

**Look Up,
Berkshires!**

**Walking Tours of 5 Towns
in the Berkshire Hills**

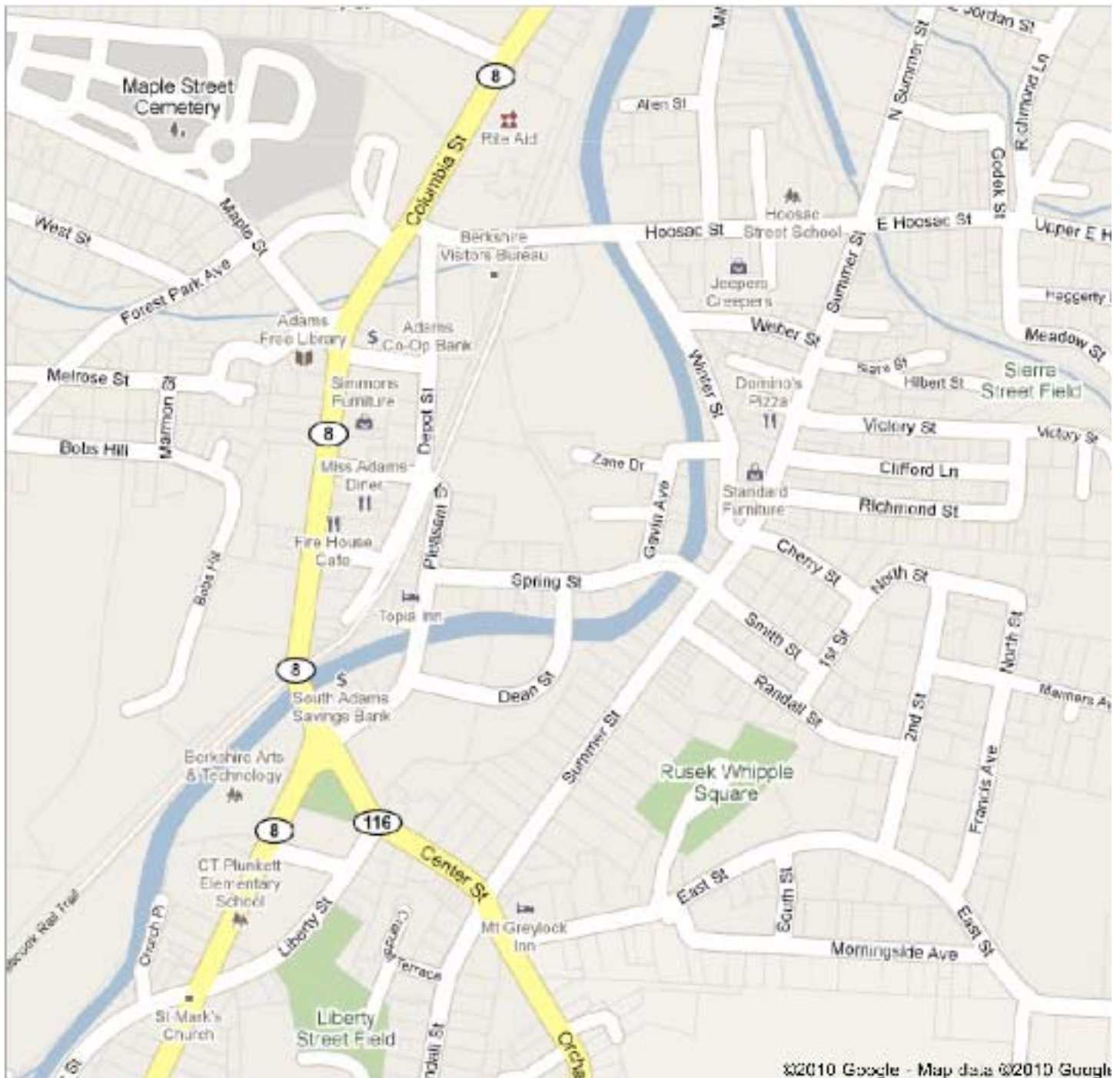
A Walking Tour of Adams, Massachusetts

from walkthetown.com

What could £2,300 buy back in 1762? For Nathan Jones, about 23 square miles of land. The pioneers who settled here struggled with the rocky soil in what was unglamorously called Township Number One. That would be changed to East Hoosac and in 1778 was renamed again to honor Revolutionary rabble-rouser Samuel Adams.

In short order the settlers of Adams tossed aside their plows and tied their fortunes to the small industries that could be powered by the tumbling waters of the Hoosic River. By the mid-1800s Adams was a humming industrial community, churning out paper and textiles and high grade marble. In 1878 the larger part of town was detached and became the smallest city in Massachusetts, North Adams.

In the 1960s, as was common in most every aging industrial town in the Northeast, urban renewal came calling. Building after building in the town's commercial center along Center Street was flattened and lost forever. The bulldozers were ready to move over to Park Street when an urban renewal proposal was defeated in town council. So that is where we will concentrate our walking tour and we'll begin at a visitor center that serves all of the Berkshires...



1. Berkshire Mill
1 Berkshire Square



Beside the parking lot is Berkshire Mill 1, the first of four constructed by brothers William B. and Charles T. Plunkett in 1889 for their Berkshire Cotton Manufacturing Company. The seeds for the enterprise were sown decades before by their father William C. Plunkett who founded one of the region's oldest and most important woolen mills, Plunkett & Wheeler. The mills would be the economic engine in Adams for 70 years until the closing of Mill Number Four, the last cotton mill in western Massachusetts, in 1958. The mill survives today as a renovated apartment building.

2. Ashuwillticook Rail Trail
3 Hoosac Street



The Pittsfield & North Adams Railroad was organized in 1845 to develop this corridor for the ambitious Housatonic Railroad that sought to come out of Connecticut all the way to Rutland, Vermont. The track went through many masters, evolving as a short haul freight line that operated until 1990. Since that time the line has morphed into an 11.2-mile recreation path that adopted the Indian word for the south branch of the Hoosic River that translates into “the pleasant river in between the hills.” The Berkshires Visitor Center is the northern terminus for the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail; the former depot still stands and houses a restaurant.

WALK SOUTH ALONG THE PAVED RAIL-TRAIL. AT THE DEPOT TURN LEFT AND CROSS OVER TO PLEASANT STREET. TURN RIGHT AND WALK UP TO CENTER STREET

**3. South Adams Savings Bank
2 Center Street**



South Adams Savings Bank took its first deposits in 1869, when it was in the southern part of Adams. In 1878 when the northern part of town became its own entity the town rejected the moniker “South Adams” but the bank carried on and has to this day as the oldest continuously operating bank in town. Its Neoclassical headquarters, with Corinthian pilasters parading around to the river side at the head of Center Street once anchored a bustling commercial district that is no more.

BEAR RIGHT ACROSS THE HOOISIC RIVER AS CENTER STREET BECOMES PARK STREET.

**4. Susan B. Anthony Memorial
west side of Park Street at Hoosic River**



Susan B. Anthony, founder of the National Women’s Suffrage League and the first real-life woman to appear on a United States coin, was born in Adams on February 15, 1820. Her father Daniel, a cotton manufacturer and Quaker abolitionist, moved the family to New York when Susan was six. The two-story house of her birthplace, constructed in 1818, was located east of town heading out of today’s Center Street and still stands and is open as a museum.

5. Town Hall
8 Park Street



At this end of Park Street the town's leading family, the Plunketts, built their homes. This Georgian Revival brick manor house was constructed for Charles T. Plunkett in 1907. In subsequent years the building did duty as an American Legion home and now as offices for the town.

6. Theodore Plunkett House
30 Park Street



Here is another Plunkett family house, this one built for the third generation. Theodore Plunkett was a State Senator, best remembered for squeezing \$200,000 out of the State legislature to construct the Veterans War Memorial tower atop Mt. Greylock.

7. First Congregational Church
42 Park Street



This handsome meetinghouse on a rise in the center of Park Street was constructed in 1868. the beautifully crafted Italianate building with strong eaves and arched window hoods is the only wooden church in Adams still holding services.

8. Miss Adams Diner
53 Park Street



Wrapped inside the stone facade is a genuine pre-fabricated diner, brought to this location in 1949. At that time it began life as the Worcester Lunch Car 821.

9. Old Town Hall
northeast corner of School Street and Park Street



This brick building, resting on the bones of an old school, was erected as the Town Hall after North Adams was cleaved off the town in 1878. A fire in 1949 claimed its peaked roof and tower and precipitated a severe remodeling.

10. Dawson Block
72-74 Park Street



This three-story brick commercial block with an ornate bracketed Italianate cornice is unaltered since its construction in 1890 and harkens back to the days before large ground floor retail display windows.

11. Simmons House **90 Park Street**



A.C. Simmons operated a retail fiefdom at this end of Park Street, the core of which was the family emporium across the street. Years ago “furniture” meant many things - it could mean coffins and furniture stores often doubled as funeral homes. In 1934 the Civilian Conservation Corps carved a championship ski trail on the side of Mount Greylock that they named “Thunderbolt” after a famous roller coaster at Revere Beach near Boston because both gave such a memorable ride. Simmons became an early ski enthusiast and helped promote the sport by allowing fledgling ski club members to purchase \$20 skis for just a dollar down. This quintessential Victorian house, all angles and varied materials and designs, doubled as the Simmons home and more selling space at street level.

12. Armory Block **southeast corner of East Maple Street and Park Street**



The Normans of lore in the Middle Ages would feel quite at home defending this gray stone fortress. It was built in 1914 for National Guard Company M which occupied the building until 2004.

13. McKinley Square **intersection of Columbia & Maple streets at Park Street**



William McKinley, 25th President of the United States, is probably best remembered for his assassination in 1901 that led to the ascension of Theodore Roosevelt into the White House and onto Mount Rushmore. One thing McKinley pursued while in office was aggressive protection of American industries in the expanding world economy in the 1890s. This earned him a lot of rich, grateful friends. The result is that there is an unusually long list of memorials outside of his native Ohio to the man. They include America's highest mountain in Alaska and statues in such far-ranging places as Arcata, California and Reading, Pennsylvania and Adams. McKinley's friends here were the Plunkett family who owned Berkshire Mill and he visited the town three times, once as governor of Ohio and twice as President. They commissioned Augustus Lukeman, a sculptor noted for his historical monuments, to craft this welcoming figure of William McKinley. Its unveiling ceremony on October 10, 1903 was one of the biggest events in Adams history. The base is surrounded with three scenes of his actions, in the Civil War, in Congress, and as President, with the fourth side bearing a quote from the Pan-American Exposition: "Let us remember that our interest is in concord not conflict, and that our real eminence rests in the victories of peace, not of war."

