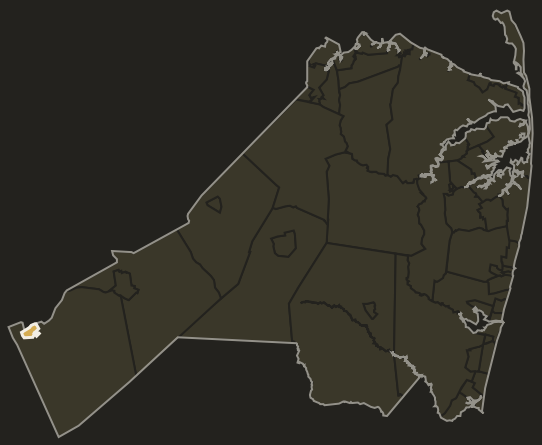
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AN IN DEPTH TOWN GUIDE

Living in Allentown, NJ

A short history, the sections of town, homes and taxes, where to shop and eat, things to do, and a moving checklist for your new home.



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INSIDE THIS GUIDE

Living in Allentown

1	At a glance	The basics
2	A short history	How the town came to be
3	Sections of town	A village built around a mill
4	Homes and taxes	What you will find and what it costs to own
5	Groceries, dining and shopping	Where locals shop and eat
6	Getting around	Roads and commuting
7	Things to do	Parks, places and local events
8	Moving checklist	Setting up your new home
9	Questions people ask	Short, direct answers
10	Worksheets	To fill in on your visits

This guide goes deeper than our website: the history, the sections of town, a moving checklist and worksheets for your visits. Keep it, mark it up, and call either of us with questions.

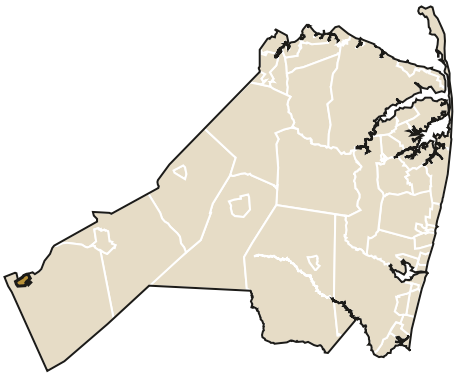
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1

AT A GLANCE

Allentown at a glance

County	Monmouth
Population	About 1,700 (2020 census)
Size	About two thirds of a square mile
Setting	Small historic village with a walkable Main Street, a mill pond and parks
Main roads	County roads 524, 526 and 539, with Interstate 195 Exits 7 and 8 just outside town



Allentown in gold, in Monmouth County

Allentown, New Jersey, not Pennsylvania

When most people hear Allentown, they think of the city in Pennsylvania. Our Allentown is a small borough in Monmouth County, New Jersey, with the ZIP code 08501.

There is a second wrinkle. The Allentown post office also serves parts of the surrounding Upper Freehold Township, so a home with an Allentown address may actually be in Upper Freehold. The borough itself covers only about two thirds of a square mile, and we always confirm which town a property is in before we price it.

2

A SHORT HISTORY

The story of Allentown

This was Lenape land before European settlement. In 1706 Nathan Allen, son in law of the early settler Robert Burnet, built a grist mill on the creek here, and the village that grew around it became known as Allen's Town. For generations it was the mill village for the surrounding farms of Upper Freehold, with its houses, shops and churches clustered along Main Street.

The mill that stands today was built in 1855 on the site of Allen's original. Allentown was incorporated as a borough in 1889, from part of Upper Freehold Township, which still surrounds it on most sides. Much of the village survives from the 1700s and 1800s, and in 1982 the Allentown Historic District, with more than 200 historic buildings, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

KEY DATES

Timeline

1706	Nathan Allen builds the first grist mill on the site, and the settlement becomes known as Allen's Town.
1855	The present Allentown Mill is built, replacing the earlier mill on the same site.
1889	Allentown is incorporated as a borough from part of Upper Freehold Township.
1982	The Allentown Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

3

SECTIONS OF TOWN

A village built around a mill

Main Street and the mill. The heart of the village, where Main Street runs past the old mill and the mill pond. Homes and shops from the 1700s and 1800s line the street, nearly all within the historic district.

Church Street and the historic side streets. The older residential streets just off Main Street, with closely set historic houses, many of them restored, within an easy walk of the village center.

Lakeview Drive and the newer streets. Residential streets near the water and Dr. Farmer's Park, with newer single family homes than the historic center.

