



A Guide to Historic Richmond Town



For a change of pace from Manhattan's hustle and bustle, take a journey into the past at Staten Island's Historic Richmond Town. Founded in 1938, Historic

Richmond Town brings to New York City the treasured memories of a time long since past. You'll get a real feel for 300 years of New York history, as costumed interpreters demonstrate crafts and games amid split rail fences, restored buildings and Victorian gardens. You can easily spend a day in a fascinating place you never expected to find in New York City's most complete Historic village.

It's Easy to Get to:

Take either the 1 or 9 train or the M6 or M15 bus to South Ferry; the 4 or 5 train to Bowling Green; or the N, R, or W train to Whitehall St. Walk to the Staten Island Ferry Terminal at the very tip of Manhattan to board the ferry. The 25 minute ride on the ferry is FREE and gives you a priceless panoramic view of New York Harbor. When you arrive, follow the crowd to Ramp B and take the S74 bus to St. Patrick's Place.



Where is Historic Richmond Town?

Located on Staten Island, Richmond Town was established as a hamlet in 1690, and prospered so that in 1730 it became the seat of the county government.

About Richmond Town:

Henry Hudson, an Englishman sailing for the Dutch West India Company, named Staaten Eyelandt in honor of the Dutch Parliament, or Staaten, in 1609. In 1664, when England's Duke of York took possession of the region, he re-named Staten Island after the Duke of Richmond; today its official name is Richmond County. Because of natural springs, Dutch farmers settled near today's Richmond Town. When the County Courthouse was built, a County Clerk's Office and jail were added. In 1958 the Staten Island Historical Society assumed responsibility to preserve the village which today consists of 28 buildings on 100 acres, 10 on their original sites, and others relocated from elsewhere on the Island.



Attractions:

[1] County Courthouse Visitors Center (1837)

Your first stop is a prime example of a Greek-Revival public building. Visit the courtroom, which is still used for local town meetings. The gift shop offers unusual historical books, holiday gifts and decorations, maps and handcrafted items.

[2] County Clerk's and Surrogate's Office and Historical Museum (1848)

Fascinating exhibits paint a vivid picture of daily life on early Staten Island. See an oyster boat and the tools of the oyster trade, wagons, toys (including old Barbie dolls and Lionel trains) and other exhibits.



[3] Voorlezer's House (1695)

The oldest surviving school-house in the country also served as a Dutch Reform religious meetinghouse as

well as the residence of the lay minister. As you enter the double Dutch doors, it's not hard to imagine the congregation listening with rapt attention to the lay minister.



[4] Boehm House (1750)

Learn about the tools

and techniques involved in the preservation of a historic colonial building when you visit this partially restored home of a teacher, Henry Boehm. His house is thought to be similar to the site's original home, which was lost in a fire.

Greeter's Secret:

It is a little known fact that four of the five boroughs of New York City, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island, are islands. Only the Bronx is on the mainland of the United States.



[5] Treasure House (1700)

Long after the end of the American Revolution, British gold coins worth more than \$5,000 were found in the walls of the former home of Samuel Bassett, now known as the Treasure House. The building also served as a leatherworking shop, a bakery and a post office.

[6] Guyon Store (1819)

Once a store where farmers bartered their produce for cloth, baskets or lamps, this building has been converted to a tavern. Taverns were central to life on Staten Island in the 1700's and 1800's. On wintry Saturday evenings from January to June, guests sit by a wood-burning stove, have a pint from the bar and listen to old folk tunes and bluegrass music.

[7] Guyon-Lake-Tysen House (1740)

Meals for village dinners are prepared in this house on an open hearth and in reflector and brick ovens in the colonial kitchen.



Hours:

September - May, Wednesday -Sunday, 1PM -5PM. Closed Monday and Tuesday

June - August, Wednesday - Saturday, 10AM - 5 PM, Sunday 1 PM - 5 PM. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

Closed: Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas day, and New Year's Day.

Admission: Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Children 5-17 \$3.50, Children Under 5 no charge

[8] Bennett House (1839)

Victorian luxury abounds in this wealthy merchant's home filled with 19th century decorative objects and furnishings. The bakery in the cellar now houses M. Bennett Refreshments where you can have a delightful lunch during the summer months.

