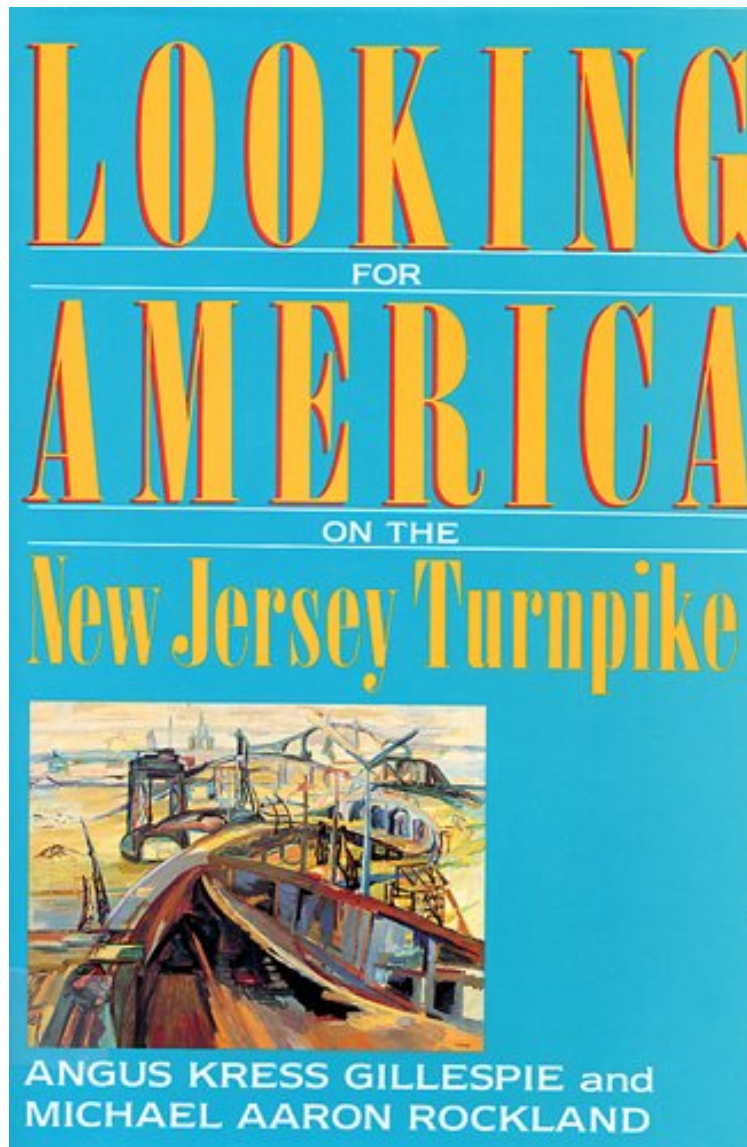


## Looking for America on the New Jersey Turnpike

*Angus Kress Gillespie, Michael Aaron Rockland*  
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#2122206 in Books Angus K Gillespie 1992-12-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .51 x 5.981, 1.05 #File Name: 0813519551240 pages Looking for America on the New Jersey Turnpike | File size: 52.Mb

**Angus Kress Gillespie, Michael Aaron Rockland : Looking for America on the New Jersey Turnpike** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Looking for America on the New Jersey Turnpike:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By ML Tross Jersey history buffs - you'll like this. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Joe Francisco It's a pretty good book; a must have for any NJophile. 15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. The definitive history on the Turnpike. By Jeffrey Jotz As

a lifelong New Jerseyan who endured the "what exit" jokes by out-of-staters (Exit 12, now that you've asked), Rockland and Gillespie try to tackle the cultural significance of the loved and loathed New Jersey Turnpike. They cite the popular reference in the Simon Garfunkel tune, "America," and stress that the Turnpike is one of the most heavily-traveled highways in the world. What they do well is describe in entertaining detail the story on how and why the Turnpike was built (note: the secretive NJ Turnpike Authority did not cooperate with the authors when they were researching this book) and the many anecdotes about the road that bring new insights into New Jersey (and American) politics and history. The authors make two main cultural arguments throughout the book: The first one is how the negative opinion of New Jersey has been shaped over the years by travel on the Turnpike. Let's face it -- the Turnpike travels through the least attractive areas of the state. From the decayed industrial north to the straight, flat and boring stretches in South Jersey, the Turnpike is not a great public relations tool for the state of New Jersey. New Jersey is not all oil refineries (exit 12 13), huge megawarehouses (exit 8A) or bland suburban sprawl (exit 9 10), but since millions of people from around the globe have traveled on this road to or from Newark Airport or along the Northeast, they think that what they see along the Turnpike is typical to the Garden State (yes, we still have gardens). Second, the authors' argue that the Turnpike was the ultimate expression of form over function -- an idea that reached its zenith in the mid-20th century. The road was built with efficiency and safety being its highest (and perhaps only) priorities and the roadbuilders did not consider aesthetics or the concerns of neighbors or private landowners when building or maintaining the road. This book is a great and worthy complement to works like Robert Caro's *The Power Broker* or other works on famous roads like Rt. 66, Highway 1, the National Road (US Rt. 40), etc. You don't have to be a New Jersey-phile to enjoy this book!

From Publishers Weekly Two American Studies professors from Rutgers University here show how the New Jersey Turnpike--that "ugly icon," America's "widest and most traveled" road--has found its way into the minds, if not the hearts, of artists and drivers alike. In poet Allen Ginsberg, singer Bruce Springsteen, commuters and roadside home owners lulled to sleep by its drone of traffic, this 12-lane asphalt monster has inspired powerful reactions, from admiration to anger. The authors consider the first asparagus patch plowed up to lay the road; the \$70,000 salary a contemporary toll-taker can earn with hefty overtime; and the not infrequent lawlessness of the highway patrol. From the gray-flannel-suit diligence that built it, to the mixture of necessity, practicality and venality that maintains it, the New Jersey Turnpike proves to be an enthralling though unlikely subject. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Gillespie and Rockland, both Rutgers University professors, have written a sensitive, highly accessible treatise on America's most important artery, the New Jersey Turnpike. Long the subject of scorn and humor, often (mistakenly) viewed by out-of-state travelers as the embodiment of New Jersey environment, the turnpike may well be America's most apt symbol, say the authors--that of industry and efficiency and functionalism gone awry. The authors trace the evolution of public opinion toward the road since the 1950s, as well as the curious inspirational effect it has had on artists from Allen Ginsberg to Bruce Springsteen, who romanticize its blasted moonscape and minimalist design. Funny, engagingly anecdotal, yet well researched and organized.- Mark Annichiarico, "Library Journal" Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. A vivid, authentic and often humorous picture of life within this otherworldly corridor . . . an original and substantial work.