14. Adams Free Library **92 Park Street**



President William McKinley was on hand to lower the cornerstone into place for this monumental Beaux Arts-inspired building in 1897. It was constructed to house the town library and serve as a memorial to Civil War veterans, of which, McKinley was one. Indeed he would be the last United States president to have served in the War Between the States. The pale yellow brick is highlighted by marble quarried at the Adams Marble Company.

TURN RIGHT ON COLUMBIA STREET.

**15. The Parish of Pope John Paul the Great
21 Maple Street**



This joint parish was established in 1998, welding the Notre Dame des Sept Douleurs Roman Catholic Church and the St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church. Both buildings are still in use. Notre Dame, the traditional home of the town's French Catholics, was constructed in 1887 and St. Thomas a ways up Columbia Street was dedicated in 1897.

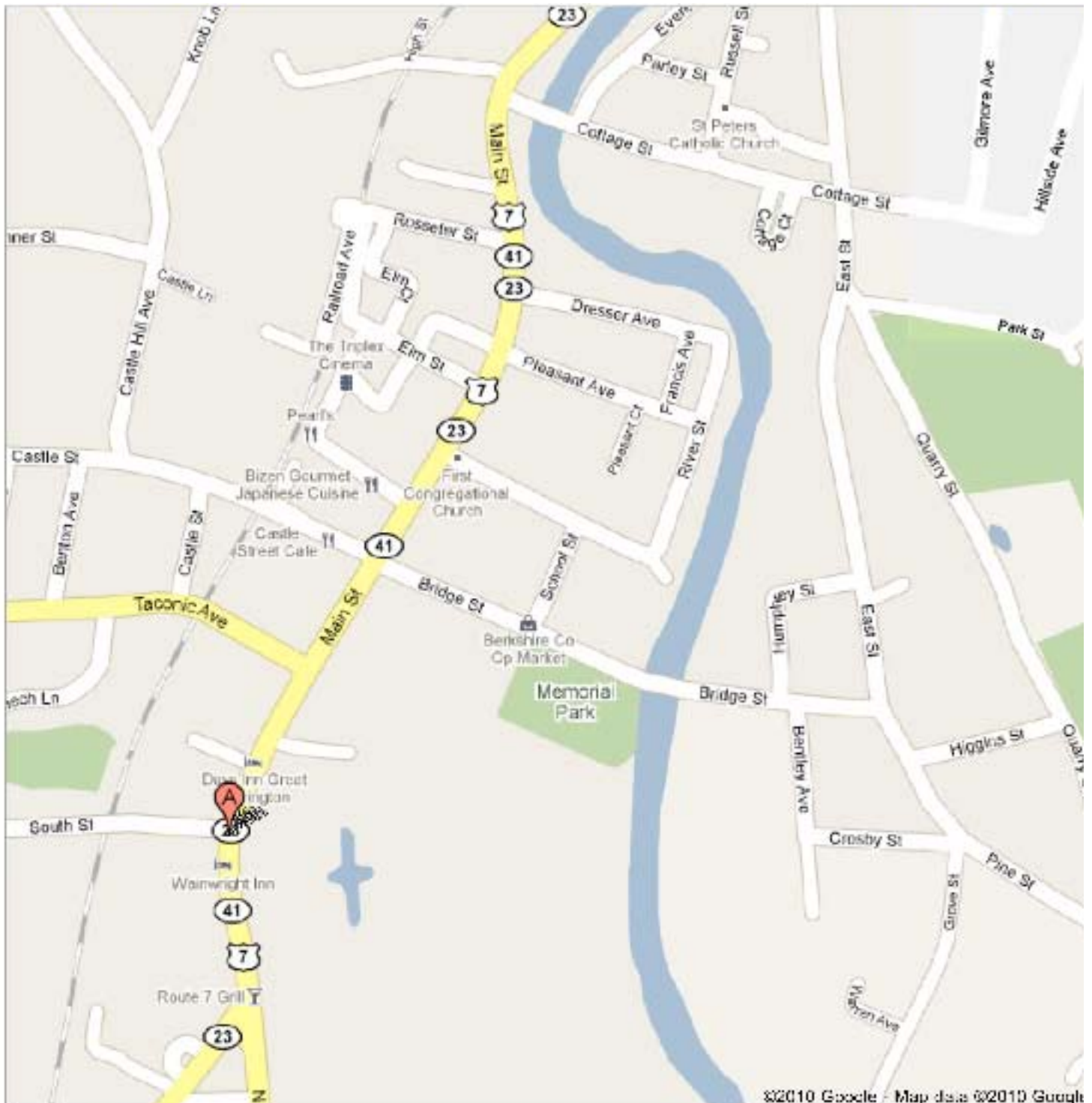
TURN RIGHT ON HOOSAC STREET TO RETRUN TO THE VISITOR CENTER AND THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

A Walking Tour of Great Barrington, Massachusetts **from walkthetown.com**

Its location on important transportation routes has shaped Great Barrington from before written history. When the Mahican Indians lived in the meadows here the area was called Mahaiwe, meaning “the place downstream.” In colonial times when the Dutch and English settled here beginning in 1726, it lay on the New England Path, which connected Fort Orange near Albany, New York with Springfield and then Massachusetts Bay in 1844. In a key moment in the American Revolution, Henry Knox used that path to haul cannon from Fort Ticonderoga to Dorchester Heights to end the British siege of Boston.

Great Barrington was by then an important hub, having been designated the Berkshire County seat in 1761. The town name came most probably came from Lord Barrington, an English aristocrat who was minister of war for his friend Prime Minister William Pitt, whose name Pittsfield took at the same time. The railroad arrived in 1842 spawning a growth spurt in trade and, following the Civil War, as a summer destination for refugees from the big northeastern cities. Wealthy families built grand homes called Berkshire Cottages here, as others would in Lenox and Stockbridge, cementing the region as a resort destination.

In 1886 William Stanley sent alternating current electricity flowing out of a generating station down Main Street and gave Great Barrington the first electric street lights in the world. But it was another type of light that would be most responsible for shaping the streetscape we'll see on our walking tour - more than a dozen fires plagued Great Barrington in the 1800s, the most ferocious clearing entire blocks in 1896...



1. Town Hall
334 Main Street



The town government floated around town for much of the 1800s. One town house burned; meetings were held in a store and on the porch of a church. In 1875 a long-term solution was finally reached with the construction of this red brick town hall. Its design drew heavily on the colonial Georgian style popular a century earlier. The bill for the building and the land came to \$50,763. After selling off some town property the tab came to a bit over \$35,000. Town offices, courts and a public library occupied the ground floor; upstairs the meeting hall provided space for lectures, recitals and the occasional poultry show.

2. Civil War Monument
Town Hall lawn



Vermont-born Truman Howe Bartlett turned out this bronze statue of *Victory* to honor the sacrifice made by Great Barrington men during the Civil War. The allegorical figure atop the bronze pedestal was said to be a replica recovered from the ruins of Pompeii, Italy. The town appropriated \$5,000 towards its construction but when the expense of placing the monument in front of Town Hall shortly after it opened in 1876 soared beyond that the remainder was contributed by John H. Coffing. Coffing began his career as an industrialist in the family iron works and was later a principal in the Monument Mills complex.

3. Memorial Stone Town Hall lawn



On this site in 1764 the first court house was erected in Berkshire County. Ten years later on August 16, 1774 the county court house in Great Barrington was the site of the first open resistance to British judicial rule. Also on this site once stood the original marker to that history. This is a replacement placed in 2005. It is made of granite, more resistant to the ravages of acid rain and the occasional car bumper than the dolomite stone placed here in 1890.

WITH YOUR BACK TO TOWN HALL, TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.

4. St. James Episcopal Church 352 Main Street



The parish dates to 1762 with a small meetinghouse constructed shortly afterwards. This Gothic-style building, the third to serve the church, was constructed in 1857 at a cost of \$15,232. Blue dolomite stone from East Mountain was carted into town for its construction. The stained glass windows dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries have since been restored to their original splendor.

5. **Dwight-Henderson House** **Main Street**



Joseph Dwight was native-born in 1703 and went on to practice law after graduating from Harvard College. When not engaged in the law and politics he was a colonel in the local militia and distinguished himself as the commander of the Massachusetts Artillery at the siege and capture of Louisbourg in the French and Indian War. Afterward he returned to the Housatonic Valley and in 1752 then General Dwight married the widow of the Reverend John Sergeant, founder of Stockbridge. He bought this salt-box house, well-preserved for over 250 years, in 1759. Joseph Dwight would die in 1765. An early history of the town described him thusly, “No man in the county in civil life, was more esteemed; and aged people still speak of him with great respect.”

6. **Searles Castle** **389 Main Street**



At the age of 35 Mark Hopkins set out for the California gold fields in 1849 but not to pan for precious metal but to sell goods to miners. By 1855 he was operating a hardware and iron business in Sacramento and in 1861 he was the eldest of four partners who formed the Central Pacific Railroad that was to build half of the Transcontinental Railroad. Hopkins would become one of America's wealthiest men. And few men so rich were ever so thrifty. But his wife could spend the money. She engineered the construction of a fabulous mansion on San Francisco's Nob Hill and after Hopkins died in 1878 she made her way back east and in the 1880s constructed a 60,000 square-foot fortress on 61 acres on Main Street. The great home constructed of blue dolomite sported seven turrets and 40 rooms. She hired interior decorator Edward Searles to fill those 40 rooms and a year before it was finished Mary Hopkins married Searles, 22 years her junior. She died in 1891 and most of Mark Hopkins' money - he never had a will - passed to Edward Searles. He stayed in the castle until 1920 after which the structure was used as a private girls' school for 30 years, then passed through various owners and was used as a storage area and conference center. From the 1980s until 2007 it housed a school for troubled teens and then was sold for \$15 million.

7. Taylor Hill
426 Main Street



Celebrated poet William Cullen Bryant had a day job as the town clerk in Great Barrington from the ages 21 to 31, 1815 to 1825. In 1821 he met, courted and eventually married Frances Fairchild in the Dwight House up the street. For a year after his marriage he rented this house for \$30, plus another 17 cents a week to pasture his cow, from lawyer George Ives who built it in 1815. In 1826 his brother-in-law Ralph Taylor purchased the house and named it Taylor Hill. It has done duty as a funeral home since 1918.

TURN AND WALK BACK TO TACONIC STREET AND TURN LEFT. TURN RIGHT ON CASTLE STREET.

8. Great Barrington Train Station
46 Castle Street



The original Housatonic Railroad was chartered in 1836 running from Connecticut up through Berkshire County. When the line was acquired by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad in 1892 the short-line railroad boasted 175 miles of track with 60 passenger depots. The last passenger train ran on April 30, 1971. This slate-roofed depot was constructed in 1901.

WALK TO THE END OF THE STREET AND LOOK UP THE HILL ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE.

