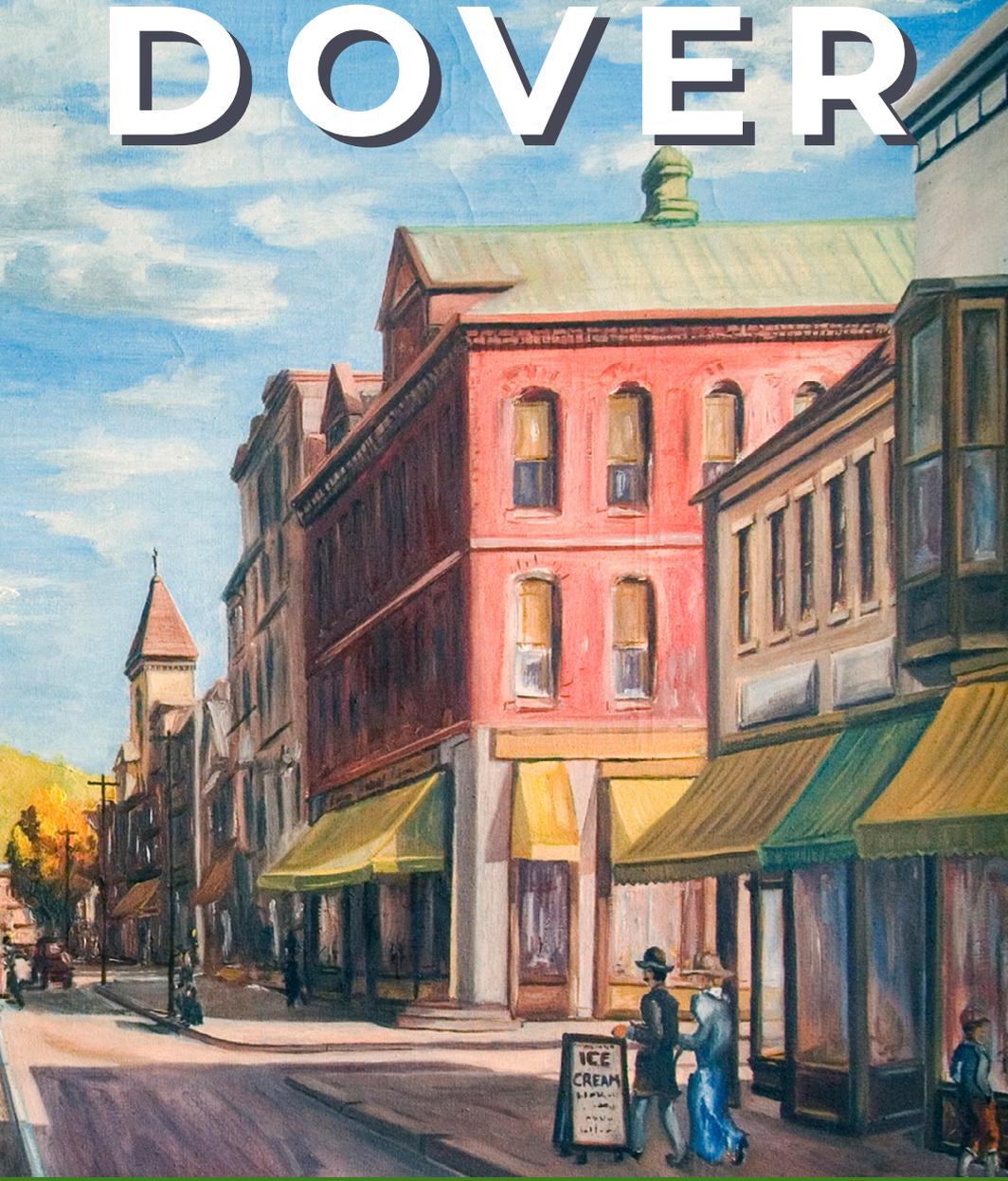


VISIT
DOVER



OFFICIAL VISITOR'S GUIDE

Dover, New Jersey

WELCOME TO DOVER



On behalf of our residents, business owners, and local leaders, I would like to welcome you to Downtown Dover! We invite you to explore our historic, hardworking, and vibrant town.

