

1. **Baird Community Center**

The South Orange Field Club began in 1889 as a private organization that met in Edwin Mead's barn until it burned down in 1896. A clubhouse was built on the spot with clubrooms, pool tables, bowling alleys, a craft shop and 3 kitchens. By 1930, the club evolved into a community center and was renamed the Baird Center, the recreation hub of South Orange. Currently under renovation.

2. Skate House-The man-made Meadowland Park Lake, now known as the Duck Pond, was once stocked with fish. Residents used the Skate House used to warm up by the fire after skating. It was renovated in 2017.

3. Cameron Field- Cameron Field and its 9-hole golf course was the property of the South Orange Field Club until the mid-1920s. Baseball clubs often brought professional players out to play local teams in exhibition games. In Oct., 1929, 12,000 spectators came to watch Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig play for \$1 per ticket.

4. Post Office- Opened in 1937; the current Post Office received the mural depicting recreational pursuits popular in S. Orange by Bernard Perlin in 1939, who won 2nd place in an art competition by the US Dept. of Treasury.

5. The Connett Library- Eugene Connett donated land at the corner of Scotland Rd. and Taylor Pl. for a new library on the condition that subscribers raise \$7,500 to build it. 500 families donated funds and the Village's 2nd library opened on May 8, 1896. In 1968, the current library was opened next door.

6. Old Village Hall- The original Village Hall served as the town offices, the Police and Fire Departments from 1895 - 2017. The tower was used to hang fire hoses to dry and had a bell. It was listed on the NJ Register of Historic Places

in 1975, national landmark status in 1976. Legend has it that the clock on Village Hall was the inspiration for the Nancy Drew Mystery, "The Secret of the Old Clock." It is under renovation to become a restaurant.

7. The Old Stone House- Dutch settlers built this farmhouse between 1666 and 1680. Renovations in 1877 and 1896 transformed it from farmhouse to a Queen Anne, shingle-style mansion.

8. Memorial Flagpole- Located on an island at the intersection of South Orange & Irvington Avenues, the flagpole is cast in bronze and mounted on granite. The base is inscribed with the names of 6 South Orange residents who died in WWI and was constructed c. 1924.

9. Founders Park- The Village Cemetery was located on this site from 1828 to 1926. When it fell into disrepair, it was turned into a park with a ten foot monument that lists the names of villagers, citizens, and veterans who were originally buried in the cemetery.

10. The Fire House- Built c. 1926, the Fire House was listed on the NJ State and National Historic Registers in 1998. A renovation was completed in 2012.

11. Train Station- The Morris & Essex Railroad began serving South Orange in 1837 with a station at ground level. The tracks were elevated and the current Train Station was completed in 1915. It was listed on the NJ State and National Historic Registers in 1984.

Map created by:



SOMA on the Move

Route #3 South Orange Historic Walking Tour

Total length: 2.4 miles
Degree of Difficulty: easy – relatively flat with a few hills benches along the route.

SOMA on the Move is a series of mapped walking routes to encourage people to get out, get exercise and take a look around our beautiful towns. This route highlights historic buildings in South Orange Village.

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