[9] General Store

Browse among the kinds of items that were sold in the late 1800s. Everything a villager might need, including soap, tapioca and lamps were available at the general store. Equally important, the post office in the store was a place to socialize with neighbors as well as pick up mail.



[10] Stephens-Black House (1837)

The Civil War period is well represented in this gracious Greek-Revival home. Furnished in the mid-19th -century style, there is a sewing and game room with a treadle sewing machine, needlepoint frame, hoops and games.

[11] Tinsmith Shop (1840-50)

Lanterns, tankards and sconces made by the tinsmith hang everywhere. The materials and tools lying about give the impression that the tinsmith just left his shop and will be back soon.

[12] Christopher House (c.1720)

Built as a tenant farmer's house on land owned by Col. Thomas Dongan. Served as home to Joseph Christopher, a member of the Richmond County Committee of Safety prior to and during the Revolution.



The Christopher family lived in the house until 1827, when it was sold at auction to David Decker.

When It's Time to Eat:

M. Bennett Refreshments - Bennett House, Historic Richmond Town. Light meals and bakery

The Parsonage - 74 Arthur Kill Road

Continental lunch from 12-2 PM

Continental Dinner from 5-10 PM; Sunday 3-9 PM

Elegant dining in a landmarked house on the Historic Richmond Town grounds.



New Dorp restaurants - You may take the S74 bus on the way back to the ferry and stop off at Richmond Road or New Dorp Lane for a wide variety of restaurants.

Villa Portofino	2481 Richmond Rd	Pizza, Italian
MetroPane Café	2110 Richmond Rd	Café, bakery
French Tart	173 New Dorp Ln	Bistro & bakery
Lento's	289 New Dorp Ln	Italian cuisine
Fresh Tortillas	304 New Dorp Ln	Tex-Mex dishes
King's Chef	331 New Dorp Ln	Chinese
Mike's Place	355 New Dorp Ln	Greek-Amer.
Tasting Europe	278 New Dorp Ln	Italian-Eur.
Sushi Excellent	366 New Dorp Ln	Sushi, teriyaki

Greeter's Secret: If you're on New Dorp Lane, check out Andrew & Alan's Bakery & Chocolate Factory at 61 New Dorp Plaza for yummy pastries breads and candy.



Special Events, including Tavern Concerts, an Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Candlelight Tours, Independence Day, July 4, Pumpkin Picking take place throughout the year.



Weblinks:

www.historicrichmondtown.org

Official Historic Richmond Town site

www.statenislandusa.com

General Staten Island information with links to other sites.

www.statenislandarts.org/

Council of Arts & Humanities for Staten Island with calendar of local art, music and cultural events

www.historichousetrust.org/museums.php

Worthwhile summary of Historic Richmond Town's origins



About Big Apple Greeter

Established in 1992, Big Apple Greeter is a “welcome visitor” program whose aim is to introduce foreign and domestic visitors to a “New Yorker’s New York..” A large network of volunteer Greeters help visitors to feel welcome and comfortable and to make the most out of their stay in the world’s most exciting and diverse city. Our goal is to encourage visitors to return to New York again and again. As a non-profit voluntary organization, Big Apple Greeter receives financial support from New York City’s business and philanthropic communities, and offers its services to visitors free of charge. Greeters do not accept tips.

Who Is a Big Apple Greeter?

Nearly 400 adults of all ages, from all of the five boroughs of New York City have volunteered to become Greeters. Each is eager to portray his or her enthusiastic view of New York City. More than 20 foreign languages are spoken among the volunteer Greeters.

What Does a Greeter Actually Do?

Share with a visitor what life in New York is really like by walking in their own neighborhood, or a neighborhood familiar to the Greeter - not just to see the well known sights of New York, but to highlight the little things that distinguish one New York neighborhood from another. Share with visitors the wonders of New York’s mass transit system using FUN PASSES generously donated by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

How Do Visitors Learn About Big Apple Greeter

Information about Big Apple Greeter is available on our multi-lingual Web site, www.bigapplegreeter.org, as well as extensive national and international newspaper, magazine and radio coverage. “Word-of-mouth,” travel agents, guidebooks and other pertinent information sources also disseminate information about Big Apple Greeter.



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Big Apple Greeter has a nondiscriminatory policy on race, religion, color, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and disability.

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