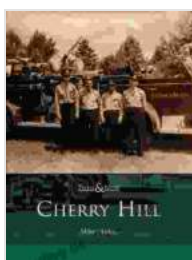


# Cherry Hill Then and Now: A Journey Through Time

Nestled in the heart of South Jersey, Cherry Hill Township has undergone a remarkable transformation over the centuries. From its humble beginnings as a farming community in the 17th century to its current status as a thriving suburban hub, Cherry Hill has witnessed a rich tapestry of change and growth.

In this article, we will journey through time to explore the evolution of Cherry Hill, uncovering its hidden stories and highlighting the key landmarks that have shaped its identity. We will delve into the township's agricultural roots, its industrial development, its suburban expansion, and its modern-day renaissance. Along the way, we will meet the people who have played a pivotal role in Cherry Hill's transformation, and we will marvel at the enduring spirit of community that has sustained it throughout the years.



## Cherry Hill (Then and Now) by Mike Mathis

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 31270 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 96 pages



## The Early Years: A Farming Community

The history of Cherry Hill dates back to the early 1700s, when the area was inhabited by the Lenni Lenape Native Americans. The first European settlers arrived in the region in the mid-18th century, and they established small farms along the fertile banks of the Delaware River. These early settlers grew a variety of crops, including wheat, corn, and tobacco.

One of the most prominent early settlers in Cherry Hill was John Ladd, who purchased a large tract of land in 1760. Ladd's farm became a focal point for the community, and it was here that the first schoolhouse and church were built. In the decades that followed, Cherry Hill grew steadily as more and more settlers arrived in the area. By the early 19th century, the township was home to a thriving agricultural community.



## **The Industrial Era: Growth and Development**

The arrival of the railroad in Cherry Hill in the mid-19th century marked a turning point in the township's history. The railroad provided a vital link to Philadelphia and other major cities, and it helped to spur the growth of industry in Cherry Hill. By the late 19th century, the township was home to a number of factories and mills, including the Hires Root Beer Company and the Campbell Soup Company.

The industrial era also saw the development of Cherry Hill's downtown area. The construction of the Cherry Hill Inn in 1873 marked the beginning of the township's transformation into a popular destination for tourists and day-trippers. In the early 20th century, Cherry Hill's downtown area became home to a variety of shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues.



A factory in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, circa 1900.

## **The Suburban Boom: A New Era Begins**

After World War II, Cherry Hill underwent a period of rapid suburban growth. The construction of the New Jersey Turnpike in the 1950s made Cherry Hill more accessible than ever before, and thousands of families flocked to the township in search of affordable housing and a suburban lifestyle. This period of growth saw the development of numerous new neighborhoods, schools, and shopping centers.

One of the most significant events in Cherry Hill's history was the opening of the Cherry Hill Mall in 1961. The mall was one of the first enclosed shopping malls in the United States, and it quickly became a popular destination for shoppers from all over the region. The mall's success helped to cement Cherry Hill's status as a major suburban hub.



### **Modern-Day Cherry Hill: A Thriving Community**

In recent decades, Cherry Hill has continued to grow and prosper. The township is now home to a diverse population of over 70,000 people. Cherry Hill is also a major center for business and commerce, with a strong economy and a skilled workforce.

Today, Cherry Hill is a vibrant community with a rich history and a bright future. The township is home to a variety of cultural attractions, including

the Cherry Hill Public Library, the Perkins Center for the Arts, and the Croft Farm Arts Center. Cherry Hill is also home to a number of parks and recreation areas, including the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve and the Croft Farm Park.

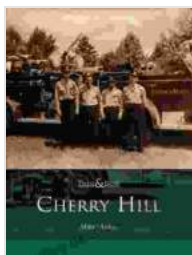


The Cherry Hill skyline, New Jersey, circa 2020.

The transformation of Cherry Hill from a humble farming community to a thriving suburban hub is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of its people. Over the centuries, Cherry Hill has faced challenges and overcome adversity, and it has emerged as a stronger and more vibrant community with each passing generation.

Today, Cherry Hill is a place where people from all walks of life can find a sense of belonging. It is a community that is rich in history, culture, and

opportunity. And it is a community that is poised for continued growth and prosperity in the years to come.



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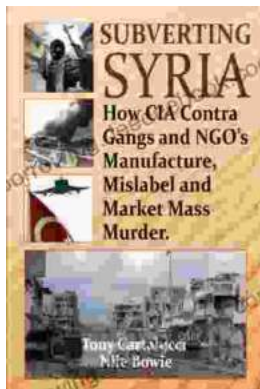
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