9. Russell House
54 Castle Street



In 1830 brothers Asa and John Russell went into partnership in a mercantile enterprise on the corner of Castle Street that grew into the Berkshire Woolen Company. Asa purchased this 1820s house that spans the Federal and Greek Revival periods of American architecture and it served as the family home for two generations. It would become the home to the Children's Health Program charity that reconfigured the interior for office use.

TURN RIGHT AND WALK THROUGH THE UNDERPASS BENEATH THE RAILROAD TRACKS TO CASTLE STREET ON THE OTHER SIDE.

10. Great Barrington Fire Station
20 Castle Street



Fire protection in Great Barrington can be traced to 1854 when a group of nineteen young men who formed the Hope Fire Company and raised enough money to buy a Button hand pumper. That same year, the Great Barrington Fire District was organized to supply the water to the center of town from the East Mountain Reservoir. This firehouse of red brick and granite trim, the company's fourth, rose from the ashes of the town's largest fire that burned both sides of Railroad Street and spread to Castle Street at the turn of the 20th century. In 1976 the fire station and apparatus were sold to the Town of Great Barrington and the Hope Company and the Housatonic Hose Company that dates to 1889 were combined into one department. Both remain in existence today as social wings of the Great Barrington Fire Department that has since moved its main headquarters.

11. Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center 14 Castle Street



The original Mahaiwe Block that stood here in the 1800s burned to the ground in 1901 and the property was redeveloped into the town's first theater. The Mahaiwe Theater opened as a live vaudeville venue in 1905 but films came early, beginning in 1912. By the time the first "talkies" arrived in 1927 live performances were a thing of the past and for the next 70 or so years the Mahaiwe (*pronounced 'Ma-Hay-Wee'*) was a place to experience a movie, not just watch it. Passionate theater-lovers helped push back plans to convert the movie house into an apartment complex and the Mahaiwe was completely restored in time for its centennial celebration in 2005.

TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET. TURN LEFT ON RAILROAD STREET.

12. Railroad Street



Fire regularly visited the commercial center of town along Railroad Street in the 1800s. Today the block retains a turn-of-the-20th century feel. At the head of the block on the south corner of Main Street is the City Store, three bays wide by nine bays deep. Built of brick in 1853 it was the first commercial block in Great Barrington and one of the few structures to survive the Great Fire of 1896. The original town train depot was located at the foot of the street which was extended with a hook to Elm Street in 1901.

Pioneering Civil Rights activist William Edward Burghardt Du Bois was born in Great Barrington, a place he described as "by a golden river and in the shadow of two great hills..." in 1868. When he was 11 his family moved into an apartment over a store by the trail station; it is now a parking lot. After attending Great Barrington High School Du Bois attended Fisk University in Tennessee and then earned a PHD as the first black to graduate from Harvard University. He entered the national consciousness as a writer and head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1910. A marker identifies his birthplace down Church Street on the opposite side of Main Street; The Du Bois Center at Great Barrington is dedicated to his life on South Main Street.

FOLLOW RAILROAD STREET AS IT BENDS TO THE RIGHT AND CONTINUES TO ELM STREET. TURN RIGHT. TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET AND STAY ON THE WEST (LEFT) SIDE OF THE STREET.

**13. U.S. Post Office
222 Main Street**



The first mail in the Berkshires was delivered by post rider until the first post office was established at Stockbridge in 1792; the fourth post office in the county came to Great Barrington in 1797. The first post-master was Moses Hopkins and he held the job until his death in 1838. The current Neoclassical post office, fronted by a quartet of imposing Doric columns, was constructed in 1936 as a Depression-era Works Progress Administration project.

CROSS OVER MAIN STREET TO THE EAST SIDE AND TURN RIGHT TO WALK BACK UP MAIN STREET.

**14. St. Peter's Catholic Church
213 Main Street**



The first Catholic services in Great Barrington were held on the second floor of Town Hall in 1841. The Gothic-inspired stone church welcomed the congregation in 1911.

15. Mason Library
231 Main Street



Mary A. Mason, widow of Civil War Captain Henry Hobart Mason who was later a New York lawyer and law reporter, provided \$50,000 for a new library to replace a clapboard structure that had served the town from this site. The architectural firm of Blanchard & Barnes of New York City were hired to design the Colonial Revival building and when it opened in 1912 it was proclaimed to be “the most beautiful small library building in America.”

16. First Congregational Church
251 Main Street



The parish, originally known as the North Parish of Sheffield, was formed by legislative enactment in 1742 and a meeting house erected. The handsome multi-chromatic stone church is the congregation's fourth, erected after a fire destroyed the previous blue limestone church in 1882. Hartford architect W.C. Brocklesby designed the church and manse which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The church is famous for its magnificent organ installed in 1883 by Hilburne Roosevelt Organ Works, America's most prominent organmaker of the age. The massive instrument uses 3954 pipes and is operated by more than two miles of concealed electric wire.

17. ***Berkshire Courier Building***
264 Main Street



A Lenox man, John D. Cushing, put out the first issue of the *Berkshire Courier* on October 16, 1834. The weekly newspaper sifted through several name and location changes until it landed in this building in 1870 that housed the offices and printing press. A new larger press necessitated moving the office next door to the Marble Block in 1902. After that the building was used as a bakery and when the Great Barrington Savings Bank came in 1916 they added the colonnade of classical fluted columns. The *Courier* continued to publish until 1993.

CONTINUE ON MAIN STREET UNTIL YOU RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT TOWN HALL.

A Walking Tour of North Adams, Massachusetts

from walkthetown.com

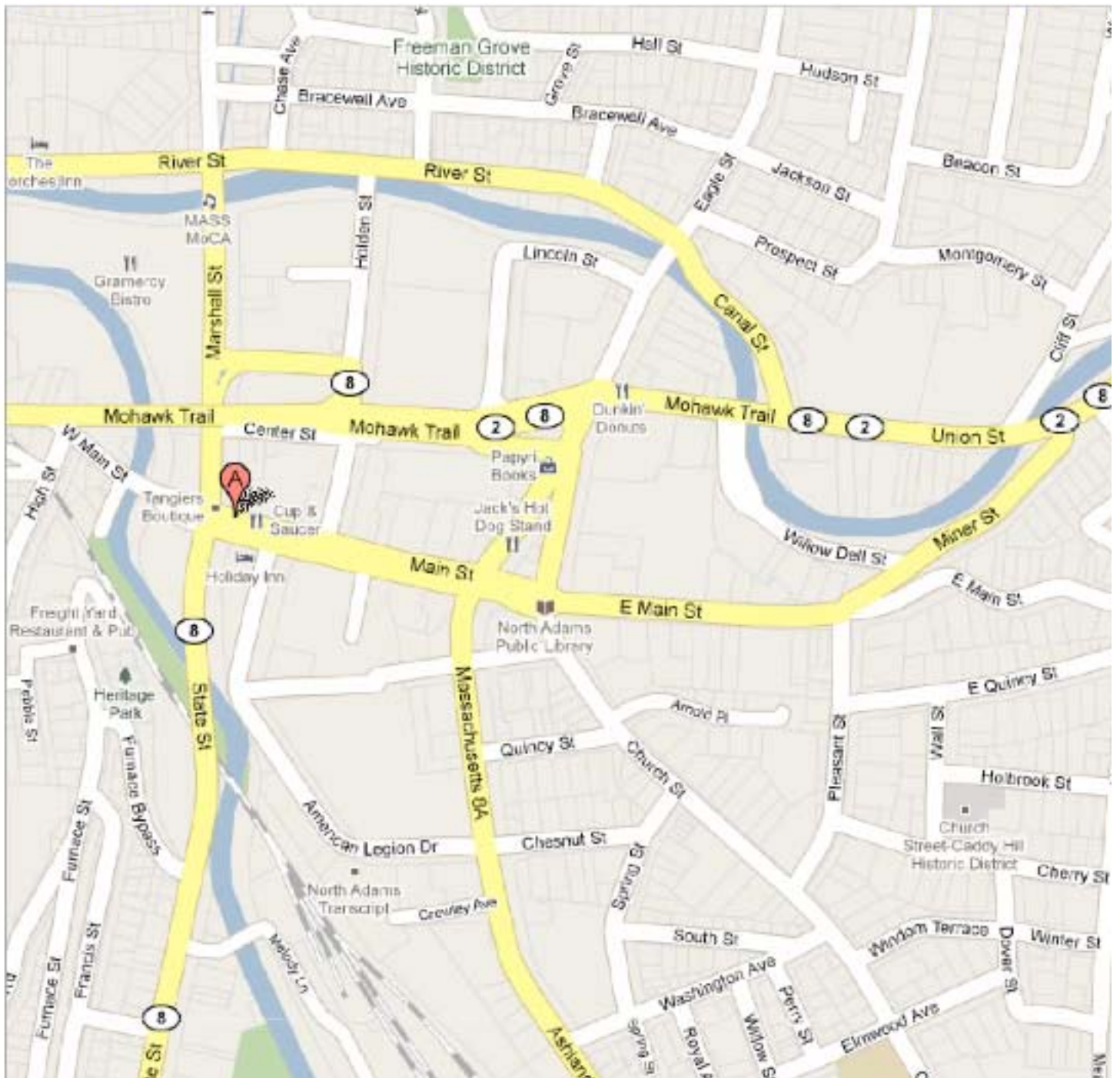
For most of its existence, transportation has shaped the fortunes of North Adams - although early on not many people were stopping since the Hoosac Valley was not suitable for farming, riddled with rocky soil and dark, impenetrable swamps. The Mohawk Trail, an Indian trade route which connected Atlantic tribes with tribes in Upstate New York and beyond, passed through here. Eventually loggers discovered the richly forested slopes and settlement began in the 1730s and Fort Massachusetts was constructed at the confluence of the two branches of the Hoosic River; a town named for Boston patriot Samuel Adams was established in 1778.

The streams flowing into the valley spawned numerous small-scale industries as Adams became a milltown. there were textile mills and saw mills, sleigh-makers, a marble works and an iron works. Industry in the town soared to a whole new level in 1848 when work was begun on a tunnel through Hoosac Mountain. The project had its beginnings in 1819 as a planned canal to connect Boston with upstate New York. By 1848, however, it was a railroad tunnel. No one could imagine the difficulties ahead.

The tunnel would not be completed until 1875. More than \$21 million was spent. It would cost 193 workers' lives - by comparison there were 112 deaths in building the Hoover Dam and 11 on the Golden Gate Bridge. When it was finished the 4.75-mile Hoosac Tunnel was the second-longest in the world. Only an 8.5-mile tunnel in the French Alps was longer. It would be longest tunnel in North America for another 50 years. Even today it remains the longest active transportation tunnel east of the Rocky Mountains.

The Hoosac Tunnel transformed North Adams. When construction began there were maybe 2,000 people in town; when the tunnel opened there were more than 15,000. in 1878, North Adams was broken off from Adams and in 1895 became its own city - today it is the smallest city in Massachusetts. North Adams charged into the new century with its industry firing on all pistons.

