pershing as he was entered its final campaign. President Woodrow Wilson sailed from Hoboken in 1918 to attend the Paris Peace Conference, where he proposed the formation of the League of Nations. Since 1999, Pier A has become a popular recreation space with families, fishermen, office workers on lunch, and hosts summertime festivals, fireworks, and movies under the stars.

### 34 ERIE-LACKAWANNA TERMINAL

Hudson Place, 1907. Kenneth Murchison, architect; Lincoln Bush, engineer. Beaux Arts style.



The entire structure is built over water on a steel and concrete foundation. On a typical weekday, 60,000 commuters use the facility to connect across five modes of transportation: Six ferry slips and fourteen commuter rail lines sit atop the underground PATH train, with an adjacent shed that once accommodated an extensive trolley system, long since replaced with buses and the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail system. The individually roofed train shed arches are an innovative design by Bush. The entire structure is copper-sheathed. The original clock tower, destroyed by a storm in the early 1950s, was restored in 2008. A statue of Sam Sloan (1817-1907), president of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad, stands watch across the parking lot.



This art deco-style building was commissioned by the Federal Government, James A. Wetmore, supervising architect. The exterior and lobby remain unchanged since its opening day. In 2003 it was officially named the Frank Sinatra Post Office in recognition of his contribution to the country. Frank Sinatra was born in 1915 in Hoboken at 415 Monroe Street and lived in Hoboken for the first nineteen years of his life.

### 9 ELYSIAN PARK

Hudson Street, between 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Streets



Created in 1893 from land donated by the Hoboken Land & Improvement Company, the park was named after the Elysian Fields, a large field in the mid-1800s. The name alludes to the part of the underworld reserved for heroes in Classical mythology. Marlon Brando filmed here with Eva Marie Saint in the 1954 Academy Award-winning film "On the Waterfront." In the middle of the park stands a bronze monument to Hoboken's World War I soldiers, designed by C. H. Niehaus (1855-1935) and dedicated in 1922.

### 10 NEW YORK YACHT CLUB CLUBHOUSE

Maxwell Place Park



On July 15, 1845, one year after its founding, the New York Yacht Club opened its first clubhouse at this location. It was a one-room Gothic Revival building designed by noted architect A. J. Davis, on land owned by Commodore John Cox Stevens. Stevens was part of a group who built and raced the schooner-yacht America, for which the America's Cup is named. The original clubhouse was moved in 1904. After years of industrial use of the location, the developers of Maxwell Place donated the property to the City of Hoboken for use as a park. The current bathhouse was built in 2008 in the style of the original.

### 11 SYBIL'S CAVE

Frank Sinatra Drive, below Castle Point



Sybil's Cave is the oldest masonry structure in Hoboken, created in 1832 by the Stevens family as a folly on their property that contained a natural spring. By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the cave was a popular recreational destination within walking distance from downtown Hoboken. A restaurant offered outdoor refreshments beside the cave. It became notorious in 1841 as the site where the body of cigar shop salesgirl, Mary Cecilia Rogers, washed ashore, triggering a nationwide news story and inspiring Edgar Allan Poe's detective novel, The Mystery of Marie Rogêt. By the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, the site had been covered in building debris. In 2007 the cave was rediscovered and cleared by the City of Hoboken. The City erected a new cast stone arch where visitors can peer into the entrance to the cave behind a protective enclosure.

### 12 WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL, SINATRA PARK & PIER A PARK

Frank Sinatra Drive, just north of 4<sup>th</sup> Street



Before the trans-Atlantic shipping lines came to Hoboken, the waterfront was lined with the floating clubhouses of rowing and sailing clubs. These were crowded out in the late 1800s by the massive piers serving the likes of Holland America, North German Lloyd and Hamburg American Line. In 1954, Holland America Lines' Pier C had a starring role in the film, "On the Waterfront," along with a small floating clubhouse that survived from the earlier era. The waterfront remained Hoboken's economic engine until the late '70s, when the piers were left to sink slowly into the river. In 2008, the city dedicated a memorial to 159 Hoboken soldiers who paid the ultimate price in World War II. In 2010, Hoboken christened a modern kidney-shaped park built on new fillings above the site of the old Pier C. In 2021, Hoboken installed a 6-foot tall bronze statue of Frank Sinatra by Carolyn D. Palmer along the Sinatra Park section of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway.

### 13 STEVENS PARK, FESKEN MEMORIAL FIELD & CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL

Between Hudson Street and Sinatra Drive, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Streets



Originally Hudson Square, the park was renamed in 1955 in honor of the Stevens family who donated the land. The Civil War statue by Carl Gerhardt (1853-1940) was dedicated by William Tecumseh Sherman in 1888. The adjacent cannons are from the USS Portsmouth, a Civil War vessel that was decommissioned at the Fifth Street Pier in 1901. The Little League field is named in honor of Vietnam War soldier Sgt. William Fesken.

