

*Look up,  
Connecticut!*

Walking Tours of 25 Towns  
in the Nutmeg State

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**CRUDEN BAY BOOKS**

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LOOK UP, CONNECTICUT!: WALKING TOURS  
OF 25 TOWNS IN THE NUTMEG STATE

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## *How to use this book...*

There is no better way to see Connecticut than on foot. And there is no better way to appreciate what you are looking at than with a walking tour. Whether you are visiting a new town or just out to look at your own town in a new way, a walking tour is ready to explore when you are.

Each of the 25 walking tours in *Look Up, Connecticut!* describes a mix of historical and architectural and ecclesiastical landmarks. A quick primer on identifying architectural styles seen on Maryland streets can be found at the back of the book on page 152.

### *Where are the maps?*

Let's face it, in today's world of GPS, Google Maps and Mapquest trying to squeeze a detailed map onto a 7" a 10" piece of paper can be a superfluous exercise. The best way to get a map of these towns is to pick an address from the tour and plug it into your favorite mapping program. Adjust the map to whatever size best suits your needs and print it out to carry with you.

These tours are designed to be followed and enjoyed without maps. Each entry includes a street address and step-by-step directions. Note that when following a tour, street crossings are omitted. Always continue walking on your current street until a turn is indicated. Whenever possible the tours complete a circular route but sometimes retracing your steps is required. The tour starting points have been selected to be near convenient parking.

One more thing. Consider tearing out the pages from this book when you take a tour - the book is created so that each tour can be pulled out without impugning another tour. You may find it easier to tour with just a few foldable pages in your hand than holding an entire book.

And, one really last thing. Look twice before crossing the street. So get out and look up, Connecticut!

*Look Up,*

# *Branford*



## A Walking Tour of Branford...

When the first settlers of the New Haven Colony purchased land from the Mattabesech Indians in 1638 it included the territory of Totoket, later called Branford, supposedly for Brentford in the English county of Middlesex. The colony thrived due to productive cropland and its location on the Branford River, which provided the only deep harbor between New Haven and New London. Ships traded lumber, livestock, brooms, and produce for molasses and rum from the West Indies.

Farming was the mainstay of Branford life for over 200 years. The railroad arrived in 1852, bringing small businesses like Branford Lockworks, Malleable Iron Fittings Company, and the Atlantic Wire Company, but the next real injection of financial vitality came from the vacation trade. Twenty summer hotels made Branford a popular resort area including the Indian Point House in Stony Creek, the Montowese House in Indian Neck, and the Sheldon House in Pine Orchard.

Our walking tour will concentrate on the Green, a triangular open space that is one of Connecticut's most attractive and the heart of the community since 1699. But we'll start a block away, in front of a marble building from 1896 that never fails to turn heads in Branford. Consider the lead by a reporter from the *Boston Herald* for his piece on Branford, "In a very plain village in Connecticut by the sea, nine miles east of New Haven; in a lonesome little town called Branford, which has a malleable iron factory, a lock shop, a quarry and miles of farm patches that produce annually 50,000 quarts of strawberries for the Boston market, there is a public library that cost nearly \$600,000!"...

**1. James Blackstone Memorial Library**  
**758 Main Street**

Timothy Beach Blackstone was born in Branford in 1829 but made his fortune on the railroad lines of the midwest. For 35 years before he died in 1900 he was president of the Chicago & Alton Railroad. When he decided to donate a library to his hometown in 1893 he obtained a special charter from the Connecticut Legislature, vesting control of the library in a self-perpetuating board of trustees consisting of six residents of Branford and the librarian of Yale University. Architect Solon S. Beman of Chicago designed the Beaux Arts building under a domed, octagonal rotunda with unusually durable white marble from eastern Tennessee on the exterior and pink and gray marble in the interior. The library, named for Blackstone's father James, who was born in Branford in 1793, was dedicated on June 17, 1896, and the next day it was opened for use with a stock of 5,000 books. The total cost was said to be \$300,000, with another \$300,000 contributed for an endowment fund.

CROSS THE STREET  
AND TURN RIGHT.

**2. St. Mary Church**  
**731 Main Street**

Early Irish immigrants in Branford had to walk or ride in horse and buggy to New Haven to attend mass. Later, they would gather for services in the home of Francis Harding, who donated land on Montowese Street for the construction of the first Catholic church in town, which was dedicated in 1855. By 1897 this church had become too small for its rapidly growing parish and planning was begun to build a new church on its present site on Main Street. The brick structure was dedicated in January 1904 but didn't make it through the year when a fire destroyed everything but the walls. The energetic congregation rebuilt the entire church and it was rededicated in 1906.

TURN AND WALK BACK UP MAIN  
STREET TOWARDS BRANFORD  
CENTER. BEAR RIGHT AT THE  
GREEN.

**3. Bradford Green**  
**Main Street**

The Bradford Green traces its beginnings back to 1699 when John Taintor's will stated, "I do give to ye town of Brandford that part of my homelott...which I give to said Towne to build a publick meeting house upon, and to continue for that use so long as they shall maintain a meeting house..." For 100 years the rocky patch of ground was used for sheep to graze and the local militia to drill. Around 1790 the town began sprucing up the Green with plantings and landscaping. Today, with three churches and the town hall facing Main Street, the Branford Green is considered one of the finest in Connecticut.

**4. First Baptist Church**  
**975 Main Street**

The First Baptist Church is the oldest original building on the Green, erected in 1840. It received an expansion to the rear in the early 1900s.

**5. First Congregational Church**  
**1009 Main Street**

This is the fourth house of worship for the church, crafted in the Greek Revival style in 1843. With fluted pillars and a center steeple it is a long way from the crude log meetinghouse with dirt floors that was constructed two centuries earlier in 1644. The congregation first moved to the Green in 1741. Continuing the pattern of modernization every 100 years, the church was remodeled in 1946 but repairs couldn't hold until 2046 so in 1997 the wooden steeple and cupola were replaced with aluminum replicas.

**6. Town Hall**  
**1019 Main Street**

The Branford Town Hall on the Green was built in 1857 in the Greek Revival style, the front pillars and stucco were added in 1917.

WALK BEHIND THE TOWN HALL.

**7. The Cenotaph**  
**The Green, behind Town Hall**

The Cenotaph – A classical, semi-circular, stone wall set behind a paved circle was dedicated in 1923 to honor the veterans of World War I and was designed by nationally known Branford artist J. Andre Smith.

**WALK LEFT TOWARDS  
MONTOWESE STREET.**

**8. The Academy**  
**corner of Montowese & South  
Main streets**

The cupola-topped Branford Academy, built in 1820, is on the southeast corner of the Green near the site of the Reverend Samuel Russell house where in 1701 ten clergymen met and donated books for the founding of the Collegiate School that became Yale University. Since its use as a school expired the little building has hopped around the Green, first to a spot behind the Congregational Church and to its present location in 1971.

**TURN LEFT ON  
MONTOWESE STREET.**

**9. Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**1109 Main Street**

After being ministered by itinerant preachers since the establishment of the Episcopal Society of New Haven, Guilford and Branford a wooden frame church was erected on the Green in 1784. The present English Gothic style church was designed by New Haven architect S.M. Stone using ship's siding lumber. The interior structural design was influenced by ship building techniques using oak, hemlock and hickory, which was available along the coast of Connecticut at that time. The ceiling beams and rafters were hand hewn. The resulting church was much more ornate than today's clean white structure - over the years much of the flamboyant decoration has been removed.

**10. Board of Education**  
**1111 Main Street**

Downtown Branford received a touch of Neoclassical architecture courtesy of this government building that now houses the Board of Education.

**TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET.**

**11. Totoket House**  
**1036-1064 Main Street**

The commercial block that forms the northern wall of the Green is the site where the Totoket House once stood. Ezekiel Hayes, great-grandfather of Rutherford Birchard Hayes, 19th president of the United States, built the bricks on the premises for the notable two-story house.

**CONTINUE ON THE NORTH SIDE  
OF MAIN STREET TO THE TOUR  
STARTING POINT.**



*Look Up,*

# *Bridgeport*



## A Walking Tour of Bridgeport...

In spite of a slow start, Bridgeport grew into the most populous city in Connecticut. The first settlers wandered over from the neighboring coastal towns of Fairfield and Stratford in 1639 but the city would not be incorporated for another 200 years. Bridgeport's location on the deep Black Rock Harbor fostered a boom in shipbuilding and whaling in the mid-19th century, especially after the opening of a railroad to the city in 1840. In fact, every census report for the next 100 years showed at least a 40% increase in population each decade.

By the 1930s Bridgeport hosted some 500 manufacturing firms churning out almost any product imaginable. Ammunition, chains, rubber goods, typewriters, scissors, toys, hardware, cables, engines, phonograph records, brake linings, sewing machines all shipped from Bridgeport. The first "horseless carriage," equipped with hard rubber tires and a self-starter, was built here in the early 1890s. The town's manufacturing base was so diverse it never became known for any one industry.

If Bridgeport was known for anything, it was as the adopted home of America's greatest showman of the 19th century, P.T. Barnum. Barnum not only moved to town, he served a term as mayor in 1875. Our walking tour will explore the downtown core in an area corralled by the Pequonnock River, I-95 and Highway 8 at the site of an event that was probably much forgotten in Bridgeport a week after it happened on Saturday March 10, 1860, but is still remembered today..

**1. McLevy Hall**  
**202 State Street at northeast corner**  
**of Broad Street**

When it comes to selection of the county courthouse, in Fairfield County money talks and less money walks. There was much debate accompanying the placing of the Fairfield County Courthouse in Bridgeport. Fairfield was the site of the first county seat and there, in 1720, the colonists erected the first courthouse--a wooden structure that was burned by the British during the Revolutionary War. It was rebuilt in 1794. But by the mid-1800s, with the burgeoning industrial and population growth of neighboring Bridgeport made it the obvious choice to host the replacement of the overwhelmed Fairfield facility. Obvious, except to the folks in Norwalk. Bridgeport offered to pay \$75,000 to build a courthouse and jail, ending the brouhaha. The sandstone building was designed by Alexander Jackson Davis in the Greek Revival-style, which resembles a temple. The building had two main floors for court and county government, a large ground floor for use as City Hall and a large gathering space, Washington Hall, for public meetings.

Today it is known as McLevy Hall, named for popular former 24-year Socialist mayor Jasper McLevy. It is remembered as the location where a little-known Republican candidate for President delivered a two-hour impassioned political speech against slavery on March 10, 1860. Abraham Lincoln, however, probably best remembered Bridgeport as the place where he enjoyed his first plate of New England fried oysters.

**WALK AROUND TO THE  
MCLEVY GREEN BEHIND  
THE HISTORIC HALL.**

**2. Court Exchange Building**  
**211 State Street at Broad Street**

C. Barnum Seeley, the grandson of P.T. Barnum, hired architect George Longstaff for this building in 1896. Longstaff envisioned a building worthy of America's greatest family of showmen and he soon went way over budget. Guests were greeted at the entrance by granite columns topped by statues of lions. The large top floor became the headquarters for the Algonquin Club.

**3. Playhouse on the Green**  
**177 State Street**

Playhouse on the Green originated in 1954 as the "Polka Dot Playhouse," located in Stratford's Redman's Hall. The company had several homes before moving to Pleasure Beach in 1967. With support of People's Bank and the State of Connecticut, the Playhouse relocated here in 1999. The five-story structure was the last commissioned by P.T. Barnum, constructed in 1892. The masonry building is embellished with carved brownstone details.

**4. People's Bank**  
**899 Main Street at southwest corner**  
**of State Street**

Classical Revival master Cass Gilbert gave the Bridgeport Savings Bank a powerful order of Corinthian columns built of Vermont Imperial Danby marble to front the 1917 granite building. The two bronze doors were on display in new York City at Tiffany and Company before being shipped to Bridgeport. The bank merged and became the People's Bank in the 1920s.

**TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.**

**5. Bridgeport Center**  
**850 Main Street**

Part of Bridgeport's revitalization effort, this 16-story bank headquarters flowing out of a base of low-rise buildings joined the Bridgeport streetscape in 1989, from the pen of Richard Meier. One of the world's most acclaimed architects, this was Meier's first attempt at a skyscraper.

**6. The Barnum Museum**  
**820 Main Street**

Celebrated showman Phineas Taylor (P.T.) Barnum had a museum, maybe the most famous in America in the 1800s, but it was in New York City until it burned down. Barnum also built three mansions in Bridgeport, a town where he served as mayor in 1875, but he never lived in this building. The building, as unique as the man himself, was erected in 1893 as the Barnum Institute of Science and History from funds bequeathed

by Barnum in his will. The rounded corner structure of stone and terra cotta displays influences of Byzantine, Moorish and Richardsonian Romanesque architectural styles. Exhibits chronicle the life of Barnum along three major themes: Barnum the Man; Barnum's American Museum; and Bridgeport & Barnum.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON MAIN STREET, BACK TOWARDS THE GREEN.

**7. Mechanics and Farmers Savings Bank  
930 Main Street**

The Mechanics and Farmers Savings Bank was chartered in 1871 and organized two years later by Lyman Sheldon Catlin. For its first 60 years the bank was a physical orphan, occupying such spaces as the Barnum Building and the basement of the Connecticut Bank Building. In 1930 the bank got its own home in this Neoclassical vault with engaged, fluted Doric columns. The bank remained independent until it failed in the early 1990s.

**8. City Savings Bank  
948 Main Street at northeast corner  
of Bank Street**

This Neoclassical multi-story bank replaced the 1885 Victorian Romanesque United Bank Building in 1912. The bank traces its roots back to 1859. The architect was Warren R. Briggs.

**9. CityTrust Complex  
955 Main Street**

The Citytrust Complex consists of four separate buildings erected between 1917 and 1930. Three of the buildings are of the Colonial Revival style. The Morris Plan Bank and the Trust Department, the smaller buildings in the complex, are of red brick with ornamental cast stone detailing. The Liberty Building is a nine-story steel frame building with terra cotta rib slab construction. The fourth building, the eleven-story Citytrust is a surviving example of the Art Deco style and has extensive carved granite and glazed terra cotta ornamentation.

TURN RIGHT ON WALL STREET.

**10. Plaza Building  
109 Wall Street at southwest corner  
of Wall Street**

Before you turn onto Middle Street take note of this Beaux Arts building from 1903 that features classical motifs and the busts of lions and a woman.

TURN LEFT ON MIDDLE STREET.

**11. U.S. Post Office  
120 Middle Street**

A picturesque Victorian post office that stood at Broad and Cannon streets was demolished in the 1930s and replaced by the clean lines of this block-long Art Deco building.

TURN LEFT ON GOLDEN HILL STREET. TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.

**12. Palace/Majestic Theaters  
1315-1357 Main Street**

Thomas Lamb, America's premier theater designer, built the biggest movie theater ever erected in Connecticut here in the 1910s. Actually the Beaux Arts building included the Palace Theater, the Majestic Theater and the Savoy Hotel upstairs - where a room could be had for \$1.50. By all accounts this was one of the most fabulous stages ever built in America. The Majestic closed in 1971 and the Palace hung on a few more years, screening adult movies. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and has been awaiting a hopeful, and frighteningly expensive, restoration ever since.

TURN LEFT ON CONGRESS STREET.  
TURN LEFT ON LYON TERRACE.

**13. City Hall**  
**45 Lyon Terrace**

Bridgeport's new City Hall harkens back to the form of the ancient Greeks with three-story Ionic columns supporting a front portico.

**14. Old Fairfield County Courthouse**  
**172 Golden Hill Street at Lyon Terrace**

As we learned at McLevy Hall, Bridgeport and Norwalk jockeyed to be the home of the Fairfield County seat until Bridgeport ponied up money to construct the courthouse in the 1850s. In the 1880s it was decided to build a new courthouse. Again Norwalk lobbied for the county seat and this time offered \$100,000. But Bridgeport came back with a \$150,000 bid. Warren R. Biggs brought the concepts of brawny, rough-cut rounded arches of leading American architect Henry Hobson Richardson to Golden Hill in 1888 for the new Fairfield County Courthouse. Today it is Geographical Area Courthouse No. 2, where all but the most serious criminal cases are heard.

TURN RIGHT ON  
GOLDEN HILL STREET.

**15. Downtown Cabaret Theatre**  
**263 Golden Hill Street**

The Downtown Cabaret Theatre is a direct descendent of the Sacred Heart University Cabaret. After several successful seasons in an academic setting, the entire company moved into the basement of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Senior Center in 1975. The assembly room of the former YWCA was converted to a theater, including the addition of a balcony and air conditioning. Another \$1.3 million went into another renovation in 1995. The award-winning theater, drawing upon both Connecticut and New York talent, now seats 276.

TURN LEFT ON LAFAYETTE STREET.  
TURN LEFT ON ELM STREET.

**16. Golden Hill United Methodist Church**  
**210 Elm Street**

The First Methodist Society in Bridgeport was organized in 1817 and by 1823 a wooden structure, standing at the crossroads of two major downtown arteries was ready for services. It burned in 1849, being replaced by a brick building that served the needs of the community for nearly 80 years. The present stone Gothic sanctuary, built on Golden Hill overlooking the city, dates to the 1920s.

TURN RIGHT ON BROAD STREET.

**17. Burroughs and Saden Public Library**  
**925 Broad Street**

Bridgeport boasted a library as early as 1828 but did not get a public library until 1881 when one was created by act of the Connecticut General Assembly and the Bridgeport City Council. The Library purchased that collection of the Bridgeport Library Association and moved into rented quarters. In 1883, upon the death of Catherine Burroughs Pettingill, the Library Board received as a gift the building at the corner of Main and John streets. The library moved into the upstairs rooms and rented out the ground floor to retail shops to provide a steady flow of operating cash. The arrangement proved adequate for almost 50 years. The current Burroughs Library Building opened to the public on April 25, 1927, designed in the Classical Revival style by architects Dickson and Palmer. In 2003 it picked up the name of George A. Saden, a retired Superior Court judge who died at the age of 92 and had been a member of the Library Board of Directors since 1993.

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED  
TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.



*Look Up,*

# *Bristol*



## A Walking Tour of Bristol...

Today Bristol is known as the home of ESPN, the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network that pioneered the concept of 24-hour sports television coverage. But it was another time-related industry that first brought the town to prominence more than two centuries ago.

As early as 1790 it is known that Gideon Roberts was making clocks in town and peddling them around the countryside on horseback. In the adjoining town of Plymouth Eli Terry innovated the compact shelf clock to bring time to those who could not afford tallcase cabinet timepieces. When Terry developed a system that harnessed the power of water and enabled him to mass produce clock gears from wood his explosive success encouraged others to join the industry.

Bristol, which was largely unsettled thanks to its rocky soil, did have that source of water power that made the town a desirable place for would-be manufacturers. In 1822 Chauncey Jerome, who had started his career a few years earlier in Waterbury making dials for long-case clocks, moved his business to Bristol, opening a small shop with his brother Noble, producing 30-hour and eight-day wooden clocks. Before he took the business to New Haven in 1842 the Jerome Clock Company had grown to be the largest in the country. By some reports in the 19th century, Bristol had 280 businesses engaged in the clock business.

Bristol was known as Farmington's West Woods when the first settlers arrived sometime in the 1720s. In 1742 Bristol became a separate parish within Farmington and a meetinghouse was located on Federal Hill. As Bristol's industrial identity emerged Federal Hill became home to the town's economic elite. Their homes spread out down the slopes, first Federal and Greek Revival dwellings and then exuberant Victorian homes. Today Federal Hill has been designated an historic district, one of the largest in the state with nearly 1000 buildings. Our walking tour of this architectural jewel of Bristol will begin at the bottom...



**1. Bristol Public Library  
5 High Street at Main Street**

Wilson Potter of New York City, who specialized in academic buildings, designed the Colonial Revival public library behind a quartet of Ionic columns in 1906.

WITH THE LIBRARY ON YOUR  
RIGHT, WALK NORTH ON MAIN  
STREET, UP THE HILL AS YOU  
BEGIN TO PASS THE VICTORIAN  
HOUSES THAT ARE THE  
TRADEMARK OF FEDERAL HILL.

**2. Castle Largo  
230 Center Street, at southeast  
corner of Main Street**

Joel Tiffany Case is credited with building more than three score houses around Bristol. One architectural historian said this of Case: "His work, often bizarre and sometimes beautiful, is unique to Bristol." This is his most idiosyncratic creation. The eclectic Victorian, drawing on elements of the Gothic Revival, Italianate and Second Empire styles, was built in 1880 when Case was 35 years old. He lived in the house a short while before selling it to Charles Henry Wightman, owner of a Bristol flour mill. Wightman, still in his twenties, died two years later and the house subsequently passed through several owners but always retained its name - Castle Largo.

TURN LEFT ON CENTER STREET.  
PASS SPRING STREET ON YOUR  
RIGHT. JOEL CASE BUILT SPRING  
STREET AND DESIGNED EVERY  
HOUSE ON THE STREET. IF YOU  
WANT TO STROLL DOWN IT  
TO SEE WHAT REMAINS OF HIS  
HANDIWORK, TURN RIGHT AND  
RETURN TO CENTER STREET TO  
CONTINUE THE TOUR.

**3. Bristol Historical Society  
98 Summer Street at southeast  
corner of Center Street**

After landing on the list of "The Most Threatened Historic Places" in Connecticut early in this century this red brick building is now the home of the Bristol Historical Society. It began its life in 1890 as the city high school. Waterbury architect Theodore Peck used the heavy Richardsonian Romanesque style that was popular in civic buildings in the late 1800s. The rounded arches and stone trim were popularized by Henry Hobson Richardson of Boston. The building was used as a school until 1922.

**4. Prospect United Methodist Church  
99 Summer Street at southwest  
corner of Center Street**

The Methodist Episcopal Society of Bristol was legally incorporated in the 1830s and land purchased for a typical small country church on West Street. The congregation prospered through the years and moved to this location in 1880, settling in a new brick church closer to the center of town. Within a decade large additions were made as the congregation continued to grow. In 1894 a new granite structure with a prominent tower was dedicated. The cost was borne entirely by John Humphrey Sessions. Owner of the Bristol Foundry Company that produced clock casings, Sessions was one of the founders of the Bristol National Bank, president of the Bristol Water Company and an original stockholder of the Bristol Electric Light Company. The chapel could seat over 2,000 people and was considered one of the state's most handsome church buildings. Inside the carpets and upholstery were donated by John Humphrey Sessions' sons and an elegant organ contributed by William Edwin Sessions. The family's gifts to the church totalled \$75,000.

TURN RIGHT ON SUMMER STREET.

**5. William S. Ingraham House**  
**156 Summer Street**

New York architects Babb, Cook & Willard brought the distinctive Shingle Style variant of the Queen Anne style to Federal Hill in 1890 with this house for William S. Ingraham. Ingraham spent four decades as general manager of the E. Ingraham Company turning out clocks and watches. In addition to sheathing in shingles the style is characterized by wide, prominent front gables. The house was heated by pipes connected to the Ingraham factory, Bristol's first example of heating a house from outside, a practice to be followed by other factory owners in the city. It was also one of the first houses in Bristol to be electrified.

**6. Miles Lewis Peck House**  
**174 Summer Street**

Down the street from his high school, this is another design by Waterbury architect Theodore Peck, executed in 1881 for his cousin Miles who was president of the Bristol Savings Bank. Peck used sharp gables decorated with barge boards from the Gothic Revival style and blended them with elements of early Queen Anne architecture such as the wraparound porch and fish-scale shingles.

**7. Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**173 Summer Street**

The Trinity Church traces its roots back to 1747; this handsome stone sanctuary was built in 1949. In 2007, after disagreements about the ordination of women and gay clergy and the blessing of same-sex unions the congregation, like dozens across the country, defected from the Episcopal Church to join a more conservative Anglican group and prompting a legal battle over who owned the church: the parishioners or the diocese. In this case the diocese prevailed and the Trinity congregation vacated the premises.

**TURN RIGHT ON  
PROSPECT PLACE.**

**8. Walter Ingraham House**  
**72 Prospect Place**

In 1892 Walter A. Ingraham succeeded his father Edward to the presidency of the E. Ingraham Clock Company that had been started 65 years earlier when his grandfather, then 22 years old, began manufacturing clock cases. That same year he had this Romanesque brick house with magnificently detailed terra cotta ornamentation built. The house sits on a base of granite blocks and underneath were pipes that linked to the factory furnaces to heat the building, like his brother's place on the next block.

**TURN LEFT ON MAPLE STREET.**

**9. The American Clock & Watch Museum**  
**100 Maple Street**

In 1952, with his family business clocking in at over 118 years of operation, Edward Ingraham spearheaded the creation of a clock museum to preserve the heritage of the product that made Bristol recognized worldwide. The Federal-style 1801 home of Miles Lewis was purchased for the collection of some 300 clocks and a small library. Today the museum houses over 4,000 timepieces in the modified Lewis house that retains its original integrity.

**RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON MAPLE  
STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF  
PROSPECT PLACE AT THE POINT  
OF THE TRIANGULAR FEDERAL  
HILL GREEN WITH QUEEN STREET  
AND BELLEVUE AVENUE.**

**10. St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
**33 Queen Street**

In 1850 there were only nine priests in the entire state of Connecticut to minister to its Catholic population. The Irish Catholics that had begun to settle in Bristol Centre first greeted the itinerant priest in a house on Queen Street near the site of the present day church. In 1855 a small wooden church was constructed and on October 1, 1864 Bristol was made an independent parish. The present English Tudor Gothic church, built

of grey Massachusetts granite, dates to 1925. The twin towers loom 96 feet above the Green.

**11. First Congregational Church  
31 Maple Street**

The Congregational Church was built in the Greek Revival style in 1832, highlighted with Gothicized elements such as the finials on the square tower. The church organized in 1747 and built its first meeting house on the Green in 1753. It was replaced in the early 1770s, the immediate predecessor of today's sanctuary.