By the 1980s the factories and mills were empty and rotting. Thomas Krens, director of the Williams College Museum of Art, saw the broken glass and scarred brick buildings as gallery space for large-scale modern art. His vision evolved into the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art that spreads over 13-acres and 25 19-th century factory buildings. As a result, North Adams has now become a popular stopping point for travelers on the old Mohawk Trail that is now part of Massachusetts Route 2, which was created as one of the United States' first scenic highways. But there is plenty to see on the outsides of those buildings as well and our walking tour to see what is there will begin at the traditional center of town...



1. *Civil War Soldiers' Monument*
Monument Square, head of Main Street



North Adams provided many more than its share of soldiers to the Union cause in the Civil War and this monument to their contribution was dedicated on the Fourth of July, 1878. It features a marble depiction of a soldier at parade rest standing on a pedestal of brown freestone. One hundred years later as the city prepared to honor the statue's centennial it was struck by a motorist and shattered. It was put back together for a rededication on July 4, 1981, three years later. From this spot you can look around and see the seven churches that inspire the moniker "City of Steeples."

FACING THE SAME DIRECTION AS THE CIVIL WAR SOLDIER, BEGIN WALKING DOWN THE HILL ALONG MAIN STREET. AS YOU WALK DOWN MAIN STREET YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE STREET HAS BEEN SWEEPED COMPLETELY BY URBAN RENEWAL WHILE THE NORTH SIDE - THE "SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET" RETAINS ITS LOOK OF DECADES PAST.

2. **First Baptist Church**
131 Main Street



This is the tallest of the steeples in the "City of Steeples" at 191 feet above the curb. This is the fourth church for the congregation that was organized by Calvin Keyes in 1908 with 22 members. Its predecessor burned on May 4, 1875 in a fire that started in the church organ. The Romanesque-styled church was dedicated in 1880.

3. First Congregational Church
134 Main Street



The church was organized in 1827 and hit the ground running - their first meetinghouse was ready the next year. It was replaced with this building in 1865, constructed for a cost of \$33,000. It is noted for its bell that weighs over two tons that hangs in the tower and its fine stained glass windows.

4. Mohawk Theater
111 Main Street



The Mohawk Theater, adorned with Art Deco Indian motifs designed by William Luther Mowll and Roger Glade Rand of Boston, screened its first film, Mr. Doodle Goes to Town, on November 5, 1938. Elias M. Loew, head of the Loew's theater chain, was on hand for the premier. The house was designed as a movie theater with no stage area and a single balcony above a splendid 25-foot wide screen. The Mohawk suffered the fate of most every downtown movie house in America by the 1980s and closed its doors in 1991 but unlike most of its brethren the building escaped demolition.

5. Dowlin Block
103 Main Street



Edwin Thayer Barlow, who picked up his architectural degree from Cornell University in 1891 and lived up on Church Street, contributed this six-story, granite-faced Renaissance Revival commercial block to the North Adams streetscape. His crowning achievement was working on the facade of the New York Public Library.

6. Hoosac Savings Bank Building 93 Main Street



The North Adams Savings Bank was chartered in 1848 and on January 13, 1849 a representative of the Oneco Lodge of Lodge of Odd Fellows walked in and made the first deposit. It was for \$44. In 1871 the Hoosac Savings Bank opened on the south side of Main Street and the venture was successful enough to move into this building in 1893. Designed by architect H. Neill Wilson of Pittsfield, the Romanesque-flavored headquarters with fine terra cotta decorations cost \$60,000 to build. The two venerable institutions merged into the North Adams Hoosac Savings Bank in 1962, taking the charter of the elder bank and occupying the space of the younger.

7. Empire Building 55-61 Main Street



The Sullivan Brothers - six of them - built the Empire Theatre in 1901 and hired the leading theater architect of the day, J. B. McElfrick and Sons, to design their 1,400-seat playhouse in the rear of the Wilson House. The Wilson House, built in 1866, was the grand dame of North Adams hotels. The theater was a great success - Theodore Roosevelt made a campaign speech for the Bull Moose Party during an aborted presidential run in 1912. Months later, on July 2, a fire said to have started in the Wilson's kitchen, destroyed everything - the hotel, the theater, the Sullivan Brothers' furniture store and warehouse that was the town's first six-story building, the four-story Empire apartment house were the main casualties. Damage was estimated at \$600,000 and the blaze was big enough to make the New York Times the next day. The Sullivan Brothers rebuilt the theater which became the Paramount in the 1930s. It was demolished in the 1970s but the foyer can still be seen at 55 Main Street.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO HOLDEN STREET AND TURN LEFT.

**8. First Blackinton Block
30 Holden Street**



When Sanford Blackinton died in 1885 at the age of 88 his obituary credited him with changing “North Adams from a prosaic farming hamlet to an enterprising manufacturing village.” He accomplished that through a woolen mill he helped start in 1824 and his endeavors as a banker. By the time he commissioned this commercial block in 1873, Blackinton was one of the three richest men in Berkshire County. He hired influential Victorian architect Marcus Fayette Cummings of Troy, New York to design his brick building in an ornate Italianate style.

TURN RIGHT ON CENTER STREET.

**9. Flatiron building
Church Street and Eagle Street at Center Street**



So-called triangular “flatiron” buildings were common in 19th century American towns where organically created streets formed odd angles. This one was built in 1854 and shows the Italianate style popular at the time in its bracketing at the roofline.

**10. St. Francis of Assisi Church
75 Eagle Street**



The first Catholic services in North Adams were held in 1848 and thereafter a pastor from Pittsfield came up once every three months to hold mass in a congregant’s house. During the building of the

Hoosac Tunnel missions were set up for the workers on site. The cornerstone for this soaring church edifice was laid in 1867 and the church dedicated two years later.

TURN RIGHT ON CHURCH STREET. TURN LEFT ON EAST MAIN STREET AND BEGIN YOUR TOUR OF THIS NORTH ADAMS RESIDENTIAL AREA WITH ONE OF THE RICHEST COLLECTION OF VICTORIAN ERA HOUSES - QUEEN ANNES, SECOND EMPIRES, GOTHICS, AND ITALIANATES - IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS.

**11. The First United Methodist Church
159 East Main Street**



The first Methodist church, a wooden structure, was raised on this corner in 1843. It cost \$400. It was replaced by a large brick building in 1873. After fire destroyed that sanctuary in 1927 it was followed by this stone English Gothic church that served the congregation for 80 years until it was abandoned due to the burden of maintenance costs.

**12. Millard House
165 East Main Street**



This handsome house with decorative brickwork and French Second Empire detailing was built around 1850 for boot and shoe manufacturer George Millard. Before he purchased the factory that would become George Millard & Sons the entire output of the firm was sold in adjoining towns less than a day's ride on horseback from North Adams and the pay received was butter, eggs and produce from the local farmers. In turn the workers wages were doled out in like goods.

13. C.H. Cutting House
181 East Main Street



C.H. Cutting owned a dry goods store in North Adams and another in Adams. His Stick Style house built in 1881 is still resplendent in fine wooden details more than 125 years later.

14. Jewett House
199 East Main Street



This eclectic brick house trimmed in stone with its profusion of protrusions is another contribution to the North Adams streetscape by Marcus F. Cummings. It was built in 1872.

15. Notre Dame Du Sacre Coeur
228 East Main Street



The French Catholic congregation in North Adams was established in 1870, freeing the 200 or so French-speaking families in town from worshipping with the Irish Catholics at St. Francis. This East Main Street property was acquired in 1874 but it took the fledgling parish more than a decade to acquire the funds necessary to complete this fine brick church.

TURN RIGHT ON PLEASANT STREET. TURN RIGHT ON CHURCH STREET, THE STREET OF CHOICE FOR THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS IN NORTH ADAMS DURING THE LATE 1800S AND EARLY 1900S.

16. A.C. Houghton Mansion
172 Church Street



Albert Charles Houghton, the first mayor of North Adams and its largest employer as head of the Arnold Print Works, commissioned the building of this elaborately detailed Neoclassical house in the 1890s. The mansion remained with the Houghton family until 1926 when it was sold to the Freemasons who built a brick addition to the rear. But some say A.C Houghton never left his beloved home at all.

In 1914 Houghton bought his first automobile, a Pierce-Arrow seven-passenger touring vehicle and a man in his employ, John Widders, was trained in its operation. On August 1, Widders drove the family to Vermont to visit friends and while in the town of Pownal he maneuvered the Pierce-Arrow around a work crew, hit a soft spot in the shoulder and the car flipped down a steep embankment. One of the family friends and Houghton's daughter, Mary, were killed. Stricken with guilt, the next morning Widders retired to the basement in the house and shot himself. Although Albert Houghton had not been seriously injured in the mishap, he died ten days later at the age of 70, the cause said to be the proverbial broken heart. Since they have owned the property various Masons have reported strange noises and paranormal activity in the Houghton Mansion and it has earned a reputation as one of New England's most haunted buildings.

17. Wilkinson House
164 Church Street



This was the home of Edward S. Wilkinson, a son-in-law of Albert Houghton and the third mayor of North Adams. Constructed in 1895 of stone, stucco and green wooden trim the house is an early example of the Arts and Crafts movement that came to reject the gratuitous flourishes of the Victorian age. Wilkinson, who was a banker before becoming mayor at age 58 in 1900, died in an Albany hospital two years later after an unsuccessful kidney operation. He remains the only North Adams mayor to die in office.

18. Gallup House
149 Church Street



This is another house for a Houghton son-in-law, William A. Gallup who was a partner in the Arnold Print Works. H. Neill Wilson of Pittsfield provided the Colonial Revival design, similar to the one he used for the Houghton Mansion up the street.

19. Richmond House
129 Church Street



This well-detailed brick Victorian house with corner tower was constructed for Clinton Q. Richmond of, banker and president and treasurer of the Hoosac Valley Street Railway Company. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

20. North Adams Public Library
74 Church Street



This most prominent lot in town was purchased in 1863 by Sanford Blackinton, the richest man in town. He employed Troy architect Marcus Fayette Cummings to design his new house, which was started in 1867. It took more than two years and \$75,000 to complete the Second Empire style mansion - in an age when a good working wage was about a dollar a day. Blackinton lived here until he died at the age of 88 in 1885; his second wife, Eliza lived out her life here - totally in three downstairs rooms - until 1896.

At that point Mayor A.C. Houghton purchased the landmark mansion and donated it to the city for the first permanent home of the North Adams Public Library that had been started in 1884. Renovations to the tune of \$19,000 prepared the interior for use as a library but the exterior - a splendid example of the romantic French Renaissance-inspired style with its mansard roof, window hoods and detailing remained intact as it does today, more than a century later.