### 28 UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN

115 Park Avenue, 1915. Max J. Beyer, architect (son of Albert Beyer, architect of Hoboken's Free Public Library).



Perhaps modeled after the Great Synagogue of Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, this building was dedicated in 1915 as the Star of Israel Synagogue. With arched entrance-ways and windows, third-floor portal windows, and two copper domes, its style combines the Moorish and Gothic Revival architecture popular before World War I. Meticulously restored in 2011, the building is on the National Register of Historic Places, and today serves the very active congregation of the United Synagogue of Hoboken.

### 29 ASSEMBLY OF EXEMPT FIREMEN

213 Bloomfield Street, circa 1864. Francis George Himpler, architect. Italianate/Second Empire.



This early example of Himpler's work is one of two architecturally intact Hoboken firehouses; the other is at 212 Park Avenue. Himpler also designed the original Hoboken City Hall, St. Mary's Hospital (now Hoboken University Medical Center) and several large cathedrals across the U.S. The second floor meeting room features a plaster ceiling of working firemen with the room's gas line incorporated into the design as a fire hose. Exempt Firemen were excused from public duty after seven years of volunteer service.

### 30 CITY HALL

94 Washington Street, 1883. Francis George Himpler, architect. Second Empire, later modified to Beaux Arts Classicism.



This square block, donated by Colonel John Stevens, was originally a public marketplace. Himpler's original design was modified in 1911 to include two projecting bays and an enlarged third floor. A renovation to the entrance was completed in 2025.

### 31 FRANK SINATRA POST OFFICE

89 River Street, 1933. Art Deco style.



This art deco-style building was commissioned by the Federal Government, James A. Wetmore, supervising architect. The exterior and lobby remain unchanged since its opening day. In 2003 it was officially named the Frank Sinatra Post Office in recognition of his contribution to the country. Frank Sinatra was born in 1915 in Hoboken at 415 Monroe Street and lived in Hoboken for the first nineteen years of his life.

### 6 THE COLUMBIA CLUB

1101 Bloomfield Street, 1891.



The Columbia Club was built by a gentlemen's society composed of one hundred men from Hoboken and New York City. The design, with a conical tower, rounded archways, and horizontal bands, reflects the unknown architect's interest in a style known as Richardsonian Romanesque. The gardens along the median strip of Eleventh Street are maintained by a group of neighborhood gardeners.

### 7 DOROTHEA LANGE HOUSE

1041 Bloomfield Street



This four-story 19<sup>th</sup> century brownstone with period awnings is the childhood home of photographer Dorothea Lange (1895 - 1965). Her photographs are among the most memorable images documenting the plight of farmers and their families during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Lange's 1936 photograph *Migrant Mother* may be her most well-known work.

### 8 ELKS LODGE #74

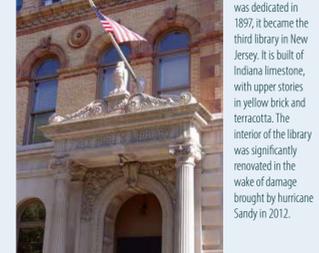
1005 Washington Street, 1906. G.B. McIntyre, designer.



Lodge #74 was founded in Hoboken in 1888 in the Gayety Theatre building at 1015 Washington Street. The edifice at 1005 Washington Street was designed especially for the Elks, and is the oldest lodge in New Jersey. Many of the original features remain, although the bowling lanes built in the basement are gone. The Lodge hosts a wide variety of community gatherings.

### 24 FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

500 Park Avenue, 1897. Albert Beyer, architect. Italian Renaissance.



When the library was dedicated in 1897, it became the third library in New Jersey. It is built of Indiana limestone, with upper stories in yellow brick and terracotta. The interior of the library was significantly renovated in the wake of damage brought by hurricane Sandy in 2012.

### 25 CHURCH SQUARE PARK & FIREMEN'S MONUMENT

Bordered by 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, Garden Street, and Willow Avenue.



A popular park for young and old, Church Square Park, in the heart of Hoboken, is sited on land given to the city by Colonel John Stevens in 1804. The park plan dates from 1873. Near Willow Avenue is the 1891 Firefighters' Monument by Caspar Buberl (1834-1899) with taps, a canine mascot, buried at its base. Across the park, the Four Chaplains Monument by Arturo Dazzi (1881-1966) honors clergy of differing faiths who died while attending the crew of the torpedoed USS *Dorchester* in WW II. The pedestal commemorates Guglielmo Marconi, known as the inventor of radio.

