

Resources:

The Matawan Journal
Red Bank Register
The Independent
Matawan Sewer and Tax Maps
Beers Atlas 1873
Wolverton Atlas 1889

Information

For more information consider the Internet, the library, or the Matawan Historical Society located in the Burrowes Mansion at 94 Main Street, Matawan NJ. Or mail them at

Matawan Historical Society
P.O. Box 41
Matawan, NJ 07747

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Directions:

*From Matawan Station:
Straight down Main Street past
downtown business district. Right
before First Baptist Church.*

*From Route 34:
Left at Main Street Light.
Continue past Starbucks plaza.
Stop at First Baptist on the Left.*

Big Blue



The David Gray Ryer House

A Matawan, New Jersey Landmark

By: Ezra Stone

historicmatawan.weebly.com

**This is private
property. No
Trespassing.**

226 Main Street
Matawan, NJ 07747

Facts:

- Built: 1873
- Has always been blue.
- Current Lot Size: 76x267 sqft.
- Block: 29 Lot: 30



(1889 Wolverton Atlas)

The Exterior

Bright blue clapboard siding surrounds the house. The façade is quite ornate with its delicate white trim, covered porch, third floor balcony, and lovely slate mansard roof.

The Interior

A marble mantle decorates the fireplace in the front parlor. A skinny staircase with a wooden handrail leads to the red wall hallway of the second floor which houses the bedrooms. The third floor houses the attic which is painted completely yellow.

History:

David Gray Ryer

Born in 1835 to Thomas Ryer and Mary Ryer (nee Gray) on the family farm once owned by Phillip Freneau. He grew up to be a merchant in New York.

In 1873 he built the blue house on land once owned by Edward Black. Later he became Mayor of Matawan for one term from 1892 to 1895.

On March 3, 1899 Mr. Ryer died due to heart disease. He is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery.

A Small World

Later David's brother Thomas C. Ryer built on a house on Jackson Street (188) and a later resident of that house, Peter P. Munning, moved into the blue house in 1924.



Owner List:

- 1873: David Gray Ryer
- 1899: Adelaide Ryer
- 1908: Auctioned off by Howard Ryer
- C.1924: Peter P. Munning
- C.1968: Cheesley Family
- 1980's: MICHAEL AMBROSIO
- 2000-2004: Anne V. Ambrosio

(Note: Owners after 2004 have been omitted from this list for privacy.)



Other Historic Sites Include:

- The Burrowes' Mansion
94 Main Street
- Glenwood Institute (Private Property)
10 Church Street
- The Old Hospital (Private Property)
14 Ravine Drive
- The Fountain Mansion (Private)
4 Fountain Avenue