

WORTENDYKE BARN

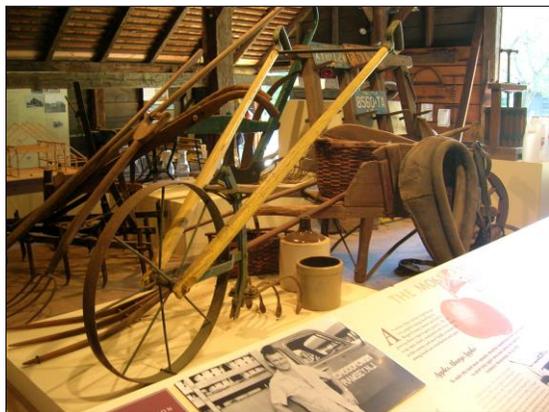
13 Pascack Rd., Park Ridge, NJ

A County Historic Site

The Wortendyke Barn Museum, a National Register landmark, and the family's stone house across the street, are all that remain of the original Wortendyke family farm. The barn, built in 1760, is an outstanding example of the vernacular architecture referred to as a "New World Dutch Barn" which could be found throughout 18th and 19th century Bergen County. Most were built between 1624 and 1820 wherever Dutch farmers settled along the Hudson, Hackensack, Passaic, Raritan and Mohawk rivers. Today there are probably fewer than 100 of these barns left in various states of use and repair.

The main feature of the museum is the barn building itself. It was made completely of local wood, down to the nails called trunnels. Massive anchor beams, supported by posts creating an H-frame, support the entire structure. These barns tended to be wider than long with very steep, sloping roofs that allowed for the large storage area. The barns were built to store diversified crops with the side bays used for keeping a variety of animals and hay stored above in very large, roomy haylofts. The large entrances on both gable ends allowed for the efficient unloading of the wagons. Because the floors were raised off the ground on a sill the wood plank floors could last for decades.

The Wortendyke Barn Museum's exhibits include handmade 18th and 19th century farm implements and tools, the history of the Wortendyke family farm, and exhibits showing the agricultural history of Bergen County from the first settlers through the 20th century.



At the time the barn was built, most of the families living in the Hackensack Valley were independent farmers some owning hundreds of acres of fertile farmland. People of Dutch ancestry were numerous in Bergen County, speaking Dutch in their homes and churches. The Wortendyke family settled in this area in 1735 when Frederick Wortendyke Sr. moved from Tappan, NY and purchased some 465 acres in present day Woodcliff Lake and Park Ridge. The family home, a sandstone house originally built around 1750, still stands directly across the street from the barn.

From 1735 to 1851, from before the French and Indian War until nine years before the start of the Civil War when the farm was sold, the land was maintained by the Wortendyke family as a working farm. After 1851 the land was sold several times but the barn remained in use as a barn until well into the 20th century. From 1960 until the middle of the 1980s, the Pascack Historical Society displayed some of their collections in the barn showing it on occasion. After restoration was completed in 1997, Bergen County opened the barn as a museum and county historic site. The Barn is open to the public Sundays from 12 noon to 4 pm. Each year it ends the season in October with a popular "Bluegrass & Cider" concert. It is fully accessible and free to the public. Groups are welcome to make appointments to visit the barn during the week.



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DIRECTIONS TO THE WORTENDYKE BARN,
13 Pascack Rd., Park Ridge 07656

Heading NORTH on NJ Turnpike or Garden State Parkway:

- NJ Turnpike to the end (Exit 18), onto I-95N.
- Merge on to I-80W. Take Exit 64A onto NJ 17N.
- After approximately 4 miles, take the Garden State Parkway (toll road) north to Exit 168 (toward Westwood).
- Turn right onto Washington Ave.
- After .5 miles, turn left on to Pascack Rd.
- After 2.3 miles (just past the Woodcliff Lake border), the Barn will be on your right.

OR...

Take Kinderkamack Rd. north to downtown Park Ridge.

Turn right at Park Ave. (Park Ridge's main street). Take it to the end passing the school on your left.

Turn left onto Pascack Rd. It's about a 5 minute drive to the barn, past the Pascack Reformed Church (on left). Barn is on your left. Turn into the road after the barn.

OR...

Take Fairview Ave. in Paramus north, which becomes Pascack Rd. after the Bergen Regional Medical Center. The entrance to the barn is on the right after the Woodcliff Lake – Park Ridge border.