YOU HAVE NOW REACHED THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN MONUMENT SQUARE.

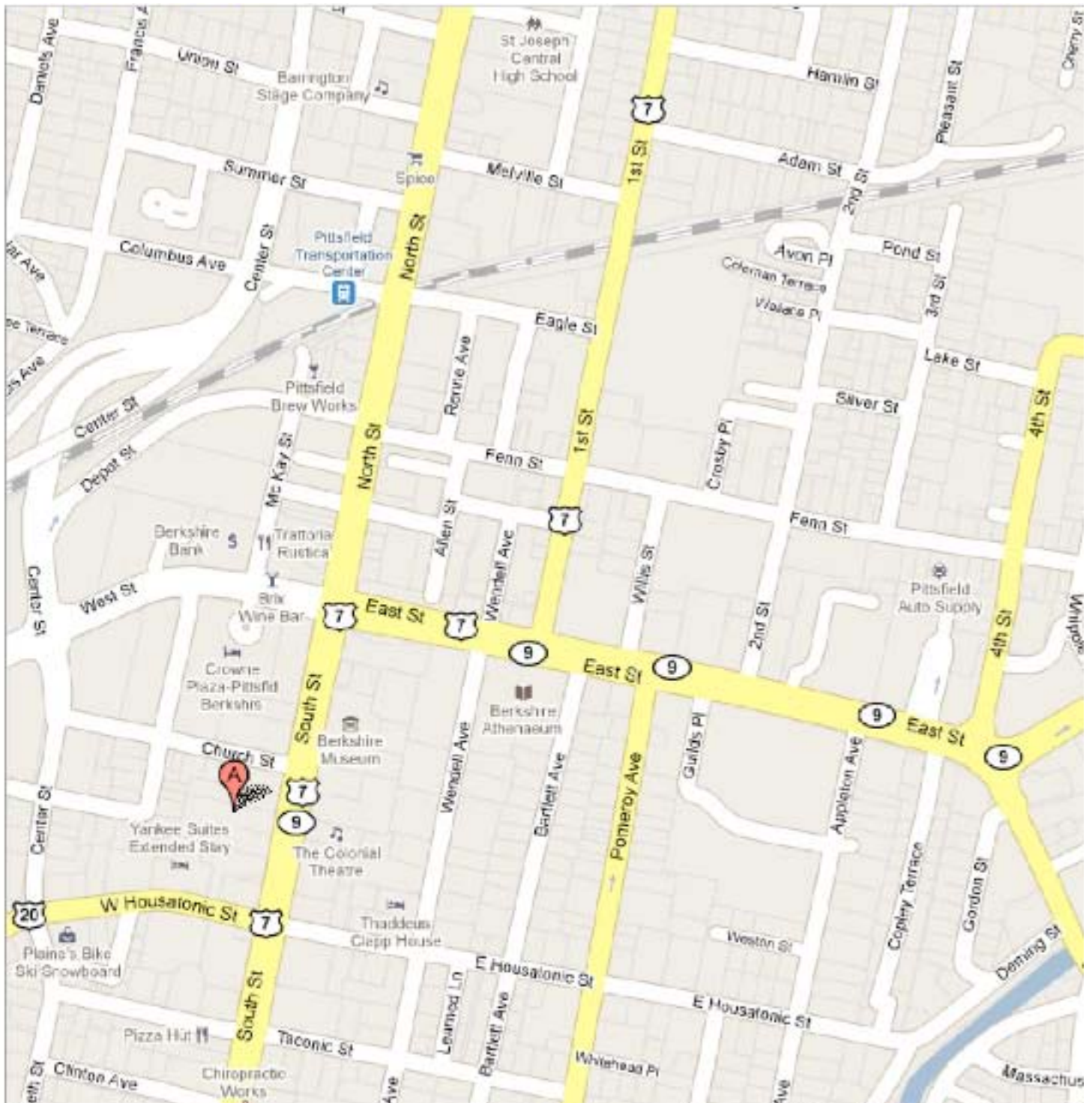
A Walking Tour of Pittsfield, Massachusetts from **walkthetown.com**

Pittsfield began as a business deal. In 1738 Colonel Jacob Wendell, bought 24,000 acres of lands known originally as Pontoosuck, a Mohican Indian word meaning “a field or haven for winter deer.” Wendell acquired the land as a speculative venture; there is no evidence he ever visited Western Massachusetts from his home in Boston. Some say he bought the land as a tax dodge to resell without being subject to Boston levies, others say he was looking to develop for settlers. Either way the French and Indian War delayed development on the frontier for many years after some rudimentary settlement in 1743.

By 1761 the village was ready to incorporate. Royal Governor, Sir Francis Bernard named it Pittsfield after British nobleman and politician William Pitt, a vocal supporter of the Americans. Pittsfield was an agricultural community, newly cleared cropfields were nourished by the many streams feeding into the Housatonic River. Merino sheep from Spain were introduced into the area in 1807 and woolen mills dominated the economic climate for most of the rest of the century.

Situated in the center of the Berkshire Hills, the growing town became the county seat in 1868, replacing Lenox. The character of Pittsfield was to change dramatically in 1891, the year it incorporated as a city. William Stanley had recently come to town, up from Great Barrington, to establish his Stanley Manufacturing Company to produce the country's first alternating current electric transformers. In 1903 the General Electric Corporation purchased controlling interest in Stanley's company and the nascent corporate giant began establishing a presence in Pittsfield that would reach a peak workforce of over 13,000 and push the population to a high of 50,000.

Widespread layoffs at General Electric in the 1980s began a company withdrawal that would claim all but a few hundred jobs. General Electric left behind an industrial wasteland that became a federally designated Brownfields site. The company left a legacy on the Pittsfield streetscape as well - what was once a town of great estates was now dominated by developments for middle-class workers. Our walking tour of downtown Pittsfield will be dominated mostly by pre-GE structures, many of which have changed usage with as the town has changed through the years. We'll begin on the original village green which no longer calls to mind the bucolic shep-raising days of early Pittsfield...



1. ***The Massachusetts Color-Bearer***
Park Square, East Street at North Street



Efforts to memorialize their fallen sons in the Civil War began almost immediately after hostilities ceased in 1865. By 1871 some \$10,000 was raised for the purpose and famed Irish-born sculptor Launt Thompson won the design competition. His “Massachusetts Color-Bearer” was widely regarded and reproduced on the battlefield at Gettysburg.

The statue stands at the head of Park Square, the traditional village green in Pittsfield. It is said that America’s first agricultural fair was held on the green in 1810. It was the idea of Elkanah Watson, a visionary traveller and writer, agriculturist, canal promoter and friend of George Washington. A native of Plymouth, Massachusetts, he moved to Pittsfield in 1807 at the age of 49 to raise Merino sheep at his farm.

FACING THE STATUE WALK TO YOUR RIGHT DOWN THE SOUTH SIDE OF PARK SQUARE.

2. **Berkshire Athenaeum**
southeast corner of South Street and East Street



The Berkshire Athenaeum began as a private subscription library in 1850. With the help of Thomas F. Plunkett, who began his business career as a peddler and became president of the Berkshire Life Insurance Company, and the prominent Allen family whose patriarch Thomas Allen was the first pastor of the First Church of Christ and leader of Pittsfield’s first detachment of Minutemen during the American Revolution, it became a public library. A bequest from the estate of Phineas Allen, nephew of Thomas Allen and founder of the Pittsfield Sun, who had died in 1868, led to the construction of this outstanding High Victorian Gothic building in 1874. The land was provided by railway magnate Thomas Allen. Its designer was William Appleton Potter, then Supervising Architect of the United States Treasury, and a leading proponent of the style in America. Potter used alternating bands of dark blue limestone from Great Barrington, red freestone from Longmeadow

and red granite from Missouri in its construction. After serving the Berkshire Athenaeum for 100 years the library, noted for its private collections of Herman Melville and others moved down to the opposite corner at Wendell Street and the building became the Berkshire County Registry of Deeds.

3. Berkshire County Courthouse 76 East Street



Pittsfield replaced Lenox as the Berkshire County seat in 1868 and the city responded by building this marble courthouse on the southeast side of Park Square. The prominent site, noted for its fine elm trees, had been the home of John Chandler Williams and the town paid \$35,000 for the property. Another \$160,000 was allotted for the building. Designs were penned by Louis Weisbein of Boston in a Renaissance-inspired style with white marble quarried from Sheffield built upon a basement of light blue marble from the same town used in construction. It was first occupied in 1871.

CROSS OVER TO THE NORTH SIDE OF PARK SQUARE.

4. First Church of Christ 27 East Street



Thomas Allen, the “Fighting Parson” who carried a musket into his pulpit during the American Revolution and fired the first shot against the British at the Battle of Bennington, was the first minister of the church in 1764. In 1789 America’s first name architect, Charles Bulfinch of Boston, drew up plans for the new parish meetinghouse. Its design would come to be copied in other New England towns. The Bulfinch Church was partially destroyed by fire in 1851 and was hauled away to do service as a gymnasium and then became part of a hotel until it was razed in 1939. This third parish church, designed by New York architect Leopold Eidlitz in a Gothic style rendered in gray stone, was dedicated in 1853.

5. Old Town Hall/Berkshire Bank
43 East Street



When the founders of Pittsfield's Episcopal church wanted to build their new meetinghouse the land they wanted already had a town-owned structure that was used as a school and town business standing on part of it. In a compromise to build St. Stephen's Lemuel Pomeroy offered to build a new town hall next door. The plain brick building with a stuccoed front was ready in 1832. It would pick up some styling through the years as it served as Town Hall until 1891 and City Hall afterwards into the middle 1900s when the government shuffled around the corner to the old post office. The building was fitted out for use as a bank.

6. St. Stephen's Church
67 East Street



Nova Scotia-born Edward A. Newton had been converted to Christianity by missionaries while working in the Far East and when he settled in Pittsfield in 1830 he set about forming a local Episcopal church. His efforts resulted in St. Stephen's named for a young priest and close friend, Stephen Higginson Tyng. The first church building was completed in 1832 of gray stone in the Gothic style. It was replaced in 1889 with the current English Gothic church constructed of Longmeadow brownstone that is dominated by its imposing square tower.

WALK DOWN ALLEN STREET BETWEEN OLD TOWN HALL AND ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH.

7. City Hall
70 Allen Street



The current Pittsfield City Hall was actually constructed as a post office in the 1930s. The two-story Neoclassical building fronted by an Ionic colonnade was converted into a municipal building in the 1950s.

8. Old Central Fire Station
66 Allen Street



Up until 1891 fires in Pittsfield were handled by as many as four volunteer fire departments. After that fires became the responsibility of the City. This Romanesque-style Central Fire Station, executed in red brick with rough-faced granite trim, was constructed by 1895. Added to the National Historic Register in 1977, the building has been adapted for commercial re-use.

