Somerset County Courthouse Green



Somerset County's Offeekend Journey through the G

IT HAPPENED ON THE GREEN...



Wonder Women! The Courthouse Green was a stage for Women's Suffrage.

Ready for Teddy?

Theodore Roosevelt campaigns in front of the Historic Courthouse.





Jane Gibson, aka "The Pig Woman," testifies from a hospital bed brought into the courthouse during the Hall Mills Murder trial.

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LOST AND FOUND!

Many things have gone missing at the Historic Courthouse over the years, including the massive lamps at the front entrance, and Lady Justice's scales! (They were blown off during Superstorm Sandy in 2012!)

Somerset County's annual Weekend Journey Through The Past is an initiative of the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission in collaboration with many county-wide local historical organizations and commissions, and other county organizations.

DID YOU FIND THE MERIDIAN MARKERS?





Look for these—and look closely! A delicate design is etched into the top.



Fun fact!

You should be able to find meridian markers like this at every county seat in New Jersey. The markers served as stations where surveyors could test the accuracy of their equipment.



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INSIDE INFORMATION...



Fab Faux... The eight columns in the rotunda of the Historic Courthouse were created using a technique called *scagliola*. Cast in plaster, the columns were coated with a mixture

of marble and granite dusts, ground gypsum, and glue. The marble "veins" were painted on with feathers.



The Jury Assembly Room

is the former First Dutch Reformed Church. Original details including four Tiffany stained glass windows and the pipes from the organ can still be seen today. (The organ was moved to the United Reformed Church across from Alfonso's restaurant—which used to be a theater!)

HISTORY MYSTERY... SOLVED!

How can the cannon in front of the courthouse be from WWII if it was dedicated in 1934—7 years BEFORE the United States entered the war?



Because it's NOT the original! In 1934, a cannon that saw action in WWI was dedicated as a memorial, but during the Second World War it was scrapped for much needed metal. The big gun you see today is a real piece of artillery—from WWII.

TIME TO REMEMBER...

The Somerset County 9/11 Memorial on the southwest corner of the Courthouse Green contains an actual piece of World Trade Center Steel. The fire call box on the corner of Main and Bridge Streets is also a 9/11 Memorial especially dedicated to the 343 Firefighters who died on September 11.