Over the centuries, the Dover area has played many roles—iron mining village, regional shopping destination, bustling canal port, and even a key stop on the vaudeville circuit! Throughout all these periods, Dover has remained a welcoming home for a diverse and harmonious community.

Whether you are here to eat at one of our many restaurants, attend one of our local events, visit family and friends, or simply run errands, we hope that you will take time to learn something new and try something different in Dover!

Sincerely,

MAYOR OF DOVER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02

Morris County's
Melting Pot

06

Food & Dining

14

Shopping
Blackwell Street

18

Theaters:
Then & Now

22

Outdoor &
Recreation

26

Made In
Dover

28

Walking Tour

30

Downtown
Map

32

Events &
Festivals

34

Know Before
You Go

*Thank you to the following groups for assisting
in the development of this guide:*

*Richard Kelly and the Dover Area Historical Society
The Dover Visitors Guide Resident Advisory Group*



MORRIS COUNTY'S MELTING POT

DIVERSITY IN DOVER

Over two-thirds of Dover's residents are Latino, many from Central and South America. Dover is currently home to

many Latino restaurants and bakeries, as well as eateries serving Irish, Italian, and American cuisine.



Present day Blackwell Street



Present Day Guenther Mill

GERMANTOWN

Dover's "Germantown" emerged in the early 1900s with the opening of the Guenther Hosiery Mill. The factory produced silk stockings using machinery from the Saxony region of Germany. Residents of the Saxon town of Thalheim were highly skilled in operating these knitting machines, and many migrated to Dover to work in the Guenther Mill. The factory owner, Paul Guenther, provided company houses for these immigrant workers, and the area became known as Germantown.

DOVER'S "SPANISH BARRIO"

Puerto Rican immigration to Dover began in 1948 with the arrival of just seven families who came to work at nearby mines, factories, and farms. These immigrants came from the Puerto Rican region of Aguada. Over time, friends, family, and neighbors came to join them in Dover. An agreement between the Puerto Rican government and a New Jersey farmers' organization also spurred migration by attracting farmworkers to the area. Blackwell Street gained the nickname "the Spanish Barrio" as new stores and opened catering to Spanish-speaking clientele.



Downtown Dover's "Spanish Barrio."
Photo courtesy of the Dover Area Historical Society.

Guenther Mill in 1900s.



12917

Guenther's Hosiery Factory, Dover, N.



Pork Chop Giambotta, Table 42 Restaurant & Bar

FOOD & DINING

The diversity of people who make Dover home is most evident in the variety of cuisines and dining options available downtown. Visitors can find fast-paced counter serve joints where commuters

wearing suits or construction boots stop for hot empanadas after work, or quiet cafes where friends meet and chat over fresh jugos de fruta.

COLOMBIAN

Visit the following restaurants for large platters of grilled steak, fried plantains, homemade soups, and other Colombian breakfast, lunch, and dinner specialties.

Las Costillas de Pedro

57 N Sussex St
973.361.3400

Arepas Paisas

47 E Blackwell St
973.366.2015

Sabor Latino Restaurant and Bar

44 N Morris St
973.537.0777

Pollos Pucalor

85 E Blackwell St
973.442.9272

Monchy's Colombian Grill

19 Bassett Hwy
973.343.6521



Bandeja Paisa, Sabor Latino Restaurant Bar

MEXICAN

Be sure to sample the wide variety of Mexican food in Dover! These restaurants offer colorful décor, friendly service, and tasty seafood, soups, mole, tamales, and other authentic Mexican dishes.

Taqueria Pancho Villa

7 Essex St N
973.361.4003

Brenda Lee Restaurant

15 E Blackwell St
862.397.3469

Azteca Restaurant

17 E Blackwell St #1
973.989.8442

Tequila's 55

55 E Blackwell St
862.244.4500

La Bamba Grill

150 E McFarlan St
973.537.5449



Biztec a la Mexicana, Laura's Coffee & Restaurant

PERUVIAN

Peruvian cuisine has deep cross-cultural roots, including Chinese, Italian, and African influences. Visit Dover for staple dishes like ceviche or try Peruvian creole dishes that combine Chinese cooking techniques with Italian ingredients!

