

# BATSTO VILLAGE HISTORIC SITE



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## BATSTO VILLAGE HISTORY TRAIL

Cover Photos:  
Top: The Wharton family in front of Batsto Mansion. From left to right: Anna, Joseph, Anna Lovering, Mary and Joanna. Unknown servant behind horse.  
Photo: New Jersey State Archives, Department of State

Middle Left: Batsto Sawmill Interior, 1967.  
Middle Right: Batsto Sawmill Exterior, 1967.  
Bottom: Batsto Workers' Cottages, Early 20th Century.



WELCOME TO

# Batsto Village Historic Site

Batsto was once a busy industrial town. From 1766 to 1867, valuable Pine Barrens goods, including iron and glass, were produced here. Today, Batsto appears as it did in the late 1800s, when it was both a farm and a vacation home for one of the country’s wealthiest families. The name “Batsto” likely comes from the Swedish word *bastu*, meaning “bathing place” or “sauna.” Batsto and the surrounding forest are part of *Lenapehoking*—the home of New Jersey’s original, Indigenous inhabitants, the Lenape.

The village that remains today was founded by Charles Read in 1766. Abundant natural resources made the area near the Batsto River an ideal location for iron production, allowing the village to grow and thrive. During the Revolutionary War, Batsto Iron Works was an important supplier of cannons, cannonballs and camp kettles to the Continental Army.

William Richards bought Batsto Iron Works in 1784. His descendants, including his son Jesse and grandson Thomas, continued to own and manage Batsto for the next 92 years. After the collapse of New Jersey’s iron industry in the 1840s, Batsto transitioned to glass manufacturing. Despite initial success, the glass factory closed in 1867 and Batsto fell into a period of steep decline.

In 1876, wealthy industrialist Joseph Wharton purchased the Batsto Mansion and the surrounding village. Over time, Wharton would come to own 96,000 acres in South Jersey. Batsto became his family’s vacation home and the area surrounding the village was turned into farmland. No longer producing iron or glass, Batsto was given a second life as a small farming and milling community.

The State of New Jersey acquired the 96,000-acre property between 1954 and 1955. Today, those lands make up the core of Wharton State Forest, the largest state forest in New Jersey. Batsto Village is listed on the New Jersey and National Register of Historic Places. Batsto and Wharton State Forest are also part of the Pinelands National Reserve, where the unique natural and cultural resources of the Pine Barrens are preserved and protected for all to enjoy.

17 **Hydraulic Ram**

This underground device pumped water from the stream near the gristmill to the water tanks in the mansion and piggery. It was powered by the flow of water from Batsto Lake and did not require electricity to operate.

18 **Carp Pond**

Joseph Wharton once kept fish, called carp, in this pond. Carp ponds were popular among wealthy Americans in the late 1800s.

19 **General Store**

Goods, including groceries, clothing, hardware and toys, were sold here. Until a successful strike in 1867, villagers were paid in scrip, which could only be spent at this store.

20 **Post Office**

The post office was established here in 1852, with Jesse Richards serving as Batsto’s first Postmaster. Mail is still hand-cancelled here today.

21 **Site of the Iron Furnace**

Though nothing remains today, this was once the site of the iron furnace. Here, iron bars called “pigs” were made from bog ore. At the height of its production, the iron furnace employed sixty workers and produced eight hundred tons of pig iron per year.

22 **Charcoal Kiln and Ore Pile**

Kilns like this one produced the charcoal that fueled the iron furnace. Very high temperatures inside the furnace helped refine the raw bog ore you see in front of you into bars of iron.



Photo: Batsto Mansion as it looks today; open for guided tours.

This brochure will lead you along a scenic trail through the historic village. Along the way, interpretive panels help tell Batsto’s story and share glimpses into New Jersey’s past.

## Historic Structures and Notable Sites

1 **Visitor Center**

Information, museum, gift shop and restrooms.  
*Open daily, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

2 **Picnic Area and Restrooms**

*Open daily, dawn to dusk.*

3 **Ore Boat**

This boat moved iron ore to the Batsto Furnace in the early 1800s. It was pulled from the bottom of Batsto Lake in 1957.