**WALK DOWN BELLEVUE AVENUE,  
WITH FEDERAL GREEN ON YOUR  
LEFT.**

**12. William Sessions House/Beleden  
54 Bellevue Avenue**

In 1903 when the E.N. Welch Company began foundering William Sessions, whose family foundry made castings for the clockmaker, took an interest in horology and bought the controlling stock. It was his plan to produce everything required for the clocks - movements, cases, dials, artwork and of course, castings. The Sessions Clock Company indeed prospered mightily.

In 1909 Sessions retained Samuel Brown of Boston to design a new home on land next door to a previous Sessions-owned house. Brown delivered an Italian Renaissance mansion of Kibbe brownstone (a hard stone different from the soft brownstone commonly used in residential construction) fronted by a half-round, Ionic portico of white marble. Inside the house sported Tennessee marble floors, gilded ceilings, carved wainscoting of Honduras mahogany, and a fireplace of gold and black Egyptian marble. The music room seated 100 and had a massive pipe organ, semi-elliptical balcony and elaborated carvings, some of which disguise openings to echo chambers in the attic. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**13. William Sessions House  
36 Bellevue Avenue**

This picturesque house is what William Sessions considered a "starter house" before he

moved into Beleden. Built in 1885, it features many decorative flourishes including fish-scale shingles, half-timbering, sunbursts and spindled woodwork.

**14. A.L. Sessions House  
25 Bellevue Avenue**

Albert L. Sessions was the nephew of William Sessions. His father, John Henry Sessions, ran the family's trunk hardware-making business which Albert took over in 1902. He was already the treasurer of the Sessions Clock Company. He built this mansion shortly thereafter. The story goes that he retained a Waterbury architect to travel to England to study authentic Georgian architecture upon which to model his new home. It was constructed of brick and red sandstone and its frothy decorations - Doric columns, balustrades, corner quoins, rusticated walls with beltcourses, dentils, broken round and scroll pediments - caused it to be known around town as the "Wedding Cake House." By the middle of the 1900s it was serving as the Town Club and today houses a local funeral home.

**TURN RIGHT ON HIGH STREET.**

**15. S.E. Root House  
51 High Street at Bellevue Avenue**

New York native Samuel Emerson Root arrived in Bristol at an early age and by the mid-19th century had carved out a niche in the town's clock-making culture as a manufacturer of dials and other clock trimmings. His Italianate house from the 1870s is another legacy of builder Joel T. Case. The flat-roofed or shallow-pitched Italian villas with round-arched windows were the dominant style among mid-19th century Federal Hill houses. Today it serves as offices of the city's Youth Services department. The transformation into office space retained the fenestration and roof cornices but no attempt was made to integrate the Italianate styling into the squat brick addition.

**CONTINUE DOWN THE HILL ONE  
BLOCK TO THE TOUR STARTING  
POINT.**



*Look Up,*

# *Danbury*



## A Walking Tour of Danbury...

There is nobody named Dan in the founding of Danbury. The eight families who came from Norwalk to found the town in 1684 named it after an English town of the same name. In the early years it was better known to most locals as “Beantown” for the quality of beans grown in the area.

Early in the Revolutionary War the town was targeted by the British as the location of American military supplies. The redcoats apparently had reliable information. When they arrived to sack the town the houses of those sympathetic to the crown were marked and spared, most everything else, including all the military goods, was burned.

Zadoc Benedict was one who rebuilt after the raid. In 1780 he established the first beaver-hat factory in America here, employing three men in his shop and producing 18 hats a week. From those modest beginnings Danbury rapidly became Hat City, churning out more hats than any city in America. At times one out of every four hats sold in the country was manufactured in Danbury. In the early 1900s it was said that 51 of the town’s 70 mills were in the hat trade, an industry that would be almost killed overnight when John Kennedy was elected president and showed up at the White House hatless.

And we won’t see any hats on our walking tour, either. We’ll begin at the old railroad station and follow a route historically taken by thousands of passengers getting off those New Haven Railroad trains...

**1. Danbury Railway Museum**  
**120 White Street**

Danbury was an important city for the New Haven Railroad after World War II. Even Alfred Hitchcock came here in 1951 to film his *Strangers on a Train* about new acquaintances trading murders. The New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad built a railroad complex here in 1903 that included an engine house, a freight house, a roundhouse and a turntable, in addition to the depot. Passenger trains were in decline by the 1980s and here in Danbury the engine house had burned and the freight house razed. In the 1990s the complex became the foundation of a museum and the station and turntable eventually restored. Excursion trains also run for visitors.

WALK WEST ON WHITE STREET,  
TOWARDS THE CENTER OF TOWN.

**2. Meeker's Hardware**  
**90 White Street**

Oscar Meeker came from Bridgeport and constructed this brick store in 1883. Meeker's hardware opened in 1885 and has operated here, still in the Meeker family, ever since. Topped by a decorated cornice with a pediment, Meeker's became the first hardware store to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places on the occasion of its centennial in 1983. Inside, the accoutrements of more than a century of business remain and on the northeast wall is a painted sign advertising Pepsi Cola for ten cents, beckoning disgorging passengers from the train depot. Meeker's used to sell tiny cups of cola for that price but now a sip is free.

TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET,  
INTO THE HEART OF THE  
COMMERCIAL DISTRICT.

**3. Treadwell Block**  
**266-270 Main Street**

The main commercial building that dominates this block, fashioned in red brick and terra cotta, was developed by Levi Treadwell.

**4. U.S. Post Office**  
**265 Main Street**

The two-story brick post office was rendered in the Georgian Revival style. The recessed entrance is punctuated by Corinthian pilasters that rise to meet an denticulated cornice running under a brick parapet. It opened for business in 1916.

**5. Old Danbury Library**  
**254 Main Street**

The first home of the Danbury Library was in this High Victorian Gothic building of pressed brick, the only one of its kind, architecturally speaking, in the city. Lamb and Wheeler provided the design for the building that was constructed in the late 1870s.

**6. Danbury National Bank**  
**248 Main Street**

This Romanesque building of sandstone blocks was the headquarters of the Danbury National Bank in the 1890s. Note the carved frieze above the second floor and the door surround. A fire claimed the third floor gable whose replacement stands out against the original Victorian materials.

**7. The Danbury and Bethel Gas and  
Electric Light Company**  
**238 Main Street**

This was the Darragan Building when it was constructed in 1891 on designs from local architect Joel Foster. The Romanesque design and terra cotta tile details are eye-catching but you don't have to look up far to see the most interesting thing about this building - it is the art deco sign in the window, a souvenir from its days as the offices of the Danbury and Bethel Gas and Electric Light Company who purchased it in 1913.

**8. Citytrust Building**  
**234 Main Street**

Although Citytrust planned a perfectly serviceable two-story Neoclassical bank on this site in 1912 it almost disappeared on the block

next to the formidable Union Savings Bank next door so the building was beefed up by Morgan, French & Co. of New York. With a new third floor came a marble facade dominated by a Roman arch inset with bronze details. Citytrust failed in 1991 and its building now serves as home to a church.

**9. Union Savings Bank**  
**226-228 Main Street**

The Union Savings Bank was chartered in 1866 by some of Danbury's leading businessmen. One was James S. Taylor, who was a descendant of Thomas Taylor, patriarch of one of the seven original families that founded the town. He served as first president of the bank and owned the land that this bank would be built on in 1886. Before that a wood frame building sufficed as bank headquarters. The firm of Berg and Clark came up from New York to deliver Danbury a building not often seen in a town its size, packed with multi-patterned terra cotta tiles in a Romanesque style. It was actually used by two banks in the beginning - the National Pahquioque Bank accessed from the north corner and Union Savings Bank, which would eventually take over the entire first floor, accessed from the south corner. A men's club occupied the third floor. The bank has been renovated three times, each time with meticulous care to preserve the original architectural details. One unplanned restoration took place in 1970 after a bomb was used to blow up the vault in a robbery.

**10. Savings Bank of Danbury**  
**220 Main Street**

Still a going concern, the Savings Bank of Danbury has been a presence on Main Street since 1849. The first depositors were required to do business in the home of one of the bank's officers. This Beaux Arts limestone vault came along in 1909.

**11. Danbury National Bank**  
**210 Main Street**

Charles Ives, one of the first important American composers although his music was largely ignored while he was living (he worked

as director of an insurance agency in New York City), was born on this location on October 20, 1874. His homestead was later picked up and moved to Rogers Park in the city. This Neoclassical vault was erected in 1924, 100 years after the bank was chartered as the Fairfield County Bank in Norwalk, with the provision that a branch be established in Danbury.

TURN RIGHT ON WEST STREET.

**12. Saint James Episcopal Church**  
**25 West Street**

This Gothic Revival church contains the 25-bell Ella S. Bulkley Memorial Carillon, the oldest carillon in Connecticut and the first carillon made in America.

RETURN TO MAIN STREET AND  
TURN RIGHT, CONTINUING TO  
WALK SOUTH.

**13. F.A. Hull Building**  
**183 Main Street**

F.A. Hull & Son was the go-to destination in Danbury for the latest in hardware. Hull made good use of decorative brick patterns for his store in 1907.

**14. Palace Theater**  
**165 Main Street**

Sitting in the middle of the block as part of a multi-story apartment complex it is easy to overlook the Palace that was one of Connecticut's most splendid showcases when it opened on September 6, 1928 as a stop on the vaudeville circuit. The classically inspired marble interior could seat 1,999 patrons, a concession to the law that when an auditorium had 2,000 seats it had to join the union and pay extra fees. The Palace shifted seamlessly into moving pictures and survived until 1995, holding out longer than most downtown movie houses. It has recently been renovated with over 400 seats and hopes to bring all original 1,999 back into play.



**15. Church of St. Peter**  
**104 Main Street**

St. Peter's has been the mother church to Danbury's Catholics since 1851. This Gothic Revival house of worship was built from locally quarried granite and that soaring spire reaches 175 feet above the curb.

**16. County Courthouse**  
**71 Main Street**

Popular Connecticut architect Warren Briggs delivered this Beaux Arts creation to the Danbury streetscape to greet the new century in 1900. Briggs conveyed the strength of the law with granite and bricks and topped the courthouse with an imposing copper dome. This is the third courthouse on this location. The first, complete with old stocks and whipping posts, was constructed in 1785 and replaced in 1824. Don't look for the whipping posts today but you can search out a boulder near the entrance that marks the spot where the first shot was fired at British invaders during the American Revolution.

**17. Danbury Museum and Historical Society**  
**43 Main Street**

Formed in 1947, the Danbury Museum and Historical Society is home to five historic buildings: Huntington Hall, the 1785 Rider House, the 1790 John Dodd Hat Shop, the Little Red Schoolhouse, and the Marian Anderson Studio. Anderson, the famed opera singer, lived in Danbury for over 50 years. The studio was on her estate on before it was moved here.

THIS IS THE END OF THE TOUR.  
THERE IS NO SHUTTLE BACK TO  
THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT  
THE RAILWAY MUSEUM SO YOU  
WILL HAVE TO RETRACE YOUR  
STEPS. IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A  
LOOK AT THE DANBURY ARENA,  
TURN RIGHT ON LIBERTY STREET  
AND LEFT ON DELAY STREET  
UNTIL IT HITS WHITE STREET.  
TURN RIGHT TO RETURN TO THE  
TOUR STARTING POINT.



*Look Up,*

# *Derby*



## A Walking Tour of Derby...

Derby likes to boast that it is “Connecticut’s smallest city.” But for those who settled at the confluence of the Housatonic and Naugatuck rivers, the advantageous location has always caused residents to think big. The Paugassett and the Pootatuck lived here for centuries but it didn’t take long for European settlers to realize the promise of the power of water. Fur traders from new Haven came first and a trading post was established at Derby Docks by 1642. In 1681 a water-powered grist mill was operating.

In the 1830s Sheldon Smith, an industrialist who made his fortune in New York City, had a vision for developing his land inside the meeting of the two rivers, the area without direct access to the coast. He brought his friend Anson G. Phelps, in on the scheme to create a new industrial community they first called Smithville and then Birmingham. Smith and Phelps convinced the local government to build the street system while they supplied the planning, including setting aside two acres for a public green, and a new copper mill. By 1870 a great dam was completed on the Housatonic River that provided power to this burgeoning industrial hub but also permanently erased Derby’s character as a fishing and farming community.

The various villages and towns and jurisdictions around the historic junction of the Housatonic and Naugatuck rivers came together and were chartered as the city of Derby in 1893. The Borough of Birmingham thus became “downtown” and that is where our walking tour will take place. We’ll start at the historic library and work our way down to the Housatonic River where the Derby Greenway links two rivers, three cities and six bridges...

**1. Derby Public Library**  
313 Elizabeth Street

With the opening of this library in 1902, Derby ceased to be the only city in Connecticut without a free circulating library. The town did, however, have a free reading room as early as 1868. Architect Hartley Dennett designed the building in Colonial Revival style with Flemish gables and white Ansonia granite ashlar walls. The funds for the building, land and a \$5,000 stipend for books (provided the town came up with a like amount) were donated by the Colonel H. Holton Wood family in memory of their 11-year old boy, Harcourt, who had died in 1897. Wood, a native Canadian, came to Derby in 1887 as a vice president of the Derby Street Railway company, the four-mile line that was the first electric railway in New England.

FACING THE LIBRARY, WALK  
DOWN ELIZABETH STREET TO  
THE RIGHT.

**2. Edward F. Adzima Funeral Home**  
253 Elizabeth Street

This elaborate Queen Anne house was constructed in 1880-81 for R.W. Blake, president of the Sterling Piano Factory of Ansonia. Blake died in this house in 1901 after a revolver he was examining accidentally discharged, sending a bullet into his face. He was 60 years old.

**3. The Church of Saint Mary**  
212 Elizabeth Street

On September 10, 1833, the sloop, *The Guide*, landed in Derby and among its passengers were the town's first immigrants from Ireland - Matthew Kelledy, his wife, his child and John Phelan. That year the first Catholic mass was held with 28 persons present. After meeting in homes for the next dozen years a small church, 55 feet by 33 feet, was constructed on land donated by Anson G. Phelps, owner of most of this slice of Derby.

Over the next 40 years, with Ireland suffering drought and famine, the Catholic population swelled by over 3,500. Despite two enlargements, the overburdened original church was replaced in 1882 with the current Gothic edifice.

**4. Derby United Methodist Church**  
17 5th Street at Elizabeth Street

The largest, most elaborate building on the Green, the Methodist Church was the last to be built, in 1895. The Romanesque Revival style features trademark elements including round arches, tall square tower and heavy detailing in brick and brownstone. The architect was George Washington Kramer, America's leading practitioner in designing Methodist churches. Kramer is reported to have designed more than 2,000 buildings, most of which were Methodist churches, including 28 in Connecticut. Derby United Methodist Church is the home of Pack 3, the oldest Cub Scout Pack in the United States.

**5. Derby Commons**

The land for Derby Commons was set aside for public use in a deed dated April 25, 1845. The Commons was designated to remain forever a "Public Green" on the condition that the citizens of the town build a fence to keep sheep and residents off its grass. On October 4, 1852, a second document transferred ownership to the town for the sum of one dollar, forbidding any buildings to be placed on the land and restricting its use to military or public activities.

In 1877, the highest point in the Green was chosen as the location for the *Civil War Monument*. It was designed by M.J. Walsh and dedicated on July 4, 1877. It features a high granite pedestal with a life-size bronze soldier at rest. When additional moneys were raised, the monument was remodeled and rededicated on July 4, 1883, in front of 8,000 people. For many years, a town pump on the southwest corner of the Green provided fresh water to residents who often lined up with jugs and pitchers to take home fresh spring water drawn from a 50-foot well below. In 1960, the well was deepened to 90 feet and the pump was replaced by a fountain.

**6. Second Congregational Church**  
136 Elizabeth Street

The Second Congregational Church was built in 1845 for the Birmingham Congregational Society at a cost of \$6,000. The land for the Greek Revival styled church on the west side of

the Green was donated by Anson G. Phelps with the stipulation that the property be restricted to church use for ever. So far the citizens of Derby have upheld the bargain but Mother Nature did not sign the agreement - the building once had a tall steeple that was destroyed by Hurricane Gloria in 1985 and has not been replaced.

#### **7. Sterling Opera House 100 Elizabeth Street**

The Sterling Opera House was the first structure in Connecticut to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built in 1889 to serve the cultural and political needs of Derby and the Lower Naugatuck Valley. Designer H.E. Ficken, whose resume includes Carnegie Hall, combined several architectural styles in the Sterling. The exterior and roof-top and the interior walls and doorways are Italianate Victorian and display the final evolution of the Italian Baroque opera house. The auditorium boasts an orchestra pit, two gracefully sweeping balconies, and fine examples of bottle glass, keystone arches and wrought iron work. Acoustically, the Sterling has no equal. Even a whisper can be heard clearly from all areas of the auditorium.

The Opera House was named for Charles Sterling, whose Sterling Piano was one of the area's largest factory concerns. At the time it was composed of 16 buildings fronting 640 feet along the canal and railroad, several drying kilns, and two waterwheels. The theater closed in the 1940s and City Hall, which operated out of the lower level, moved in 1960 to nearby Fifth Street. The exterior has been recently renovated and plans are in place to complete a \$10 million make-over of the historic interior as well.

#### **8. Elks Lodge 73 Elizabeth Street**

The formal organization of the Derby lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks took place on April 17, 1900 with 61 members. This property was purchased by the Elks in 1915 and the four-story lodge constructed. Note the use of decorative bricks used only on the facade. Thanks to a \$20,000 gift by F.A. Russ, president of the R.N. Bassett Company, a specialty metal manufacturer, the mortgage was burned in 1917.

## **TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET AT THE HOUSATONIC RIVER.**

#### **9. Birmingham National Bank 285 Main Street**

Here is a glimpse into what downtown New Haven looked like 200 years ago. This Federal style home belonged to Jonathan Mix, circa 1799. The first floor window heads and cornice detail show that Mix was a bit more well off than his neighbors. The Graduate Club, a social club for Yale alumni founded in 1892, purchased the house in 1901.

#### **10. Home Trust Company 293-295 Main Street**

The Home Trust Company organized in 1893 and constructed this classically inspired building of orange Roman brick in 1900. In the 1970s the bank was merged out of existence and today it is the activity hub for Derby's senior citizens.

#### **11. Derby Savings Bank 315 Main Street at Olivia Street**

The four principal north-south streets in Derby were named for the women in the founders' lives: Elizabeth, Minerva and Caroline were Sheldon Smith's daughters and Olivia was Anson Phelps' wife. In its 150-year run as the town's most famous bank, Derby Savings Bank at one time or another stood on the corner of all four. The bank was chartered in 1846 and could hardly have experienced more humble beginnings - it operated from the back room of a shoe store. This Colonial Revival building opened for deposits in 1923 and had the longest run of any of its homes - 53 years. In the 1990s Derby Savings Bank disappeared in a flurry of mergers.

#### **12. Kraus Corset Factory Main and Third streets**

Not only were corsets manufactured here but hoops for the popular hoop skirts of the Victorian age. None are needed today and neither is the factory which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The factory has been converted into apartments.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR  
STEPS ON MAIN STREET TO  
ELIZABETH STREET.

**13. City Hall**  
**1 Elizabeth Street at Main Street**

Derby's government has operated out of an armory, an opera house, its own place and, since 2005, here in an old bank. More specifically the last headquarters of the Derby Savings Bank that opened with much fanfare in 1976.

TURN LEFT ON MINERVA STREET.

**14. Imanuel St. James Church**  
**123 Minerva Street**

The land for an Episcopalian church was donated by Sheldon Smith and Anson Phelps. The Gothic church was built in 1843 by stonemason Harvey Johnson and carpenter Nelson Hinman; the rectory next door was completed in 1853. The first rector was Reverend Richard Mansfield, who held the position for 72 years, among the longest of any clergyman in the country.

TURN RIGHT ON 5TH STREET AT  
THE END OF THE DERBY GREEN  
AND WALK DOWN THE HILL ONE  
BLOCK TO CAROLINE STREET.  
TURN LEFT.

**15. John I. Howe House**  
**213 Caroline Street**

Connecticut-born John Ireland Howe began the study of medicine at the age of 19 in 1812 and for many years was a physician in New York. At his core, however, he was an inventor. He constructed a factory for the manufacture of rubber but abandoned it after finding little success. In 1832 he patented a machine to manufacture solid-headed metal pins. Although it was imperfect it represented one of the world's first machines to mass produce a product, helping to usher in the Industrial Revolution. In 1838 the Howe Pin Company was moved to Birmingham and that year he introduced a new "rotary machine" that churned out pins without any

material improvement for thirty years. The Howe enterprise continually undersold its English competition until 1908 when it was sold to Plume and Atwood, another Connecticut concern. Two years later the Howe family donated the Howe pin-making machine to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. This is the house John Howe lived in until his death in 1876, today perhaps the most oddly situated historic house in Connecticut.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS UP THE  
HILL BACK TO THE DERBY GREEN.  
TURN RIGHT ON MINERVA STREET.

**16. 149 Minerva Street**

This Queen Anne confection, all angles and nooks and crannies, has anchored this Victorian block since 1886.

**17. Derby High School**  
**187 Minerva Street**

The unusually decorated Derby High School grew to its current size in several stages. It housed the high school until 1969 and then was put to use as the Derby Middle School and then the Lincoln School when it was boarded up and abandoned for many years. Renovations in 2004 created a senior-living facility.

TURN RIGHT ON COTTAGE  
STREET. TURN LEFT ON CAROLINE  
STREET AND WALK BACK TO THE  
TOUR STARTING POINT.





*Look Up,*

# *Farmington*



## A Walking Tour of Farmington...

At the time of the American Revolution Farmington was the 10th most populous town in the colonies. It was founded back in 1640 when a handful of English settlers from nearby towns bought territory from Sequasin, chief of the Tunxis Indians. Under an agreement, the settlers ploughed the land and the Indians cut wood for fuel and traded their corn and hides. Eventually the Tunxis Indians adopted the culture of the settlers, joining them in the town's churches and schools.

The town was incorporated as Farmington in 1645 by an act of the Connecticut General Assembly and it was an apt monicker as small farmers dominated the community for well over a hundred years. Following the Revolution the town began to bustle with industrial activity - linen and leather goods and muskets and clocks and buttons were all manufactured here. The burgeoning trading center boomed with the opening of the Farmington Canal in 1828, linking New Haven to Massachusetts.

Mercantile goods weren't the only thing flowing through Farmington. The town became an important stop along the Underground Railroad with at least eight safe houses operating in the first half of the 19th century. So fervent were Farmington's abolitionists, in fact, that the town came to be known as "Grand Central Station." In 1839, after 53 Africans bound for slavery in Cuba took over the schooner *Amistad* and sailed into Connecticut many were brought to Farmington to await their fate, which was a return to Africa.

A combination of landslides and railroads brought an end to the canal by 1848 and the town gradually reverted to its historical roots as an agricultural community. Meanwhile, its vast area was divided to produce nine other central Connecticut communities - so many that Farmington became known as the "mother of towns."

Our walking tour will focus on the historic center of Farmington studded with historic homes reaching back 200 years and more, where we'll see what George Washington saw when he supposedly called Farmington a "village of pretty houses." But first we'll start down by the Farmington River where there is an historic mill and a convenient parking lot...

**1. Grist Mill**  
**44 Mill Lane**

The Old Grist Mill was erected by the Cowles family in the 1770s and served the community grinding corn and wheat until 1963. In its nearly two centuries of operation it had several owners, the most prominent being Hartford native Winchell Smith, a famous early 20th century playwright who moved to the east bank of the Farmington River. Smith invested in expensive harvesting machinery and encouraged farmers to plant rye, wheat and buckwheat on contract. Smith's mill soon came to the attention of President Calvin Coolidge, who ordered whole wheat flour produced at the Farmington grist mill for the White House and even after he left office in 1929.

Smith's 1918 play *Lightnin'* was for a time the longest-running play in American theatrical history, with 1,291 performances. Smith wrote and produced the silent film classic *Way Down East* and put his mill into the feature. In one scene star Lillian Gish is shown crossing the river in the winter by jumping from ice floe to ice floe. Smith's Georgian mansion, Millstreams, is south of the mill at 188 Garden Street; the gates to the riverside estate were designed by the celebrated Stanford White of America's preeminent Gilded Age architectural firm, McKim, Mead and White. They were built for the Lamb's Club in New York City but when they were forced to take them down Smith, a member, bought the gates and placed them at the entrance of Millstreams. Smith died in 1933 and is buried nearby in Riverside Cemetery.

WALK AWAY FROM THE RIVER,  
UP TO GARDEN STREET, AND  
TURN LEFT. TURN RIGHT ON  
PORTER ROAD (THE SIDEWALK  
IS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE  
STREET). CONTINUE TO MAIN  
STREET AND TURN LEFT.

*As you walk, the campus on your right is Miss Porter's School. Sarah Porter founded the school in 1843, stressing a curriculum as stringent as that required of young men. the school grew steadily in national reputation*

*and size. Famous alumni include two with ties to the White House, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis and Dorothy Walker Bush, mother and grandmother of the 41st and 43rd presidents.*

**2. Farmington Savings Bank**  
**32 Main Street**

In April of 1851, 30 Farmington residents signed a petition and sent it to the Connecticut State Legislature calling for the creation of a local bank. The newly formed Farmington Savings Bank was granted a charter by the State of Connecticut on August 12, 1851. After operating in bank officers' homes for several years the bank moved into its first permanent home, an old store building at this location. The current Colonial Revival bank home was built in 1927.

**3. Julius Gay House**  
**36 Main Street**

This Gothic-Revival style house belonged to Julius Gay, a president of the Farmington Savings Bank next door. It was left to Miss Porter's School in his daughter Florence's will in 1952.

CROSS THE STREET AND TURN  
RIGHT, WALKING BACK UP MAIN  
STREET.