El Marino Restaurant

130 Mt Hope Ave
973.659.0402

Las Tres Marias

88 N Sussex St
973.361.0434

SALVADOREAN

Salvadorean cuisine combines indigenous ingredients with lots of seafood and fruit-based beverages. One favorite snack is pupusa, a thick corn tortilla stuffed with numerous combinations of ingredients like cheese, meat, beans, or vegetables, and flattened into a disc.

Las Praderas II

60 N Sussex St
973.659.0075

ITALIAN

Dover is home to well-established Italian restaurants that are welcoming venues for family dinners or special occasions. Come for classics like fried calamari, creamy pasta dishes, antipasto platters, and fresh seafood.

Table 42 Restaurant and Bar

42 N Sussex St
973.361.2300

Delizia Pizza Kitchena

145 King St
973.366.3535

Charlotte's Web

39 W Clinton St
973.328.9387

BASQUE

Hailing from a distinct cultural region on the border of Spain and France, Dover's Basque restaurant features delicious preparations of seafood and vegetables, including a Basque paella and crab-stuffed mushrooms.

Jai-Alai

73 W Blackwell St #1
973.989.0916

Paella, Jai -Alai Restaurant



ECUADORIAN

Ecuadorian cuisine is all about shrimp! Order one of this country's staple dishes, like shrimp ceviche or a homemade fish stew, paired with an Ecuadorian soda.

Amazonia Ecuatoriana
178 E Blackwell St
973.328.6739



Jai Alai Chicken, Jai-Alai Restaurant

HONDURAN

A Honduran favorite is the plato típico—a social experience as much as a menu item! The plato típico is meant for sharing and consists of a variety of foods like grilled steak, sausages, fried plantains, rice, and beans. Also try savory fish soups made with coconut milk or a hearty Honduran breakfast.

El Catracho Restaurant
43 W Blackwell St
862.437.1820

IRISH

Dover's Irish pub is a local institution. Visit for the charming atmosphere, specialty cocktails, extensive bar menu, and daily special entrees.

Quiet Man Pub
64 E McFarlan St
973.366.6333

Dover's Bakery Restaurants



Mexican and Colombian breads, Laura's Coffee & Restaurant

With over two dozen in total, Dover's bakeries go beyond the traditional offerings of pastries, cakes, and bread. In addition to the glass dessert case, most also have hot bars serving trays of Latino comfort food—*empanadas*, *chicharron* (fried pig skin), *arepas* (hot pressed sandwiches), *pandebono* (cheese-filled donuts), and *papas rellenas* (stuffed, fried potatoes).

Customers can order a to-go meal or eat in, cafeteria style. These casual eateries are great places to have a quick meal, sample a variety of items, and get dessert to take home. If you are offered hot sauce, take it—it is probably homemade!

Rico Pan Bakery
107 E Blackwell St
973.328.3345

Pan Pizza
27 E Blackwell St
973.442.9774

Guadalupe Bakery
25 E Blackwell St
973.620.9033

Photo courtesy of Table 42 Restaurant and Bar



BREAKFAST & LUNCHEONETTES

These breakfast and lunch spots offer classic and affordable breakfast platters, sandwiches, and salads that are popular with local residents.

Three Brothers
9 N Morris St #A
973.442.1916

Barry's Luncheonette
32 Bassett Hwy
973.366.2507

NIGHTLIFE

Experience Dover's nightlife by meeting friends for drinks or lively dancing at a nightclub.

Celebrity Bar
260 US-46
973.366.1499

Los Arrieros Bar
34 W Clinton St
973.620.9878

Pancho Villa Rodeo
142 E Blackwell St
973.620.9595

COFFEE SHOPS

Stop by for an on-the-go specialty coffee or linger over dessert at Dover's coffee shops.

