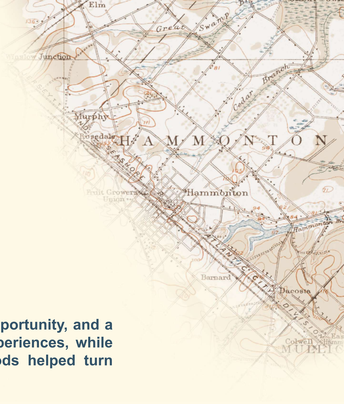
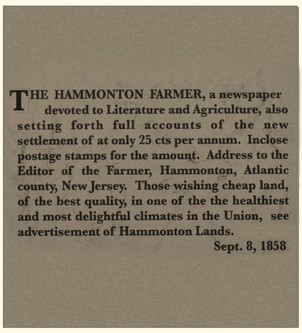


Immigration and Community

For generations, people have come to Hammonton seeking work, land, opportunity, and a place to build a life. Each new group brought its own traditions and experiences, while farms, factories, businesses, churches, organizations, and neighborhoods helped turn newcomers into neighbors and Hammonton into the community it is today.



Evans Woolen Mill postcard.



THE HAMMONTON FARMER, a newspaper devoted to Literature and Agriculture, also setting forth full accounts of the new settlement of at only 25 cts per annum. Inclose postage stamps for the amount. Address to the Editor of the Farmer, Hammonton, Atlantic county, New Jersey. Those wishing cheap land, of the best quality, in one of the the healthiest and most delightful climates in the Union, see advertisement of Hammonton Lands.

Sept. 8, 1858

Raftsman's Journal, Clearfield, Pennsylvania, 1858. Reproduction transcribed from the original by the Historical Society of Hammonton.



Columbus Day celebration, 1912.



The Puerto Rican Civic Association building, The Library of Congress.



Flags along Bellevue Avenue, Hammonton, NJ.

Early Settlement | Before 1850

In the early 1800s, scattered farms and homesteads were joined by mills and small industries near what is now Hammonton Lake. The Coffin family and other early residents helped bring workers and families to the area, adding to its small but growing population.

Hammonton Lake – Where Industry Took Root

Before Hammonton became a town, its natural resources were drawing people to the area. In 1812, William Coffin dammed a spring-fed stream through Long Meadow, creating a mill pond to power his sawmill. This would eventually become Hammonton Lake. The availability of water power, timber, and land encouraged other mills, small industries, farming, and homes to develop nearby, creating an early settlement around the lake. The Evans Woolen Mill, shown here in a later photograph, was part of the industrial activity that continued around this early center.

A New Town Draws Newcomers | 1850–1880

The railroad and organized development of Hammonton brought a new wave of settlers, many from New England, New York, and elsewhere in the Northeast. Promoters emphasized inexpensive land, transportation, farming, and economic opportunity as reasons to make Hammonton home.

1850s–1860s - Families from New England, New York, Philadelphia, and beyond arrive

Promoting Hammonton, 1858

This advertisement for the *Hammonton Farmer* appeared in Pennsylvania's *Raftsman's Journal*, offering subscriptions for 25 cents a year while promoting "cheap land, of the best quality" in Hammonton. Advertisements like this reached prospective settlers beyond New Jersey, promoting the area's affordable land, healthy climate, and opportunities for a new life.

1870s - The first Italian immigrants begin settling in Hammonton

Italian Immigration & Community | 1880–1940

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, immigrants from Italy, particularly Sicily and southern Italy, became an important part of Hammonton's growth. Farms and factories provided work, while families established homes, businesses, churches, mutual aid societies, and organizations that preserved traditions while becoming part of Hammonton's identity.

1875 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society founded

1880s–early 1900s - Italian immigration grows

1907 - The Italian on the Land: A Study in Immigration published by the Bureau of Labor

Columbus Day on Pine Road, 1912

Italian immigrants celebrate Columbus Day along Pine Road on October 12, 1912. For many Italian Americans, the celebration was an opportunity to honor their Italian heritage while also expressing pride in their new home in the United States. The leader's sash, pennants, and medals featured the red, white, and green colors of Italy.

1935 – The Sons of Italy Giuseppe Garibaldi Lodge #1658 founded

Puerto Rican Migration & New Roots | 1940–1980

Beginning during and after World War II, Puerto Rican workers increasingly came to South Jersey for agricultural employment. Some remained in Hammonton, brought their families, and established permanent roots, while employment gradually expanded from farm work into factories and other occupations.

Puerto Rican Civic Association, Founded 1959

The Puerto Rican Civic Association became an important gathering place and source of support for Hammonton's growing Puerto Rican community. The organization helped preserve cultural traditions, assisted families in need, supported educational opportunities, and helped new residents build connections and establish roots in Hammonton.

1940s–50s Puerto Rican agricultural workforce grows

1959 - Puerto Rican Civic Association established

Families and community institutions become increasingly established

A Growing & Changing Community | 1980–Today

Later decades brought new residents from Mexico, other parts of South America, Haiti, and elsewhere. Like earlier generations, many came initially for work and later established families, businesses, churches, organizations, and traditions that continue to shape Hammonton.

Mexican and other Latin American migration increases

Businesses and community institutions expand

2020 - Hispanic/Latino residents comprise approximately 24.7% of Hammonton's population

Flags Along Bellevue Avenue

Flags representing the homelands of Hammonton's growing Latino community join the American flag along Bellevue Avenue. Beginning in the late twentieth century, immigrants from Mexico and other South American countries established new roots in Hammonton, opening businesses, raising families, sharing cultural traditions, and becoming an important part of the community.

Immigration and migration continue today

Making Hammonton Home

Newcomers arrived. Families stayed.
Communities grew. Hammonton becomes home.

This project is supported by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities with funding from the state of New Jersey and the National Endowment for the Humanities.