Borough edges. The outer streets where County Routes 524, 526 and 539 lead out to Upper Freehold farm country and to Robbinsville. Many nearby homes share the Allentown address but are in Upper Freehold, so confirm the town.

> Allentown began around a grist mill that Nathan Allen built on Doctors Creek in the early 1700s, and the settlement that grew up around it was known as Allen's Town. It was incorporated as a borough in 1889.

Today the Allentown Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, takes in more than 200 historic buildings and most of what you see driving through town. Main Street runs past the mill, the mill pond and the old churches, and the borough is bordered by Upper Freehold Township and by Robbinsville in Mercer County.

4

HOMES AND TAXES

What you will find

Historic homes: Houses from the 1700s and 1800s along Main Street and the streets around it, in styles from Georgian to Greek Revival.

Village homes: Smaller homes on walkable streets close to the mill pond and the parks.

Worth knowing: Because so much of Allentown is a historic district, exterior changes to a home can need a certificate of appropriateness from the borough's Historic Preservation Commission. Buyers planning new windows, siding or an addition should know that going in. Unlike much of the farm country around it, the borough runs its own water and wastewater treatment plants.

Property taxes

2.360%

2025 effective tax rate, as a share of market value

$10,412

2025 average residential tax bill

A home worth $450,000 on today's market would pay roughly $10,620 a year at Allentown's 2025 effective rate. Your actual bill depends on your assessment, so we pull the real tax record for any home you are considering.

5

GROCERIES, DINING AND SHOPPING

Where Allentown shops and eats

Allentown has a small historic village center on Main Street but no supermarket, so the weekly grocery run means a drive west into Hamilton.

Grocery stores

WEST	**ShopRite** 130 Marketplace Boulevard, Hamilton Township
WEST	**Acme** 4400 South Broad Street, Hamilton Township
NORTHWEST	**Acme** 953 Route 33, Hamilton Township

Checked October 2026. Stores open, close and move, so call ahead before a first trip.

Dining

Main Street and Church Street. The village center, with a few restaurants and cafes among antique and specialty shops, all within the historic district.

Downtown Bordentown. Southwest along Farnsworth Avenue, a walkable downtown with many more restaurants.

Route 130 and Route 33 in Robbinsville and Hamilton. A short drive west, with chain restaurants and everyday shopping.

Shopping

Larger stores are a short drive west in Robbinsville and Hamilton, along Route 130 and Route 33.

6

GETTING AROUND

Roads and commuting

County roads 524, 526 and 539 all pass through the borough. Interstate 195 is just outside town, with Exit 7 at County Route 526 in Robbinsville and Exit 8 at County Route 539 on the Upper Freehold and Robbinsville line. From there it is a short drive west to the New Jersey Turnpike and Trenton, or east toward the shore. Everyday shopping is in the village center and nearby in Robbinsville and Hamilton.

7

THINGS TO DO

Things to do in and around Allentown

Allentown Historic District. Most of the borough, with more than 200 historic buildings on the State and National Registers. A walk along Main Street and Church Street takes in homes dating to the 1700s.

Allentown Mill and the mill pond. The 1855 grist mill at 42 South Main Street, individually listed on the National Register, stands beside the pond at the center of the village.

Pete Sensi Park. A borough park on South Main Street along the mill pond, across from the mill, with a boat dock and benches.

Heritage Park. A borough park near the shopping district with a paved walking path, wooded trails and a footbridge.

Dr. Farmer's Park. A borough park off Lakeview Drive with a gazebo, a small boat launch and basketball and pickleball courts.

Crosswicks Creek Park and Historic Walnford. A short drive away in Upper Freehold, a large Monmouth County park along Crosswicks Creek with trails, paddling and fishing, and the restored Walnford mill village with milling demonstrations on spring through fall weekends.

Horse Park of New Jersey. A state owned equestrian park just outside the borough, with an Allentown mailing address, that hosts horse shows through the year.

8

MOVING CHECKLIST

Setting up your home in Allentown

Tick each one off as you go. Most of these take one phone call or a few minutes online.

- [ ] **Borough hall.** Allentown Borough Hall, 8 North Main Street, Allentown, NJ 08501 (mail to P.O. Box 487).https://allentownboronj.com

- [ ] **Property taxes.** Tax office phone 609-259-3151. The tax collector is reached through Borough Hall at 8 North Main Street. New Jersey property taxes are paid quarterly, due February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1, with a 10 day grace period before interest is charged back to the due date. Not receiving a bill does not change the due date, so new owners should confirm with the tax office where bills will be sent.