The Good Bean
60B N Sussex St
862.437.1333

Laura's Coffee
22 E Blackwell St
862.244.4181



Laura's Coffee & Restaurant

SHOPPING BLACKWELL STREET

Downtown Dover is one of those classic town centers where local shops can still provide residents with most of their daily needs, all within a short walk, bike ride, or drive from home. Commuters and visitors also run errands in Downtown Dover with the added benefits of enjoying fresh air, strolling through a historic shopping district, and having a variety of lunch or snack options at one of

Dover's many eateries. Current retail and personal service businesses in Dover include a large grocery store, salons and barber shops, furniture stores, thrift stores, a florist, home improvement stores, and Latin American specialty shops selling clothes (including soccer jerseys!), shoes, and gifts.



Present Day Blackwell Street

Like many historic New Jersey town centers, Downtown Dover was once a regional shopping destination. The area along Bassett Highway was the site of America's first "in-town" shopping mall, once home to department stores like J.C. Penney and Woolworths, two supermarkets, a bowling alley, and a 2,000-space parking deck that briefly doubled as a drive-in movie theater. Town leadership spearheaded this development project in the mid-1950s in order to compete with the new shopping malls drawing customers out of town. Unfortunately, the Dover Shopping Center ultimately could not compete with more modern malls being built along nearby highways.



Mid-century Downtown Dover

Today, many shoppers value a local downtown shopping experience, and Dover aspires to revitalize the shopping district. Visitors will always find something new in Downtown Dover and can feel good supporting the local economy.

Dover Trolleys

Several trolley lines once ran through Dover on Blackwell Street, connecting shoppers and commuters to nearby cities and towns like Newark, Lake Hopatcong, Wharton, and Morristown. Operations began in 1904 and Dover was home to trolley company offices and repair shops.



Intersection of Blackwell and Prospect Streets, 1906. Photo courtesy of Dover Area Historical Society.

By 1928, buses and private vehicles had largely replaced trolleys, and in 1942 the abandoned tracks were pulled up and donated to a war-time scrap metal collection drive.





THEATERS: THEN & NOW

Dover has been a destination for theater, arts, and entertainment since the mid-1800s. The town has a long, rich tradition of hosting some of the finest performers, musicians, and artists.

Today, the arts scene in Dover is alive and well, with the Dover Little Theatre taking center stage for modern audiences! Dover has been home to some of the earliest, most prominent theaters in New Jersey.

THE MOLLER OPERA HOUSE

1850–1921

Opened in 1850, this was Dover's first large establishment for major live entertainment. Owned and operated by Daniel Moller, the Moller Opera House was located along the busy Morris Canal on North Sussex Street. Canal boatmen patronized Moller's during their weekend stayovers in Dover and enjoyed the beverages and entertainment this opera house had to offer. Today the building is occupied by Goodale's Drug Store, Dover's longest continuous business, founded in 1850.

THE BAKER OPERA HOUSE

1886–1904

At the time of its construction in 1885, this was Dover's largest and most modern playhouse for vaudeville and live entertainment. For 17 years, major vaudeville acts appeared at the Opera House, making Dover a major stop along the busy theatrical circuit. William H. Baker suddenly closed the Baker Opera House on May 13, 1904 with ambitions to build an even grander venue, the Baker Theatre. The building has remained a major landmark in downtown Dover, with its prominent tower and imposing façade, for more than 100 years. It is on the National Register of Historic Places and is also part of the Blackwell Street Historic District.

THE BAKER THEATRE

1906–1978

This theater opened its doors on December 5, 1906. Also known as the New Dover Theater, it was considered the finest playhouse in the entire state and was labeled as the premier entertainment showcase in New Jersey. It seated 1,146 and was billed as the largest vaudeville playhouse in the entire region. By 1930, the Baker Theatre, along with most vaudeville theaters around the country, was converted into a motion picture house. It continued to show movies until 1978 when it closed. In 1998, the Baker Theatre was reopened and renamed the Baker Ballroom and specialized in wedding receptions, concerts, live stage shows and banquets.

THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

1913–1970's

This theater opened on South Morris Street in 1913. It was built to be a competing vaudeville playhouse to the Baker. Although mostly a movie theater from the start featuring serial productions, the Playhouse hosted vaudeville acts as well. The old Playhouse Theatre building, left abandoned for many years, was demolished as part of Dover's Urban Renewal program in the late 1970s. Many of the seats and main curtain were donated to the Dover Little Theatre.

DOVER LITTLE THEATRE

1933–Present

This is the second longest continuously operating little theater in the state of New Jersey. This intimate 100-seat theater is located just off Blackwell Street. It was established in 1933 through the efforts of a dedicated group of theatre enthusiasts in the Dover Women's Club who sought to establish a venue for theatrical arts and artists of all kinds in Dover. Today Dover Little Theatre produces mainstage production and children's theater, hosting comedy troupes, concerts, and other special events produced and run entirely by volunteers.



Right: Present Day Dover Little Theatre

Dover Drive-In

When the Dover Drive-In Movie Theatre opened on September 12, 1958 atop the Dover Shopping Center parking deck, it was the first above-ground-level drive-in theater in the middle of a city, featuring a screen 80 feet tall and 100 feet wide. But with 490 cars filling the theater on opening night, problems quickly surfaced. The glowing, neon-lit signs of the surrounding shopping center caused



Dover Drive-In Theatre, Courtesy of Dover Historical Society

a red glare on the surface of the movie screen, and shop owners refused to turn off the lights. Management never could resolve the poor picture quality, and the theater closed in 1963.



OUTDOORS & RECREATION

Prime fishing spots, peaceful hiking trails, pick-up basketball games, and scenic lookout points—all within a short walk or drive of Downtown Dover. Take a walk to Hurd Park after having lunch downtown, plan a fishing or paddling trip on the

Rockaway River, or have a cookout in Hedden Park. In addition to the parks listed here, residents and visitors alike also enjoy neighborhood green spaces like Overlook Park and Hooey Park. There is lots to do outdoors in Dover!

WATERWORKS PARK

Entrance near corner of Rutgers St and Princeton Ave

Located about one mile to the west of Downtown Dover is Waterworks Park. The Rockaway River runs through the park's center and is the main attraction, along with a playground, basketball court, and picnic area. The riverbanks have been left in their natural state, but fishermen and hikers have carved out paths perfect for a walk to explore the river's edge.

CRESCENT FIELD

Entrance near corner of S Morris St and Monmouth Ave

A short walk from Blackwell Street, Crescent Field is Dover's "village green" where residents exercise and socialize. The park's soccer fields, play areas, and basketball courts are always busy. Families and friends gather at benches and seating areas to chat. The walking and jogging path that runs around the park's perimeter is a great way to take in the scene.

JFK PARK

Entrance near corner of East Clinton St and Essex St

JFK Park is located in the heart of Downtown Dover. This small park is a great place to relax after strolling on Blackwell St or to enjoy a takeout lunch from a nearby restaurant. JFK Park is frequently the site of local events, like the annual holiday tree lighting and summer movie nights. It was once the location of the Morris Canal boat basin--a water-filled docking area where cargo from canal boats could be loaded and unloaded.



Hurd Park

HURD PARK

Entrance near corner of West Blackwell St and Princeton Ave

Cherry blossoms are the main attraction of peaceful Hurd Park located just a half-mile walk from Downtown Dover. The park is picturesque in spring, when pink cherry tree blossoms and bright green grass frame a narrow, stone-walled stream. The park's foot bridges, gazebo, and war memorials are popular photo spots. In the fall, the hill rising behind the park offers views of the changing foliage. Visitors can also find a bench and sit along Jackson Brook which curves through the center of the park.

MOUNTAIN PARK

Entrance near corner of S Morris St and Woodland Rd

Though less accessible than other parks nearby, the relatively undeveloped Mountain Park is a popular hiking spot. For more than 100 years, hikers have marked trails that reach a scenic lookout point at the top of the hill. Use the QR code to access an unofficial webpage about trail access points created by a local resident, plus a trail map.