**4. Cowles Store**  
**50 Main Street**

This Federal-style structure was built between 1813 and 1818 as a store and warehouse for Elijah and Gad Cowles. It was purchased by Miss Porter's School in 1901 and did duty as the school library for many years.

**5. Union Hotel**  
**60 Main Street at the head of  
Mountain Road**

Ground for the privately funded Farmington Canal was broken in 1825 and by 1828 the canal was open from New Haven to Farmington and by 1835 it was completed to Northampton, Massachusetts. By 1830, four million pounds of

merchandise were shipped every month on the Farmington Canal. That year the Union Hotel was constructed to accommodate the watermen and travelers on the canal. But the enterprise was never successful financially, threatened by the competition from the new railroads almost from the beginning. In 1848 the canal failed and the New Haven and Northampton Railroad was laying track along the right of way. Two years later the vacant building was rented by Sarah Porter for her new school for girls. It continues as the "Main" building of Miss Porter's School.

TURN LEFT ON  
MOUNTAIN STREET.

**6. St. James Episcopal Church**  
**3 Mountain Road**

St. James was founded in 1873; the attractive fieldstone sanctuary dates to 1898. A mural on the wall was painted by Robert Brandegee, co-founder of the Society of Hartford Artists.

WALK UP THE HILL TO  
HIGH STREET AND TURN LEFT.

**7. Stanley-Whitman House**  
**37 High Street**

This post-and-beam house was constructed sometime between 1709 and 1720 and is a rare surviving example of early New England architecture. The second floor extends beyond the first on the front façade creating an overhang the purpose of which is unknown but harkens back to the houses of the English countryside. The lean-to addition that extends across the width of the back of the house was added some time in the mid 18th-century, giving the house its distinctive saltbox shape. Today the house is a National Historic Landmark and opened to the public as a museum.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO  
MOUNTAIN STREET AND TURN  
RIGHT. TURN LEFT ON SCHOOL  
STREET. WHEN THE ROAD BENDS  
DOWN TO THE RIGHT CONTINUE  
STRAIGHT.

**8. Barney Library**  
**71 Main Street**

D. Newton Barney, a banker and director of Aetna Life Insurance Company, donated the library to the town as a memorial to his mother Sarah Brandegee Barney in 1919. The Neoclassical building, designed by Stephen Brainerd Lawrence, was originally known as the Village Library and was the town's primary lending institution until 1983; it was renamed the Barney Library in 1999.

WALK DOWN TO MAIN STREET  
AND TURN LEFT.

**9. Deming House**  
**66 Main Street**

Samuel Deming was a legislator, merchant, farmer and one of the town's most respected citizens and churchmen. He was a member of the Farmington Anti-Slavery Society, and a co-founder of the Connecticut Anti-Slavery Society in 1838 and used this house as a station on the Underground Railroad. It was built by Captain Judah Woodruff in 1770 for Thomas Hart Hooker, fourth in direct line of descent from the Reverend Thomas Hooker, the first settled clergyman in Hartford. Woodruff was a veteran of both the French and Indian War and the American Revolution and is credited with building 21 houses around Farmington.

**10. First Church of Christ, Congregational**  
**75 Main Street**

The organizers of the First Church of Christ, who signed their names to establish the church on October 13, 1652 were known as the "seven pillars": the first minister Roger Newton (son-in-law of Hartford founder Thomas Hooker), Stephen Hart, Thomas J. Judd, John Bronson, John Cowles, Thomas Thomson and Robert Porter. The present Meetinghouse, the third, was completed in 1772. Built by Captain Judah Woodruff it sports one of New England's most admired steeples, an open-belfry spire acknowledged as a masterpiece of Georgian-Colonial architecture. The Greek Revival entrance porch is a nineteenth century addition.

**11. Deacon John Hart House**  
northeast corner of Mill Lane and  
Main Street

This is the homestead of Stephen Hart, the original settler and founder of the Hart family in Farmington. In 1740, about the time he became town clerk, John Hart, a great grandson, built this house. Hart was chosen deacon in the Farmington church back in 1718; he died on October 7, 1753 at the age of 69.

**12. Thomas Cowles House**  
87 Main Street

This was considered the finest house in Farmington when it was constructed for Major Timothy Cowles in 1815. Active abolitionists, the Cowles family sheltered one of three little girls who survived the rebellion aboard the slave ship *Amistad* in 1839.

**13. Porter House**  
116 Main Street

Noah Porter became minister of First Church in the years before the War of 1812 and was still head of the church when the Civil War ended. In 1808 he built this brick house when he married. An ardent abolitionist, the Porters hosted one of the *Amistad* Africans, Margru - the only one to return to the United States after being shipped back to Africa. She studied at Oberlin College and then returned to Sierra Leone where she spent her life as a teacher in a mission school. Several of the Porter's seven children devoted their lives to education, as well. Their oldest daughter, Sarah, founded Miss Porter's School in 1843 and their son, Noah, became president of Yale College. Sarah Porter continued to live in the house after her father's death in 1866, adding the third floor in the 1880s.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO  
MILL STREET AND TURN LEFT.

**14. Your Village Store**  
2 Mill Street

Samuel Deming's father and uncle built the store he later ran in Farmington in 1809. He offered local goods and imported items for sale. The store originally stood next to Deming's house on Main Street but was moved to Mill Lane in the 1930s when a new town hall was built on the site of the fire station. Two hundred years later it is still a local emporium.

CONTINUE DOWN MILL STREET  
TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.  
BE CAREFUL - THERE IS NO  
SIDEWALK ON MILL STREET  
BUT IT IS A SHORT WALK.



*Look Up,*

# *Glastonbury*



## A Walking Tour of Glastonbury...

Glastonbury is said to possess more pre-1800 Colonial houses than any other town in Connecticut. The area on the east bank of the Connecticut River was settled early, as part of the Town of Wetherfield. In fact in 1695 the “Glistening Town” became the first town in the state to be created by splitting away from an existing town. The first division of land was in narrow strips running three miles eastward from the river to provide each owner an assortment of the several qualities of the terrain rather than favor a few with the best land.

From the start there were two town centers, known today as Glastonbury and South Glastonbury. The first house was in South Glastonbury, the first meeting house in Glastonbury. The town was a typical Connecticut river town in its early days; the water provided power for mills and supported an energetic shipbuilding trade. Most of the economy was pegged to the crops that were grown nearby, tobacco for export and foodstuffs for local trade. Modest industries took hold - textiles and metalworking and tanneries.

And then.

The railroad failed to come. Development no longer continued to grow apace in Glastonbury. It evolved into a residential suburb of Hartford. There was no need to replace all that housing stock from the 1700s with bigger and more modern buildings.

Glastonbury’s Main Street initially was an Indian trail running from East Hartford south along the east bank of the Connecticut River, eventually leading to the mouth of the Thames River on Long Island Sound. It was adopted as a town street in the last decade of the 17th century and has been maintained for three centuries. Its layout has not been compromised; the wide thoroughfare is flanked by grassy strips and sidewalks from which the houses are set well back. There are no parking spaces for cars along the street to intrude on its centuries-old feel. Our walking tour will begin at the edge of encroaching suburbia and quickly disappear into a leafy streetscape of long ago Dutch and English Colonial architecture...



**1. Welles-Turner Memorial Library**  
2407 Main Street

Harriet Welles Turner Burnham lived in a house here and when she died in 1931 she left \$350,000 to build and maintain a public library as a memorial for her ancestral and married families.

**2. Welles-Chapman Tavern**  
2400 Main Street

Travelers 200 years ago would look forward to seeing this tavern as the stop-over on the road between Hartford and New London, although they would find it on the opposite side of the road (it was moved to the east side in 1974 when the modern bank expanded). Joseph Welles built the structure in 1785 and it was purchased by Azel Chapman in 1808. Today, it is owned by the Historical Society of Glastonbury.

**3. Gideon Welles House**  
17 Hebron Street at Main Street

Born into the prominent Welles family in 1802, Gideon Welles became the only man in Connecticut's history to hold all four top offices: governor, deputy governor, treasurer, and secretary. On the national stage he served in Abraham Lincoln's cabinet as the Secretary of the Navy during the Civil War. He was a direct descendant of Governor Thomas Welles, the Fourth Colonial Governor of Connecticut and the transcriber of the Fundamental Orders. The Colonial-style core of the house was constructed in 1783 by his grandfather, a Revolutionary War captain. The house remained in the Welles family until 1932, located on the site of the Welles-Chapman Tavern. It was slated to be torn down for a new post office when town citizens mobilized to save the historic house and rotated it 90-degrees. That movement resulted in the Historical Society of Glastonbury. In 1974, the house was again moved further up Hebron Avenue. Still owned by the town today, the building now houses local shops.

**4. Benjamin Taylor House**  
2300 Main Street

In Colonial times this was the location of the blacksmith shop of Andrew Phleps. When Hartford merchant Benjamin Taylor purchased the property in 1830 he constructed a three-bay house that spanned the architectural era of earlier Federal and the newly popular Greek Revival. The building has obviously picked up numerous additions through the years.

**5. Cardinal House**  
2205 Main Street

This house was built in 1854 and has received two remodellings, the first in 1897 and, most notably, in 1936 by owner Dr. Lee J. Whittles. Whittles was the leader in preserving Glastonbury's old houses. Here he gave his home a Georgian Revival appearance with slender Ionic columns at the entrance, a Palladian window on the second floor and a cornice of modillion blocks at the roofline. Today the house is a bed-and-breakfast.

**6. Connecticut River Valley Inn**  
2195 Main Street

Samuel Benton built this substantial three-story Georgian frame house under a gambrel roof around 1800. An ell to the rear of the main house is thought to be of 17th century vintage. The property now operates as an inn.

**7. First Church of Christ**  
2183 Main Street

While blending in visually with its neighbors on Main Street the Greek Revival church building is actually the fifth for the congregation, constructed in 1940 after the Hurricane of 1938 destroyed its predecessor. The 1837 church had burned and been replaced in 1866. The 20th century rebuild used synthetic siding to resemble clapboards. A two-stage tower rises behind the gable peak. There is a balustrade on the first stage, while the second stage has a molded cornice that supports urns. Above the tower a high 8-sided spire embellished with swags at its base rises to a gilded weather vane.

**8. Thomas Hale House**  
2169 Main Street

The core of this house dates to around 1715 when Thomas Hale was licensed as a tavern keeper. Hale was a founder of the town and one of the petitioners for separation from Wethersfield in 1690. The house was purchased by the neighboring First Church of Christ in 2006; it retains original clapboards and floorboards and some hardware.

**9. Town Hall Complex**  
2155 Main Street

This site has had a busy building history and a legacy of 150 years of serving the community. The first structure erected here was an Italianate frame building that was occupied by the Glastonbury Academy. It is gone today but its successors remain in use. The oldest extant building, facing the street, was the Williams Memorial that served as a community recreation center with bowling lanes and a gymnasium. It was built by the family of James Baker Williams in 1915. Williams came to Glastonbury in 1847 to manufacture Williams' Genuine Yankee Soap, the first manufactured soap for use in shaving mugs. The company, that would develop such iconic products as Aqua Velva, Lectric Shave, and Skol, remained in the family until 1957. A complimentary Georgian Revival building was added in 1923 and a one-story brick-and-glass addition came along around 1960.

**10. William Wickham House**  
2071 Main Street

This early colonial home was built in two sections--the first, facing south, in 1685 and the second, facing west, in 1717. The oldest part was built in the salt-box style--with a roof that climbed steeply in front and sloped down long in back, making it look like the boxes once used to store salt. The gambrel roof is a hold-over of Dutch-style architecture in the Connecticut Valley.

**11. Old Town Hall**  
1944 Main Street at Hubbard Street

This 1840 Greek Revival building rendered in pinkish brick served as the Glastonbury Town Hall for over 100 years until it was moved to its current park-like setting on Hubbard Green. The simple building packs a surprising amount of architectural detail: tall 16-over-16 windows with brownstone lintels, a ten-paneled front door and a round-arched louver in the recessed triangular section of the pediment's tympanum. This was the site of the town's first meetinghouse back in 1693. The building is now the home of the Historical Society of Glastonbury and operated as a museum.

TO CONTINUE TOURING  
HISTORIC GLASTONBURY YOU  
CAN CONTINUE A WAYS DOWN  
MAIN STREET UNTIL THE  
SIDEWALK RUNS OUT. TO RETURN  
TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT,  
RETRACE YOUR STEPS.

*Look Up,*

# *Greenwich*



## A Walking Tour of Greenwich...

For a town whose reputation is often pegged to money it is perhaps no surprise that even after it was purchased by the British in 1640 the settlers of the town preferred to remain a part of the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam, a colony swayed first and foremost by all things financial. Those English buyers did well by themselves in the pocket book as well. For the cost of 25 coats, Daniel Patrick and Robert Feake picked up all the land between the Asamuck and Potommuck brooks.

For 200 years farming was the main activity in Greenwich, with a sprinkling of mills. Industry never really took hold in the town. There was a saltworks and an ironworks and shipbuilding but nothing that would leave a lasting mark. What would, however, leave an indelible impression on Greenwich was the railroad which arrived in 1848. At first New Yorkers used the easy access to Greenwich for a summer escape. When the humidity started to rise the rooms would fill at Ye Old Greenwich Inn, The Castle and The Crossways Inn in Old Greenwich, and The Maples Inn, The Lenox House and the Edgewood Inn.

Then, rather than rack up hotel charges the wealthy came to live. There was the "Tin Plate King," Daniel Gray Reid. And the "Sugar King," Henry O. Havemeyer. The "Mattress King," Zalmon Gilbert Simmons, built the showiest estate of all. The families of Morgan, Rockefeller and Dodge all found their way to Greenwich. By the 1920s any list of richest American towns always had a place reserved on it for Greenwich. Our walking tour will begin in a cluster of civic buildings and then wander up the "Rodeo Drive of the Northeast" where retail rents command more than midtown Manhattan per square foot...

**1. Greenwich Post Office**  
**310 Greenwich Avenue**

This Classical Revival single-story building was fashioned from brick with stone detailing, including a colonnade and balustrade across the roof, in 1917. In 2010 it was put up for sale by the federal government - asking price about \$18 million.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE  
POST OFFICE, WALK NORTH  
ON GREENWICH AVENUE  
(HAVEMEYER PLACE WILL  
BE ON YOUR RIGHT).

**2. Havemeyer School**  
**290 Greenwich Avenue**

Like its neighbors across both streets, the post office and the old town hall, the Havemeyer Building resides on the National Register of Historic Places. The Romanesque-style building of yellow brick was constructed as the town's central school.

**3. Old Town Hall**  
**299 Greenwich Avenue**

The first Greenwich town meetings were held at irregular intervals in private homes and schoolhouses. A regular town meeting hall was built in the 1760s on Putnam Avenue near the site of the Second Congregational Church. During the Revolutionary War it was used as a guard house for the Greenwich Artillery Company and subsequently burned by the British. Back into private houses went the town council for decades until a new town building was constructed in 1836. After two score years the town business had outgrown the little space and began adjourning in public halls. The abandoned building, on the site of the *Soldier's Monument*, was used as a jail for a short time but burned on October 15, 1874. Finally this Beaux Arts building, constructed on plans from Smith, W.J., Mowbray & Uffinger, was dedicated amidst great fanfare on October 19, 1905. Since the 1970s the Greenwich Arts Council has operated out of the former Greenwich Town Hall, as well as a senior center.

**4. Greenwich Common**  
**west side of Greenwich Avenue**

Henry O. Havemeyer, the "Sugar King" of the American Sugar Refining Company, donated over \$250,000 towards the construction of schools in Greenwich. In 1909 his family deeded the triangular parcel of land inside the corner of Greenwich Avenue and Arch Street for a public park. The Common is what is left over after the construction of the Havemeyer School.

**5. Greenwich Trust**  
**240 Greenwich Avenue at Elm Street**

This Beaux Arts tour-de-force, complete with topping dome, was constructed for the Greenwich Trust, Loan and Deposit Company. The bank opened for business on the east side of Greenwich Avenue on July 12, 1887. It still operates as a bank but the Greenwich Trust nameplate is long gone.

**6. Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church**  
**178 Greenwich Avenue**

The first mass in the Town of Greenwich, conducted by the Saint John's Parish of Stamford, was held sometime in 1854 in a house off Greenwich Avenue. By 1860 a small church had been built in town and in 1874 Saint Mary Parish was organized. This site was purchased in 1878 and a church dedicated in May 1879. It was destroyed by fire in 1900 and the current stone sanctuary dates its completion to 1905. On June 17, 1950, in this church Ethel Skakel, the daughter of George and Ann Skakel, married Robert F. Kennedy. The groom's older brother John F. Kennedy, then a Democratic congressman from Boston, was the best man.

**7. Putnam Trust Company**  
**125 Greenwich Avenue**

Putnam Trust organized in 1902 and almost made it to a 100th birthday celebration but was swallowed up by the Bank of New York in the 1990s. For much of that time the bank was headquartered in this powerful Neoclassical vault.

## TURN RIGHT ON PUTNAM AVENUE.

### 8. **First Presbyterian Church** **1 West Putnam Avenue at northwest corner of Lafayette Place**

A breakaway from the Second Congregational Church in 1881 led to the organization of this congregation. After deliberating for a year this site was purchased and the current church building was finally dedicated on October 25, 1887.

### 9. **Greenwich YMCA** **50 East Putnam Avenue**

This high-style Colonial Revival building was added to the Greenwich streetscape in 1916. Within the span of a few years the town picked up several community service buildings - the YMCA, the YWCA and the Greenwich hospital. When it was decided to preserve the historic building in the 1990s, \$10 million was budgeted to get the job done. More than a decade later the project is still going on and the price tag is north of \$40 million.

### 10. **First United Methodist Church of Greenwich** **61 East Putnam Avenue**

Circuit riding preachers brought Methodism to Greenwich as early as 1787 but it was not until 1843 that the "Horseneck Methodist Episcopal Society" was organized and a meetinghouse constructed. The cornerstone for the present house of worship was laid on May 12, 1868 upon which was constructed a fine example of a New England Carpenter Gothic church.

### 11. **Second Congregational Church** **139 East Putnam Street**

Second Congregational Church of Greenwich was founded in 1705 when people living on the west side of the Mianus River decided to ease their transportation difficulties by establishing their own church. The first house of worship was 32 by 26 feet and cost \$1,500. Over the years, it was replaced with larger wooden buildings until in 1856-58 the current stone church with

its soaring, open-faced steeple was constructed. But not without controversy. Many thought the building, that cost \$46,300, was too showy for a Congregational church.

### 12. ***Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument*** **intersection of Maple Avenue and Putnam Avenue**

This remembrance to the Greenwich volunteers who gave their lives in the War Between the States was unveiled to great fanfare with a grand parade of veterans and speeches by high-ranking politicians on October 22, 1890. It occupies the site of the old town hall where most of the enlistments for the war would have been made. The monument was designed by Lazzari and Barton of Woodlawn, New York at a cost of about \$6,000 to the Town of Greenwich.

### 13. **The Columns** **181 East Putnam Avenue**

This impressive Greek Revival house dominated by a quartet of fluted two-story Doric columns, was constructed elsewhere around 1840 and moved here at some time before 1879. The house's unusual shape may have come about during a remodeling project in the 1860s. In recent times it has served as office space and a conference center.

### 14. **Tomes-Higgins House** **216 Putnam Avenue**

Francis Tomes was an Englishman who came to America to find his fortune importing hardware in New York City. By 1861 Tomes was successful enough to hire Calvert Vaux of Central Park fame and one of America's most important early Victorian architects, to design his family home. Vaux delivered an eclectic French Second Empire creation with mansard roof, classical pediments, sculpture groups and balustrades. Vaux included an illustration of the house in his influential 1867 book, *Villas and Cottages*, calling it a "Wooden Villa with a Curved Roof." After suffering financial reversals Tomes was forced to sell the estate to Andrew Foster Higgins, the principal in the Johnson-Higgins Marine Insurance firm, in 1877. The house remained in the Higgins family

until 1963 when it was sold to the adjacent Christ Church for use as a rectory.

**15. Christ Church Greenwich**  
**254 East Putnam Avenue**

In Colonial times, the center of Greenwich was known as “Horseneck.” The local Anglicans built the Horseneck Chapel in 1747-49 on the brow of the Great Hill (later Put’s Hill). The parish of Christ Church was established on December 25, 1833 and the current stone sanctuary was consecrated in 1910.

**16. Putnam Cottage**  
**243 East Putnam Avenue**

Major General Israel Putnam, commander of the wintering Continental troops in Redding, was surprised by a British foraging party in this outpost on March 26, 1779. Local tradition has the 61-year old Putnam driving his horse down the rocky embankment to the east to escape the British dragoons - feared infantry who rode their horses into battle before dismounting to fight. A large stone and plaque tell the tale of “the famous ride down ‘Put’s Hill.’” The small building was known as Knapp’s Tavern during the Revolution and has been restored to its appearance at that time.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR  
STEPS BACK TO THE TOUR  
STARTING POINT. TO SEE MORE  
OF GREENWICH YOU CAN TURN  
LEFT OFF PUTNAM AVENUE ONTO  
EITHER MILLBANK AVENUE OR  
MASON STREET. BOTH RUN INTO  
HAVEMEYER PLACE. TURN RIGHT  
ON HAVEMEYER TO REACH THE  
TOUR STARTING POINT IF YOU  
CHOOSE THIS OPTION.





*Look Up,*

# *Greton*



## A Walking Tour of Groton...

The early settlers - that would be 1646 - came to Groton between the Thames and Mystic rivers to farm. But there was never much living to be scratched out of the rocky soil and hilly terrain. It did not take long for shipbuilding to become an important early industry. Large ships were floating out of the Groton yards as early as 1724. Beginning with the Revolutionary War, when a 36-gun frigate was built here, the government came to depend on Groton shipbuilders. In the War of 1812 many privateers were fitted out to run British blockades. During the Civil War the ironclad *Galena* was constructed at West Mystic and after the war, in 1868, a Navy Yard was established on the Thames River. During World War I it was officially commissioned as a submarine base and in World War II Groton churned out 74 diesel submarines for the Navy. In 1954 the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, the *USS Nautilus*, launched from Groton, by then truly the Submarine Capital of the World.

Groton men didn't just build ships, they sailed them. Local mariners racked up some of the most impressive sailing records of the 19th century. Captain Joseph Warren Holmes doubled Cape Horn at the tip of South America 83 times, more than any other man afloat. On one trip, after a year at sea on his *Pioneer*, Captain Ebenezer Morgan returned with 1,391 pounds of whale oil and eleven tons of bone which he sold for a profit over \$100,000, considered a record voyage.

In 1655 the first settlers colonized the east bank of the Thames River; when Groton became a separate town in 1705, the east bank was called Groton Bank. In the waning days of the American Revolution, in late summer 1781, a British raiding force under the direction of turncoat Benedict Arnold overwhelmed a cadre of militia defenders on the heights overlooking the Thames River here in the only major battle of the war in Connecticut. Arnold sacked the town and New London across the river.

This is where our walking tour will take place, in a small sliver of the town of Groton, about 12 square blocks. We'll start at one of the two museums in town, where there is abundant parking down by the Thames River and a view of the Gold Star Bridge, a pair of steel truss bridges that are the longest span in Connecticut...

**1. Avery-Copp House**  
**154 Thames Street**

Rufus Avery built this home overlooking the harbor around 1800 for his sons and their families. It remained in the family for almost 200 years. The house received its Italianate make-over around 1870. The last owner, Joe Copp, took over the property after his parents died in 1930. Joe would live here 61 years until he died at the age of 101. Joe kept the house virtually unchanged and his “living time capsule” became a natural for a museum, which it is today.

TURN LEFT AND WALK DOWN  
THAMES STREET; THE WATER  
WILL BE ON YOUR LEFT.

**2. Captain Rufus Avery House**  
**142 Thames Street**

Rufus Avery was on watch at Fort Griswold the morning of September 6, 1781 and was the first to spot Benedict Arnold's British fleet approaching. This center hall Colonial house was built in 1787 by Henry Mason.

**3. Parke Avery House**  
**137 Thames Street**

Parke Avery was one of the builders of Fort Griswold but at age 71 he was too old to take the field in the Battle of Groton Heights. He sent his six sons to the defense of the town, two of whom died in battle. The house was newly built at that time, a Cape Cod style. It picked up a second story in the mid-1800s with the Italianate brackets seen today. The shipyard of the Ferguson family operated below the house in the late 1800s.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS  
ALONG THAMES STREET.

**4. Amos Prentice House**  
**108 Thames Street**

Dr. Amos Prentice built this house in 1782; the previous year he had been the physician who ministered to the wounded Americans at Fort Griswold. Another roomy center hall Colonial

structure, the second floor projection and entrance porch are clearly 19th century Greek Revival additions.

**5. Noyes Barber House**  
**88 Thames Street**

This hipped-roof 1810 house belonged to Noyes Barber, one of Groton's most successful merchants. He was a major in the War of 1812 helping defend the Connecticut coast. After the war he entered politics and served seven consecutive terms in the United States Congress beginning in 1821. He was defeated in a bid for an eighth term and died in Groton in 1844 at the age of 63.

TURN LEFT ON BROAD STREET,  
HEADING UP THE HILL.

**6. James A. Latham House**  
**41 Broad Street**

This early Victorian cottage from 1856 received a touch of the Carpenter Gothic style as expressed by the steeply pitched rooflines with elaborate scrollwork bargeboards on the eaves.

**7. James A. Morgan House**  
**50 Broad Street**

This house was built for James A. Morgan in 1875. With its prominent French-inspired mansard roof it is the best example of the Second Empire architectural style in Groton Bank.

**8. Charles Cook House**  
**55 Broad Street**

This house from 1843 displays the clean, geometric lines of the Greek Revival style.