- [ ] **Water and sewer.** Confirm with Borough Hall. 609-259-3151. We could not confirm online who provides water and sewer service in the borough. Ask the seller for a recent water and sewer bill, and call Borough Hall to arrange a final reading and transfer the account. Homes just outside the borough in Upper Freehold are more likely to have a private well and septic system.

- [ ] **Electric.** Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L), a FirstEnergy company. Outage line 1-888-544-4877.

- [ ] **Gas.** New Jersey Natural Gas (confirm service at the address). 1-800-221-0051 (customer service); 1-800-427-5325 (gas leaks, 24 hours).

- [ ] **Trash and recycling.** We could not confirm online how trash and recycling are collected in Allentown. Call Borough Hall at 609-259-3151 for pickup days and rules.

- [ ] **Driver's license and voting.** New Jersey law (N.J.S.A. 39:3-36) requires drivers to report a new address to the Motor Vehicle Commission within one week, and the MVC prefers that you do it online. To register to vote or update your address, use the state's online voter registration or send a paper form to the Monmouth County Commissioner of Registration or Superintendent of Elections. Registration closes 21 days before an election. The Monmouth County Clerk handles vote by mail ballots.

- [ ] **Flood zone.** Most of Allentown sits above the creek and its mill pond, and flood zones are mostly limited to land along the water. Look up any address on the FEMA Flood Map Service Center at msc.fema.gov. New Jersey sellers must disclose a home's flood zone and flood history.

- [ ] **Library.** Monmouth County Library, Allentown Branch, 16 South Main Street, Allentown, NJ 08501.

Checked October 2026. Phone numbers and schedules change, so confirm with each office.

WHEN YOU SELL

The certificate every sale needs

New Jersey requires a Certificate of Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Compliance before a one or two family home is sold (N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.3), issued by the local fire official after an inspection. Since February 3, 2025 (P.L. 2025, c.19), a portable fire extinguisher is no longer part of this certificate for one and two family homes. We could not confirm from an official borough source whether Allentown requires its own resale certificate of occupancy or resale inspection. Construction inspections for Allentown appear to be handled through Upper Freehold Township's construction office (609-758-7738), which runs Upper Freehold's own resale inspection, so confirm with Borough Hall and that office before listing. Because most of the borough is a historic district, also ask whether exterior changes need historic review.

9

QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

Questions people ask us about Allentown

Is Allentown, NJ the same as Allentown, PA?

No. Allentown, New Jersey is a small borough in western Monmouth County with the ZIP code 08501. Allentown, Pennsylvania is a separate and much larger city in the Lehigh Valley.

Is Allentown part of Upper Freehold?

No. Allentown is its own borough, separated from Upper Freehold Township in 1889. It borders Upper Freehold and Robbinsville Township. Parts of Upper Freehold share the Allentown mailing address and ZIP code, so it is worth checking which municipality a home is in.

Is Allentown, NJ a historic district?

Yes. The Allentown Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and covers most of the borough. The Allentown Mill is also individually listed.

How do you get to Allentown, NJ?

County roads 524, 526 and 539 run through the borough. Interstate 195 is just outside town at Exits 7 and 8, and the New Jersey Turnpike is a short drive west.

Where is the closest grocery store to Allentown?

There is no supermarket in Allentown itself. The closest is a ShopRite on Marketplace Boulevard in Hamilton Township, a short drive west. There are also Acme stores on South Broad Street near Yardville and on Route 33, both in Hamilton.

10

TO FILL IN ON YOUR VISITS

Touring the sections of town

Drive or walk each part of town at different times of day. Note the streets you liked, the traffic, the water and anything to ask us about.

Main Street and the mill	
Church Street and the historic side streets	
Lakeview Drive and the newer streets	
Borough edges	

Is Allentown right for you?

HOW WELL DOES THE TOWN FIT?	GREAT FIT	OKAY	NOT A FIT
Getting to work and family	☐	☐	☐
Groceries and everyday errands	☐	☐	☐
Restaurants and things to do	☐	☐	☐
Parks and time outdoors	☐	☐	☐
Being on or near the water	☐	☐	☐
Flood zone and insurance	☐	☐	☐
Property taxes	☐	☐	☐
The kinds of homes available	☐	☐	☐
Traffic and summer crowds	☐	☐	☐
How it feels on the streets you saw	☐	☐	☐

Streets or homes to look at again

Questions to ask us

TALK IT THROUGH

Call or text either of us

Thinking about moving to Allentown, or selling a home there? Call or text either of us. We will tell you what we know about the town, honestly, and help you plan the next step.



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More guides and our town guides at **franasilk.com**

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Equal Housing Opportunity