AT THE END OF THE STREET TURN RIGHT ON FENN STREET. TURN LEFT ON 1ST STREET AND CROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS. TURN LEFT ON MELVILLE STREET.

9. Notre Dame Roman Catholic Church
40 Melville Street



In 1867, with about 100 French-speaking Catholics in Pittsfield, a congregation of their own was broken off from St. Joseph's and began meeting in an old building on Melville Street. In 1895 the cornerstone for this Romanesque-styled church was laid. After more than a century of service the

building has been converted into an urban living laboratory for local food, the arts, and community center.

**10. Boys & Girls Clubs
16 Melville Street**



Zenas Crane of the papermaking family had a vision of a club where activities would help harness the energy of young boys and start them on a path towards useful citizenship. With \$800 rooms were rented and the Boys Club was so organized in 1900. One of the main features of the club was cobbling equipment so boys could learn to repair their own shoes. In 1906 the Club moved into permanent headquarters inside this red brick Colonial Revival building whose \$40,000 price tag was picked up by Zenas Crane. Membership jumped to 1,200 and additions and upgrades quickly followed. In 1991 the name was officially changed to incorporate girls and membership today hovers around 5,000.

TURN RIGHT ON NORTH STREET.

**11. St. Joseph Church
414 North Street**



There were so few Catholics in Berkshire County that the first mass was not held until 1835 and then only by accident when a Vermont missionary was accidentally detained at the Berkshire Hotel in Pittsfield. After that the town became a regular stop on the circuit and by 1849 a parish was established. The Gothic style church dates to 1860s and was constructed of light-grey limestone quarried about two miles to the north.

TURN AND WALK BACK ON NORTH STREET, TRAVELING SOUTH TOWARDS THE CENTER OF TOWN.

12. Capitol Theatre
330 North Street



This building was constructed around 1901 and converted into the Capitol Theatre, a big-city movie palace for Pittsfield that remained in operation until the 1980s. After a prolonged period of vacancy the deteriorated theater was replaced with a senior center. Only the prominent Art-Deco style marquee remains standing.

13. Agricultural National Bank
100 North Street



The first bank in Pittsfield was chartered in 1806 but failed when an embezzlement bled \$200,000 from its assets. Prominent town businessmen re-organized the next bank, the Agricultural Bank, in 1818 with \$100,000 in capital. It was a success from the start and was chartered as a national bank in 1865. This exuberant Beaux Arts bank headquarters was built in 1908. It features engaged fluted Ionic columns on its front and similar pilasters parading down each side.

14. Central Block
75 North Street



Edward Dorr Griffin Jones began his business career in supplying machinery to paper mills in Lee. He sold his company in 1867 and came to Pittsfield at the age of 43 to form E.D. Jones & Sons Company. The firm had wide-ranging interests including banking and real estate and clocks. He constructed this brick commercial block in 1881; it recently received a \$6 million renovation.

15. Kinnell-Kresge Building
55-57 North Street



This building was constructed in 1918 as a joint venture between George K. Kinnell, a local veterinarian, and the S.S. Kresge chain of 5-10 cent stores. Its outstanding feature is its ornate upper facade of glazed white terra cotta tile and brick and designed by Joseph McArthur Vance with lion heads, egg-and-dart ornamental trim, floral swags. It is based on a similar facade on the S.S. Kresge Company Headquarters building in Detroit, Michigan. The building has been re-adapted as a six screen movie house and a recent restoration involved the removal of each of the 1,700 individual terra cotta tiles.

16. Berkshire Loan and Trust Company
54 North Street



The Berkshire Loan and Trust Company opened its doors in July 1895. This Neoclassical vault features fluted pilasters of the Corinthian order topped by well-defined tooth-like dentils along the cornice.

17. Berkshire Bank
24 North Street



Established in 1846 as Berkshire County Savings Bank, Berkshire Bank is one of Massachusetts' oldest and largest independent banks and the largest banking institution based in Western Massachusetts. The current headquarters building is of 1890s vintage.

18. Berkshire Life Insurance Company Building
5-7 North Street



The Berkshire Life Insurance Company was chartered in May 1851 and George Nixon Briggs, just coming off seven one-year terms as the 19th Governor of Massachusetts, was chosen as its first president. As befitted one of the city's most successful financial institutions, the golden-hued Berkshire Life headquarters was constructed at this prominent intersection in 1868. The five-story, Renaissance-inspired building was attributed to architect Louis Weisbein. It was added to the National Historic Register in 1986.

19. The Berkshire Museum
39 South Street



It was the vision of Zenas Crane, the third-generation owner of the Crane & Co. paper company, that blended the treasures of the art, science and history worlds into a single museum for the people of Western Massachusetts in 1903. Crane acquired many of the artifacts himself. He amassed important works of art from the Hudson River School, American landscapes by Albert Bierstadt and Frederic Edwin Church. He helped sponsor the first successful expedition to the North Pole by Robert E. Peary and Matthew Henson in 1908-1909 and two of their sledges wound up here. So did the writing desk of Nathaniel Hawthorne. He constructed the two-story Italian Renaissance building to hold the diverse collections.

20. First Baptist Church
88 South Street



A small group of Baptists organized in Pittsfield in 1772 under the leadership of Valentine Rathbun. In 1780 Rathbun led his parishioners to join the neighboring Shakers and their new messages of simplicity and pacifism. Rathbun quickly became disenchanted with the Shaker doctrines but not all his flock followed him back and by 1800 the Pittsfield baptists were extinct. The congregation struggled back and by 1827 were able to erect their first meetinghouse and the impressive present structure was dedicated in 1850.

21. South Congregational Church
110 South Street



The Congregational Church had suffered rifts in Pittsfield through the years but the creation of the South Congregational Parish was a consequence of too much growth in the First Parish in 1848. The handsome wooden meetinghouse, topped by a graceful spire, burned before it could be dedicated in 1849. After it was replaced a gale toppled the spire in 1859. It cost \$3,500 to make the star-crossed church whole again.

22. Berkshire Automobile Company
109 South Street



The Berkshire Automobile Company was one of the earliest American car manufacturers, with their first touring car ready for advertising to the trade in 1906. The Pittsfield firm eventually produced

six different models which they promoted with speed trails from Pittsfield to Boston and New York City, setting record times on the primitive roads. In another ploy they arranged for over 100 pounds of New York Times newspapers to be loaded in Port Hudson, New York every Sunday and raced to Lenox in two hours. Still the company was out of a very tough business within a few years. The classic Art Deco auto garage from the 1920s was restored at the same time as the adjoining Colonial Theatre.

23. The Colonial Theatre **111 South Street**



The Sullivan brothers of North Adams got into show business in 1901 with the construction of the Empire Theatre. They hired America's foremost theater architects, J. B. McElfatrick and Sons, to design their performance house. Its success led to Pittsfield in 1903 and the construction of the Colonial Theatre at the cost of \$70,000. McElfatrick again was retained and he delivered superb natural acoustics and exquisite plaster detailing. The classically-inspired exterior was created by Joseph McArthur Vance.

The Colonial was a regular stop for nationally-known performers until the 1930s when the demise of vaudeville theater and the Great Depression conspired to shutter the venerable playhouse. It emerged in 1937 as a movie house but closed again in 1952. For the next half-century the building was used as a retail paint and art supply store - but never converted. Drop ceilings and partitions concealed the balconies and appointments of the old theater. In 2001 The Colonial Theatre Association purchased the theater and began a painstaking restoration that ended in a re-opening to the public in 2006. Of the more than 150 playhouses designed by J.B. McElfatrick, the Colonial is one of less than a dozen that can still be enjoyed today.

24. Masonic Hall
116 South Street



The Masonic Hall was built in 1912 and is celebrated for its 3,000 square foot ballroom that is regarded as the finest in the Berkshires. Its mirrored ball has reigned over the dance floor since 1917. The hall was designed by Pittsfield architect Joseph McArthur Vance whose resume included the superstructure of the Wahconah Park Stadium, one of the last remaining ballparks in the United States with a wooden grandstand, the Bascom Lodge atop Mount Greylock and the Colonial Theatre.

TURN LEFT ON HOUSATONIC STREET. TURN RIGHT ON WENDELL STREET, WHERE MANY A “BERKSHIRE COTTAGE” WAS BUILT IN AMERICA’S GILDED AGE OF THE LATE 1800S.

25. Thaddeus Clapp House
74 Wendell Avenue



Thaddeus Clapp was superintendent of the Pontoosuc Woolen Mill, son of Colonel Thaddeus Clapp who had been the superintendent of the mills Of Lemuel Pomeroy. He built this mansion with Colonial Revival detailing around the roof and grand entrance in 1871. Inside the house was outfitted with the latest innovations of the day - steam central heat and indoor plumbing. The interior anticipated the coming revolt against the excesses of the Victorian age with an emphasis on fine craftsmanship.

26. Thomas Colt House
42 Wendell Avenue



Thomas Colt, whose family was in the paper-making business, built this brick Italianate villa in 1865. Over the years the house did duty as a summer cottage, a private school and clubhouse for the local Women's Club.

TURN LEFT ON EAST STREET TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT ON PARK SQUARE.