HEDDEN COUNTY PARK

Entrance at Ford St or Hawthorne Ave

Within a short driving distance from Downtown Dover, Hedden Park is part of the Morris County parks system and offers a range of outdoor activities and amenities. Visitors can hike to Indian Falls, fish in Hedden Pond, or barbecue on one of the grills in the picnic field. The Jackson and Wallace Brooks run through the park and offer other fishing and hiking options.

Rockaway River

Visitors to Dover may be surprised to turn off Blackwell Street and find they are standing on a bridge overlooking a small river. This is the Rockaway River, which runs more than 40 miles east across North Jersey from Sparta Mountain to the Passaic River. In Downtown Dover, the Rockaway River runs through a concrete channel behind the businesses on Blackwell Street. There are seven river overpasses in the downtown and railroad tracks run parallel to it, creating a unique landscape.



Postcard of Rockaway River from 1900s

Outside of the downtown, the river becomes more bucolic and boasts popular fishing spots stocked with trout. Nearby Boonton is the site of Boonton Falls, where the Rockaway River drops 25 feet over several waterfalls. Kayaking and canoeing is possible along stretches of the river depending on water conditions, which can vary greatly due to weather. Check online fishing and paddling forums for tips on how to safely access the river.



MADE IN DOVER

Dover's history is rooted in its location among rich iron deposits. Mines in the greater Dover area—the largest in the country—supplied Revolutionary War munitions, and the earliest roads in Dover connected iron mines to nearby forges. Even after 1850, when the center of the iron industry shifted to vast deposits discovered around Lake Superior, Dover remained an important industrial hub for iron goods manufacturing until the town's last major iron works closed in 1950.

Dover's industrial character also stems from once being a key port along the Morris Canal, constructed between 1825 and 1832. The historic canal connected the Hudson River at Jersey City and the Delaware River at Phillipsburg, providing an inland waterborne freight route. Canal boats transported goods as varied as coal, grain, sugar, and beer. JFK Park in Downtown Dover was once a water-filled basin where boats were stored and docked for loading and unloading cargo. Innovative engineering, using a series of locks and inclined planes, enabled canal boats to navigate up and down mountains and 1,674 feet of elevation change!

The introduction of train and trolley lines in the second half of the 19th century rendered the Morris Canal increasingly obsolete but furthered Dover's industrial might. Factories manufactured wrought iron fire escapes, world-class cooking ranges, silk hosiery, steel railroad and bridge components, and many other goods stamped with the mark "Made in Dover." Much of this industry disappeared in the mid 20th century but vestiges are still visible, such as the preserved Guenther Mill located a half-mile away from the downtown area. Once a sprawling silk manufacturing plant, the Guenther Mill complex now offers apartments and commercial and light industrial spaces while preserving the buildings' historic architecture.



Scan to read more

Postcard of Gunther's Hosiery Mill in 1910





Photo by Diane Suter Saitta

WALKING TOUR

Take a guided stroll through historic Downtown Dover! The selected sites capture a variety of historical moments within a six-block area around Blackwell Street. Taking a walk through the downtown is a great way to get to know Dover, whether you are visiting for an hour or an afternoon.

- 1 The Dover Dogs**

The mayor of Dover, England presented these two statues as a gift to the first mayor of Dover in 1869. In 2006, 137 years later, the mayor of Dover, England once again visited and rededicated the recently refurbished statues.
- 2 Morris Canal Basin**

Dover was a key port along the historic Morris Canal, an engineering marvel of innovative canal locks and inclined planes for the waterborne transport of industrial materials and other goods between the Delaware and Hudson rivers. Canal boats were docked in a large water-filled basin that is now the site of JFK Park. The basin and other parts of the canal were dismantled in the 1920s due to declining use as rail transport became prominent. The Morris Canal's many remaining assets are now being reclaimed, connected, and repurposed as the Morris Canal Greenway.
- 3 Dover Station**

