

Saturday July 18th 2026

Adapted Dutch 17th and 18th Century Houses of Wayne, Passaic County, New Jersey

Tour Host: Greg Fitzgerald

Join us for a tour of four historic Dutch brownstone houses in Passaic County, NJ, all of which serve as museum spaces by the Passaic County Department of Cultural and Historic Affairs. We will explore the architecture of the buildings and observe how they have been adaptively reused.

Carpooling is recommended, as some of the sites don't have a lot of parking. There is a large lot at the golf course behind the Dey Mansion where extra cars can be left for the day.

Note that this tour starts at 11:00 AM to give those traveling from the further reaches of New York time to make it to New Jersey. The first stop is about a half hour from the NY/NJ border on the Thruway.

11:00 AM: Dey Mansion Washington's Headquarters 1780

199 Totowa Rd, Wayne, NJ 07470

Built around 1770 by Colonel Theunis Dey, the Dey Mansion is a quintessential Georgian-style country estate, with significant Dutch design detailing. The house was designed to bridge the gap between the Georgian style popular with the upper classes at the time, and the Dey family's Dutch heritage. It features a symmetrical brick and stone façade, elegant proportions, and a classic center-hall layout.

The Deys hosted George Washington during two spells in 1780. He stayed here in July, before heading up to Rhode Island to co-ordinate with the arriving French. He stayed again in October and November, and was here when he learned of Benedict Arnold's treason.

12:00 PM: Lunch, Park Wayne Diner

721 Hamburg Tpke, Wayne, NJ 07470

Since we're in New Jersey, the diner capital of America, there's only one place to go for lunch. We'll hit up the Park Wayne Diner, with a classic glass block and steel façade.

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM: Schuyler-Colfax House

2343 Hamburg Tpke, Wayne, NJ 07470

Built in 1695 by Arent Schuyler, the Schuyler-Colfax House in Wayne, New Jersey, is one of the oldest surviving Dutch houses in the state. The original homestead was a one-story, two-bay dwelling constructed with native fieldstone, Holland brick, and hand-hewn timber framing. Following the American Revolution, Hester Schuyler and Captain William Colfax

expanded the property in 1783 by adding a two-story, Georgian-style extension. This architectural evolution gracefully blends early Dutch masonry and distinct Flemish bond brickwork with classic Georgian symmetry, retaining features like 18-inch thick exterior walls, original blackened-brick fireplaces, and a jambless hearth.

The house is currently being converted into the Passaic County Military Heritage Museum, and HMVA will have an early look at the project as it nears completion.

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM: Van Riper-Hopper House and Mead-Van Duyne House

The Wayne Museum, 533 Berdan Ave, Wayne, NJ 07470

We end our tour with the two houses at The Wayne Museum.

The Van Riper-Hopper House was built around 1786, originally featuring a simple, low-slung framework consisting of a cellar, a main living floor with five interconnected rooms, and an overhead garret or loft space. The building boasts a stone and timber frame construction. During the mid-19th century, the home was architecturally expanded to include a formal parlor wing, which seamlessly connected the primary 1786 residence to an even older, mid-18th-century one-room building on the property.

The Mead-Van Duyne House is an interesting early stone house, built ca. 1706. The symmetrical, two-room floor plan has two front doors, two back doors, and two massive, opposite-facing stone fireplaces. Though it was physically relocated to its current site in 1974 to protect it from highway expansion, the most significant part of the home survives.

Both houses now form part of The Wayne Museum.