A Walking Tour of Stockbridge, Massachusetts

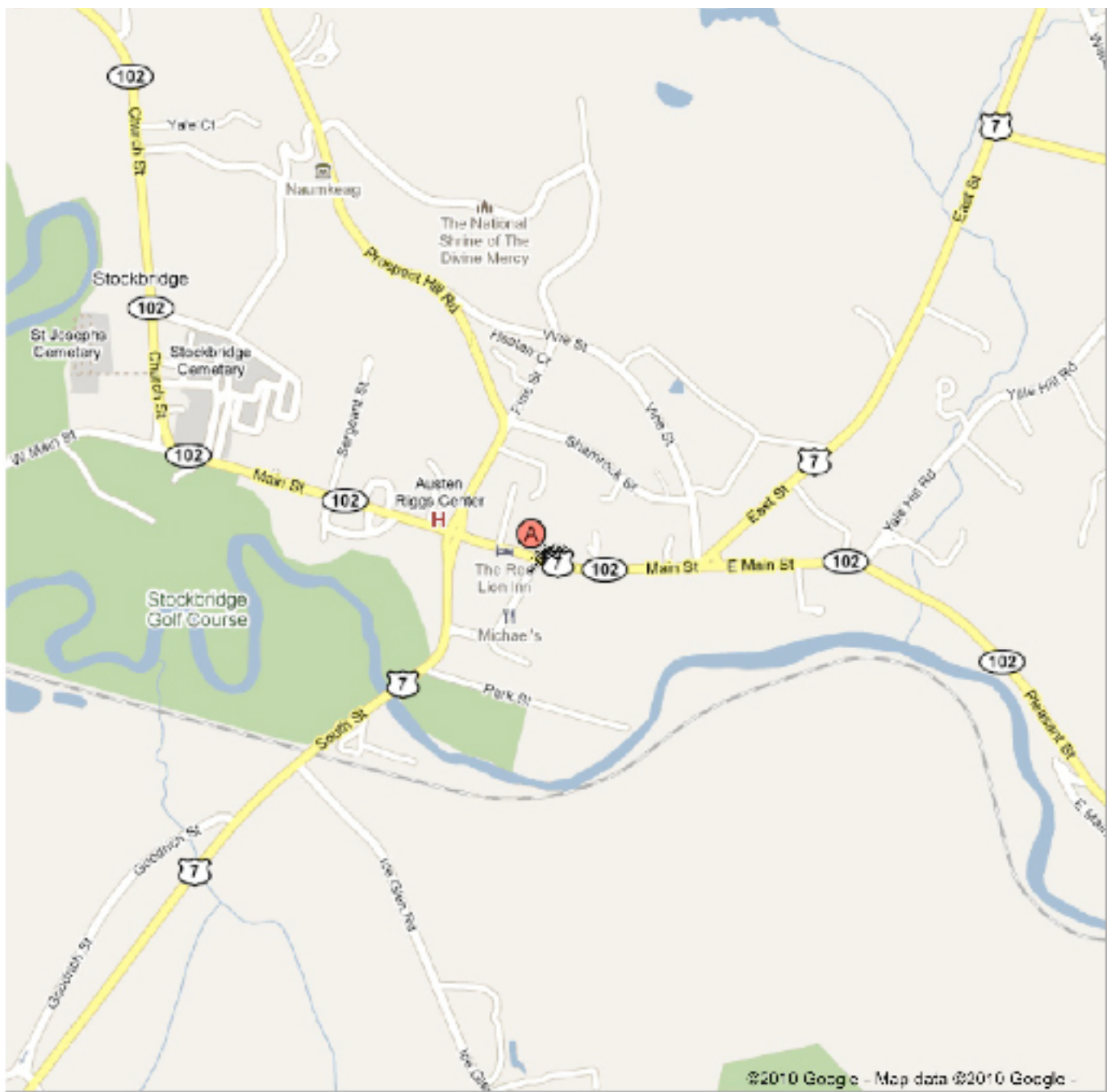
from walkthetown.com

Stockbridge is the second oldest town in the Berkshires, after Sheffield, established in 1834 as a mission for the Mahican Indian tribe. Their missionary was a Yale reverend named John Sergeant and under his guidance “Indian Town” was a great success and Stockbridge, named for the town in Hampshire, England from which the mission hoped to elicit funds, was incorporated as a town in 1739. Unfortunately Sergeant would live only a decade longer and relations with the Stockbridge Indians deteriorated rapidly. By 1785 their land was sold and the impoverished tribe was led out of the Berkshires - by a son of John Sergeant - to Oneida County, New York where they would gain some notoriety through the writings of James Fenimore Cooper.

The town was little noticed for its first 100 years until the railroad arrived in 1850. But unlike other towns where the Iron Horse brought industry and commerce, to Stockbridge it brought wealthy New Yorkers looking to escape the stale summer air. They built impressive “Berkshire cottages” around town and in America’s Gilded Age Stockbridge gained a reputation as the “inland Newport.” In 1853 America’s first village beautification organization, the Laurel Hill Association, was formed and continues to this day.

The town gained a reputation as a mecca for writers and artists and it turned out that it would be a magazine illustrator would ingrain Stockbridge into the national psyche. Norman Rockwell spent the final 25 years of his life in Stockbridge, using the downtown scenes for his cover paintings in the *Saturday Evening Post* and others. And ever since the town has taken pains to insure that those indelible images are not going to go away anytime soon.

Our walking tour will begin off Stockbridge’s busy Main Street and down by the meandering Housatonic River where there is a small park and space for cars and we’ll head up into the town to see why Rockwell once declared, “Stockbridge is the best of America, the best of New England”...



FROM THE PARKING LOT WALK OUT TO BUSY SOUTH STREET AND TURN RIGHT (AWAY FROM THE HOUSATONIC RIVER). WALK UP TO MAIN STREET.

**1. *Cat & Dog Fountain*
South Street at Main Street**



This small fountain in a traffic island at the head of South Street has been a town landmark since 1862.

DO NOT TRY TO CROSS MAIN STREET. TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET AND WALK DOWN THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE STREET.

**2. *Merwin House*
14 Main Street**



Francis and Clarissa Dresser built the beginnings of this Federal-style brick house in 1825. It was sold out of the family in 1875 to well-to-do William and Elizabeth Doane from New York as a summer retreat. They added a Shingle-style ell addition and otherwise upgraded the property over the years of their ownership. William died in 1923 and Elizabeth passed away in 1932 and the house passed to their daughter Vipont who moved in with her third husband, New York stockbroker Edward Payson Merwin. He lived only a few more years and Vipont Merwin lived out the final thirty years of her life here. She willed the house to the public for a museum “as an example of an American culture which is fast becoming extinct.”

3. Town Hall
6 Main Street on Village Green



This Neoclassical Greek Temple fronted by a quartet of fluted Doric columns handled town functions for many years.

4. First Congregational Church of Stockbridge
4 Main Street on Village Green



The church was formally organized in October 1734 when a young tutor from Yale named John Sergeant was sent to preach to the Muh-He-Kun-Ne-Ok (Mohican) people of the Berkshire Hills. Sergeant was quite successful in his mission; in the first year 40 Mohicans, including two chiefs, were baptized. After his death in 1749, Sergeant was followed by fiery preacher Jonathan Edwards who continued the work with the Mohican people while writing his masterpiece, *Freedom Of Will*, which remains one of the greatest works in American theology. This is the third building for the church, erected in brick in 1824.

5. Children's Chime Tower
Village Green



The tower was built in contrasting stone by David Dudley Field to honor his grandchildren. It was dedicated in 1878 and the bells in the 75-foot tower are rung at 5:30 every evening from “apple blossom time till the first frost on the pumpkins.” Field was the oldest of the four sons of the Reverend David Dudley Field, a well-known American clergyman and author, who became one of

America's foremost lawyers and law reformers. The location of the tower is on the spot of the first Stockbridge meetinghouse from 1734.

CROSS MAIN STREET TO THE NORTH SIDE AND TURN RIGHT.

6. Stockbridge Cemetery Main Street



This cemetery was founded in the early 1800s around the ancestral family plot of the Sedgwicks, one of the town's early influential families. When Theodore Sedgwick died in 1813 after a career that included a stint as a justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court he was laid to rest here. Around him would be placed the graves of family members, in-laws, servants, and family pets, in concentric circles around patriarch Theodore, grouped by familial affiliation, and placed with their feet toward the center. The arrangement came to be known as the Sedgwick Pie, said to have been conceived so that on the Judgment Day, when the dead are raised, the Sedgwicks will only have to look at other Sedgwicks.

Other notables interred here are Cyrus Field, who was the driving force behind the laying of the first trans-Atlantic cable and Norman Rockwell, tucked between his second and third wives, Mary and Molly.

7. Mission House 19 Main Street at Sergeant Street



The Reverend John Sergeant came to live among the Stockbridge Mohican Indians in the 1730s, building a simple cabin while he attended to his ministry. Sergeant married Abigail Williams in 1739 and a couple years later he was able to construct this spacious clapboard house on nearby Prospect Hill. In the 1920s the house, a National Historic Landmark, was disassembled, moved, and restored at this location. About that time the grounds were transformed into a replica Colonial garden by famed landscape architect Fletcher Steele with circular brick paths hugged by a cypress fence.

8. **The Austen Riggs Center** **25 Main Street**



It was while recovering from a bout of tuberculosis in his summer home here that AustenFox Riggs in 1907 became intrigued by the study of the mind and health that was just beginning to take hold in the medical community. He developed his own system of treatment based on talk therapy combined with a structured routine of daily activities that emphasized a balance between work, play, rest, and exercise. He founded the “Stockbridge Institute for the Psychoneuroses,” renamed “The Austen Riggs Foundation” in 1919, that has been a fixture on Main Street for over a century.

The campus includes several historical buildings including a cottage built in 1772 by Timothy Edwards, a Revolutionary War colonel, and the son of Jonathan Edwards, the second minister of the Stockbridge Congregational Church. The Elms Cottage was the site where the first trans-Atlantic cable message was successfully received from Europe by Stockbridge native Cyrus W. Field. The sprawling white brick Colonial Revival building fronting Main Street was designed by one of America’s most sophisticated architectural firms, Delano & Aldrich. William Adams Delano and Chester Holmes Aldrich met in the late 1890s and partnered in 1903. That first year they secured commissions from the Rockefeller, Stokes and Winthrop families as they went on to design townhouses, country houses, clubs and banks, often in the neo-Georgian and Federal styles, combining brick and limestone, which became their trademark.

9. ***War of the Rebellion Monument*** **Main Street and Pine Street**



This brownstone obelisk surmounted by a bronze eagle sculpture was dedicated in October 1866, one of the earliest memorials erected to honor Civil War dead. More than 3,000 people attended its dedication. The front features an ornate carving of two flags, crossed swords, a wreath and a soldier’s haversack. Important battles and name of soldiers lost adorn the monument that is fronted by a small cannon.

10. St. Paul's Episcopal Church 29 Main Street



The Episcopalian church in Stockbridge was established in 1834 and for its first 50 years services were held in a wooden Gothic Revival church. The building was razed in favor of the current sanctuary of South Berkshire limestone. The Norman design was provided by Charles Follen McKim, the founding partner in the firm of McKim, Mead & White, which set the standard for architectural taste in the United States between 1879 and 1909. This was McKim's first church. John La Farge created the Chancel window, a depiction of St. Paul, and the windows flanking the font in the baptistry are by Louis Comfort Tiffany. The statue on the porch, *The Spirit of Life*, is by the celebrated Daniel Chester French, best remembered for the Lincoln Memorial. The sculptor made his home in West Stockbridge at his Chesterwood estate.

11. Red Lion Inn 30 Main Street



On the long colonial road between Boston and Albany in 1773 Anna and Silas Bingham set up a small store in Stockbridge that would soon become a much-welcome rest stop for weary travelers who learned to look for the sign of the red lion. From the fires in the Red Lion Inn sprouted the seeds of Shays Rebellion in 1786-87 that helped forge the power of the new national government in the face of armed protest.

In its original incarnation the Red Lion Inn featured bar rooms on the first floor and eight bedrooms and a ballroom upstairs. Through the 1800s the hostelry went through many owners and by 1884 could accommodate over 100 guests. A fire that erupted in the pastry kitchen leveled the Inn in 1896 but it was restored to its former glory in just eight months, albeit under a new red lion shield. The guestbook features five U.S. presidents: Grover Cleveland, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, and Franklin Roosevelt.

