

## A SELF-GUIDED WALK PAST CRANFORD'S ARCHITECTURE – SOUTH SIDE

**Total distance: 3 miles**

**BY THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
With the assistance of Patrick Lynch and Ricky Barry**

This walking tour takes you past several of the many different architectural styles represented on the south side of Cranford. It begins and ends in Cranford's train station and takes you around the Droescher Mill Park.

<b>Photo</b>	<b>Start at the south side of the train station at South Ave and Walnut Ave</b>	<b>Distance</b>
	In the Midwest, miles and miles of prairie inspired Frank Lloyd Wright to come up with a whole new style of architecture, Prairie Style. Here in the <b><u>Cranford Railroad Station</u></b> the horizontal harmony is so complete, that the station blends right into the long, low lines of the land bank behind it, which blends right into the long, low lines of the platform roof. The station was built by the government-funded Works Project Administration during the Depression in the 1930's.	Start of tour to Railroad Station - 1/10 mi
<b><i>As you face the train station, walk right on South Ave towards Centennial Ave</i></b>		
	This is the old trolley power station built in 1900. Originally it supplied power for the trolleys which ran along <b><u>South Avenue</u></b> . After 1928, it supplied power for all of Cranford. Its style, Neo-Classical, with its heavy strong lines, and simple classical ornamentation, recalls the Federal and Georgian eras, and the balanced classical buildings of Ancient Rome. This was the preferred style of public buildings for over 50 years.	Railroad Station to Trolley Power Station- 1/10 mi
<b><i>Continue walking on South Ave to Burchfield Ave, turn right on Burchfield and walk one block and make a right onto Cummings St</i></b>		
	Brought from Spain by missionaries in the 1600s, Spanish-style architecture is largely confined to the Southwest and California. But here is <b><u>6 Cummings Street</u></b> , a beautiful example of mission style architecture. The parapet or wall-like barrier at the edge of the roof is the hallmark of the "Mision San Antonio de Valero", also known as the Alamo. The parapet is the most important feature, but other things to look for include stucco wall covering, and the lack of ornamentation. The parapet's side gables, with shaped windows, are also featured. 6 Cummings Street was built by William Droescher, the wealthy owner of Droescher's Mill down the road.	Trolley Power Station to 6 Cummings St.- 3/10 mi
<b><i>Go back and continue walking down Burchfield Ave away from South Ave</i></b>		
	<b><u>34 Burchfield Avenue</u></b> is a "Comfortable House." The rising middle class required a smaller, more comfortable house, more suited to its occupants' needs. Smaller meant more fuel efficient, better use of available space, more economical - typical suburban concerns. But like all styles, it had its variations. This particularly attractive three-dormer Foursquare has Colonial Revival features like a porch, complete with Ionic columns and under- the-eave decorations, and clapboard siding.	6 Cummings St. to 34 Burchfield Ave- 2/10 mi

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	<p><b><i>Continue on Burchfield to Lincoln Ave East, turn right on Lincoln Ave East, walk two and a half blocks, just past Centennial Ave</i></b></p>	
	<p>This house mixes and adapts styles from the surrounding houses, The resulting architecture is called Neo-Eclectic, and in Cranford, it is represented most often by Neo-Colonial such as this Neo-Tudor, here at <b><u>454 Lincoln Avenue East</u></b>.</p>	<p>34 Burchfield to 454 Lincoln Ave East- 3/10 mi</p>
	<p><b><i>Walk back to Centennial Ave, turn left on Centennial, then turn left on Cranford Hall to Lincoln Park East</i></b></p>	
	<p>Cranford Hall, at <b><u>600 Lincoln Park East</u></b> is an expansive reproduction of an English Norman Castle, complete with turrets, battlements, everything except a drawbridge. It was built for a New York silk baron and had land that went right down to the Rahway River.</p>	<p>454 Burchfield Ave to 600 Lincoln Park East- 3/10 mi</p>
	<p><b><i>Walk down Lincoln Park East to Lincoln Ave East and make a right</i></b></p>	
	<p>Droescher's Mill <b><u>on the Rahway River</u></b> had a long history starting from 1814. This mill used water power until about 1940 when the wheel was removed. The original owner of the mill had a home just beyond the mill on Lincoln Ave.</p>	<p>600 Lincoln Park East to Droescher's Mill- 3/10 mi</p>
	<p><b><i>Continue walking in the same direction on Lincoln Ave East, crossing the bridge</i></b></p>	
	<p>The Vreeland home at <b><u>306 Lincoln Ave East</u></b> was the homestead of a large estate that extended along Lincoln Ave from Walnut to Centennial Ave and south to the area of Raritan Rd, where the Vreeland Mill was located near the river crossing. The house has been expanded several times.</p>	<p>Droescher's Mill to 306 Lincoln Avenue East- 4/10 mi</p>
	<p><b><i>Continue walking in the same direction on Lincoln Ave East, crossing Walnut Ave, and crossing North Union Ave to Lincoln Ave West</i></b></p>	