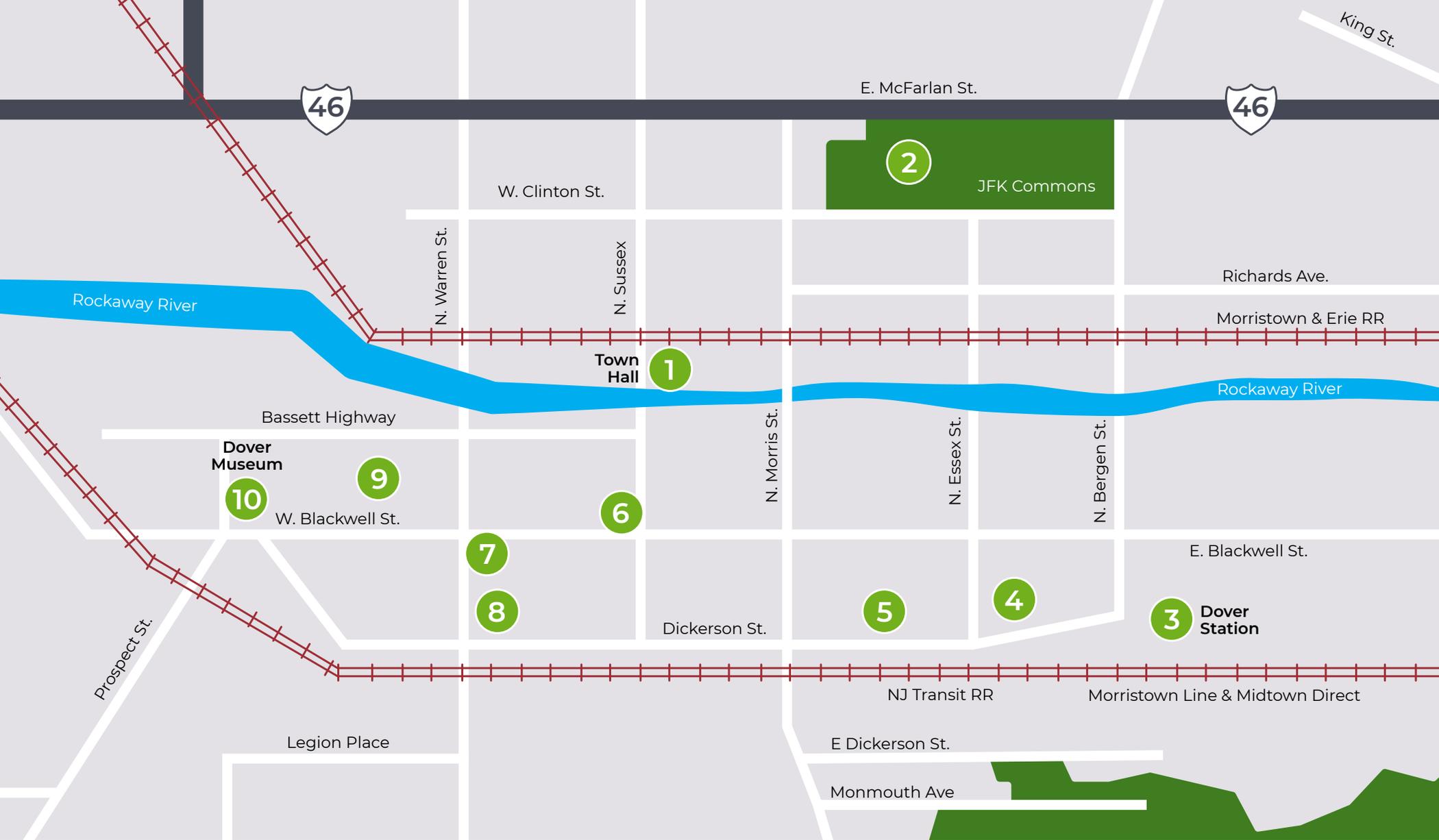
The first train stopped in Dover in 1848 on the Morris & Essex Railroad, soon acquired by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad. This company constructed Dover Station in 1901, and the building is on the National Register of Historic Places. The surrounding area once held extensive blacksmith, carpentry, machining, and upholstery shops that produced passenger and freight train cars.
- 4 St. John's Church**

