

## The Morris Canal and the Boonton Ironworks

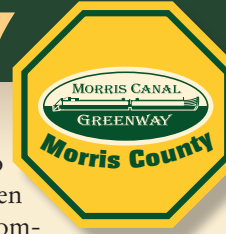
In 1824 the Morris Canal & Banking Company was chartered to build a canal that would carry coal, mined in Pennsylvania, to developing markets along the eastern seaboard. The canal would pass through the heart of New Jersey's iron district and provide the transportation system that would create new commercial activity and enable a rustic settlement like Boonton to grow into a thriving industrial town.

When completed in 1831, the canal extended 102 miles across the rugged Highlands of New Jersey, from Phillipsburg on the Delaware River, uphill to its summit level at Lake Hopatcong and then down to New York Harbor at Jersey City. A system of 23 lift locks and 23 inclined planes was built to overcome the impressive elevation change of 1,674 feet. The Canal's famous water-powered inclined planes enabled canal boats to be raised or lowered up to 100 feet at a time. There was an inclined plane and two locks at Boonton.

As the canal was completed, New York iron merchants Green & Wetmore built a state-of-the-art ironworks near the Canal in what is today's Town of Boonton. The water from the falls of the Rockaway River would power the works and the Canal would bring raw materials and transport finished iron to market. The ironworks was a huge complex employing hundreds of workers. The village that grew to support the ironworks is the Boonton we see today.



## Morris Canal Greenway



The goal of the Morris Canal Greenway project is to promote public education and open space recreation by working with communities across New Jersey to create a statewide Morris Canal Greenway corridor. Its route will stretch for 102 miles across New Jersey from New York Harbor at Jersey City to Phillipsburg on the Delaware River, passing through six counties and 43 municipalities. To date, 44 miles of the route of the canal has been made accessible to the public. The work is a partnership between the Canal Society of New Jersey, the North Jersey Transportation and Planning Authority and dozens of communities and organizations. Among them is the Town of Boonton.

There are many places to visit along the Morris Canal Greenway. However, the Greenway is a work in progress and not all locations are as ready for visitors as others. Here in Boonton a kiosk has been installed at the trailhead in Grace Lord Park, to be followed by interpretive panels at each of the tour locations. The Arch Bridge will eventually be restored and spur trails added. In the meantime, enjoy your walk through the Boonton Gorge, past the remains of the canal and ironworks. Come back often and watch as the story of Boonton's historic past comes back to life as a more complete story is told.

### SPONSORED BY:

#### **Boonton Trails Committee**

100 Washington Street, Boonton, NJ 07005  
E-Mail: [boontontrails@njhighlandscoalition.org](mailto:boontontrails@njhighlandscoalition.org)

#### **Boonton Historical Society**

210 Main Street, Boonton, NJ 07005  
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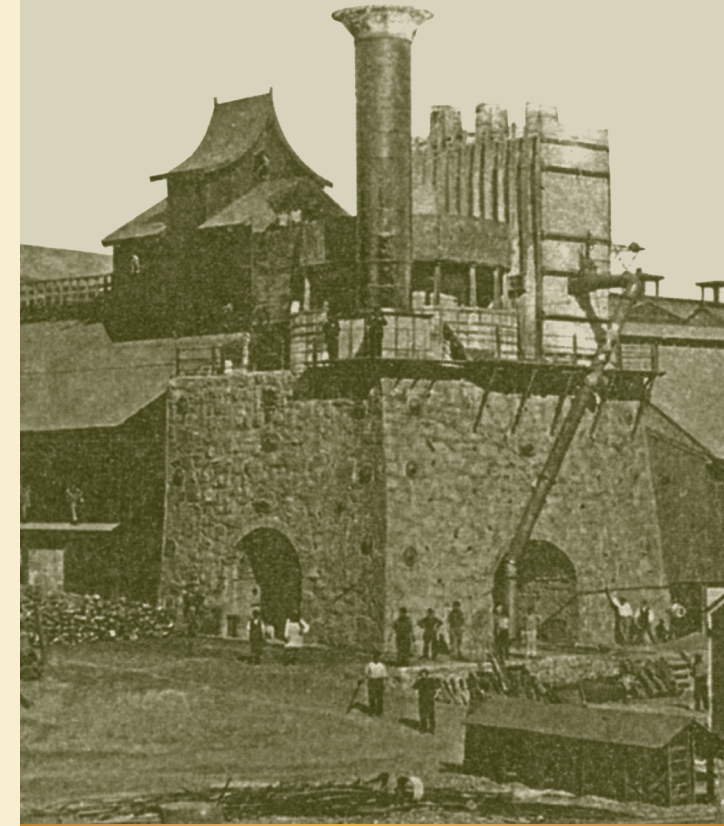
#### **New Jersey Highlands Coalition**

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#### **Canal Society of New Jersey**

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## BOONTON WALKING TOUR



Explore the historic remnants  
of the Morris Canal and the  
Boonton Ironworks



# Boonton

## GREENWAY WALKING TOUR

Start at any point along the tour route. Follow the yellow Morris Canal Greenway trail blazes along pathways and town streets, stopping at the numbered locations. The trail makes a loop that will bring you back to where you started.

### Greenway Interpretive Areas

- 1 Grace Lord Park Trail Head
- 2 Falls and the Rockaway River
- 3 Arch Bridge
- 4 Indian Rock
- 5 Blast Furnace Ruins
- 6 Site of the Boonton Ironworks
- 7 Site of the Morris Canal Inclined Plane 7 East
- 8 Boonton Historical Society Museum
- 9 Boonton Historic Main Street
- 10 Site of the Morris Canal & Upper Raceway
- 11 Observation Platform
- 12 Site of the Morris Canal Lock 12 East



--- Greenway Trail  
--- Spur Trails  
--- Route of the Morris Canal  
--- Water Filled Canal  
**Greenway information:**  
[canalsocietynj.org](http://canalsocietynj.org)