**9. Groton Heights Baptist Church**  
**72 Broad Street**

This is the second meetinghouse for Groton Bank Baptist Church which was founded in 1843. The new Italianate structure in 1872 featured the trademark square tower, bracket eaves and window hoods. In 1887 the church's name was changed to the Groton Heights Baptist Church.

**10. Captain Waterman Z. Buddington House**  
**91 Broad Street**

Captain W. Z. Buddington was in the coastal and West Indies trade and later the insurance business. His three sons were also sailors and all three were lost at sea. When Buddington purchased this property in 1844, it covered nine acres. Here he built the only brick house on Groton Bank, in the Greek Revival style.

**11. Captain Ebenezer “Rattler”**  
**Morgan House**  
**115 Broad Street**

Elisha M. Miner, a Groton Bank architect and builder, constructed this house for Captain Ebenezer Morgan in 1851. Although twenty years past the era of Federal architecture he gave the house Federal-style touches such as symmetrical proportions and lightly carved trim details. In 1865 Morgan completed a legendary whaling excursion that netted him more than \$100,000 in 14 months. After that he moved to a much larger house a block away. He appears to have acquired the nickname “Rattler” because of his rapid speech and “rattling good stories” that he could tell. Morgan’s next adventure took him to Alaska where, in 1868, he raised the first American flag on Alaskan soil. It is said he and his crew collected 45 thousand seal skins. Morgan was a principle in the Alaska Commercial Company and secured a lucrative monopoly lease for the company. When he died in 1890 his estate was valued at \$1 million.

TURN RIGHT ON  
MONUMENT STREET.

**12. Groton Congregational Church**  
**162 Monument Street**

In 1702, after many years of having to cross the Thames River to attend services in New London or travel to Stonington, the Groton congregation constructed its first church, about 35 feet square. This is fourth Congregational Church and the first on this site, having been built in its 200th year in 1902. The English-style church was built of stones taken from spots around town connected with the history of the church and Groton.

**13. Bill Memorial Library**  
**240 Monument Street**

Frederic Bill was born in Groton and spent a long career that took him to Canada and New York City in the publishing business and in the importation and manufacture of linen goods. He retired to a farm in Groton in 1873 near the mouth of the Thames River where he lived until his death. In 1888 Bill funded the library in the memory of his two sisters, Eliza and Harriet, and selected the first 1700 books. The Romanesque-style building was designed by Stephen C. Earle of Worcester, Massachusetts and constructed of Stony Creek granite, trimmed with Maynard freestone, and finished with a red slate roof. It was dedicated on June 18, 1890 and enlarged in 1907 by Bill to include a small natural history museum.

**14. Groton Monument**  
**Monument Street and Park Avenue**

The Groton Monument, soaring 134 feet high from a hilltop, was dedicated in 1830 to the victims “when the British, under the command of the traitor, Benedict Arnold, burnt the towns of New London and Groton, and spread desolation and woe throughout this region.” A tablet on the monument, that predates the Bunker Hill Monument as the first battlefield monument of its kind, bears the names of the defenders.

AT THE END OF MONUMENT  
STREET, WALK INTO FORT  
GRISWOLD.

**15. Fort Griswold**  
**Monument Street and Park Avenue**

Late in August 1781, with General Washington marching to Virginia and the Revolutionary War’s conclusion, Benedict Arnold, now in the employ of the British crown, proposed a diversionary strike on New London, a major storage depot in his native state of Connecticut. Lt. General Henry Clinton placed 1,700 men under his command and Arnold set sail on September 6, 1781.

Two forts protected New London at the mouth of the Thames River; the sparsely garrisoned Fort Trumbull on the west bank and Fort Griswold,

with 140 militia under Lt. Colonel William Ledyard, occupying the stronger position here, east of the river. The British split their force, Arnold leading the western invasion and Lt. Colonel Edmund Eyre commanding the assault on Fort Griswold. Around 9:00 a.m. Arnold landed and easily displaced the two dozen men at Fort Trumbull, who fired one volley, spiked their cannon and fled.

Eyre did not have such easy going. He struck the fortress from three sides but met such heavy fire from the defenders that the British had to retreat, losing Eyre to a mortal wound. A second assaulting force was thrown back and finally the British stormed the walls in desperate fighting. After 40 minutes of bloody work, Ledyard ended the gallant defense by offering his sword to Lt. Colonel Abram Van Buskirk of the 3rd Battalion of New Jersey Tories. Van Buskirk, according to American accounts of the battle, accepted the sword and thrust it through Ledyard's body. The Americans reported more than 70 men being murdered after the offer to surrender.

Arnold completed his raid by setting New London afire and destroying over 100 buildings. He had achieved no military objective in this, the last important battle in the North, and further discredited his once outstanding record. Today portions of the earth and stone fortifications remain in the 17-acre park.

LEAVE FORT GRISWOLD BY  
RETURNING TO THE ENTRANCE  
AT MONUMENT AND PARK  
STREETS AND TURN LEFT,  
WALKING DOWN THE HILL  
THROUGH A SMALL PINE GROVE  
TO THE END OF FORT STREET.

**16. Ebenezer Avery House**  
**Fort Griswold, end of Fort Street**  
**on south side**

This 1750s center-chimney Colonial house was along the waterfront at Thames and Latham streets during the attack on Fort Griswold. The British left many of the wounded defenders at this house, including Ensign Ebenezer Avery. It was later relocated to the park in 1971.

WALK DOWN THE HILL ALONG  
FORT STREET AND TURN  
RIGHT AT THAMES STREET.  
WALK THROUGH THE SMALL  
COMMERCIAL SECTION OF TOWN  
TO RETURN TO THE  
TOUR STARTING POINT.



*Look Up,*

# Hartford



# A Walking Tour of Hartford...

The Dutch were the first Europeans to set up camp at the confluence of the Connecticut and Park rivers when fur traders from New Netherlands established a post in the early 1620s. The first English settlers arrived in the persons of Thomas Hooker and Samuel Stone in 1635 and the scattering of log houses took the name of Stone's English birthplace, Hertford.

A half century later Hartford became one of the first trouble spots in the American colonies for the English crown. In 1687 Sir Edmund Andros, the English governor, demanded that the town's citizens surrender a 25-year old charter granted by King Charles II that gave the colony its independence. Instead the locals hid the charter in the hollow of a large oak tree for about three days. Today a stone marker remembers the Charter Oak a short distance east of the original town center of Main and Buckingham streets.

Hartford has been a capital town for over 300 years but it shared that distinction with New Haven for well over half that time. Until 1818 each town held a legislative session each year and then began hosting the legislature on alternate years. Finally by vote of the citizenry in 1874 Hartford became THE capital of Connecticut.

Hartford's reputation is as the "insurance capital of the world" but there has always been room in its commercial life for more than underwriting and actuarial charts. It historically has been an agricultural market and tobacco sorting and packing was an important industry. Hartford manufacturers produced typewriters, tools, firearms (Samuel Colt made his revolvers in a brick armory at a bend in the Connecticut River), and the creation of gold leaf among many others. That first insurance policy, by the by, was written in 1810 by the Hartford Fire Insurance Company.

By the 1870s Hartford was said to have the highest per capita income in America. In 1868, Mark Twain, who would move here, exclaimed: "Of all the beautiful towns it has been my fortune to see, Hartford is the chief." Our walking tour will begin in America's first public park, which was opening about the time Twain was making his remarks. We'll see some of what he saw and plenty more...



### 1. Bushnell Park

The 37-acre park is considered to be the oldest publicly funded park in the United States. It was the brainchild of Reverend Horace Bushnell and designed to flow along graceful paths by Swiss-born landscape architect and botanist Jacob Weidenmann. Highlights include the 28-foot tall stone and marble *Corning Fountain*, created in 1899 by sculptor J. Massey Rhind; a working Stein and Goldstein 1914 carousel with 48 hand-carved wooden horses, two chariots and a 1925 Wurlitzer band organ; and the rustic stone Pump House Gallery that presents art exhibits.

The central entrance to the park along Trinity Street is graced by the *Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch*, dedicated to the 4,000 Hartford citizens who served in the Civil War. Architect George W. Keller crafted the arch, perhaps America's first permanent triumphal arch, of Portland brownstone. An eclectic Romanesque design, one of the arch's most striking elements is a bas-relief frieze featuring life-size figures carved by Bohemian-born sculptor Casper Buberl. It was dedicated on September 17, 1886.

FACING THE MEMORIAL ARCH,  
WALK TO YOUR LEFT PAST THE  
CORNING FOUNTAIN AND EXIT  
THE PARK ON THE WESTERN  
SIDE AND CROSS ASYLUM STREET  
ONTO UNION PLACE, TOWARDS  
THE TRAIN STATION.

### 2. Union Station One Union Place

Although he was best known as a monument builder, Irish architect and engineer George Keller translated his talents for a new train station for his adopted hometown in 1889. Here Keller used the burly Richardsonian Romanesque style. Unfortunately the entire structure had to be rebuilt after a fire in 1914.

TURN RIGHT ON CHURCH STREET.

### 3. William R. Cotter Federal Building 135 High Street at Church Street

In 1882, the federal government completed construction of Hartford's first permanent post office building. By the 1920s, however, town residents were campaigning for a new postal building to replace the overcrowded Second Empire-style structure. In 1928, the government selected a site for the new building, and two years later contracted the local architectural firm of Malmfeldt, Adams, & Prentice to design the building. Although the Public Buildings Act of 1926 authorized the Office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury to hire private architects to design federal buildings, the Hartford project was one of the few times that the act was actually invoked.

Their three-story creation is an excellent example of Neoclassical architecture adorned with stylized Art Deco decorative components. The exterior of the building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and named for Connecticut Congressman William R. Cotter in 1982, has remained largely intact since the building's completion in 1933.

CONTINUE TO MAIN STREET  
AND TURN RIGHT.

### 4. Christ Church 45 Church Street at Main Street

The Christ Church parish dates back to 1792 and construction of the current brownstone church began in 1827. The design is by Ithiel Town of New Haven who used sketches done by the church's rector while on a trip to England. These sketches included architectural details from many churches, among them Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral. It is one of the earliest Gothic-style churches built in the country. The bell tower rises 150 feet where the open parapet at the top is an exact replica of those at York Minster. In 1912 the church was chosen to serve as a cathedral for the Connecticut diocese.

## 5. **Cheney Building** 942 Main Street

Henry Hobson Richardson, the pre-eminent architect of post-Civil War America, contributed this brownstone and Berea limestone creation to the Hartford streetscape in 1875-1876. Richardson's trademark bold arches are much in evidence on the ground floor and are carried throughout the building. It was originally a multipurpose structure with five small shops on the ground floor, and offices and apartments above. The clients were the Cheney Brothers, who were silk manufacturers. For years this was the home of Brown Thomson's department store and is currently home to an extended-stay inn.

## 6. **Sage-Allen Building** 884-902 Main Street

Jerome E. Sage, Normand F. Allen and Clifford Moore opened their store on Main Street in 1889. Sage-Allen evolved into a mid-market department store chain that was a fixture in southern New England and anchored a number of smaller local and regional shopping centers in Connecticut, Massachusetts and, later, New Hampshire. The eight-story Classical Renaissance Revival building is rendered in yellow brick and richly ornamented. After 101 years, the Hartford store was closed and the company struggled for only a few more years before ceasing operations in 1994.

The store was perhaps best known for the free standing "Sage-Allen" clock, a local landmark, that was located on the Main Street sidewalk in front of the flagship store until it was damaged in a windstorm in 1992. The clock, manufactured by Seth Thomas, was later repaired and erected on another sidewalk in the city. Its importance as a Main Street landmark was known to the re-developers of the Sage-Allen building, and a deal was struck to return the clock to its traditional place in the summer of 2007.

## 7. **Old State House** 800 Main Street

Mentally remove the fronting balustrade and the topping cupola and you can see what is considered the first public building designed by celebrated

architect Charles Bulfinch. Constructed of Portland brownstone below Flemish bond brick, the State House was completed in 1796 and is said to be the country's oldest. Considerable history occurred behind its walls before the government left in 1878 - the Hartford Convention, where the secession of New England from the United States was discussed, took place in 1814; P.T. Barnum served in the Connecticut legislature; and in 1839 the first *Amistad* slave rebellion trial took place here.

Joseph Steward's Museum of Natural and Other Curiosities, one of America's first museums when it opened in 1797, is located on the second floor. Steward, a portrait painter, decided he needed a hook to draw more people to see his paintings. He collected a number of "natural and artificial curiosities," including an 18-foot Egyptian crocodile, the "horn of a unicorn" and a calf "with two complete heads," and added them to his gallery space in the original State House. Steward's museum was so popular that it outgrew it's original space and had to move to a bigger building across the street.

## 8. **Travelers Tower** 688-704 Main Street

When it was completed in 1919, the Travelers Tower, at 527 feet high, was the first commercial building outside of New York City to rise higher than 500 feet. It was the tallest building in New England and the 7th tallest in the world. New York architect Donn Barber, who also designed the Connecticut State Library, Supreme Court Building and the *Hartford Times* building, gave the Travelers Tower at its crown an 81-foot high pyramidal roof topped by a small cupola housing a powerful beacon. The original portion of the building that is faced in Westerly pink granite was built in 1906.

The Travelers Insurance Company was founded by James Goodwin Batterson in 1863 as the first casualty insurance company in North America. It wrote the first automobile policy and the first commercial airline policy. After a series of mergers and acquisitions that began in the 1990s the company, while maintaining significant operations in Hartford, landed its headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota and then New York City.

**9. Center Church**  
**675 Main Street**

The First Church of Christ in Hartford, known as Center Church, was founded in 1632 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Thomas Hooker served as first pastor and when he left the Massachusetts Bay Colony to come to the Connecticut Valley and settle Hartford, he brought a band of parishioners with him. A small log structure for a meetinghouse was built that year, on the site of the current Old State House, that same year. It was given to Hooker in 1640 to use as a barn when a replacement was constructed in 1640. A century later, in 1739, a third meetinghouse was built on this site. The fourth and present Meeting House was completed in 1807 at a cost of \$32,000. The pulpit recess and barrel-vault ceiling were added in 1853; the church boasts six Tiffany stained glass windows given as memorials between 1881 and 1903. The tower bell, first cast in England in 1633, continues to ring today.

Behind the church is the Ancient Burying Ground, the city's only cemetery until 1803. Buried here are many of Hartford's early founders; the oldest gravestone dates to 1663.

**10. Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art**  
**600 Main Street**

Hartford art patron Daniel Wadsworth founded one of America's first art museums in 1842 at a time when only the very wealthy purchased paintings or decorative arts, and then only for their own enjoyment. His father, Jeremiah, was one of the most wealthy men in Hartford and was involved in trade, manufacturing, banking, and insurance. Wadsworth almost immediately expanded his plan for a fine arts gallery to include a Connecticut Historical Society and the Young Men's Institute, precursor of the Hartford Public Library. Today the collection of 50,000 works is particularly strong in the Hudson River School of landscape paintings, Old Master paintings, modernist masterpieces, Meissen and Sevres porcelains, early American furniture and decorative arts.

Wadsworth admired the Gothic Revival style of Hartford's Christ Church, diagonally across the street. He commissioned architects Ithiel

Town and Alexander Davis, its designers, to create a similarly romantic and imposing building to house his fine arts gallery. The "castle" portion of the Atheneum is the original structure. It was divided into three sections, separated by sturdy brick walls to reduce the risk of fire.

**11. *Stegosaurus***  
**Burr Mall**

The *Stegosaurus* is a creation of Alexander Calder. Made of steel plates, it stands 50 feet high and is made of steel plates. It was installed on Burr Mall between City Hall and the Wadsworth Atheneum in 1973.

TURN LEFT AND WALK  
THROUGH BURR MALL, PAST  
THE *STEGOSAURUS*, TO PROSPECT  
STREET AND TURN LEFT.

**12. Hartford Club**  
**46 Prospect Street**

The tradition of private clubs dedicated to philanthropy, leisure pursuits and intellectual exchanges in Hartford goes back to 1809. The Hartford Club was formed in 1873. In its early days it had a decidedly literary bent and its most famous member, Samuel Clemens, joined in 1881. For its first 30 years the Club rented increasingly larger clubhouses, always on Prospect Street, until 1901, when its members merged with the larger but less prestigious Colonial Club. Land was subsequently purchased at this site and Robert D. Andrews of Boston designed a Georgian Revival clubhouse that opened in 1904.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS  
ON PROSPECT STREET.

**13. Hooper House**  
**34 Prospect Street**

The Hartford Elks Club, the "Mother Lodge" in Connecticut, was founded in 1883. Twenty years later architect John J. Dwyer gave the club this splendid Classical Revival building of limestone, sandstone and glazed buffed brick. Bands of raised brick at the first floor, recessed

arch openings at the second floor, and the projecting roof-line cornice under the parapet contribute to the rich texture of the design.

**14. *Hartford Times Building*  
100 Prospect Street**

In 1976 the *Hartford Times*, the city's afternoon newspaper for 150 years, put out its last issue. The classical Beaux Arts headquarters, noted for its colorful facade, was erected in 1920. The six Ionic green granite columns at its core were salvaged from the Madison Square Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, designed by the legendary Stanford White. In the middle of the 1900s the handsome portico became an almost mandatory stopping point on the Presidential campaign trail - Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson all delivered stump speeches from its steps.

The *Times* building was designed by Donn Barber, a renowned New York architect, who also designed the Travelers Tower. In September 2004, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art took a 99-year lease on the property with plans to create five floors of meeting and event space, classrooms and archival storage.

TURN RIGHT ON ARCH STREET  
AND RETURN TO MAIN STREET.  
NOTE THE LIONS IN FRONT OF  
CITY HALL ALONG ARCH STREET  
AS YOU APPROACH.

**15. City Hall  
550 Main Street at Arch Street**

The mandate for the designers of Hartford's new City Hall in 1915 was to create a building that essentially resembled the Old State House, from where the government was moving. The round-arched windows and balustrades were recreated in brick and faced with white Bethel granite in a Beaux Arts style. The roof is fashioned from copper and tile; all of the entrances are bronze.

The inquisitive-looking stone lions on the south side of the building on Arch Street have been residents of Hartford since 1827. Their first home was on the roof of the Phoenix Bank at 803 Main Street. The Phoenix Bank was chartered in

July 1814 and was the first non-Congregational Church-owned and -operated bank in the state. They were moved to the sidewalk in front of the bank but were hassled by a city inspector in 1918 who claimed the lions were an impediment to traffic and ordered their removal. The bank offered them to the city with the proviso that they be treated with respect and in 1922 the duo was installed at City Hall.

TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET.

**16. *Hartford Public Library*  
500 Main Street**

The library traces its history to 1774 when a group of the city's financial leaders banded together as The Librarian Company. Incorporated in 1799, it soon changed its name to the Hartford Library Company and occupied space at various locations throughout the city. The 96,448 square foot building, designed by Schutz & Goodwin with H. Sage Goodwin, partner in charge, was finished in 1957. The design includes a plaza that incorporates a 104-foot span across the Park River. The waterway was channeled underground in the 1800s; the original brownstone bridge upon which the library's terrace rests was the largest stone arched bridge in America when it was constructed in 1833.

**17. *Central Baptist Church*  
457 Main Street**

The Central Baptist Church was founded in 1790, well more than a century before the congregation moved into this Classical Revival brick home, fronted by a massive colonnade of the Ionic order and a substantial crowning pediment.

**18. *The Linden*  
1 Linden Place at southwest corner  
of Main Street**

This striking five-story brick building was built as an apartment house in 1891 by dry goods kings Frank Brown and James Thomson, whose store occupied the Cheney building back up Main Street. The building features intricate patterns of brickwork and heavy, rough-cut stone trim. The

elaborately detailed roofline is capped by a squat copper-clad tower on its rounded corner.

**19. Hotel Capitol**  
**southwest corner of Main Street**  
**and Capitol Avenue**

The Linden did not introduce the first corner turret to Main Street. In 1875 John W. Gilbert gave the five-story Hotel Capitol an eye-catching Second Empire corner treatment with a tall dormered cupola with a double-curved mansard roof culminating in a copper pinnacle. James G. Wells built the hotel on the site of his former home but did not involve himself in the management of the inn and in 1882 lost the property to the bank.

**20. McKone Block**  
**357-367 Main Street**

Another creation from 1875, this otherwise unremarkable Italianate commercial block is distinguished by a trio of semicircular pediments in the modillioned cornice, each impressed with the construction date. Patrick McKone, who built the speculative block, was bankrupt by the following year and by 1882 it was in receivership with State Savings Bank.

**21. Butler-McCook House**  
**396 Main Street**

This is the oldest surviving homestead in Hartford; save for a few spare Victorian embellishments, the exterior looks much as it did when it was built in 1782. The house remained in the same family through four generations and nearly 200 years. Open to the public as a museum today, it houses family treasures collected from around the globe.

**22. South Congregational Church**  
**277 Main Street**

The organization of Hartford's Second Congregational Church occurred in 1670, after years of doctrinal disputes in the Hartford Church following the death of Thomas Hooker in 1647. After the division, the new congregation built its first meeting house in 1673, later

replaced by its second in 1754. The current brick church dates to 1827, built in the popular Greek Revival style of the day. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is the third oldest public building in the city and one of the only four remaining that were built before 1830.

TURN RIGHT ON BUCKINGHAM STREET, THE STREET TO THE NORTH OF SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, TO WALK THROUGH THE BUCKINGHAM SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT.

*This is the original settlement of the town, although all traces of its colonial heritage are long gone. Instead, the neighborhood portrays a 19th century urban enclave with examples of the Italianate, High Victorian and Richardsonian styles. Buckingham Square has the highest concentration of these original rowhouses remaining in the city, all of them completed between 1863 and 1879.*

AT THE END OF BUCKINGHAM STREET TURN RIGHT ON WASHINGTON STREET.

*In the 1800s Washington Street came to be known as "Governor's Row" for its splendid mansions - almost all of which are gone today.*

**23. Hartford County Courthouse Building**  
**95 Washington Street**

Paul Philippe Cret, a native French architect, whose vision of an austere, unadorned classicism influenced many a civic building in the 1920s and 1930s, drew plans for the Hartford County Courthouse Building in 1926. It replaced an earlier 1885 structure, located at the corner of Trumbull and Allyn streets, that was later torn down. Nearly three million dollars were spent before the new Courthouse - boasting 15 different kinds of marbles in its interior - opened its doors in 1929.

TURN LEFT ON CAPITOL AVENUE.

**24. Connecticut State Library**  
**231 Capitol Avenue**

The Connecticut General Assembly first recognized the need for a State Librarian in 1854 when legislation was introduced that organized a State Library Committee. In the autumn of 1854, J. Hammond Trumbull began his tenure as that first State Librarian. In 1878 the collection moved into the new Capitol building but by 1906 its growth demanded new quarters and property was purchased across the street. Architects Donn Barber of New York and E.T. Hapgood of Hartford envisioned a design based on an adaptation of the Italian Renaissance style of architecture that included three wings off of a central lobby, the State Library on the left, Memorial Hall in the center and the Supreme Court on the right. When the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court Building opened in 1910 the *Hartford Courant* gushed, "it is one of the most beautiful structures in this country and said by some to be the handsomest building in New England."

**25. State Capitol Building**  
**Capitol Avenue at the head of**  
**Washington Street**

Connecticut considered both Hartford and New Haven to be state capitals from 1703 until 1875. Beginning around the Civil War, the need was felt for a single capital location and a referendum was held. Hartford won easily. Richard Michael Upjohn won the design competition and set to work on an exuberant High Victorian Gothic capitol building awash in crockets, finials and niches. Built of New England white marble and granite, the original budget was \$900,000 but with the addition of a gilded, twelve-sided dome the final tab came to \$2,532,524.43. The dome is topped by the winged figure of *Genius of Connecticut* by Randolph Rogers. The grounds and interior are studded with memorials and mementoes to Connecticut's past.

WITH THE STATE CAPITOL ON  
YOUR LEFT, WALK DOWN  
CAPITOL AVENUE.

**26. The Bushnell Center for the**  
**Performing Arts**  
**166 Capitol Avenue**

Dotha Bushnell Hillyer founded Horace Bushnell Memorial Hall in 1930 as a "living memorial" to her father, esteemed Hartford minister, theologian, philosopher and civic leader. The Georgian Revival exterior, much in the manner of the Old State House, came from sketches drawn in the offices of Corbett, Harrison and MacMurray. The firm also designed New York's Radio City Music Hall and brought those classic Art Deco lines to the richly appointed interior of the performing center.

**27. First Presbyterian Church**  
**136 Capitol Avenue**

This is the First Presbyterian Church's fourth home and the first built by the congregation. It was completed and dedicated May 17, 1870. Designed by Renwick and Sands of New York, the building is of Vermont granite with a trim of Portland brownstone in a blending of Gothic and Romanesque architecture. Although the architect's plan called for a taller tower topped by a spire, it was built with a sloping roof only slightly higher than the main roof.

TURN LEFT ON CLINTON STREET.  
TURN RIGHT ON ELM STREET.

**28. Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company**  
**79 Elm Street**

The Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company issued its first policy in June, 1851, insuring only those who totally abstained from alcohol as the American Temperance Life Insurance Company. By 1861, finding that market a bit limited the company changed its name and policies. It moved into this richly decorated seven-story headquarters in 1917. Interspersed among the dark green bricks are inlaid designs of red and blue tile and a dark red Spanish tile roof. Today it is home to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

CROSS ELM STREET INTO  
BUSHNELL PARK AND WALK  
DOWN TO THE TOUR STARTING  
POINT.

*Additional Touring:*

This has been a long tour but if you still have spring in your step you can use Bushnell Park as a jumping off point for another walking tour of Asylum Hill, an historic neighborhood named for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Person institute that was founded in 1807.

To take this tour, begin the same way by exiting Bushnell Park to the west. Instead of crossing Asylum Avenue, however, this time turn left and cross under the railroad tracks. Bear left on Farmington Avenue. After several long blocks, turn right on Woodland Street. Turn right on Asylum Avenue to return to the tour starting point.