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	<p>The Jake Klein House is at <b><u>29 Lincoln Avenue West</u></b>. Although extensively remodeled over the years, it retains several remnants of its start as an East Jersey Cottage. It faces south to catch the sun, typical of an 18<sup>th</sup> century home and it stands along side the old York Road, the major colonial route from Elizabethtown to Philadelphia. Structurally the right-hand side still has a boxy one-floor, steep-pitched roof. If you remove the two second-story windows and the lean-to roof above them and install a pitched roof, it becomes an old East Jersey Cottage.</p>	<p>454 Lincoln Ave East to 29 Lincoln Ave West- 5/10 mi</p>
<p><b><i>Continue walking down Lincoln Ave West away from North Union Ave</i></b></p>		
	<p>The Central Jersey Railroad came to Cranford or Craneville as it was known then, in 1838, and the area around the depot slowly began to grow. Craneville became home to a new kind of resident, the commercial one, who built and worked in the small cluster of shops which had sprung up around the tracks. This house is typical of the new business class, a basic Gothic Revival house built from a plan in a book around 1870. Just as important as the house though is the lot, still in its original proportions. The lot at <b><u>18 Lincoln Avenue West</u></b> is not big enough to support a farm, and it didn't. The residents probably owned or worked in one of the new businesses in the town center, and this inexpensive, simple, pre-designed building was the kind of housing which would continue to be built in Cranford.</p>	<p>29 Lincoln Avenue West to 18 Lincoln Avenue West- 1/10 mi</p>
<p><b><i>Walk back and turn left on North Union Ave, then turn right on South Ave to Walnut Ave</i></b></p>		
	<p>The commercial block at <b><u>1 – 15 Walnut Avenue</u></b> is Art Deco, a short-lived '20s and '30s style, linked in most people's memories to lamps and the Chrysler Building in New York. The Art Deco style is shown in the small scale castle-type roof line and the tiling sprinkled with colored geometric pattern. Art Deco was both a movement and a style of decoration - the last great style and the only original one produced in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Nowadays, in some cities it is celebrated but in Cranford it is rare and tends to go by unnoticed.</p>	<p>18 Lincoln Ave W to 1-15 Walnut Avenue-3/10 mi</p>
<p><b><i>Continue walking down South Ave to the train station and the start of tour.</i></b></p>		
<p><b>TOTAL DISTANCE</b></p>		<p><b>2.9 mi</b></p>

Descriptions of houses based on "A Cruise Through Cranford's Architecture", 1988

### About the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB)

HPAB was established in 1993 by the Township of Cranford. Our goal is to maintain Cranford's unique character while recognizing the homeowners' right to create a home reflecting their style. Our mission is to aid in the preservation of Cranford's architectural heritage through documentation of significant structures, education of the public as to the value of preservation, and advice to the Township on laws and activities impacting preservation.

Cranford present architectural walking tour – south – v5 - 9/25/10