12. Berkshire Bank
32 Main Street



This was the home of the Housatonic Bank that was incorporated in 1825 with a capitalization of \$100,000. The builders didn't go far for the materials needed to construct the bank - the bricks were fired from clay scraped out of the Housatonic River and the marble for the trim was quarried in West Stockbridge.

13. Old Town Hall
34 Main Street



This picturesque little red brick and terra cotta building with stepped gables and a rear tower was constructed in 1884 for use as town offices. The government has since left the Queen Anne gem for retail use.

14. The Mews-*"Alice's Restaurant"* Site
40 Main Street



Down this alley in 1965 was the Back Room Rest, a restaurant owned by Alice M. Brock. That Thanksgiving an 18-year old Arlo Guthrie was arrested for littering while trying to dispose of some of Alice's garbage after finding the town dump closed for the holiday. That incident became the basis for the iconic 18-minute, 34-second *Alice's Restaurant* song on Guthrie's debut album of the same name and a 1969 movie. Alice Brock only owned the restaurant for about a year and it has

operated under various names and figurations in the passing years.

15. Seven Arts

44 Main Street



Jason Braman ran a general store out of this 1892 building for many years. Braman posed as the town clerk in Norman Rockwell's *Saturday Evening Post* Cover, *The Marriage License*. The setting for the painting was the interior of the Town Hall down the street.

16. Stockbridge Library

46 Main Street



Books were being lent around Stockbridge as early as 1789 when 25 townsfolk formed the Berkshire Republican Library. There was not a library building until 1861, however, when Nathan Jackson of Tyringham, who had been schooled at Stockbridge Academy, offered \$2,000 for the purpose. The gift came with a catch - the town had to match the sum. No problem. More than 400 people donated books and raised another \$2,500 for the new Stockbridge Library Association. The corner lot at Elm and Main streets was donated by a local shopkeeper with the promise that the new building wouldn't block her view of Main Street. and J.Z. Goodrich constructed the stone building at his own expense. By the summer of 1864 the Stockbridge Social Library opened with 3,000 books. It was commonly called the Jackson Library but Nathan Jackson never saw the fulfillment of his vision - he died a year earlier. A 1930s expansion and remodeling brought the handsome Colonial Revival appearance.

17. Watering Trough
Main Street at Elm Street



It has been many a year since a thirsty horse availed itself of the opportunity for a cool drink from this water station in the center of busy Main Street. The trough was installed in 1881 with no pretensions - it bears the messages of its purpose: “Utility is preferable to grandeur” and “Merciful man is kind to his beast.”

18. Town Offices/Plain School
Main Street



Now home to town offices after a nearly \$7 million renovation, this Colonial Revival building was the former Stockbridge Plain School and shared with the former Williams High School. The bust in the niche over the entrance is a nod to the town’s founding as a mission for the Stockbridge Indians.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO ELM STREET AND TURN LEFT.

19. Elm Street Market
4 Elm Street



Another Norman Rockwell inspiration - the old-fashioned soda counter here wound up in *After the Prom*.

20. Hose House No. 1
10 Elm Street



The wooden frame red-and-white fire station dates to 1862. It was the subject of one of Norman Rockwell's works entitled *The New American LaFrance is here!* The illustration was part of a series of advertisements for the American LaFrance Fire Engine Co. Although Hose House No. 1 was in use until the 1950s it could never accommodate the American LaFrance pumper depicted in the painting. The fire station was purchased by the Red Lion Inn in 1974 and now serves as their most popular guesthouse.

21. St. Joseph Church
11 Elm Street



This church had its beginnings on this corner in 1862 as a mission church. St. Joseph's became a parish church in 1922.

TURN RIGHT ON MAPLE STREET. TURN LEFT ON SOUTH STREET TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

For additional touring...

To take one of the most unique nature walks in the Berkshires, walk out of the parking lot along Park Street (the Housatonic River will be on your right). At the end of the street cross the river on the footbridge. On the other side turn right to pick up the *Ice Glen Trail*. Nathaniel Hawthorne called the Ice Glen, a cleft in the rocks between Bear and Little Mountains, "the most curious fissure in all Berkshire." It is a ravine without a stream - all the water around Ice Glen flows on a south-north axis while the gorge is aligned east to west. In fact, the dry Glen, stuffed with stacked boulders and draped with hemlocks, was once a glacial lake. Tucked away from the sun's rays, the season's last snow clings here, hence its name. The entire trail is less than a mile long.

IDENTIFYING AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

Recognizing Early American Architecture:

Postmedieval English Colonial (1600-1700)

- * steeply pitched, side-gabled roof
- * small casement windows with many small panes (restored often)
- * massive chimney
- * vertical board (batten) door
- * little or no eave overhang, no cornice detailing
- * one room deep

Dutch Colonial (1625-1840)

- * side-gambrelled roof
- * usually one story
- * batten door, most divided into upper and lower halves
- * little or no eave overhang

French Colonial (1700-1830)

- * steeply pitched roof, either hipped or side-gabled
- * one story
- * tall, narrow door and window openings
- * doors and windows typically divided vertically into pairs
- * walls of stucco (over half-timbered frame)

Spanish Colonial (1660-1850)

- * low-pitched or flat roof
- * normally one story
- * few small windows
- * multiple external doors
- * walls very thick in stucco over adobe brick or rubble stone
- * long, narrow porches opening to courtyards

Georgian (1700-1780)

- * windows with double-hung sashes, typically nine or twelve small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
- * paneled door, normally with decorative crown (most often pedimented but at times broken-pedimented) and supported by decorative pilasters
- * row of small rectangular panes beneath door crown
- * cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
- * windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked

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Adamesque (Federal) (1780-1820)

- * windows with double-hung sashes, typically six small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
- * semi-circular or elliptical fanlight over paneled door, typically accompanied by sidelights, elaborated crown and surround, and/or extended as small entry porch
- * cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
- * windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked
- * while similar to Georgian, features are often “lighter”

Greek Revival (1825-1860)

- * gabled or hipped roof of low pitch
- * entry porch or full-width porch supported by square or round, prominent columns
 - Doric: plain capitals
 - Ionic: capitals with scroll-like spirals
 - Corinthian: capitals shaped like inverted bells decorated with leaves
- * narrow line of transom and sidelights around door, usually incorporated into elaborate door surround
- * cornice lines emphasized with wide, divided band of trim

Recognizing Victorian Architecture:

General Victorian Features (1840-1910)

- * roof ornaments
- * bay (protruding) windows
- * three-part Palladian (rounded in middle) windows
- * gingerbread porch trim

Gothic Revival Style (1835-1875)

- * high-pitched center gables
- * pointed arch windows and doors
- * pendants and finials extending from roof

Italianate Style (1840-1885)

- * brackets under roof cornices
- * cupolas on the roof
- * narrow, square porch posts with chamfered corners
- * tall, slender windows

Second Empire Style (1855-1885)

- * mansard roof, concave or convex, with dormer windows on steep lower slope
- * molded cornices bound lower roof slope above and below
- * eaves normally with decorative brackets below

Stick Style (1860-1890)

- * stick-like bracketing on porches, often diagonal or curving
- * stick-like grid on wall surfaces
- * Jerkin-Head (cut-off triangular) roofs and dormers
- * pent (or shed) roofs on dormers, porches and bays
- * decorative trusses in gables; often steeply pitched gables
- * wooden wall cladding (boards or shingles)

Queen Anne Style (1880-1910)

- * asymmetrical facade
- * patterned shingles
- * turned porch posts and trim
- * corner towers and turrets
- * wraparound porch
- * steeply pitched, irregular roofline

Shingle Style (1880-1900)

- * shingled walls without interruption at corners
- * multi-level eaves above asymmetrical facade
- * extensive porches
- * walls and roofs covered with continuous wood shingles

Richardsonian Romanesque (1880-1900)

- * based on the innovative designs of Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson
- * round topped arches over windows, porch supports or entrance
- * most have towers, usually round with conical roofs
- * always masonry walls, usually with rough-faced, squared stonework
- * facade usually asymmetrical

Recognizing 20th century Architecture:

Colonial Revival (1885 and beyond)

- * accentuated front door with fanlights and sidelights
- * symmetrical facade around centered entrance
- * windows with double-hung sashes
- * large dormers
- * round, smooth porch columns, often clustered

Neoclassical (1895-1950)

- * facade dominated by full-length porch supported by classical columns, typically Ionic or Corinthian
- * facade shows symmetrically balanced windows and center door
- * revivals may have curved porticos, two-story entrances, paired or tripled windows and/or bays not seen on originals
- * often very large

Tudor (1890 -1940)

- * massive chimneys, commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots
- * facade dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, usually steeply perched
- * decorative half-timbering often present
- * steeply pitched roof, usually side-gabled
- * tall, narrow windows, commonly in multiple groups with multi-pane glazing
- * walls of brick, stone, wood, stucco or in combination

French Chateausque (1890-1930)

- * busy roof line with many vertical elements (spires, pinnacles, turrets, gables, shaped chimneys)
- * steeply pitched hipped roof
- * multiple dormers, usually wall dormers extending through cornice line
- * walls of masonry, usually stone

Beaux Arts (1890-1930)

- * wall surfaces with decorative garlands, floral patterns or shields
- * masonry walls, usually of light-colored stone
- * facade with corner quoins and columns, oftne paired with Ionic or Corinthian capitals
- * first story typically rusticated (stonework) with exaggerated joints
- * facade symmetrical

Spanish Mission Style (1890-1930)

- * shaped Mission dormer or roof parapet
- * porch roofs supported by large square piers, commonly arched above
- * commonly with red tile roof covering
- * widely overhanging eaves, usually open
- * wall surface usually smooth stucco

Pueblo Revival (1910-present)

- * flat roof with parapeted wall above
- * stucco wall surface, usually earth-toned
- * projecting wooden roof beams (vigas)
- * wall and roof parapet with irregular, rounded edges
- * unpainted wood porch columns - maybe just tree trunks
- * tile or brick floors

Prairie Style (1900-1920)

- * low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves
- * two stories with one-story porches or wings
- * massive square porch supports
- * detail emphasizing horizontal lines
- * hipped roofs are more common than end or side gables
- * one of few indigenous American styles developed by Chicago architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright and built only during first two decades of century

Craftsman (1905-1930)

- * low-pitched gabled roof with wide, unenclosed eave overhang
- * roof rafters usually exposed
- * porches supported by square columns
- * decorative braces or false beams under gables
- * columns frequently continue to ground level without a break at porch level
- * generally one or one-and-a-half stories

Art Deco (1920-1940)

- * zigzags and other geometric and stylized motifs
- * towers and other vertical projections
- * smooth stucco wall surface
- * decorative motifs: geometric floral; chevron with lozenge; reeding and fluting, often around doors and windows; sunrise pattern