The oldest church in Dover, built between 1866 and 1871, St. John's features beautiful stained-glass windows. The earliest congregants were Dover's miners and iron workers. It was used as a hospital during the 1918 flu pandemic.
- 5 Stone Academy**

Considered to be Dover's oldest standing building, dated 1829 and listed on the National Register, Stone Academy is Dover's first public building. It was used as a school, meeting house, and gathering place for religious congregations.
- 6 George Richards Building**

Named after the first mayor of Dover, the George Richards Building dates to 1869 and has seen various uses, including a grocery store, leather goods manufacturing, and J. J. Newberry's Department Store in the 1940s. This building is undergoing renovation to become Dover's new Town Hall.
- 7 Baker Opera House**

Opened in 1886, major vaudeville acts appeared on the Baker Opera House stage, including magician Harry Houdini. It operated for just 18 years before proprietor William Baker decided to build another, state-of-the-art venue, the Baker Theater, to better compete with New York City theaters.



8 Mail Pouch Tobacco Ad
 Advertisements for a popular chewing tobacco were once a common sight in town. The Bloch Brothers company employed painters to emblazon the sides of businesses that sold their product with these ads. More popularly, they painted the ad on over 20,000 barns across the country, giving

the farmer a freshly painted barn in exchange for advertising space.

9 Baker Theater
 First opened as a vaudeville theater in 1906, Baker Theater drew a crowd of 1,600 people filling all three balconies! The theater went on to show silent movies and the first “talking pictures” in the county.

10 Dover Museum
 Opened in 2005, the Dover Museum occupies a house built circa 1890 that was once part of “Doctor’s Row,” a strip of well-appointed residences along Blackwell Street, some occupied by doctors working at the nearby Dover General Hospital. The Dover Area Historical Society holds monthly programs at the museum.



EVENTS & FESTIVALS

Events like the Memorial Day parade, Fourth of July fireworks, and the Halloween parade are a great way to celebrate, while activities like summer movies in the park keep the fun alive year-round. Sports are

another popular activity, with local leagues playing soccer, basketball, softball, and track on the town's many recreational fields. There is something to do in Dover for every season!

SPRING

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Memorial Day Ceremony & Parade
- Dover Flea Market

WINTER

- Holiday Tree Lighting
- Holiday Parade

SUMMER

- Soccer, Basketball, Track, Volleyball, Softball
- Summer movies in JFK park
- 4th of July Fireworks & Concert
- Bike Rodeo

FALL

- Halloween Trunk or Treat
- Halloween Parade
- Senior Picnic



Mayor Blackman at the 2020 Christmas Parade



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

PARKING

Most street parking in Dover is free with a two-hour parking limit. Parking is also available in the following public lots for a fee:

Lot A
3 S Bergen St.

Lot B
S Morris St. & E Dickerson St.

Lot C
Orchard St. & W Dickerson St.

Lot D
Prospect St. & Elliott St.

Lot E
E Dickerson St. & N Sussex St.

Lot F
N Morris St. & E Clinton St.

Lot G
E Dickerson St. & N Sussex St.

Lot H
W Dickerson St. & S Warren St.

PUBLIC TRANSIT CONNECTIONS

NJ TRANSIT
Montclair-Boonton Line
or Morris & Essex Line to Dover

NJ TRANSIT Bus Lines
880 Morristown to Rockaway, 875
Morristown to Roxbury

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Exit 39B from I-287 S or Exit 39 from I-287 N to NJ-10. NJ-10 to S Morris St.



Town Hall of Dover

PUBLIC AMENITIES & SERVICES

Public Library
32 E Clinton St.
973.366.0172

Post Office
22 N Sussex St.
862.397.5992

Police Department
37 N Sussex St.
973.366.0302

Fire Department
37 N Sussex St.
973.366.0302

Town Hall
37 N Sussex St.
973.366.2200

KEEP IN TOUCH!

 www.dover.nj.us

 @TownOfDoverNJ

 @TownOfDoverMorrisCountyNJ

 @Dover_NJ

 Town of Dover, Morris County, NJ



CELEBRATING
300 YEARS



FOUNDED 1722 • ESTABLISHED 1869