On this tour you will see the headquarters of several major life insurance companies including Aetna and the campus of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company; several churches including Asylum Hill Congregational Church, The Trinity Episcopal Church, and Saint Joseph's Cathedral; and historic homes such as the Mark Twain House at 351 Farmington Avenue and behind it at 77 Forest Street the restored Harriet Beecher Stowe House.





*Look Up,*

# *Meriden*



## A Walking Tour of Meriden...

What is today the city of Meriden was in 1661 the beginnings of Jonathan Gilbert's farm when he was granted 350 acres. Gilbert, a resident of Hartford, had been born on Meriden Farm in the English County of Surrey. It would not be until 1806 that the town would be incorporated, by which time the callow sprouts of industry had appeared in the form of pewter goods, especially buttons.

One of those pewter shops was established in 1808 by 24-year old Ashbil Griswold. Under Griswold's leadership, Meriden soon became a leading center in the production of Britannia ware, pewter, and silverware. Because of its more durable qualities, Britannia had replaced pewter in most American homes by the 1850s and in 1852 many of the small shops banded together to organize the Meriden Britannia Company.

By the 1890s, Meriden Britannia had established branches in Canada and London and sales offices in Chicago, New York, and San Francisco. Assuming a leadership role, Meriden Britannia convinced other small independent silver shops in the Connecticut area that cooperation was more efficient. The International Silver Company was the result and Meriden was the "Silver City" - the center of silverware production in the United States.

International Silver left town in the mid-1900s and so too did many of Meriden's traditional businesses. Our walking tour of downtown will pass many holes, including the International Silver plant on State Street, as we investigate what remains of the city's makeover. We'll start at a triangular intersection that displays some of Meriden's most striking civic, educational, ecclesiastical, fraternal and cultural architecture...

**1. Meriden Soldiers' Monument**  
City Hall; 142 East Main Street

More than 20,000 people attended the dedication of the 38-foot granite monument on June 18, 1873. The names of Meriden's soldiers who fell in some of the Civil War's greatest battles are inscribed. A Union soldier at rest surmounts the shaft.

**2. City Hall**  
142 Main Street

The original Victorian Town Hall, where Abraham Lincoln delivered a campaign speech on March 7, 1860, was destroyed in a fire in 1904. This replacement was constructed from 1905 to 1907 in the Colonial Revival style that has remained popular for government office buildings built in the century since.

**3. Meriden High School**  
22 Liberty Street

This bold brick and stone Romanesque-style building was constructed in 1885 and was used as the Meriden High School. Thousands of Meriden students passed through its powerful rough-cut, heavy brownstone arch before a new high school was built on Pleasant Street. It is now home to the Meriden Board of Education.

**4. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
20 Catlin Street at Liberty and  
East Main streets

St. Andrew's Parish was established in 1789 although the history of the Episcopal Church in Meriden goes back to 1775 when a group loyal to the Church of England met secretly to worship at the Moses Andrews Homestead on West Main Street. This brownstone church is the third used by the congregation, beginning in 1867. The Gothic Revival design was executed by English-born Henry Dudley, an architect renowned for his ecclesiastical work.

**5. First United Methodist Church**  
159 East Main Street

The first Methodist meetinghouse was built in 1830 on East Main Street on the land of Captain Lyman Collins, just west of the entrance to the East Cemetery. This was a crude building, unpainted and unfinished, with rough-hewn seats fashioned from sawmill slabs and without any means of heating or lighting. It was called, in the language of the time, one of "God's Barns." The entire cost of the building was \$428.40. Eventually, this building was sold and moved to Curtis Street where it became a carpenter's shop.

The tab for the current hilltop church came to \$85,000 when it was constructed in 1866. Some \$50,000 of that bill was paid for by Charles Parker, the largest employer in the city and one of the largest in the state. Parker was elected the first mayor of Meriden in 1867.

WITH YOUR BACK TO CITY HALL,  
WALK WEST ON MAIN STREET,  
DOWN THE HILL.

**6. Meriden Lodge No. 35**  
120 East Main Street

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, one of the oldest and largest fraternal organizations in the country, began in 1868. The Meriden chapter was chartered in 1886; its Colonial Revival lodge complements the nearby City Hall.

**7. Masonic Temple**  
112 East Main Street

The cornerstone for this Neoclassical temple was laid on September 17, 1927, and was completed on November 10, 1928. The roots of Masonry in Meriden extend back to its charter in 1851 and the imposing stone Masonic Temple, with two orders of Greek columns, is the result of the efforts of the two Meriden lodges, No. 77 and No. 97.

TURN RIGHT ON COLONY STREET.

**8. First Congregational Church  
62 Colony Street**

In 1725 the legislature was petitioned for permission to form an Ecclesiastical Society and it was so granted. In 1727 the Ecclesiastical Society built the first of what would become five meetinghouses. The current gray granite structure was dedicated on April 2, 1879. The lack of a steeple is not an omission; it was planned but never built.

**9. United States Post Office  
87 Colony Street at Brooks Street**

In 1902 Congress appropriated \$100,000 for a Federal building designed to hold a new post office. That would work out to be an investment of about \$1000 a year as the Beaux Arts post office served the community until moving to a 30,000 square foot facility on Center Street in 2008.

TURN RIGHT ON BROOKS STREET  
AND WALK TO THE OPEN FIELD  
ONE BLOCK AWAY.

**10. Meriden HUB  
East Main Street, State Street  
and Pratt Street**

The HUB site once served as a center of industrial and commercial activity in Meriden's downtown. The site housed the Meriden Mall, one of the region's first indoor retail shopping malls. The property, however, sits atop Harbor Brook and two tributaries, Clark and Jordan Brooks, which lie in culverts underneath, causing flooding in significant rain events. Flooding in the 1990s caused an estimated \$14 million in property damage. The HUB site now awaits adaptive redevelopment.

CROSS THE HUB AND PICK UP  
MILLER STREET DIRECTLY ACROSS  
FROM BROOKS STREET. PASS THE  
MERIDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY ON THE  
RIGHT. TURN RIGHT ON TWISS  
STREET. TURN LEFT ON LIBERTY  
STREET. TURN RIGHT ON CENTER  
STREET.

**11. St. Rose of Lima Church  
35 Center Street**

The first Meriden Mass in the early 1840s using the Broad Street home of Robert Clarke. During the ensuing years, New Haven priests continued to offer Mass in the homes of Meriden's approximately 20 Irish families. On March 31, 1851, St. Rose of Lima was created and the parish church on Center Street was dedicated on July 31, 1859.

TURN RIGHT ON  
EAST MAIN STREET.

**12. Meriden Armory  
241 East Main Street**

This brick fortress was constructed as a state armory in 1908. It was the home of the Meriden National Guard unit, Company C, 143d Forward Support Battalion, a medical treatment company, until it was closed in 1998.

**13. Augusta Curtis Cultural Center  
175 East Main Street**

As the 20th century approached, civic leaders began to seek ways to make sure Meriden didn't enter the new century without a public library. Augusta Curtis, 67-year old widow of an officer of the Meriden Britannia Company, pledged to provide a library if the town would guarantee \$3,000 annually to run it. Meriden accepted, and the sparkling white marble Greek Revival library was dedicated in 1902. Since the library moved to a more commodious facility in the 1970s the building has twice been restored to continue serving the Meriden arts community.

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO  
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

*Look Up,*

# *Middletown*



## A Walking Tour of Middletown...

The first settlers from Hartford and Wethersfield found this spot on a big bend in the Connecticut River in 1650. They laid out a street above the flood plain that ran parallel to the water, today's Main Street, and named the village Middletown because it was more or less midway between Saybrook and Hartford on the river. The fertile alluvial plain and the favorable geography allowed the town to flourish immediately. By 1756 Middletown, with its population of 5,664, was the largest and wealthiest town in the state of Connecticut. It was Connecticut's most important port because it was the leading shipping center for the West Indies trade. Later it was a key player in the China trade.

Other Middletown citizens were busy on the land with carpenters and shipwrights and stonemasons and artisans. A local mine produced lead. Middletown rivaled Boston and Philadelphia as a pewter center. Unfortunately inland sea ports faced a disadvantage with the arrival of larger sea-going ships and Middletown's trade slipped away in the 19th century. Wesleyan College was established in 1831 which helped attract other cultural institutions. As the town's industry diversified, Main Street grew ever more commercialized and residents moved up the hill to High Street.

Through Middletown's connections with three railroad lines, the Air Line, the Berlin Branch and the Connecticut Valley, the city was linked to local and national networks of rail transportation by the early 1870s. This encouraged the growth of both established industries which continued to serve regional needs and specialized industries supplying national markets. Rubber was an early product line here. And pumps. And silverware. And typewriters. The U.S. Census of Manufacturers listed 131 firms in Middletown in 1870.

Our walking tour will start on Main Street where most of the commercial buildings are of 20th century vintage and work our way to High Street that is lined with high-style 19th century mansions, most of which have been absorbed into Wesleyan College...

**1. Church of the Holy Trinity**  
**381 Main Street**

The Episcopal Church in Middletown had its beginnings as early as 1724; this is the third meeting house of the parish, which was formally established as Christ Church in 1750. Henry Dudley designed the Gothic building that was built of local brownstone between 1870 and 1874. The church displays a large rose tracery window in a symmetrically arranged facade with a buttressed bell tower at the southeast corner. The tower lacks a spire but features narrow arched windows which emphasize its verticality, and echo the fenestration of the facades.

FACING THE CHURCH,  
TURN LEFT AND WALK  
SOUTH ON MAIN STREET.

**2. Pythian Building**  
**360 Main Street**

The Order of Knights of Pythias was the first fraternal order to be chartered by an Act of Congress when it was established in 1864. This lodge must have been one of their most impressive after this 1874 Italianate commercial building received a Neoclassical makeover in 1938 with two stories of resplendent green marble. The third story picked up a Palladian window and a pair of decorative urns adorn the roofline.

**3. Guy & Rice Building**  
**335 Main Street**

This three-story Renaissance Revival building was constructed for the insurance and real estate firm of Guy & Rice in 1930. The decorative stucco and concrete facade is punctuated by large arched windows.

**4. Liberty Bank**  
**315 Main Street**

Liberty Bank began as Middletown Savings Bank and has been a presence on Main Street since 1825. It is the oldest mutual savings bank in Connecticut. The bank opened in Samuel Southmayd's pharmacy on the corner of Main and William streets and deposits were placed in

an oaken cupboard that served as the bank's vault; it is now in Yale University's museum collection. In 1837, the bank moved into a building on the corner of Main and College streets and then into this Neoclassical headquarters with a rusticated stone base in 1929.

In 1844, Frederick Sheffield, a young merchant from Old Saybrook rode his horse to Middletown to deposit \$8 with the bank; six months later, he made an additional deposit of \$18. He then moved away from the area, leaving his money on deposit. In 1994, Sheffield's descendants finally closed his account, which had grown through interest alone to more than \$32,000 and was the oldest individually owned savings account in America. A descendent of Sheffield holds an account at Liberty Bank to this day.

**5. Middletown Post Office**  
**291 Main Street at southwest  
corner of Court Street**

This prominent corner at Court Street has been federally owned since 1841. In 1911 it was decided to place a new post office here. Government architects gave the town a new look with this two-story Renaissance Revival limestone building rising in a city center dominated by brick and Portland brownstone. The classical facade displays an arrangement of arched windows and pilasters supporting an elaborate entablature. It operated as a post office until 1977 when it was sold into the private sector for use as office space.

**6. Middlesex Mutual Assurance Building**  
**179 Main Street**

This 1867 building once housed the Middlesex Mutual Assurance Company, formed in 1836. Today it provides a clear look at how a decorative facade was attached to an ordinary brick building. This one has elements of the Italianate style (tall windows), Colonial affects such as corner quoins and keystones over the window, and triangular pediments studded with dentils.

**7. General Mansfield House**  
**151 Main Street**

This part of Main Street was a fashionable residential neighborhood when Samuel Mather, a local merchant, built this brick Federal-style house in 1810. The character of the street was to change substantially in the coming decades, however, and businesses steadily replaced family homes. This was one of the few to soldier on, dodging the wrecking ball in the 1950s to serve as the headquarters for the Middlesex County Historical Society and picking up a \$175,000 restoration in the 1990s.

Mather's daughter Louisa and her husband, General Joseph King Fenno Mansfield, a West Point graduate and career Army man in the Corps of Engineers lived in the house next. Mansfield distinguished himself in the Mexican War and was a general by the time of the Civil War. He died at the head of his lines on September 17, 1862 during the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest day of the Civil War. He was 58 years old.

**8. Baptist Church**  
**93 Main Street**

This modest brick church is one of the town's earliest, dating to 1842.

**STOP ON SOUTH GREEN.**

**9. *Soldiers' Monument***  
**South Green**

This monument was installed in 1874 to honor the town's 110 soldiers and sailors who died in the Civil War. The bronze infantryman at rest was cast in Chicopee, Massachusetts; the base is surrounded by captured Confederate cannons.

**10. South Congregational Church**  
**9 Pleasant Street on south side**  
**of the Green**

In 1747, Ebenezer Frothingham, a staunch Separatist of the Great Awakening, gathered a congregation in Wethersfield. His preaching landed him in and out of jail and in 1753 he came to Middletown in pursuit of religious tolerance, holding services in his house that still stands on

Mill Street. In 1830, the church moved to the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets. The present building, much renovated today, is the second on the site, constructed in 1867. The bell was hoisted into the tower by oxen in 1884.

**WALK UP THE GREEN.**

**11. First United Methodist Church**  
**24 Old Church Street on the**  
**north side of Green**

Methodism began stirring in New England in the 1740s. But it was Jesse Lee's preaching in 1791 that finally inaugurated a Methodist Circuit on the Connecticut River. By 1804, Middletown had become the center of the Circuit. This present Gothic chapel of cream and tan-colored limestone is the fourth church for the congregation on the South Green. At the time of its construction in 1931 it was considered "one of the finest Methodist Church buildings in the country."

**12. Henry Clay Work Bust**  
**center of South Green**

Henry Clay Work, an American composer and songwriter, was born near here in 1832 into an abolitionist family. The Work home became a stop on the Underground Railroad, assisting runaway slaves to freedom in Canada, for which his father was once imprisoned. Work was self taught in music and was said to compose without any instruments, creating songs in his job as a printer as he set musical type.

**13. Masonic Lodge**  
**33 Pleasant Street on south side of Green**

St. John's Lodge was chartered back in 1754, first meeting in Burnhams Tavern. The current brick lodge building was constructed in 1870, known over the years as the White-Stoddard House. It is one of the town's foremost examples of the French-inspired Second Empire style with prominent mansard roof and heavy bracketing and window molds.



**14. Danforth Pewter Shop**  
**across west side of Green, inside junction**  
**of South Main Street and Church Street**

Thomas Danforth II was a pioneer in the Colonial craft of pewtersmithing, crafting household items from a tin alloy beginning in 1756. He had six sons, all of whom went into the pewtering trade. Each specialized in several forms of holloware, such as plates, mugs, bowls, candlesticks, communion flagons, or teapots. Pewter was the American tableware of choice until the rise of imported chinaware in the mid-nineteenth century. This combination workshop and store was part of a busy artisan's colony a few blocks north on College Street but was moved here in the 1980s ahead of a new parking lot there.

**15. Congregation Adath Israel**  
**Broad and Church streets, opposite**  
**the northwest corner of the Green**

In the 1870s Jews began to arrive in Middletown in significant numbers, largely from Germany and Austria-Hungary. Urban and middle-class, most did not stay, and within a decade were supplanted by the poorer and more rural Eastern European Jews, escaping oppression in their homelands. After worshipping in private homes and rented halls for many years by 1908 there was enough money in the community to purchase a brick building on Union Street and to incorporate Congregation Adath Israel. The more spacious synagogue on the Green came along in 1929.

BEAR RIGHT ONTO CHURCH  
STREET. TURN RIGHT ON HIGH  
STREET, KNOWN AS "COLLEGE  
ROW."

**16. College Row**  
**west side of High Street**

Wesleyan was founded by Methodist leaders and prominent residents of Middletown, and was the first academic institution to be named after John Wesley, the Protestant theologian who was the founder of Methodism. Early buildings were fashioned from Portland brownstone, as typified

by this attractive hilltop row. In the chapel are commemorative windows in honor of Wesleyan men killed in the Civil War and past college presidents.

**17. Psi Upsilon**  
**242 High Street**

Psi Upsilon was established on the Wesleyan campus in 1843, ten years after the fraternity's founding at Union College - the fifth in the United States. Their new house came along on the 50th anniversary, designed by Colin C. Wilson in a modified Dutch Renaissance style. The house is constructed of thin Yellow Roman bricks.

**18. First President's House**  
**255 High Street**

The Greek Revival President's House was erected in 1837-38 for Wilbur Fisk, who was the school's first president. Every subsequent president lived here until 1904. It stepped down to house school deans for a while after that.

**19. Wesleyan University President's House**  
**269 High Street**

This Italianate Villa style house was built in 1856 for Gabriel Coite who retired from New York business a few years earlier. It is an exuberant cube with a projecting pavilion, prominent porte cochere, and elaborate scrolled brackets beneath the eaves of the roof and cupola. Coite entered state politics and moved to Hartford and Jane Miles Hubbard, widow of Samuel D. Hubbard, co-founder of the Russell Manufacturing Company, moved in. The house was purchased in 1904 by Wesleyan University for its presidents, which it remains to this day.

**20. Richard Alsop IV House**  
**301 High Street**

Richard Alsop IV owned a business trading with Chile and the West Indies from Philadelphia. He built this house in 1838-1839 for his twice-widowed mother. This house is significant architecturally for its transitional Greek-Tuscan Italianate appearance. The central block displays a decorative frieze and a veranda supported by

delicate ironwork and surmounted by an intricate balustrade.

**21. Edward Augsutus Russell House**  
**318 High Street**

Another house that erupted on the Russell estate on High Street, this was built for Edward Augustus Russell in 1841-42. Edward, who worked in the woolen trade, was the younger brother of Samuel Russell who owned the estate. This was the last example of Greek Revival architecture to be built in the prestigious area of High Street.

**22. Duane Barnes House**  
**327 High Street**

This striking brownstone Gothic Revival cottage was built in the late 1840s. Of particular note are the decorative bargeboards of the eaves and the window over the central bay, which is shielded by an intricate glass and wooden hood. Duane Barnes was a schoolteacher, bookseller, and poet.

**23. Thomas MacDonough Russell House**  
**343 High Street**

This well-proportioned Colonial Revival house was constructed in 1902-03 for a member of the Russell family who dominated this block.

**24. Samuel Wadsworth Russell House**  
**350 High Street**

This monumental Greek Revival building was the home of Samuel Russell who made his fortune in China, trading in fine teas and silks and, most profitably, illegal opium. Connecticut architect Ithiel Town designed the house with six mammoth Corinthian columns built of brownstone. Stucco scribed to resemble large block ashlar covers the masonry brick walls. The house was built in 1828 when Russell was still overseas; he returned in 1831 after 20 years in China to see the house for the first time. He lived here until his death at the age of 73 in 1862. Five generations of Russells resided here until it was deeded to Wesleyan University in 1937.

TURN RIGHT ON  
WASHINGTON STREET.

**25. St. Sebastian's Roman Catholic Church**  
**147 Washington Street**

During the worst years of the Depression, the Italian population of Middletown raised \$51,000 to make possible the construction of this Renaissance Revival church. The building is very similar to the fourteenth century Church of St. Sebastian in Melilli, Sicily.

**26. Wetmore-Starr House**  
**110 Washington Street**

This house was built around 1752 by Jeremiah Wetmore, on property that had once been part of the 1670 land grant to Reverend Samuel Stow, the town's first minister. The house was purchased by Jehosaphat Starr in 1756, who enlarged the original central chimney home with an addition to the east elevation.

CROSS MAIN STREET.

**27. Captain Benjamin Williams -  
deKoven House**  
**27 Washington Street**

This impressive brick house is the legacy to the wealth of sea captains in pre-1800 Middletown. Captain Benjamin Williams built it in Middletown in 1791. Only the richest could build in bricks and for good measure he embraced the Georgian house in decorative stone quoins. The house was later owned by Henry L. deKoven, who was also involved in merchant shipping and was the first president of the Middlesex County Bank in 1830.

RETURN TO MAIN STREET AND  
TURN LEFT TO RETURN TO THE  
TOUR STARTING POINT.

*Look Up,*

# *New Britain*



## A Walking Tour of New Britain...

New Britain's reputation as the "Hardware City" began about 1800 when James North and Joseph Shipman started the manufacture of sleigh bells. Thwarted by the town's location with no navigable rivers and inadequate water power would-be manufacturers had to content themselves with small operations for the peddler trade producing tools and locks and other light metal articles. In 1831, 28-year old Frederick Trent Stanley teamed with his brother William to produce some of the earliest house trimmings and locks in America. This business sputtered along for a time until the Panic of 1837 crippled it fatally.

Frederick Stanley next surfaced in New Britain in 1843 in a nondescript one-story wooden structure that had once stood as an armory during the War of 1812. Here Stanley would lay the foundations for the most famous toolworks in America.

The Stanley Bolt Manufactory was one of hundreds of little manufactories struggling to make a go of it, the majority of which were one-man shops. The only thing setting Stanley apart was a single-cylinder, high pressure steam engine shipped up from New York and carted by ox to the little wooden shop. Stanley's was the only automated shop in the region. He peddled his bolts by horseback and wagon across the back country. His tiny business must have impressed his neighbors because in 1852 five friends pooled the staggering sum of \$30,000 to form the Stanley Works that has helped shape the town to this day, not in the least by attracting waves of European immigrant workers to New Britain.

By 1900 the population of the town, incorporated only 50 years earlier, was cresting at 30,000 with half being foreign or of foreign parentage. Our walking tour of the Hardware City will examine buildings from this period almost exclusively, several preserved after glorious restorations...

**1. *Sailors and Soldiers Monument***  
**Central Park, Main Street at Bank Street**

New Britain's memory to its veterans of the Civil War was dedicated on September 19, 1900. The 44-foot high monument was designed by Ernest Flagg, an architect responsible for many of the classical buildings at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis. It culminates in a dome topped by the gilded allegorical figure representing Victory. The figure was replaced in 2000 as part of a restoration performed for the monument's 100th anniversary and the original now resides in the rear lobby of City Hall. The monument's interior is inscribed with the names of local residents who fought in the war.

**2. *Gates Building***  
**272 Main Street at Bank Street**

The New Britain National Bank was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly in 1860 and moved into this splendid six-story Beaux Arts corner building in 1906. It was designed by the Hartford architectural firm of Davis and Brooks in white brick and given such decorative flourishes as an intricately detailed cornice with deep-paired brackets, rope trim and marble window sills. After the bank moved in the 1930s the building was acquired by Florence Judd Gates whose family made its fortune in barbed wire. After a half-century of retail and office use the building was gutted and restored to house the New Britain Board of Education.

TURN LEFT ON  
WEST MAIN STREET.

**3. *City Hall***  
**27 West Main Street**

Joseph Morrill Wells of America's most prestigious architectural firm, McKim, Mead and White of New York City, designed this building in 1886. But not as a government building. The five-story Venetian showplace was the elegant Hotel Russwin when it opened. Constructed mostly of red brick, the lower two floors are set off by a five-bay brownstone arcade. The City acquired this magnificent structure in 1909 and it has done duty as City Hall ever since.

**4. *New Britain National Bank***  
**55 West Main Street**

The Commercial Trust Company spared no expense in creating its seven-story headquarters in 1927. The building was designed to mimic the Venetian Palazzo themes of City Hall next door. The architects incorporated local and financial details throughout the presentation. So many anvil symbols were used in the brickwork that it became known as the "Anvil Bank." The bronze doors are decorated with designs of the Buffalo Nickel, the City of New Britain Beehive and the Mercury Dime. The use of bronze and exquisite marble is carried throughout the interior as well. Alas the Commercial Trust Company did not survive the Great Depression and the building was acquired by the New Britain National Bank in the 1930s. All that remains of Continental's legacy is a "C/T" logo above the front door. After years of vacancy and neglect the building was converted into residential and commercial space.

**5. *Burritt House***  
**67 West Main Street**

In the early years of the 20th century it was common for business and civic leaders of medium-sized cities to fret about the need for a first-class downtown hotel. Often the Chamber of Commerce raised the money itself to finance the construction of a magnet-type hotel. In New Britain the result was the Burritt Hotel, which opened with great anticipation on March 5, 1924. The Georgian-Revival brick building featured 130 rooms. Today the one-time hostelry has been converted into apartments for senior citizens.

**6. *Old Post Office***  
**114 West Main Street**

This Neoclassical Post Office was built of limestone in 1920 and served as the main Post Office for New Britain for over fifty years. Behind the colonnade of engaged fluted Ionic columns the interior greeted patrons with terrazzo floors, marble wainscoting, soaring ceilings, and mahogany trim. The building has been converted into luxury office space. The hand-carved eagle statue over the entrance betrays its earlier life with the postal service.

**7. New Britain Public Library**  
**20 High Street at northwest corner**  
**of West Main Street**

Steel magnate Andrew Carnegie became synonymous with the building of public libraries across America in the early 1900s but this magnificent edifice was endowed by a local philanthropist, Cornelius Erwin. The Russell & Erwin Manufacturing Company originated in 1839 when H.E. Russell, Cornelius B. Erwin, and Frederick T. Stanley formed a partnership to produce locks and builders' hardware, under the name of Stanley, Russell & Company. The company was best known as the pioneer of the wrought steel lock industry and Erwin served as president from 1851 until his death in 1885. The firm of Davis and Brooks larded the Beaux Arts library with many noteworthy architectural motifs including fluted Ionic columns, arched windows accented by decorative keystones and lion head (symbolic of learning) gargoyles. The names of authors are scattered throughout the facade, scallop shell moldings, and prominent quill pen carvings.