### 26 OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH

400 Willow Avenue, circa 1878. Francis George Himpler, Architect. German Gothic.



Once the largest Roman Catholic Church in New Jersey, Our Lady of Grace Church was constructed after a design by Victor Emmanuel, Emperor Napoleon III, and other Italian and French royalty when the church was dedicated. These and the lavish interior decorations by George Ashdown Audley (1839-1925) are gone, but Audley's pipe organ, circa 1899 and designed especially for the church, plays on.

### 27 KEUFFEL & ESSER COMPLEX

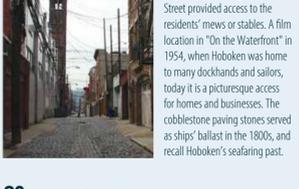
Third Street at Grand and Adams Streets, 1906. Architect unknown.



In 1867 William J.D. Keuffel and Herman Esser, Hoboken residents, began importing precision instruments for the architectural, engineering, and drafting professions. Their products were used in planning the Brooklyn Bridge and Panama Canal. In 1880, they built their first factory on 3rd Street in Hoboken, between Adams and Grand Streets, then expanded to another factory building across Adams Street in 1885. In 1891 their factory produced the first slide rule manufactured in the United States. They supplied Navy periscopes in WWI and Army range-finders in WWII. Spiders were raised in the basement to supply web filaments as crosshairs for gun sights. The West Plant, known locally as the Clock Tower Building, was built of reinforced concrete in 1907 to replace a prior structure that burned. In the mid 1960s Keuffel & Esser relocated to the NJ suburbs. In 1975 the building was converted to housing and has been cited as a premiere example of adaptive reuse of an industrial building.

### 19 COURT STREET

Between Hudson and Washington Streets, from 7<sup>th</sup> to Newark Streets.



Originally called "Pig Alley," Court Street provided access to the residents' mews or stables. A film location in "On the Waterfront" in 1954, when Hoboken was home to many dockhands and sailors, today it is a picturesque access for homes and businesses. The cobblestone paving stones served as ships' ballast in the 1800s, and recall Hoboken's seafaring past.

### 20 ALL SAINTS PARISH

701 Washington Street, 1856. Richard Uppin, designer. Deutsche & Dietz, Hoboken architects. Gothic.



All Saints was originally consecrated as Trinity Episcopal. It was enlarged and reconsecrated as All Saints in 1882. The church is notable for its vaulted interior and fine stained glass. It serves an active Episcopalian congregation today, hosting a school and many other activities.

### 21 STEPHEN COLLINS FOSTER HOUSE

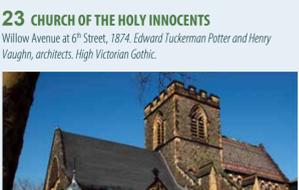
601 Bloomfield Street



The composer (1826-1864) lived here in 1854, when "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair" was published. "Hoboken" is penned on this original manuscript. This typical pre-Civil War brick dwelling is Foster's only known intact residence. Some other compositions by Foster are "Camptown Races," "Oh! Susanna," and "Beautiful Dreamer."

### 22 WILLOW TERRACE

Between Willow Avenue and Clinton Street from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Sts. circa 1885-6.



In this usage "terraces" are streets serving a section of row houses. These compact homes (12 feet six inches wide) were commissioned by Martha Bayard Stevens for workers at Stevens Castle and the Hoboken Land & Improvement Company. They were patterned after similar workers' houses she had seen on a trip to Scotland.

### 23 CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Willow Avenue at 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 1874. Edward Tuckerman Potter and Henry Vaughn, architects. High Victorian Gothic.



Dedicated to Julia Stevens, daughter of Martha Bayard and Edwin Augustus Stevens, who died in Rome of typhoid fever at age seven. Built to serve German and Irish immigrants, it did not charge a pew fee to be seated, unlike the norm for the time. Potter's banded arches emphasize the polychromatic exterior of brownstone and white and red sandstone. The choir was added in 1913 and the baptistry in 1932. Though no longer in use for religious services, the former Episcopal church is used occasionally for community events.

### 2 LIPTON TEA BUILDING

15<sup>th</sup> & Washington Streets, 1905. Renovated, 2002



Visible the length of Washington Street, this massive pair of buildings were once the epicenter of Scotsman Sir Thomas Lipton's (1850 - 1931) vast tea empire. Ships delivering cargoes of tea anchored alongside the building in Weehawken Cove to unload directly on to its dock. Converted to residential "loft" apartments at the turn of the 21st century, the building is now known as the Hudson Tea Building.

