



OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

BARNEGAT BRANCH TRAIL

DEPARTMENTS OF PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND PARKS & RECREATION

WELCOME TO BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP (1846)

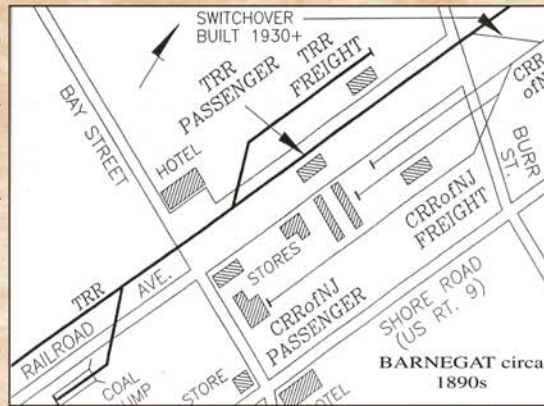
In 1609, Henry Hudson sailed along the coast of present day New Jersey coming to an inlet that was later named *Barende-gat*, a Dutch word meaning an inlet with breakers. This later evolved into Barnegat.

The first Europeans who settled the town of Barnegat were whalers from Long Island, Rhode Island, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Among the first permanent settlers were William Cranmer, Timothy Ridgway, Stephen and Nathan Birdsall and Ebenezer Collins and the Inman family. Many of the early settlers were Quakers and in 1767 the Barnegat Friends Meetinghouse was built and is still located on East Bay Avenue and open for Sunday worship.

Barnegat was the home of many shipbuilders and sea captains who became wealthy carrying cedar, pine and charcoal up and down the Atlantic coast. Large two-masted and three-masted schooners were built in Barnegat during the nineteenth century, the Golden Age of Sail.

In the early 1900s, J.H. Perrine started his boat building business in Barnegat and became famous, around the world, for his sneakboxes which were originally designed in 1836 for duck hunting on Barnegat Bay.

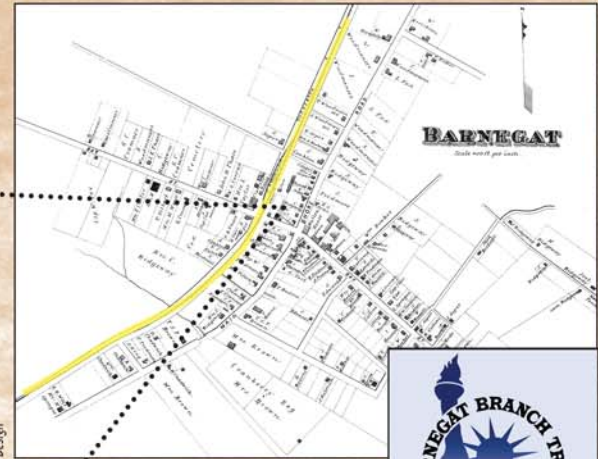
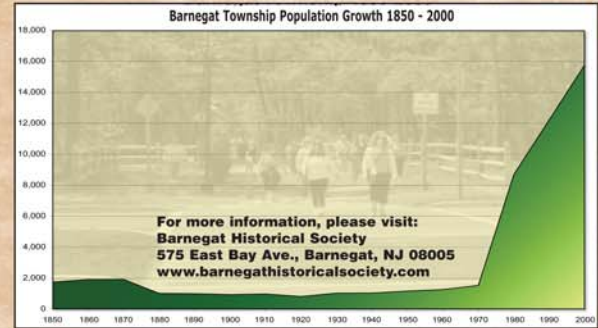
Both the Tuckerton Railroad and the Central Railroad of New Jersey had depots in Barnegat. Oysters, clams, fish, ducks, geese, turtles, cranberries, peaches, blueberries, vegetables, milk, bricks, lumber and charcoal were transported to New York and Philadelphia.



From "The Tuckerton Railroad Story" - Lakeside Video Tour part 6
MSG Drafting and Design



CNJ Barnegat Passenger Station. Photo: August 8, 1954



The Barnegat Branch Trail logo was explicitly designed with history in mind: Lady Liberty's silhouette is reminiscent of the Central Railroad of NJ (CNJ) logo, adopted by the railroad in 1944 to reflect the close proximity of the CNJ terminal in Jersey City to the Statue of Liberty. The BBT logo also includes a ghost locomotive, as well as Ocean County's most recognizable environmental features.

Collection of Fred Wertz

Historical and Biographical Atlas of the NJ Coast - Woolman & Rose - 1878