TURN LEFT ON HIGH STREET.

**8. Cadwell House**  
**130 Main Street**

William Cadwell was New Britain's most prominent architect during America's Gilded Age of the 1890s and early 1900s. He saved some of his best tricks for this house, which was a wedding gift to his wife in 1891. He used yellow brick, limestone and Portland brownstone to create one of downtown's more prominent Victorian landmarks. Your eye is drawn to the massive corner turret but notice also the intricate keystones, steeply vaulted slate roof and granite cornerstones.

**9. Eastman House**  
**33-35 High Street at the head**  
**of Court Street**

This house was built for Mary Eastman in 1878 but its current appearance dates to 1935 when the English Tudor influenced brick and brownstone covering was added by B.C. Peck. Peck was a

physician and you can still see the symbol of the American Medical Association set in stone in the main gable. The building is recognized for its bright red doors and windows that contrast with the dark brownstone moldings.

BEAR RIGHT AND WALK UPHILL  
ON THE SHORT HILLSIDE PLACE.

**10. Stanley Mansion**  
**1 Hillside**

Timothy Wadsworth Stanley, along with three brothers, founded the Stanley Rule and Level Manufacturing Company that would one day become part of the Stanley Works, founded by another branch of the family. In the middle of the 1800s Stanley was considered the wealthiest man in New Britain. Most of the property the family owned here became Walnut Hill Park, created with the help of Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of New York's Central Park. Near the bottom of the slope Stanley built his home in 1859. To site the Gothic Revival mansion upon a solid brownstone foundation on level ground, considerable grading was required. The house is of brick and post and beam construction, sided in cedar and resplendent in delicate gingerbread millwork on the exterior.

**11. State Normal School**  
**27 Hillside Place**

The New Britain Normal School, the forerunner of today's Central Connecticut College, was founded in 1849 as a school to train teachers. It is the oldest public institution of higher education in Connecticut and the sixth normal school in the United States. In 1882 the school moved into this high-style Gothic Victorian building, as dramatic visually as its hillside location. Rendered in red brick, white sandstone and brownstone, the school is anchored by a 120-foot corner bell tower. The classrooms were entered under huge vaulted arches. The college departed for its current location in 1922 and the New Britain Board of Education moved in. Today the striking building lives on as upscale condominiums, retaining its educational trappings inside.

WALK BACK DOWN THE HILL AND  
TURN RIGHT ON WALNUT STREET.  
TURN RIGHT ON ARCH STREET.

**12. Vega Hall**  
**57-61 Arch Street**

This light-colored building of yellow brick and terra cotta is the former headquarters of the Vega Benefit Society, a centralized hub where Swedish immigrants could connect with established countrymen and ease their transition into life in New Britain. This is another downtown design by William Cadwell, completed in 1897. Although the ground floor has been compromised for retail use you can still look up and see the architectural adornments Cadwell added, including a steamship symbolizing the immigrant experience.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO THE  
MAJOR INTERSECTION OF ARCH,  
WALNUT, CHESTNUT AND MAIN  
STREETS.

**13. South Congregational -  
First Baptist Church**  
**90 Main Street**

South Congregational Church was founded in 1842 by some of the leading citizens of New Britain. By the time this New England Gothic brownstone church was constructed in 1865 New England was experiencing an influx of non-English speaking factory workers. South Congregational began ministering to Armenian, Assyrian, and Italian immigrants. German and Swedish newcomers migrated to First Baptist Church, founded in 1808, at the other end of Main Street. In 1974 the two complimentary congregations began worshipping together. South Church, designed by George F. Meecham with a 170-foot tower, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**14. Trinity-on-Main**  
**69 Main Street at Chestnut Street**

Today a space for “arts, community and culture,” Trinity-On-Main was originally built in 1891 as Trinity United Methodist Church, serving a parish that traces its roots back to 1815. The building of rough-cut gray granite is the handiwork of Amos P. Cutting, one of New England’s most prestigious 19th century architects with some 75 churches on his resume. Accents are provided by lighter-colored granite to produce an intricate checkerboard design under the eaves. A 108-foot tower, rising from a large arched entrance to a pyramidal roof and four small turrets, dominates the façade. In 2000, the congregation of Trinity United Methodist Church, unable to meet the expense of repairing the building, reluctantly voted to demolish the Church prompting a grass-roots movement to save the long-time New Britain landmark.

TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET.

**15. Andrews Building**  
**136 Main Street**

Yet another creation by New Britain architect William Cadwell, here he turned to the Beaux Arts style for the home of the John Andrews Furniture store in 1903. The wealth of architectural detail - decorative cornice, keystones, medallions and dentils - was appropriate for the purveyor of some of the finest home furnishings in New England. Andrews sold furniture for more than 75 years but the building is perhaps best remembered for a day in the 1920s when the legendary escape artist Harry Houdini performed one of his remarkable stunts off its roof.

TURN LEFT ON COURT STREET  
AND WALK A FEW STEPS UP THE  
STREET.

**16. Platt Mansion**  
**25 Court Street**

By the time he died in 1932 at the age of 84, Frederick G. Platt had established a lumber company (New Britain Lumber & Coal), organized a street railway and helmed the reins of the New Britain Machine Company. He commissioned the building of this High Victorian Gothic mansion, an outstanding example of the form, in 1886. Constructed of red brick, terra cotta and Portland brownstone, the house sports a dominating, intricately decorated four-story central tower. A dedicated follower of fashion, Platt remained in the house less than a decade, leaving to build a new one in the newly popular Colonial Revival style. A century later when the Platt Mansion was restored for commercial space in 1987 it won the Hartford Architectural Conservancy award.

RETURN TO MAIN STREET AND  
TURN LEFT.

**17. Judd's Block**  
**236-246 Main Street**

D.C. Judd built this pair of buildings for his grocery business in 1888. These examples of Victorian commercial architecture are notable on their upper floors for their detailed terra cotta panels, marble window sills and pressed copper window bays.

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED  
TO CENTRAL PARK AND THE  
BEGINNING OF THE TOUR.



*Look Up,*

# *New Haven*



## A Walking Tour of New Haven...

The area which today is New Haven was the home of a tribe of Native Americans, the Quinnipiack, who built their villages around a broad, but very shallow harbor, at the confluence of the Quinnipiac, Mill and West rivers. They harvested seafood, hunted with bow and arrow for food and furs and grew maize, the staple of their diet. Their lives changed forever on April 24, 1638, when a company of five-hundred English Puritans led by the Reverend John Davenport and Theophilus Eaton, a wealthy London merchant, sailed into the harbor. The newcomers were looking for a place to practice their religious beliefs but also came with an avaricious eye towards controlling the trade from the Long Island Sound down to the Virginia colony. Within a year the settlers had laid out eight streets in a grid of four streets by four streets creating what is now commonly known as the “Nine Square Plan,” making New Haven one of the first planned towns in the New World.

Plans for a commercial empire were scuttled early on, however, when the town sent its first fully loaded ship of local goods back to England in 1646. The ship never reached Europe and disappeared with all the hopes of its financial backers in Quinnipiac, as the town was known. By the time it became New Haven in 1678, the colony lagged far behind Boston and the newly conquered town of New Amsterdam, renamed New York. Instead, New Haven evolved into more of a cultural and educational center. It was made co-capital of Connecticut in 1701, a status it maintained with Hartford all the way into the 1870s. In 1716 the tiny Collegiate School of Connecticut arrived in town from Old Saybrook. Two years later, in response to a request from Cotton Mather on behalf of the institution, Welsh merchant Elihu Yale sent a carton of goods which the school sold for 800 pounds sterling and so it became Yale College. Today Yale University is synonymous with New Haven and is the city’s largest employer. There was industry as well. Locks and hardware, pork products, clocks, and especially, Winchester repeating rifles bore New Haven trademarks. Among the odds and ends invented in New Haven were the corkscrew, the lollipop and the steel fishhook. But smokestacks and factories were never an image evoked by New Haven. The city had the first public tree planting program in America, producing a canopy of mature trees that gave New Haven the nickname “The Elm City.”

New Haven has been in the forefront of urban renewal in recent decades and lost many of its historic buildings and Dutch Elm disease claimed the lives of many of its big shade trees. But trees have been replanted, millions of dollars spent to spruce up buildings that weren’t knocked down and our walking tour will begin in the center of the 16-acre New Haven Green, a National Historic Landmark, and the outstanding feature of downtown...

**1. Flagpole War Memorial  
center of Green**

Douglas Orr, a hometown architect won the design competition to create a memorial remembrance to those who sacrificed their lives in World War I. He completed the granite flagpole with carved silhouettes in 1928. Afterwards Orr would go on to design many public buildings around New Haven and in the late 1940s served as president of the American Institute of Architects and helped renovate the White House.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE THREE CHURCHES, WALK TO THE RIGHT TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE GREEN AT CHAPEL STREET AND CHURCH STREET.

**2. Bennett Fountain  
northwest corner of Chapel Street and  
Church Street**

Philo Sherman Bennett of New Haven made his fortune in the New York City grocery trade, specializing in tea. In 1903, while in Boise, Idaho on his way to inspect some mining property the team of horses pulling his open stage stampeded down a hill dislodging Bennett and throwing him against a tree. The 61-year old Bennett was killed instantly. In his will, administered by William Jennings Bryan whom he had befriended after a contribution to Bryan's 1896 Presidential campaign, Bennett provided for cash prizes to schools and colleges around the country. There was some money left over for this marble drinking fountain that was erected in 1907. Bryan, the leading orator of the day, delivered a speech at its dedication.

The fountain is modeled after the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates, built near the Acropolis of Athens in 335 BC to commemorate the award of a theatrical prize. The circular structure is one of the first Greek monuments built according to the Corinthian order and was a popular representation in the United States to crown elaborate Beaux Arts buildings of the time. Two troughs in the bottom provided refreshment for dogs; underneath an ice vault kept the water cool in the summer.

TURN LEFT AND WALK UP THE GREEN ALONG CHURCH STREET.

**3. Exchange Building  
121 Church Street at northeast  
corner of Chapel Street**

When this brick building was completed in 1832 it was New Haven's first multi-story commercial building. It featured an open ground floor for retail shops. The windows display a Greek Revival styling, the dominant architectural craze of the period. For a pioneering property, it has not been treated well over the years - the original cupola was removed in favor of a billboard on the roof. The cupola was rebuilt in a 1990 restoration but it also picked up a stone facade of columns on the ground floor.

**4. Richard C. Lee United States Courthouse  
141 Church Street**

James Gamble Rogers, a Yale graduate, designed this federal building in the Classical Revival style to blend in with the character of the existing buildings around the Green. Built between 1913 and 1919 from Tennessee marble, it sports a Corinthian portico and ornate interior. The courthouse, which also did duty as the post office, was given a date with the wrecking ball in the 1960s but an energetic preservation move saved it and earned the building a \$7 million restoration. In 1998, it was renamed to honor Richard C. Lee, a one-time New Haven mayor who spearheaded the building's rescue.

**5. City Hall  
165 Church Street**

Henry Austin was a carpenter's apprentice who began his career in architecture working for Ithiel Town, one of the first generation of professional architects in the United States. Beginning in 1836 Austin practiced more than 50 years in and around New Haven, working in a variety of popular 19th century styles. For the New Haven City Hall he executed one of America's first High Victorian Gothic buildings in 1861 with bands of sandstone and limestone. A much-needed restoration was undertaken in 1976 and has been maintained ever since.

## TURN LEFT ON ELM STREET.

### **6. New Haven County Courthouse 121 Elm Street**

After Chicago's World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 a fervor of urban renewal known as the City Beautiful movement swept the country. In New Haven it claimed a quartet of aristocratic mansions on this side of the Green known as "Quality Row." This exuberant Beaux Arts courthouse arrived in 1914 from the designs of New Haven architects William Allen and Richard Williams, modeled after St. George's Hall in Liverpool, England. J. Massey Rhind provided the sculptures outside and murals and lunettes inside were executed by famed early 20th century painter T. Thomas Gilbert.

### **7. New Haven Free Public Library 133 Elm Street**

After several unsuccessful attempts at creating a free public library, in 1886 the City of New Haven approved \$12,000 to start the library. In the 1890s the Third Congregational Church was remodeled to serve the Library and an open-stack policy - radical at the time - was instituted. A separate Children's Room, one of the first in the country, was also opened. Cass Gilbert, one of the most influential architects of the City Beautiful movement, delivered a Colonial Revival building of brick and marble to harmonize with the traditional architecture of the churches and the Green. The Library was formally dedicated on May 27, 1911.

### **8. Visitor Center 149 Elm Street**

This is the oldest surviving private residence in New Haven, built in 1767 for James Pierpont, grandson of one of Yale's founders. During their brief occupation of New Haven during the Revolutionary War, the British used the Pierpont home as a headquarters and hospital. Architecturally the house has seen several remodelings and renovations through the years to reel its appearance back into the 18th century. The building remained in the Pierpont family until 1900 when Reverend Anson Stokes, then

secretary of Yale, purchased the home. In 1921, the University acquired the property for use as a faculty club.

### **9. The Graduate Club 155 Elm Street**

Here is a glimpse into what downtown New Haven looked like 200 years ago. This Federal style home belonged to Jonathan Mix, circa 1799. The first floor window heads and cornice detail show that Mix was a bit more well off than his neighbors. The Graduate Club, a social club for Yale alumni founded in 1892, purchased the house in 1901.

### **10. Hendrie Hall 165 Elm Street**

New York architect Josiah Cleaveland Cady was Yale University's chief architect at the end of the 20th century. He designed 14 buildings on the campus, of which few survive. Here he crafted a brick building with a limestone facade in a Renaissance Revival style in 1895 for the Yale Law School. Its main benefactor was John W. Hendrie, a local farmboy who took his Yale education to San Francisco in 1854 and within ten years had made enough money to sell his mercantile business and retire back to his Connecticut farm.

### **11. First and Summerfield United Methodist Church 425 College Street at northeast corner of Elm Street**

Methodism in New Haven marks its beginnings in 1789 when young Jesse Lee preached a sermon on the steps of the New Haven Court House. The Methodists struggled to gain traction in the community; battling persecution and natural disaster - the church they built on the northwest corner of the Green blew down in a storm in 1821 just prior to completion. In a move to clear the Green of unnecessary structures, Yale and the City helped the church secure its present lot, upon which Henry Austin built a Colonial-style church in 1849, just as architectural tastes were changing in America. By 1900 most the Georgian affectation was gone and so was the steeple. Then

tastes swung back to a revival of Federal-era architecture and back came the original, more or less, appearance. First Methodist Church is now First & Summerfield, the result of a merger in 1981 with the Summerfield United Methodist, a congregation founded in 1781 and based in the Newhallville neighborhood of New Haven.

TURN RIGHT ON COLLEGE STREET.

**12. Leigh Hall**  
**435 College Street**

Completed in 1930, the building now known as Leigh Hall originally served as the home of the Department of University Health Services. The limestone structure under a slate roof contained administrative offices and treatment facilities.

**13. Stoeckel Hall**  
**469 College Street**

Stoeckel Hall was designed by Grosvenor Atterbury and completed in 1897 as a residence for Chi Phi Fraternity. This Venetian Gothic building, originally called York Hall, was renamed for music professor Gustave Stoeckel in 1954, when it was converted for use by the School of Music.

**14. Albert Arnold Sprague Memorial Hall**  
**470 College Street**

This was Yale's first building dedicated to music, completed in 1917. Constructed of brick with wood trim it contains classrooms, practice rooms and a 680-seat recital hall. After a major renovation Sprague Memorial Hall now boasts of a silent heating and air conditioning system; acoustical panels that allow for subtle adjustments to a performer's sound; and sound-proof doors and windows to keep out street noise.

**15. Woolsey Hall**  
**500 College Street**

The master architects of the Classical Revival form, Carrère and Hastings of New York Public Library fame and Capitol Hill in Washington, gave Yale its primary performance hall as part of the commemoration of the school's bicentennial

in 1901. The ornately decorated hall is home to the Newberry Memorial Organ, one of the most renowned orchestral organs in North America.

**16. Sterling Tower**  
**northeast corner of Grove  
and Prospect streets**

Sheffield Scientific School was founded in 1847 as a school of Yale College for instruction in science and engineering. Originally named the Yale Scientific School, it was renamed in 1861 in honor of Joseph E. Sheffield, the railroad executive and one of Yale's greatest benefactors. The Sheffield Scientific School helped establish the model for the transition of U.S. higher education from a classical model to one which incorporated both the sciences and the liberal arts. The old Yale Medical School building on this site was renovated and renamed Sheffield Hall. It was demolished in 1931 and is now the site of Sterling Tower, Sheffield Hall and Strathcona Hall, part of an early 20th century mandate that all new buildings be designed on a common architectural pattern, giving the Yale campus one of the greatest collections of Gothic architecture in the Western Hemisphere.

TURN LEFT ON GROVE STREET.

**17. Grove Street Cemetery**  
**Grove Street at head of High Street**

New Haven's first common burial ground was the Green but it became overwhelmed during outbreaks of yellow fever in 1794 and 1795. The result was the creation of a new cemetery on the edge of town, the first chartered burial ground in the United States. The first burial, that of Martha Townsend, took place on November 9, 1797; the last burial on the Green occurred in 1812. The pattern of the cemetery also appears to have been unique, for it was arranged in lots for families as opposed to random burials which had been common in the past. Some of the notables interred in Grove Street Cemetery are Lyman Beecher, James D. Dana, Charles Goodyear, Roger Sherman, Noah Webster, and Eli Whitney.

TURN LEFT ON HIGH STREET.

**18. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library**  
**121 Wall Street at northeast corner of High Street**

Yale's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library is the largest building in the world reserved exclusively for the preservation of rare books and manuscripts. A six-story above-ground tower of book stacks is surrounded by a windowless rectangular building with walls made of a translucent Danby marble, which transmit subdued lighting and provide protection from direct light. The design is by Gordon Bunshaft and was a 1963 gift of the Beinecke family. The library also contains one of the 48 extant copies of the Gutenberg Bible.

**19. Sterling Law Library**  
**127 Wall Street; northwest corner of High Street**

The Sterling Law Building, built in 1931, is modeled after the English Inns of Court. The building is named after Yale alumnus and benefactor John William Sterling, name partner of the New York law firm Shearman & Sterling. In the friezes above the two entrances to the Yale Law School are humorous depictions of the educational experience - in one a professor lectures to bored, sleeping students and in the other eager students are thwarted by an indifferent professor.

**20. Sterling Memorial Library**  
**120 High Street**

James Gamble Rogers simulated a centuries-old Gothic cathedral in 1931 to create Yale's largest library, holding over 10 million volumes and manuscripts. It is made up of fifteen stack levels and eight floors of reading rooms, offices, and work areas. Work on the library was completed in 1931. Rogers loaded the elaborate building with architectural details. The main entrance is adorned with symbols and writings in various ancient languages. The Nave is decorated with marble reliefs depicting Yale's founding and the history of New Haven and Connecticut. A giant fresco of Alma Mater surrounded by figures representing academic schools greets scholars over the circulation desk. The doors of the elevators

are handwrought iron, depicting Medicine, Law, Shipping, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Chemistry, Husbandry, and Machine Work. The library is most famous for its 3,300 hand-decorated windows that depict everything from fiction to history and even small insects on otherwise unadorned panes created to look real.

**21. Harkness Tower**  
**74 High Street**

The 216-foot Gothic tower was constructed between 1917 and 1921 on designs from James Gamble Rogers, who created many of Yale's "Collegiate Gothic" structures. The money came from by Anna M. Harkness in honor of her recently deceased son, Charles William Harkness, Yale class of 1883, and the second son of Stephen V. Harkness, an early investor in the company that became Standard Oil. The tower contains the Yale Memorial Carillon, a 54-bell carillon.

**22. Skull and Bones Society**  
**64 High Street**

Founded in 1832 Skull and Bones is the most famous of Yale's secret societies. The brownstone Skull and Bones Hall, known as the "Tomb," was built in 1856 with later expansions. In real life presidents and Supreme Court justices have been members; in fictional lore Montgomery Burns on *The Simpsons* was a Bonesman.

TURN RIGHT ON CHAPEL STREET.

**23. Yale University Art Gallery**  
**1111 Chapel Street**

The Yale University Art Gallery is the oldest college art museum outside of Europe, founded in 1832 with a gift from artist John Trumbull. Architect Edgerton Swartwout designed the older "Tuscan Romanesque" section of the gallery, completed in 1928 and distinguished by the neo-Gothic arched windows and Art Deco bridge over High Street. The modern wing, designed by Louis I. Kahn, opened alongside Swartwout's building in 1953.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS  
ON CHAPEL STREET AND CROSS  
HIGH STREET.

**24. Connecticut Hall**  
**1017 Chapel Street**

Completed in 1753, Connecticut Hall is the oldest building at Yale and one of four National Historic Landmarks on campus. Only the second structure ever built for the college, Connecticut Hall was commissioned as a dormitory by Yale College President Thomas Clap in 1750 to relieve overcrowding. Remodeled and expanded in 1797, Connecticut Hall, then called “South Middle College,” formed part of the Old Brick Row, the original building complex that lined what is now the Old Campus. Brick Row was demolished at the beginning of the 1900s, leaving only Connecticut Hall intact.

**25. Sherman Building**  
**1032 Chapel Street**

This is the site of the home of New Haven’s first Mayor, Roger Sherman, the only person who signed all four of the nation’s founding documents: the Articles of Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States. One hundred years later, Gaius Fenn Warnier, one of the city’s leading industrialists, built his townhouse, which today forms the core of the building. From the 1880s through the 1940s this was the home of the Union League Club, a private civic and social club. The building’s appearance dates to 1902 and a Beaux Arts remodeling by New Haven architect Richard Williams. It is currently occupied by the Union League Cafe.

TURN LEFT ON TEMPLE STREET AT  
THE NEW HAVEN GREEN.

**26. Trinity Church on the Green**  
**129 Church Street (located**  
**the northwest corner of Chapel Street**  
**and Temple Street)**

The construction of these three churches on the Green, all erected at about the same time around the War of 1812 and for separate, independent denominations, instill a character to New Haven’s core unrivaled in Connecticut. The last to be built on the Green, consecrated on February 21, 1816, was Trinity Episcopal Church, the first house of worship in New Haven to be called a “church” as opposed to a meetinghouse. That first small wooden church was completed in the summer of 1753 on the east side of Church Street, south of Chapel Street. It is one of the first Gothic Revival churches in the United States.

**27. The First Church of Christ**  
**311 Temple Street**

Center Church and New Haven were founded in 1638 by the Reverend John Davenport and Theophilus Eaton, who came from Boston with a group of Puritans in order to settle here. This building is the fourth church of this society built on the Green since 1638. It was built by Ithiel Town in 1812-1814 at the cost of \$34,323. Town may have designed the church or used designs from his boss, Asher Benjamin of Boston but whichever, he used this church as a springboard to a prosperous career around Connecticut. The church was partially built over a burial crypt that includes possibly over 1,500 graves, the oldest dating to 1687. The famous Tiffany window over the pulpit contains 2,320 separate pieces of glass; in 1893, this window cost \$10,000.

28. **United Church on the Green**  
270 Temple Street at Elm Street

David Hoadley outfitted this Federal style church with an exceptionally fine steeple in 1814, especially for a self-taught architect often dismissed as a mere builder. He built many houses around New Haven, most of which are long since gone. The United Congregation came about in 1796 when the White Haven Church and the Fair Haven Church congregations merged. The church boasts of a proud history of abolitionism; Roger Sherman Baldwin was a defender of the *Amistad* Africans.

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO  
THE TOUR STARTING POINT ON  
THE NEW HAVEN GREEN.



*Look Up,*

# *New London*



## A Walking Tour of New London...

When a group of Puritan families under the the direction of John Winthrop, Jr. arrived here in 1646 they found one of the deepest harbors on the Atlantic coast, courtesy of an ancient flooded river valley. The prospects for the new location were so promising the village soon was named “New London” and that river was called the “Thames.”

The sea would bring both wealth and heartbreak to New London. During the Revolutionary War more troublesome privateers operated from this port than any other in New England. It has been estimated that some 300 British cargo ships were captured by New London vessels. Such activity did not escape the attention of the crown and even though the war was winding down in September 1781 a British Tory fleet under the command of Benedict Arnold sacked the town. To New London’s misfortune, Arnold spent much of his childhood in the town and knew the terrain. His raiding party destroyed 150 buildings. Arnold claimed that most of the destruction was the fault of accidental fires but townspeople contended he stood at Ye Ancientist Burial Grounds viewing the flames, “with the apparent satisfaction of a Nero.”

After the war ended a very different trade came across New London wharves. The whaling industry traces its beginnings to May 20, 1784 when the *Rising Sun* sailed for the fishing grounds off Brazil and returned the next year with more than 300 barrels of whale oil. For the next 125 years until the last whaling schooner, the *Margaret*, left port in 1909, New London rivaled New Bedford, Massachusetts as the whaling capital of the world. By 1850, a million dollars a year worth of whale oil and bone was being recorded at New London customs.

Whaling was not the only industry of note in New London. Thomas Short established Connecticut’s first printing press here in 1709. His successor, Timothy Green, produced almanacs that eventually spawned *The New England Almanac and Farmer’s Friend*, an influential resource for more than 175 years. New London’s presses also produced America’s greatest playwright, Eugene O’Neill, O’Neill’s theatrical New York family summered here where he acquired an abiding love of the sea and wrote for the *New London Telegraph*.

Our walking tour of New London will concentrate in the downtown historic district where we’ll see houses remaining from the city’s great whaling captains, buildings by great 19th century architects, and the working place of a great Connecticut patriot...