### 3 ENGINE COMPANY No. 2

1313 Washington Street, 1880. Charles Fall, architect. Neo-Romanesque.



Hoboken's firehouses provide distinctive examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture: Seven are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This firehouse was restored outside and modernized within following a severe fire in the 1980s. Consult the map for additional historic fire stations in Hoboken. Some have towers where firehouses were hung up to dry.

### HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY, THE MILE SQUARE CITY: A BRIEF HISTORY

The indigenous Leni Lenape camped seasonally on the marshy island they called "Hopoghan Hackking," "Land of the Tobacco Pipe," for the abundance of green-colored serpentine rock, or soapstone, used to carve pipes for smoking tobacco. Henry Hudson's navigator, on his ship Half Moon, mentioned the green-veined bluff during the 1609 voyage up the river that now bears the explorer's name.

The men on the Half Moon were the first Europeans known to have seen the island, soon followed by many other settlers. The Dutch visited in those early years, calling the area "Hobuck," or "high bluff," for the elevation we today call Castle Point. In 1653 Peter Stuyvesant, Dutch Governor of Manhattan, bought all the land between the Hackensack and the Hudson Rivers from the Leni Lenape for 80 fathoms of wampum, 20 fathoms of cloth, 12 kettles, 6 guns, 2 blankets, 1 double kettle, and half a barrel of beer.

Subsequently the land came into the possession of William Bayard. Because he was a Loyalist Loyalist in 1776, his land was confiscated by the Revolutionary Government of New Jersey to be sold at public auction. In 1784 Colonel John Stevens of the Continental Army bought the island for 18,360 pounds sterling, then about \$90,000. He settled on the name "Hoboken," and the Stevens family became an inseparable part of the city's history.

As early as 1820, Stevens began transforming the wild but beautiful waterfront into a recreation area, with New York City dwellers as his market. He constructed a riverfront walk with a refreshing spring water grotto, dubbed Sybil's Cave, and a large park he named the Elysian Fields, both allusions to Classical mythology. He then launched a ferry service and on weekends, the rustic area surrounding his estate on the bluff soon welcomed as many as 20,000 New Yorkers out for Sunday picnics via sailboat, rowboat, and ferry.

The Elysian Fields also hosted baseball, cricket and football tournaments, spectacles such as P.T. Barnum's "Grand Buffalo Hunt" in 1843, as well as the earliest fairs of the legendary Turtle Club, founded by Col. Stevens and his good friend Alexander Hamilton, with George Washington as an honorary member. The Colonel's son John Cox Stevens began America's first yacht club in Hoboken in 1844; the America's Cup is named after that club's racing yacht. America. Fellow New York Yacht Club member, John Jacob Astor, built a summer home at Washington and Second Streets.

Colonel Stevens was an avid horticulturalist and inventor, considerably ahead of his time. He introduced camellias and chrysanthemums to America, and in 1791 he received one of the first patents issued in America, for a steam engine. Thirteen years later, his Little Juliana steamed across the Hudson. In 1808 Colonel Stevens launched the Phoenix, the first steam-driven vessel to make an ocean voyage.

Stevens received the first American railroad charter, and by 1826 he designed and built the first experimental steam-driven locomotive in the U.S., running on a circular track in Hoboken. His son Robert Livingston Stevens designed the T-shaped rail, which enabled the rapid expansion of American railroads.

The City of Hoboken was incorporated on March 28, 1855. With its waterfront location opposite New York, Hoboken established itself as a rail and water transportation center, a major port for trans-Atlantic shipping lines, including Holland America, North German Lloyd, and Hamburg-American. In 1917, Hoboken's facilities and strategic location made it the choice of the Federal government as the primary port of embarkation for troops in World War I.

Most of Hoboken was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to standards set by the Hoboken Land & Improvement Company, created by Stevens in 1838 to manage the development of the city along an orderly street grid punctuated with parks.

By virtue of its role as a gateway to America and the presence of so many small factories, Hoboken grew rapidly from 9,662 in 1860 to 70,324 in 1910. It was the first foothold in the New World for many European immigrants. Germans and Irish migrants, and Hoboken became a German speaking city. After World War I, waves of Irish, Italians, Yugoslavs, Puerto Ricans and other Latinos, then South Asians and Indians settled here.

By 1958, containerization of ship cargo doomed Hoboken's thriving waterfront and over the next two decades, factories began closing and the city suffered the economic decline seen by many Northern industrial cities. In the 1970s, the federal "Model Cities" program channeled low-interest loans to Hoboken's homeowners and developers to rehabilitate existing housing stock. Unfortunately,