

Wikipedia.org: South Orange

Local character



Gaslights on Vose Avenue near dusk.

The town is one of only a few in New Jersey to retain [gas light](#) street illumination (others include [Riverton](#), [Palmyra](#), [Glen Ridge](#) and some parts of [Orange](#)). The gaslight -- together with the distinctive Village Hall -- has long been the symbol of South Orange. Many of the major roads in town do have modern [mercury vapor](#) streetlights (built into gaslight frames), but most of the residential sections of the town are still gaslit. A proposal to replace all the gaslights in town with electric streetlights was explored as both a cost-saving and security measure during the 1970s. And although the changeover to electric was rejected at the time, the light output of the lamps was increased to provide more adequate lighting. Be that as it may, there have been claims that South Orange has more operating gaslights than any other community in the United States.