**1. Public Library of New London  
63 Huntington Street**

Henry Hobson Richardson of Boston was the most important American architect of the 19th century and his buildings were characterized by massive, rough-cut stone heavy with Romanesque detail, often in contrasting colors of stone and with a prominent arched doorway. This small prototypical Richardsonian building was not done by the master but by his successor firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge in 1892. An actual Richardson creation is at the other end of State Street, Union Station. Money for the project was provided in the trust of New London whaling merchant Henry Philemon Haven, who died in 1876. Haven's company operated 24 vessels. As a sidelight he organized the Phoenix Guano Company, shipping dried bird droppings from the Pacific Islands to use in fertilizer production.

**WALK DOWN STATE STREET.**

**2. Garde Arts Center  
325 State Street**

The Garde opened on September 22, 1926 and was almost instantly acclaimed as one of the finest theaters in New England. Architect Arland Johnson gave his vaudeville palace an exotic Moorish decor and palatial design, a style intended to transport patrons to imaginary far-off lands. It was named for Walter Garde, a Hartford and New London businessman who financed the construction, and built on the baronial former estate of whaling merchant William Williams. When movies totally supplanted vaudeville in the late 1920s, Warner Brothers purchased the Garde for \$1 million. They would operate it until 1978. The faded glamour was restored in the 1980s and the Garde Arts Center now includes four restored buildings on the block.

**3. Dewart Building  
300 State Street**

The Dewart Building began life as the Plant Building. For the longest time no one thought much about Morton Freeman Plant's prospects as a businessman. Even though he was the 47-year old titular head of his father's railroad and

steamship business when Henry Bradley Plant died in 1899, Morton was willed only a \$30,000 stipend with the company and the bulk of the \$22 million estate left to an as yet unborn great grandchild when he reached the age of 21. Morton contested the will and soon became the director of various railroad, shipping, and banking concerns around New London, more than doubling his father's fortune. He owned 10 yachts during his lifetime, the local minor league baseball team, the Griswold Hotel, a vast hunting reserve in East Lyme and he built a 31-room mansion for three million dollars on Avery Point in Groton. He gave Connecticut College a million dollars and Groton its Town Hall. He built this five-story office building in 1914. It was designed by his go-to architect, Dudley St. Clair Donnelly in a Beaux Arts style with a terra cotta facade, pilasters and decorative brickwork. Donnelly himself set up shop here.

**4. Thames Club  
290 State Street**

Founded in 1869, the Thames Club is the oldest Social Club in Connecticut. Its first permanent home was in a private residence purchased here in 1888. After the house burned in a fire in 1904 this Colonial Revival brick clubhouse was constructed.

**5. Mohican Hotel  
281 State Street at Meridian Street**

This looks like a typical downtown hotel from the early 20th century but its history is anything but routine. In 1896 publishing magnate Frank Munsey was looking for a way to escape New York City labor unions and built the Mohican to house his printing presses. Munsey brought with him from New York William Tuthill, who created Carnegie Hall, to do the design honors. The remote location did not work out and by 1898 Munsey was back in New York. He converted the building into a hotel but the travel trade was slow and by the end of the 1800s Munsey had turned his building into a department store. In short order that failed and the Mohican - this time with three additional stories and no expense spared - was a hotel again. It quickly gained a reputation as one of the state's finest and thrived until the

1980s when the Mohican was converted into housing for the elderly.

#### **6. First Baptist Church 268 State Street**

The earliest Baptist services in New London took place around 1674, conducted by itinerant ministers from Newport, Rhode Island. The first meetinghouse was built on Niles Hills, then on the outskirts of the city in the early 1700s. The congregation splintered in the 1770s and the First Baptist Church would not reorganize until 1804. This Victorian brick church is the congregation's first, constructed in 1856 on designs by W.T. Hallett who designed the original City Hall and others.

#### **7. National Bank of Commerce 250 State Street**

Whale oil was bringing so much money into New London in 1852 that the mayor of the town of 9,000 inhabitants already with three commercial banks and a savings bank decided it could use another one. Mayor Henry P. Haven was no sailor himself but an investor in far-flung enterprises. He did make sure to include three sea captains on his board of directors. The National Bank of Commerce prospered and for many decades was the city's largest. After spending a half-century in a banking room in the town's leading hotel, the Crocker House, it purchased this property for a new Neo-Colonial home.

#### **8. Lyric Hall 243 State Street**

For many years the upstairs housed a gem of a small theater while the Whaler's Restaurant operated downstairs. After many years of standing vacant the 1898 building, designed by hometown architect James Sweeney, is looking at a rebirth as home to an art gallery and Russian tea room with plans to restore the opulent theater on the upper floors.

#### **9. First Congregational Church 66 Union Street at State Street**

The First Congregational Church was organized at Gloucester, Massachusetts in 1642, removing in 1650 to New London. The congregation assembled at first in a large barn before constructing a meeting house around 1655. Today's Gothic granite church dates to the 1850s from the pen of Leopold Eidlitz, who received his training at the Viennese Polytechnic in Austria and worked out of the New York offices of Richard Upjohn, the leading proponent of the Gothic Revival style in American church construction.

#### **10. Crocker House 180 State Street**

Henry Scudder Crocker was the town's premier hotelier in the 19th century. He managed the posh Pequot House, a summer resort at the mouth of the Thames River and was brought in to take control of "the most modern" hotel in town being developed by the New London Hotel Company. When it opened on New Year's Eve, 1873 the Crocker House sported an impressive Second Empire mansard roof that is gone today.

#### **11. Municipal Building 181 State Street**

The city government has operated here for over 150 years. The original building was an Italianate-style brownstone that fit in nicely with the residential nature of State Street in 1856. By the early 1900s the City thought it desirable to establish a more monumental presence as the neighborhood commercialized. In 1912 James Sweeney was called in to deliver a Renaissance Revival exterior to the Municipal Building which he accomplished with a rusticated base, a quartet of Corinthian columns, some pediments over the windows and a matching classical balustrade and low surrounding wall.

**12. Harris Building**  
**165 State Street**

The Harris in question was Jonathan Newton Harris, who rose from modest circumstances as a clerk to become one of the town's most prosperous businessmen, dealing in farm tools and hardware. In the 1880s he hired Leopold Eidlitz to create this Victorian brick building to serve many purposes - upscale shopping downstairs, fancy living upstairs and office space in between, a relatively new concept for the day. Eidlitz had earlier built Harris an impressive Italian villa on the highest hill in town. The building was renovated in the 1990s.

**13. Marble Block**  
**128 State Street**

For most of its first 200 years the whirl of commercial activity in New London was down along the waterfront. State Street was where people lived, some in fine mansions, and went to church. Morris Bacon changed all that. He himself lived on upper State Street, where the Mohican Hotel is today. Bacon stabled his thoroughbred racing horses there. He also sailed yachts. Bacon found time from his leisure pursuits to invest his money in 1868 in this elegant commercial space that would set the standard for commercial development along State Street. The Second Empire Style, most notable today in the roofline, was used for the ashlar stone building with tall windows that provided abundant interior light. Fancy emporiums selling the finest wares occupied the street level and a billiard room on the upper floor was hailed as "one of the finest in this part of the country where not a post broke the harmony of space." Bacon's Marble Block has been restored this century, surviving the collapse of the entire rear wall, a sign of the neglect the pioneering building had suffered.

**14. Cronin Building**  
**80 State Street**

George Warren Cole was one of the busiest of New London's Victorian architects. Here he was commissioned in 1892 by Jeremiah Cronin to create a modern office building where an older building had recently perished in a fire.

Cole produced a Romanesque four-story block fashioned in brick. He was fond enough of the abundant light flowing through the large arched windows to set up his own shop inside. Unfortunately he would die the next year of typhoid fever. This block, along with another by one of Cole's proteges, Dudley St. Clair Donnelly, at 52 State Street was saved from serious deterioration in the early 2000s and has undergone restoration efforts.

**15. *Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument***  
**Parade Plaza, State Street at Water Street**

This 50-foot obelisk in remembrance of New London's Civil War veterans was built in 1896 with private funds. The monument features alternating bands of rough and smooth granite and is surmounted by an allegorical figure of peace.

TURN LEFT AND WALK THROUGH THE PLAZA TO ATLANTIC STREET.

**16. Nathan Hale Schoolhouse**  
**19 Atlantic Street**

Nathan Hale taught school in New London for over a year, leaving in July 1775 to become a lieutenant in the 7th Connecticut militia. He volunteered for a dangerous mission secreting information about the British on Long Island where he was captured and hanged as a spy on September 22, 1776. His reported last words - "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." - would echo through schoolhouses like his own from that time forward. This is actually the fifth location around town for the 1774 schoolhouse, transported here in 1988.

TURN RIGHT AND WALK A FEW STEPS TO WATER STREET. TURN RIGHT.

**17. Union Station**  
**South Water Street at the foot**  
**of State Street**

When the previous railroad station burned in a fire in 1883, the two local railroads serving the city banded together to purchase a site and erect a “union” station. Eventually six railroad companies brought their lines into this terminal after it was completed in 1888. It is a creation of the legendary architect Henry Hobson Richardson, one of the last he ever did, actually not being completed until after his death. Although it lacks some of Richardson’s trademark stone ornamentation it exemplifies his mastery over brawny, substantial civic buildings and his artistic use of brickwork. Facing the wrecking ball in the 1970s, the mobilization to save Union Station led to the formation of New London Landmarks in 1976.

TURN RIGHT ON STATE STREET  
AND, AFTER A FEW STEPS, TURN  
LEFT ON BANK STREET. WALK  
DOWN A BLOCK DOTTED WITH  
COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES FROM  
THE 19TH CENTURY.

**18. Bulkeley House**  
**111 Bank Street**

Captain Charles Bulkeley was said to be the most respected man in New London with a record of sixty years of active service on the high seas. He battled the British invaders of New London and when the War of 1812 came along he ran blockades to bring supplies home. He died at the age of 95 in 1848, living most of that time in this house that was constructed in 1790.

**19. U.S. Custom House**  
**150 Bank Street**

Charleston, South Carolina native Robert Mills is considered the first American-born professional architect. An early proponent of Classical Revival architecture, Mills was named the official federal architect in the first half of the 19th century and in 1833 he drew up plans for this substantial Custom House, constructed of ashlar stone blocks. Mills is probably best remembered

as the architect of the Washington Monument. In 1983, after the Federal government designated the Custom House as “surplus” and planned to put it up for sale, a group of local concerned citizens formed New London Maritime Society, Inc. to ensure that it remained in the public domain. The result is today’s Custom House Maritime Museum.

**20. Niagara Engine Company No.1**  
**289 Bank Street**

Niagara Engine Company No.1 traces its beginnings back to 1786 when it organized as Washington’s Engine Company. They took the name “Niagara” in 1844 to honor a new hand pumper that was said to deliver a stream of water like the famous falls.

AFTER CROSSING TILLEY STREET,  
BEAR RIGHT ON BLINMAN STREET.  
WALK TO THE FIRST BUILDING ON  
THE RIGHT.

**21. New London County Historical Society**  
**11 Blinman Street**

Captain Nathaniel Shaw, a prosperous merchant in town, began work on this substantial gray granite mansion in the 1750s. It would remain in the Shaw family for five generations, until 1907, when it was sold to the Historical Society for their headquarters which it still is a century later.

RETURN TO TILLEY STREET  
AND TURN LEFT.

**22. St. Mary Star of the Sea**  
**10 Huntington Street at**  
**Washington Street**

This Gothic style granite church was built in 1876 to replace St. Patrick’s Church on Truman Street for New London’s Catholics. The soaring tower is a 1911 addition, recently spruced up in time for its 100th birthday.

TURN LEFT ON WASHINGTON  
STREET BEFORE THE CHURCH.

**23. Hempsted Houses**  
**inside corner of the junction of**  
**Hempstead, Jay and Truman streets**

These houses were built in 1678 and 1759. The stone house belonged to Nathaniel Hempsted and is an unusual example of pre-Revolutionary War stone construction in Connecticut. Now open to the public as house museums, the pair are furnished to represent every day life in the Hempsted family.

TURN RIGHT ON JAY STREET.  
TURN RIGHT ON HUNTINGTON  
STREET.

**24. The Huntington Street Baptist Church**  
**29 Huntington Street**

In 1843 the Universalists selected this site, overlooking two Baptist churches then located on Pearl and Union Streets as the location of their new church. John Bishop, a member of the congregation, was chosen to design and build the new meetinghouse and he used an architectural pattern book to create this classically proportioned Greek Revival building. He fronted the church with a handsome Corinthian portico. Unfortunately the Universalist Church failed in 1849 and was forced to sell the building to the Baptists. The Universalist congregation struggled on and was flush enough by 1879 to build their second church nearby on Starr Street. John Bishop also designed that one.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR  
STEPS ON HUNTINGTON STREET,  
WALKING NORTH. IN ONE BLOCK  
YOU WILL REACH THE TOUR  
STARTING POINT. BUT THERE ARE  
A FEW MORE THINGS TO SEE ON  
HUNTINGTON STREET...

**25. New London County Courthouse**  
**70 Huntington Street**

This courthouse was built in 1784 to replace the one burned by Benedict Arnold during the American Revolution. It is still in use today and is the oldest courthouse in Connecticut. Designed

by Isaac Fitch, the original structure was crowned by a distinctive cupola, a Palladian window and fluted pilasters. American patriot Patrick Henry argued cases in the Courthouse and other historical notables such as Daniel Webster, the Marquis de Lafayette and Horace Greeley spoke here.

**26. Whale Oil Row**  
**105-119 Huntington Street**

Whale Oil Row is a unique collection of similar Greek Revival mansions constructed for whaling captains in 1835. They each feature pilasters on the corners and a prominent Ionic portico supporting a triangular pediment. At one time there were plenty more mansions along Huntington Street but these warriors are the last survivors from an urban renewal purge in the 1960s.

**27. St. James Episcopal Church**  
**76 Federal Street at Huntington Street**

Richard Upjohn, the leading proponent of Gothic Revival architecture in America, came to New London in 1850 to deliver this church of New Jersey red freestone for New London's Episcopalians. The congregation dates to 1725. Outside, the spire, graced by prominent pointed windows, soars 160 feet above the curb and inside, stained glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany greet the parishioners.

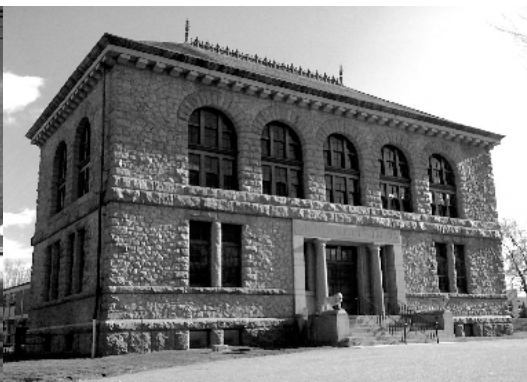
NOW YOU CAN TURN AND  
RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON  
HUNTINGTON STREET TO  
RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING  
POINT - FOR THE SECOND, AND  
FINAL TIME.





*Look Up,*

# *North Stonington*



## A Walking Tour of North Stonington...

The village of North Stonington is on land originally granted to Amos Richardson in 1667, which he gave to his son Samuel on his 21st birthday, April 20, 1682. The first settlers to North Stonington were Ezekiel Main and Jeremiah Burch. Main, formerly of Massachusetts, had served in the King Philip's War, and received in return for his military service a land grant. Burch, on the other hand, had been a blacksmith in England before making the crossing to America and establishing a land stake.

North Stonington and its mother town on the coast, Stonington, come by their names honestly. The land was sculpted by retreating glaciers 10,000 years ago and is studded with their souvenirs. The southern part of town is a little more amenable to farming but it didn't take long for most settlers to realize their fortunes were better pegged to power latent in the town's rivers and streams. Samuel Richardson, an early farmer and extensive landowner, had a mill going by 1702. There would be enough mills humming along the Shunock River that the village would adopt the name "Milltown." In the early 1800s it was inhabited by 210 people and included a gristmill, sawmill, fulling mill, cotton mill, and wooden mill, all of which were powered by the Shunock and Assekonk rivers.

At a meeting on April 5, 1806, it was voted to divide the Town of Stonington into two separate towns. The dividing line selected was important because it delineated which of the two Congregational Churches people would attend. It was also decided that the new town to the north of the line was to be called Jefferson in honor of President Thomas Jefferson. The General Assembly of Connecticut confirmed the vote in May of 1807 naming the town not Jefferson, but North Stonington, because the North Religious Society there had been so named in 1720 and the name had become identified with the vital interests of the area.

These days that settlement rests sleepily on the National Register of Historic Places. Our walking tour will begin at the water and explore both sides. There are no sidewalks but not much traffic either...

**1. Town Hall**  
**42 Main Street**

This was the Wheeler general store until 1904 when it was given to the town and converted into municipal offices. Included for a time was the town jail. Since the jail was heated by wood stoves it was a reliable spot for a warm bed and was occasionally the scene of voluntary incarcerations on cold nights. The building dates to a century earlier when it was constructed by Daniel Packer and Jedidiah Randall.

STAY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE SHUNOCK CREEK AND WALK UP MAIN STREET.

**2. 34-36 Main Street**

This Georgian-style house was large enough in the 1800s to serve as both the home and cobbler shop of Wheeler Hakes. The small, stylish entrance portico with its barrel vaulted pediment and narrow Tuscan columns is typical of the early Federal period.

**3. William H. Hillard House**  
**33 Main Street**

The prominent center gable stamps this house as under the influence of the Gothic Revival style when it was constructed in 1860. It also retains its lace-like, flat-cut brackets. William Horace Hillard, life-long resident and teacher and farmer, lived in the house in the late 19th century. He was deacon of the Third Baptist Church beginning in 1881 and superintendent of the Sunday school.

STAY ON MAIN STREET AS IT BEARS LEFT.

**4. Dudley Stewart House**  
**32 Main Street**

Now 150 years old, this exuberant Italianate house retains its high-style Victorian details - picturesque cornice, window hoods and finials - that were on the house when Dudley Stewart built it in 1860. Steven Avery, town clerk, lived here until his house burned down.

**5. William M. Hillard House**  
**28 Main Street**

This 1840 house, although sheathed in modern materials, shows the evolution of architectural styles through the 19th century. It retains the symmetrical form of the late Federal era of the early 1800s, the door is of Greek Revival vintage with transom and side lights from mid-century and the full-width porch is a late 1800s Victorian affectation.

CROSS THE STREET TO THE THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH.

**6. Third Baptist Church**  
**29 Main Street**

The church was built in 1833 and known as the Milltown Baptist Meeting House. It presents a fine example of the Greek Revival style with a fully-pedimented front gable roof, round window, and open-bed pedimented door crowns and pilasters. Except for rearranging the pews, the original part of the church remains much the same as when it was built. The Fourth Baptist Church was dismantled in 1940 from its site in Laurel Glen and attached to the rear of the Third Baptist Church.

WALK THROUGH THE PARKING LOT BACK TO THE STREET AND TURN RIGHT. WALK BACK TO SHUNOCK CREEK AND CROSS THE BRIDGE. WALK TO THE RIGHT.

**7. The Holmes Block**  
**2 Wyassup Road**

This rambling structure has been the village store for over 200 years. It was believed to have been first occupied by the store of Williams and Rogers and later by Augustus L. Babcock, a coffin maker. In the mid-1800s David Holmes sold cabinets and coffins for his undertaking business in the main part of the building and his son Wheeler peddled fruit and baked goods out of the south end. In the 1900s the main proprietors were Frank H. Brown and George Stone.

**8. Stephen Main House**  
**1 Wyassup Road**

Stephen Main left North Stonington in 1822 at the age of 17 and went to New York City where he became a butterman, selling enough dairy to begin dealing in real estate. He returned to North Stonington in 1856 and ran a grist and shingle mill. He bought the circa 1781 house in 1861. It was deeded in 1980 to the North Stonington Historical Society and now serves as the organization's headquarters.

TURN AND WALK BACK DOWN  
MAIN STREET WITH THE CREEK  
ON YOUR LEFT.

**9. Blacksmith Shop Complex**  
**63 Main Street**

This complex includes a reconstructed, fully-operational blacksmith shop built in 1817 by Sam Slocum. The house fronting Main Street was built in 1819 by Andrew Baldwin, a carpenter. One of the first post offices of the town was in the basement of this house and the mail slot can still be found in the door to the basement. At the corner is a one room schoolhouse.

**10. Village Green**  
**Main Street**

The present Village Green, created in 1976, was the site of a blacksmith's shop, a bark mill, and a cobbler's shop. The Green was planted by the North Stonington Garden Club in 1976 as a project for the national bicentennial and included a flag pole with several memorial plantings. A Garden Club project to replant and create walkways in 2003 resulted in eight regional and national awards.

**11. Gilbert Sisson House**  
**88 Main Street**

Gilbert Sisson was a cabinet maker in the late 18th century. As the house evolved it acquired a Greek Revival pedimented front gable roof and a triangular gable-end window. Later a bracketed Italianate front porch came along.

**12. Congregational Church**  
**89 Main Street**

The Congregational Church, first known as the North Society, began with the early settlement of the town and was formally organized in 1721. In 1848, the present sanctuary, an excellent example of high-style Greek Revival church architecture, was constructed.

**13. Wheeler School and Library**  
**101 Main Street**

Major Dudley R. Wheeler was one of the most prominent and successful merchants of North Stonington, accumulating a large fortune from which he gave liberally for his town and the church. This school was the gift of his daughter Jennie in memory of her brother, Edgar. The school provided a free education to North Stonington students and welcomed boarding students from outside the community. Francis H. Kimball, veteran of New York City and Philadelphia architecture, designed a building the likes of which had not been seen in North Stonington. The Renaissance Revival building used Westerly granite for its construction. The lions guarding the steps are made of Italian marble.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS  
ON MAIN STREET BACK TO THE  
TOUR STARTING POINT ON THE  
SOUTH SIDE OF SHUNOCK CREEK.

*Look Up,*

# *Norwalk*



## A Walking Tour of Norwalk...

Roger Ludlow is the “Father of Norwalk” since he bought the land west of the Norwalk River from Mahackemo, chief of the Norwalke Indians, in 1640 or 1641. But Ludlow was merely an agent, Deputy Governor of Connecticut, not an adventurer or settler. The purchase may have been to thwart potential Dutch expansion plans out of New Amsterdam. Ludlow stayed in the town of Fairfield and left the dirty work of clearing land and carving out a life in new territory to others.

Those first settlers migrated down from Hartford in 1649 and the first crops were planted. Flax and hemp used for linen and rope became an early important crop. In the island-speckled waters they found natural beds of oysters, the foundation of an industry that would help power Norwalk’s economy for three centuries.

The Revolutionary War did not treat Norwalk kindly. In 1779 British forces swept along the Connecticut coast in an effort to cripple American naval activity in Long Island Sound. General William Tryon arrived with 2,600 troops on July 10 and quickly dispatched the resistance from a few hundred Patriots. Tryon’s troops burned the town to the ground; it was said only six houses were spared. Included in the carnage were flour mills and saltworks. After the Revolutionary War, many residents were compensated for their losses with free land grants in the Connecticut Western Reserve in what is now Ohio; this later became Norwalk, Ohio.

It did not take long for the local industry to rev up again, however. Within a few years the first kilns were fired that would churn out the pottery for which Norwalk became famous. Many of the pieces of red, yellow, brown and black, mostly of simple design, are collectors’ pieces today.

In January 1849 the New York and New Haven Railroad began operating, bringing railroad service to Norwalk. Within a few years the town was linked to Danbury by rail. The iron horse brought unwanted notoriety in 1853 when the nation’s first railroad bridge disaster occurred over the Norwalk River. The engineer failed to observe an open drawbridge signal and the locomotive, two baggage cars and two-and-a-half passenger cars plunged into the river. Forty-six people drowned or were crushed to death with many more injured.

In 1913, the cities of Norwalk, South Norwalk, the East Norwalk Fire District, and the remaining parts of the surrounding Town of Norwalk consolidated into the present day City of Norwalk. The resulting city on both sides of the Norwalk River became the sixth largest in Connecticut. Our walking tour will focus on South Norwalk, the historic SoNo district, where the original town began...

**1. Lockwood-Mathews Mansion**  
295 West Avenue

LeGrand Lockwood came to Wall Street at the age of 18 to work as a clerk in a brokerage firm. By the age of 40 he had formed his own banking firm and been elected Treasurer of the New York Stock Exchange. An early investor in railroad and steamship businesses, LeGrand Lockwood became one of America's first millionaires. In 1863 he returned to his boyhood home of Norwalk, looking to build a country "cottage." He purchased 30 acres of land on West Avenue, hired a European-trained architect, Detlef Lienau, and sunk an estimated \$2 million into his project.

The grand castle was completed by 1868. Lienau created one of the pioneering French-inspired Second Empire houses in the county; it would influence chateau-like mansions for decades afterwards. Things were not so rosy for LeGrand Lockwood, however. Financial reversals in 1869 forced him to mortgage the home to the world's richest man, Cornelius Vanderbilt, and then Lockwood died of pneumonia three years later at the age of 52. Vanderbilt sold the property to New York importer Charles D. Mathews in 1876 for \$90,000. The Mathews family lived here until 1938. The estate was sold to the City of Norwalk for \$170,000 and designated a public park.

FROM THE PARKING LOT IN  
FRONT OF THE MANSION,  
FOLLOW THE DRIVEWAY AWAY  
FROM WEST AVENUE.

**2. Center for Contemporary Printmaking**  
299 West Avenue

The original stone carriage house of the Lockwood estate has been transformed into a modern printmaking facility that hosts exhibitions. A cottage to the rear houses an Artist in Residence Program. On the opposite side of the mansion the original gatehouse does duty as a Visitor Center.

CONTINUE FOLLOWING THE  
DRIVEWAY AWAY FROM WEST  
AVENUE.

**3. Stepping Stones Museum for Children**  
303 West Avenue

The children's museum opened in 2000 with over 100 interactive exhibits.