4 **Batsto Mansion**

William Richards built this house’s oldest section after becoming Batsto’s owner in 1784. His son, Jesse, expanded the home in the 1820s and 1830s. Today, the mansion shows the changes made by Joseph Wharton. He vacationed here with his wife and daughters after purchasing Batsto in 1876. A large team of servants also lived in the house whenever the Whartons were here. When the family was elsewhere, caretakers maintained the home. The house is an example of the Italianate style, which was popular at the time with wealthy Americans. *Open for guided tours; tickets available in the Visitor Center.*

5 **Ice and Milk Houses**

Ice cut from Batsto Lake was stored here year-round, stacked underground and covered with sawdust. Dairy products were stored in the cool area next-door.

6 **Wood Shed**

This building stored wood for the mansion’s stoves.

7 **Carriage House**

This was where horse-drawn vehicles were stored.

8 **Horse Stable**

Both riding horses and carriage horses were kept in the ten stalls inside. Produce was also stored here.

9 **Threshing Barn**

This barn contained a threshing machine which separated grain from straw and chaff.

23 **Sawmill**

Built in 1882 on the foundations of an older structure, this sawmill uses five blades to cut wood. It is powered by a large water turbine underneath the building. The wood cut in the sawmill was used to construct and repair buildings throughout Batsto.

24 **Nature Center**

The Annie M. Carter Interpretive Center houses displays of Pine Barrens flora and fauna.

25 **Site of the Glassworks**

The seven buildings of the Batsto Glassworks once stood on this spot. The glassworks produced panes for windows and streetlights from 1846 to 1867. A series of fires in the 1860s destroyed the buildings and ended glass production in the village.

26 – 42 **Village Houses**

Workers employed at Batsto lived in these houses. They were built in the early 1800s. Before a major fire in 1874, there were approximately eighty houses in this small neighborhood. Some of the remaining houses are preserved and open to visitors during the day.

43 **Batsto-Pleasant Mills Church**

This church was built for use by Batsto villagers in 1808. Several Richards family members, including Jesse, are buried in the adjacent cemetery. It is now privately owned.

**Restrooms** - *Open daily, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

Please take only pictures, be aware of changing trail conditions and report any trail issues to the park.

**WHARTON STATE FOREST**  
**Batsto Village**  
31 Batsto Road  
Hammonton, NJ 08037  
609-561-0024  
Emergency Numbers 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911

State of New Jersey  
Department of Environmental Protection  
State Park Service  
State Historic Site

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10 **Piggery**

Hogs were slaughtered and processed here. Meat, fat and other animal products from the piggery were sold in Batsto’s general store and elsewhere in the Pine Barrens.

11 **Range Barn and Pit Silo**

Beef and diary cattle were kept in this barn before being sold to other farmers in the area. Joseph Wharton built the underground pit silo to store silage, or animal feed.

12 **Stone Horse Barn**

Made from Jersey ironstone in 1830, this barn housed horses. There are four stalls with room for hay storage above.

13 **Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shop**

The blacksmith shod horses and mules. They also repaired farming tools and hardware for the home. The wheelwright made and repaired wheels. Together, the blacksmith and wheelwright repaired horse-drawn vehicles.

14 **Mule Barn**

Made from Jersey ironstone in 1828, this barn housed mules. There are eight stalls, with room for hay storage above.

15 **Corn Crib**

Corn was dried, stored and shelled here. The sheller, located on the second floor, was powered by a belt connected to the gristmill’s water turbine.

16 **Gristmill**

The gristmill, built in 1828, processed wheat, corn and other grains. It was originally powered by a wooden waterwheel. Joseph Wharton installed a more efficient turbine in 1882. Wharton also used the gristmill to help process sugar beet pulp into animal feed.

Photo: Bells inside Batsto Mansion, used by the Wharton family to summon the servant staff.

## WHARTON STATE FOREST

# BATSTO VILLAGE

STATE HISTORIC SITE

## INTERPRETIVE TRAIL GUIDE