

Assistance from the Commission

The Commission, whose members have knowledge of architecture, construction, history, and decoration, can assist in the selection of materials, styles, and colors that will enhance the value of homes or businesses. Discussion of plans is invited at any meeting of the Commission.

Further Questions

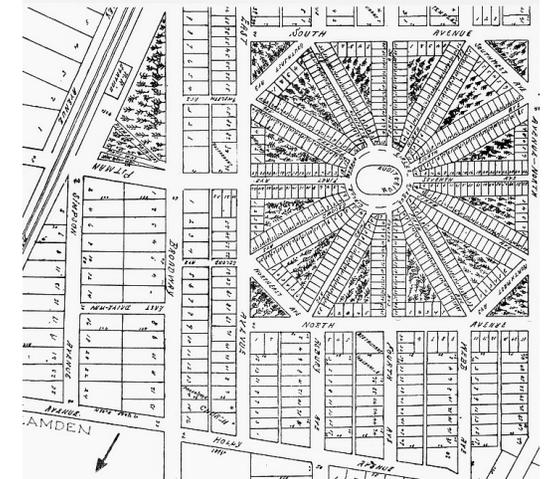
Questions should be directed to the Building Inspectors Office who may be reached at Borough Hall or by calling 856-589-2433. The office will then refer you to a member of the Historic Preservation Commission.



**Pitman Historic
Preservation Commission**

Pitman Historic District

A Guide for Property Owners



Pitman Historic Preservation Commission
110 South Broadway
Pitman, NJ 08071
www.pitman.org/historic-commission.html



The History of Pitman Grove

Pitman Grove Camp Meeting was established in **June of 1871** by a group of ministers from the New Jersey Conference of the Methodist Church seeking a location for a summer camp meeting. The site selected was described as convenient and desirable and met the group's needs for a rural country resort.

The 70 acres were free from rocks and gullies. The timber, chiefly oak and chestnut, was young and afforded good shade. The adopted site plan consisted of a center circle where preaching was to be conducted, with 12 avenues extending like spokes from a hub. An octagonal street formed the outer rim of the wheel.

On **August 1, 1871**, the first camp meeting convened, with about 600 tents erected along the avenues. **In 1873**, the Camp Meeting built the first houses, and **by 1880**, the tents had been replaced by nearly 300 small houses. The cottages, as they were called, were characterized by a distinctive architectural style with latticework and a second floor front room that overhung a front porch. Over time, graveled walkways replaced dirt paths, and a large store, four restaurants, a barber shop, and an ice cream parlor supported the needs of residents.

By 1900, Pitman was beginning to grow beyond the bounds of the Grove, and a permanent population was becoming established. **In 1905**, it was incorporated as a borough.

On **July 20, 1976**, Pitman Grove was entered into the New Jersey State Register of Historic Places, and on **August 19, 1977**, it was entered into the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic District Ordinance

The ordinance affects those who:

- Own property that lies within the Historic District, the boundaries of which are shown on the map in this brochure.
- Wish to make changes to their property. Such alterations include demolition and new construction, as well as changes in architectural features of existing structures, including design, colors, materials, walls, roofs, windows, doors, lighting fixtures, fences, porch latticework, spindles, railings, shutters, and any other man-made elements.

Historic Preservation Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission is a seven-member commission appointed by the Mayor of Pitman. It is responsible for reviewing requests for changes in the Historic District, both new construction and changes to existing structures. It makes recommendations to the Planning Board, which then decides if a Certificate of Appropriateness should be issued. The commission meets in Borough Hall (Municipal Building) at 7:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month.

Certificate of Appropriateness

This document is issued by the Planning Board after review of the Historic Commission's recommendations about changes to properties in the Historic District. **No exterior changes are permitted without this certificate.**

An application for the certificate, with full instructions attached, may be obtained at no charge from the Building Inspector's Office in Borough Hall at least 7 days prior to the Historic Commission Meeting.

If, after review of the plans, the Commission agrees with the proposed alterations, it may take 1 of 2 possible actions:

- Recommend that the Planning Board issue a Certificate of Appropriateness at its next meeting, held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in Borough Hall (Municipal Building). It is important to note that the recommendations of the Historic Commission are not binding; the Planning Board will make the final determination, based on its judgement of the merits of the proposal.
- Recommend the alterations and allow the work to begin immediately upon obtaining a building permit, if one is required. This will occur only in the case of emergency repairs, or if the Commission determines the alterations to be minor in nature.

Authority of Commission

The Commission is authorized to operate under the Municipal Land Use Law of the State of New Jersey (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-21) as amended. This law gives municipalities the right to enact historic district ordinances, as Pitman did in 1986.

This brochure has been prepared to inform residents of Pitman of the provisions of a local ordinance, passed in 1986, designed to preserve and protect the character of the historic areas of Pitman. It is intended to provide useful guidance to property owners in the Historic District and to encourage appreciation of the borough's historic properties.