FOLLOW THE DRIVEWAY AROUND  
TO THE CEMETERY IN THE BACK  
OF THE PARK. ENTER TO YOUR  
RIGHT.

**4. Pine Island Cemetery**  
Mathews Park

This burial ground was established on December 16, 1708 when it was known as Over River Cemetery, to help distinguish it from Norwalk's other cemetery on the opposite side of the Norwalk River. The first burial recorded from an existing gravestone is Elizabeth Haynes Bartlett, the daughter of one of Norwalk's founding families, who died in 1723. Shortly thereafter it became known as Pine Island Cemetery, possibly after an island in the river just south of here.

Today there are records of over 1000 gravestones and some 800 unmarked graves. As you walk through the cemetery note the three basic styles of gravestone used between 1680 and 1820: the Death's Head, the Winged Cherub and the Willow & Urn.

WALK THROUGH THE CEMETERY,  
CROSS CRESCENT STREET AND  
CROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS.  
PICK UP THE PAVED PATH TO  
YOUR RIGHT ON SCIENCE ROAD,  
JUST PAST THE RAILROAD TRACKS.

**5. Art Under The Bridge**  
Norwalk State Heritage Park

Art Under the Bridge provides a focal point in Heritage Park for large works of art specifically commissioned for eight 8-foot by 8-foot spaces between cement pillars supporting the I-95 overpass. First unveiled in 2002, the plan going forward was to have new works every year representing a new theme.

## 6. Oyster Shell Park path along Norwalk River

Many of the northeast coastal towns from Delaware Bay to Massachusetts feasted on oysters in America's early days. But few could match the oyster production in Norwalk. By the late 1800s the city was the largest producer of oysters in Connecticut and had the biggest fleet of oyster boats with steam power in the world. Norwalk was known as Oyster Town. The boom lasted for several decades, into the early part of the 20th century but crashed with the passage of Pure Food Laws in 1906. Today oyster farming has been revitalized in the waters around Norwalk and the city again embraces its heritage as Oyster Town. It still supplies more oysters than any other town, celebrated each year with the annual Norwalk Oyster Festival. The 17-acre park was most recently a landfill.

## WALK TO THE MARITIME AQUARIUM AT THE END OF THE RIVERWALK PATH.

### 7. Maritime Aquarium 10 North Water Street

In 1986 ground was broken on the site of an old 1860s iron works factory to create a new waterfront maritime center. Inside the long-abandoned brick building sprouted an aquarium with native Long Island Sound sea creatures, a six-story high IMAX movie theater and a boat collection.

## BEAR RIGHT TO CONTINUE WALKING UP WATER STREET, WITH THE MARITIME AQUARIUM ON YOUR LEFT.

### 8. Norwalk Company 20 North Water Street

Originally known as the Norwalk Iron Works, the Norwalk Company Incorporated located in South Norwalk in 1864. Since M.E. Hill took out its first compound air compressor patent in January 1876, the Norwalk Company designed, manufactured, and serviced its own positive

displacement reciprocating gas compressors. Norwalk Company made many significant contributions to the advancement of compressor technology, such as a patent for the world's first multi-stage compressor in July 1881. The Norwalk Company was the largest manufacturing enterprise in the Norwalks. The orange brick, classically inspired factory is currently slated for a multi-use refurbishment.

## TURN RIGHT ON WASHINGTON STREET.

### 9. Jeremiah Donovan's Saloon 138 Washington Street at southwest corner of Water Street

Jeremiah Donovan opened his establishment in 1889 at this corner where it quickly attracted a loyal patronage. Donovan traded his career as a saloonkeeper for politics in 1898. He served in the Connecticut state senate and was sent to Washington D.C. as a Democrat to the 63rd Congress in 1912. He lost re-election in 1914, however, and returned to Norwalk where he served as mayor from 1917 to 1921.

Except for a brief time during Prohibition when the bar served as the neighborhood A & P grocery, Donovan's has been an eating and dining spot for over 120 years. A collection of 200 vintage prizefighter pictures was accumulated by "Battling Bat Kunz," regional champ who owned the bar for a couple of decades and catered to ring personalities throughout his tenure.

On the blank outside wall of the eastern side of the building, facing the Stroffolino Bridge, a large mural depicts a sailing ship under a banner announcing "Welcome to Historic South Norwalk." The mural was painted in 1978 by Brechin Morgan, then a South Norwalk artist. In 1983, after a billboard company rolled white paint over it, Morgan repainted the mural with some friends. The mural was touched up in 2007. It depicts one of the last working schooners on Long Island Sound, the *Alice S. Wentworth*, and Sheffield Island.



**10. SoNo Switch Tower Museum**  
77 Washington Street

The SoNo Switch Tower Museum preserves a vital cog in the New York, New Haven and Hartford's main line service between New Haven and New York City. Housed in this oddly shaped building, three stories high and only a few strides wide, were the mechanisms required to switch trains manually from one track to another in the days before computerized controls. Tower 44 - so named because it was the 44th such control tower on the line out of New York City - was active until 1984.

TURN RIGHT ON  
NORTH MAIN STREET.

**11. Palace Theater**  
29 North Main Street

The Palace Theater in South Norwalk was built by Samuel Roodner. When it opened on December 21, 1914, the Palace contained 1,000 seats. Over the years, the Palace hosted renowned performers such as Enrico Caruso, Mae West, Harry Houdini, and W.C. Fields, among others. At one time, the Palace was known as "the theater you play before you play the Palace in New York." The popular movie house closed in 1966 and is currently trudging towards its 100th anniversary as a production studio.

**12. Norwalk Museum**  
41 North Main Street

This Colonial Revival brick building began life as the South Norwalk City Hall, constructed in 1912 on the plans by New York architects Joel D. Barber and Frank Bissell. When Norwalk consolidated the next year it became the headquarters for the entire city and remained so until 1988. When City Hall was moved across the river to East Avenue its parking lot just happened to swallow the front lawn of the Norwalk Museum causing a slide in attendance. Turn about is fair play and in 1995 the museum moved into the newly spruced up original City Hall.

**13. Gateway Bank**  
50 North Main Street

This gilded Art Deco bank was constructed for the Gateway Bank that was chartered in 1860 and remained independent for over 130 years.

**14. Little Zion Church of Christ**  
4 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive

Note the variegated Gothic brownstone church on the slight rise at the intersection as you pass.

**15. First United Methodist Church**  
39 West Avenue at southeast corner  
of Reed Street

Cornelius Cook delivered the first Methodist sermon in Norwalk near the New Canaan parish line in 1787. Jesse Lee, the Methodist preacher who was so successful at establishing his sect in New England that he was given the nickname "The Apostle of Methodism" first preached in New England at Norwalk on June 17, 1789; this yellow brick and granite Romanesque church was constructed in 1897. The church was deconsecrated and put up for sale in 2008.

CONTINUE ONE MORE BLOCK  
ON WEST AVENUE TO THE TOUR  
STARTING POINT. BE CAREFUL OF  
HEAVY TRAFFIC ENTERING I-95.



*Look Up,*

# *Norwich*



## A Walking Tour of Norwich...

Geography has always been a blessing and a curse in the history of Norwich. Norwichtown was founded in 1659 by settlers from Old Saybrook and a wharf was established on Yantic Cove to supply what became a farming community. But a better harbor was downstream at the head of the Thames River where the Yantic and Shetucket rivers came together so a public landing was built there in 1694. Now isolated from their shipping dock it was necessary to build roads to reach the young settlement. One, the East Road is today's Broadway and another, the West Road, is Washington Street.

With access to a reliably deep waterway Norwich goods were soon flowing directly to England and the West Indies. When the Revolution came in the 1770s the town's inland location enabled it to avoid the brunt of English retaliation suffered by the coastal towns. Norwich parlayed this circumstance into a burst of prosperity producing, among other goods, armaments. By the late 1820s and 1830s Norwich industry was in full swing. Steamboats chugged up and down the Thames and there was regular service to New York City. The railroad arrived early with the Norwich-Worcester Railroad building into town in 1832. But the inland location that had brought shelter proved a detriment as the more convenient coastal towns attracted more of the industrial concerns over the next 100 years. Most of Norwich's economic engine would eventually drift away. In the half-century after the Great Depression not even a dozen new buildings were constructed downtown.

The physical topography around Norwich also wielded the proverbial double-edge sword. Hills rise quickly from the rivers forcing the downtown to develop along crowded, crooked streets but the views from the impressive mansions that the wealthy built around the crests of those hills helped Norwich earn the sobriquet, "The Rose of New England."

Our walking tour will explore the Chelsea District, the downtown that grew up around the public landing built on the Thames River more than 300 years ago and we'll include a stroll up one of Norwich's hills through a residential section of stately mansions and leafy streets. But first we'll start down by the water where abandoned buildings have been cleared, open space has been developed and plentiful parking awaits...

**1. Howard T. Brown Memorial Park  
Chelsea Harbor Drive**

Near the deepest point of the Thames River harbor the City of Norwich has replaced all vestiges of its commercial past with an expanse of greenspace and a marina. There are walking paths and a gazebo in the park that was named for one of the town's most active philanthropists.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE  
THAMES RIVER, TURN RIGHT AND  
WALK ALONG CHELSEA HARBOR  
DRIVE TOWARDS MAIN STREET.

**2. Thames National Bank  
16-20 Chelsea Harbor Drive**

The Thames Bank was incorporated in 1825 as the second such institution in town. The name was more than a nod to the river that was the commercial lifeblood of Norwich - by its charter the bank was obligated to "maintain a depth of at least ten feet of water in the channel of the Thames River at common and ordinary tides." The charter also permitted the bank to collect tolls from all vessels coming to Norwich. In 1864 the bank organized on Shetucket Street as the Thames National Bank. This two-story granite Neoclassical home, fronted by a quartet of powerful Corinthian columns, was constructed in 1911.

**3. Shannon Building  
183 Main Street at sotheast corner  
of Chelsea Harbor Drive**

James Bernard Shannon made his fortune in the 1880s wholesaling beer and running three taverns around town after he arrived in 1867. In 1892 "Big Jim" bought up the land here that would be known as "Shannon's Corner." He put up a modern five-story building on his property. After it burned in a fire in 1909 he replaced it with a modern high-rise in the Sullivan-esque style, designed by Charles H. Preston.

In the 1920s Governor John H. Trumbull asked cities to paint their names on the roofs of prominent buildings as a way of helping aviators locate themselves as they flew over the state. As

the first in town to honor the request, the word "Norwich" was painted on top of the Shannon Building in letters six feet tall by four feet wide.

**4. Norwich Savings Society Building  
161-164 Main Street at Broadway**

Norwich Savings Society opened in 1824 as the second oldest savings bank in Connecticut and managed to remain independent for the better part of 175 years. They moved into this eye-catching Chateausque headquarters of gray stone in 1895. The building was designed to curve around the intersection to connect with buildings on Broadway that are no longer standing, creating an odd impression.

CONTINUE WALKING  
STRAIGHT ONTO BROADWAY.

**5. The Wauregan  
25 Broadway**

The Wauregan House opened in 1855 and quickly earned a reputation as the finest hotel between New York and Boston. Abraham Lincoln signed the guest register during a campaign stop in 1860. In its glory years in the 1890s the Wauregan swallowed the Clarendon building next door for an additional dining room and ballroom. Things were not so jolly by the middle of the 20th century as Norwich no longer needed a first class downtown hotel. All of the building's cast iron Italianate ornamentation had been removed from the exterior. A preservation rally saved it from demolition and it has recently been restored to its mid-19th century appearance and converted into luxury apartments.

**6. Dime Savings Bank  
33 Broadway**

The Dime Savings Bank took its first deposit on Monday, September 27, 1869 - the previous Friday, September 24th, the stock market crashed and a financial panic had set in the banking industry. From that inauspicious beginning, the bank has served the community for more than 140 years. The bank moved into this Neoclassical vault, fronted by an Ionic pilaster, in 1927.

**7. St. Mary's Total Abstinence  
and Benevolence  
60-64 Broadway**

James A. Hiscox, a local architect, delivered a Romanesque style for the three-story headquarters of the St. Mary's Total Abstinence and Benevolence in 1891. Today it is the home of the Norwich Arts Council.

**8. Otis Library  
Union Square at Broadway and Church  
Street, opposite City Hall**

Joseph Otis was born in Taftville but left to make his fortune in the mercantile trade in South Carolina and New York. But he chose to retire back to Norwich in 1838. A few years before his death in 1854, Otis donated the first installment of what would eventually total almost \$18,000 for the construction of the Greek Revival-styled town library. That library served Norwich until 1962 when it moved into an expanded facility on Main Street. And quite an expansion - when the Otis Library departed its original home one librarian went with the collection. By the year 2000 there was a staff of 30.

**9. Norwich City Hall  
100 Broadway at Union Street**

In the nearly 140 years since City Hall opened, the exuberant Second Empire building is largely unaltered. Local architect Evan Burdick provided the dramatic design with red bricks on a cut granite base; he was also the designer of the Broadway Congregational Church, the Wauregan Hotel and several other town structures. The final price tag for City Hall, completed after three years of construction in 1873, was \$250,000. The four-sided clock tower was added in 1909. In the basement are dreary dungeon-like cells, harkening back to the days when the police department was located there.

**10. Central Baptist Church  
2 Union Street**

The first building on this site for the Central Baptist Church was erected in 1840. In 1891, a thousand people are said to have gathered

in Union Square for the ceremony to lay the cornerstone for a replacement church. The Bushnell Chapel followed in 1899 and the Noyes Parish House in 1927. The Great Hurricane of 1938 destroyed the sanctuary and a Colonial-inspired reconstruction followed in 1939.

CONTINUE WALKING UPHILL ON BROADWAY INTO A NEIGHBORHOOD OF EXPANSIVE HOMES REACHING BACK INTO THE 19TH CENTURY. MANY OF THESE PICTURESQUE HOMES HAVE BEEN CONVERTED INTO APARTMENTS.

**11. St. Patrick's Cathedral  
211 Broadway**

Ground was broken for St. Patrick's Cathedral on Good Friday 1871 to be built on designs from James Murphy. Largely constructed by Norwich's Irish residents, the church was dedicated on St. Patrick's Day 1879. Both the pointed arches of the doors and windows and the use of bands of blue and white granite create its distinctive Victorian Gothic style.

TURN AND WALK DOWN UNION STREET, WHICH JOINS BROADWAY AT THE CATHEDRAL. WHEN YOU GET BACK TO UNION SQUARE AT CITY HALL WALK AROUND IT TO THE LEFT, ONTO CHESTNUT STREET.

**12. The Spirit of Broadway Theater  
24 Chestnut Street**

Founded in 1998, the 74-seat theater offers first class productions of off-Broadway shows as well as regional theater scripts.

TURN RIGHT ON WILLOW STREET. TURN RIGHT ON FRANKLIN STREET.

**13. *Norwich Bulletin*  
66 Franklin Street**

Newspapering in Norwich began in 1791 when Ebenezer Bushnell put out the first issue of a 12-column, four page *Weekly Register* on November 29. A few years later, on November 30, 1796, the *Chelsea Courier*, the paper that would become the *Bulletin*, began publishing on Wednesdays. The *Norwich Morning Bulletin* first published under that masthead on December 15, 1858 and moved into a building on Main Street in 1867. The *Bulletin* moved over to this early 20th century commercial building in 1918.

TURN LEFT ON MEYERS PLACE  
AND CONTINUE TO MAIN STREET  
WHERE CLIFF STREET JOINS THE  
STAR-SHAPED INTERSECTION.  
TURN RIGHT.

**14. *Chelsea Savings Bank*  
300 Main Street at Cliff Street**

The Neoclassical-style Chelsea Savings Bank was designed by the firm of Cudworth & Woodworth and constructed between 1909 and 1911. The bank formed in 1858 and consolidated with the Groton Savings Bank in 1982.

**15. *Otis Library*  
261 Main Street**

The State building is the new location of the original Otis Library; well, new since 1962.

**16. *Midtown Theater*  
276 Main Street**

Edward Lord lived almost 100 years in Norwich, save for some schooling in Minnesota, before he died in 2009. In 1945 he purchased the condemned Strand Theater on Water Street, tore it down and built a new Yale Theater in its place, launching a 40-year career in motion picture exhibition including downtown theaters and drive-ins. This was the Midtown Theater; The marquee and the ornate entrance door remain.

**17. *Disco Buidling*  
257 Main Street**

The Disco Brothers opened their first Main Street emporium in Norwich in 1898, offering fine china and kitchen furnishings at “reliable prices.” This Neoclassical, five-story building was opened in 1923. It utilizes the Greek key motif in decorative bands of concrete. For many years a branch of the Eastern Savings Bank has operated here.

CONTINUE ONE MORE BLOCK TO  
CHELSEA HARBOR DRIVE AND  
TURN LEFT TO RETURN TO THE  
TOUR STARTING POINT AT THE  
THAMES RIVER.





*Look Up,*

# ⊙ *Old Lyme*



## A Walking Tour of Old Lyme...

The English first settled on the western side of the mouth of the Connecticut River but it did not take long for the newcomers to wander to the east bank. The town of Lyme was set off from Saybrook on February 13, 1665. The first settler, Matthew Griswold, took the name from the port in England from which he had sailed, Lyme Regis in Dorsetshire. Or so it is assumed.

Old Lyme has always been shaped by the sea. Among the early industries were fishing, shipbuilding and the manufacture of salt, of which Old Lyme was the state's only supplier. At one time, it was said, every house in Old Lyme was occupied by a sea captain.

Those industries are all gone from Old Lyme, which was separated from its fellow Lymes in 1855. The sea captains are all gone, too. In their place are artists and tourists. The artists first came when Miss Florence Griswold opened her boarding house doors to a group of artists in 1899 and founded the Lyme Art Colony. The tourists come every summer when the year-round population of the town doubles.

Our walking tour will travel down Lyme Street and come back again, all under leafy circumstances; if we have to see a town twice we could do no better than the classic New England town of Old Lyme...

**1. Florence Griswold Museum**  
**96 Lyme Street**

Samuel Belcher, architect of the First Congregational Church that is the final stop on the tour at the other end of Lyme Street, designed this late Georgian-style mansion for William Noyes in 1817. Captain Robert Griswold purchased the house for his bride in 1841. The family's fortunes reversed, however, as a result of the Civil War and the invention of steam-powered vessels. To survive financially the Griswolds turned their home into a school and eventually a boarding house. In the 1890s daughter Florence Griswold would come to open her family home to artists searching for a quiet country retreat where they could rejuvenate their spirits and find sources of inspiration. The group was known as the Lyme Art Colony and Miss Florence's boardinghouse became the center of Impressionism in America.

LEAVING THE MUSEUM PROPERTY,  
TURN RIGHT, CROSS UNDER I-95  
AND WALK DOWN THE WEST SIDE  
OF LYME STREET.

**2. Sill House**  
**84 Lyme Street**

Here is another creation of Samuel Belcher, executed for John Sill in 1817. Sill was a notorious customs runner who had secret closets built into the house to conceal contraband. After he was arrested in 1820 on charges related to his shady dealings, he was forced to sell the house. It was purchased in 1822 by Charles Johnson McCurdy, a 24-year old Lyme native, Yale graduate and lawyer. He entered state politics serving both as Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. Later he was a superior court judge; McCurdy lived all his 94 years in Lyme. The Georgian house sports a symmetrical facade and chimneys and a graceful Palladian window with a louvered fanlight. Now owned by the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts, the Sill Gallery displays student projects.

**3. Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts**  
**84 Lyme Street**

The Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts was founded in 1976 by Elisabeth Gordon Chandler for the teaching of sculpture, figure drawing, and painting dedicated to the fine arts. The Lyme Academy College is the sole fine-arts-only art college accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

**4. Old Lyme Fire Department**  
**69 Lyme Street**

When the Old Lyme Fire Department was formed in 1923 it borrowed from Dutch architecture to fashion a gambrel roof for their fire house.

**5. Old Lyme Grange Hall**  
**55 Lyme Street**

The existing Grange building was originally the Old Lyme Gun Club (built in 1885) and was moved from Maple Lane to its present location in 1928. The rear portion was added after the building was moved. Old Lyme Grange #162, the local branch of America's oldest surviving agricultural organization dating to 1867, was organized in 1905.

**6. Memorial Town Hall**  
**52 Lyme Street**

The existing Town Hall in the Colonial Revival style was dedicated on November 11, 1921. The old Town Hall was immediately to the north and was bought by the Masonic Lodge and moved to its present location at 20 Lyme Street. The building, constructed at a cost of \$40,000, honors Old Lyme residents who served in America's foreign wars.

**7. Center School**  
**49 Lyme Street**

The first primary school in Old Lyme was constructed on this location in 1895; it was replaced with this stone Colonial Revival building in 1934. Note the symmetry of the design and the early 12-over-12 windows.

**8. Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library**  
2 Lyme Lane at Lyme Street

This handsome Colonial Revival library was constructed in 1898 with funds provided by Charles Henry Ludington, a New York lawyer who would become an executive with the Curtis Publishing Company in Philadelphia. The Old Lyme Free Library was started in 1866 but had become dormant for several years before it was revived by the Ladies Library Association, which was incorporated by the state. The land was the birthplace and former home of Phoebe Griffin Noyes and was given to the library by her heirs. An expansion in 1995 doubled the size of the building and blended seamlessly with the original dark brick and stone trimmings.

**9. Hiram G. Marvin House**  
33 Lyme Street

This crisp home built for Hiram G. Marvin in 1824 spans the Federal and Greek Revival eras of architecture. The fanlight in the gable is a hold-over influence from the Federal age and the triangular entrance portico would be a familiar sight on Greek Revival homes in the coming decades. While not the oldest or most important house in town it was the first to display an historical plaque from the Historic District Commission.

**10. Daniel Chadwick House**  
31 Lyme Street

This 1830 Greek Revival home sports a widow's walk on the roof. The sea captain in question was Daniel Chadwick, from a prominent family of mariners. His son, also Daniel, pursued his livelihood on land, carving out an estimable career in the law. In 1859 he was a member of the House of Representatives. He was a government director of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, a member of the Republican National Committee, and a delegate to the Chicago Convention of 1880 where James Garfield was nominated to run in place of sitting President Rutherford B. Hayes, a Yale classmate and personal friend of Chadwick's, who chose not to seek re-election.

**11. Christ The King Church**  
22 Lyme Street

This church was built by the Baptist Society in 1843. In 1923 the property was transferred to the town's Episcopalian congregation who sold it in 1927 to the Catholic church for a single dollar. It was the site of Christ the King Church until 2007 when it was purchased by private owners after the congregation moved down the street.

**12. Masonic Lodge**  
20 Lyme Street

Part of this building was originally the old Town Hall that was built in 1877. It was moved to this location to serve as a lodge hall in 1919.

**13. Boxwood**  
9 Lyme Street

Boxwood has seen many lives since it was built as a two-story house with a large porch in 1842. In 1890 it was transformed into a boarding school for girls and a third story added. Later the building was converted into a hotel and, in 1958, into apartments. Through it all the original cupola was retained but the clapboards on the third story were replaced by bricks.

**14. Samuel Mather House**  
5 Lyme Street

The success of Captain Samuel Mather's trading ventures in the West Indies is indicated in this considerable gambrel-roofed house, built around 1790. The house is now the Parsonage of the First Congregational Church.

**15. John McCurdy House**  
1 Lyme Street

This house, much larger and altered today, may have been built as early as 1700. In 1753 Scotch-Irish ship merchant John McCurdy bought the house. A prominent patriot, McCurdy hosted both George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette in this house. John McCurdy was the grandfather of Judge Charles Johnson McCurdy, who lived in the home in his later years. The handsome broken-pediment doorway dates from

the middle of the 18th century and is one of the few Connecticut doorways of this type that survive in place.

**16. First Congregational Church  
2 Ferry Road at Lyme Street**

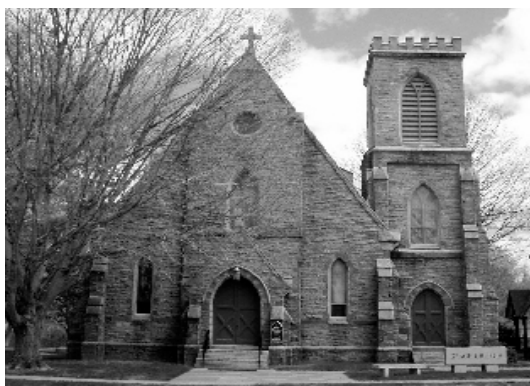
This is the fifth meeting house for the congregation that traces its beginnings back to 1665 and the founding of the town. The first three had been constructed on a local prominence known as Johnny Cake Hill. When the third church was obliterated by lightning in 1815 land was purchased here from the Parsons family. The cornerstone from the previous church was salvaged and laid on June 10, 1816 on which Samuel Belcher constructed the church that became a favorite subject of the Lyme Art Colony painters. After it burned to the ground in 1907 it was rebuilt with the help of the local art colony.

YOU HAVE NOW REACHED THE  
END OF LYME STREET. TURN AND  
RETRACE YOUR STEPS BACK TO  
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.



*Look Up,*

# ⊙ *Old Saybrook*



## A Walking Tour of Old Saybrook...

Old Saybrook's location on a point at the mile-wide mouth of the Connecticut River was arguably the most geographically desirable location in Colonial Connecticut. And its possession was a constant source of contention in its early days. The Dutch, who set up a trading post here in 1623 and the British, who followed a few years later, jockeyed for its ownership until a show of force by new governor John Winthrop in 1635 discouraged Dutch interests forever. And of course, the Indians who were living here were not anxious to leave, instigating the Pequot Wars. Even after Denmark surrendered New York to the English, Old Saybrook was the target of a take-over attempt by its British governor, Sir Edmund Andros.

Through it all, Old Saybrook emerged as the fourth oldest town in Connecticut and as the settlers spread out the towns of Lyme, Old Lyme, Westbrook, Chester, Essex and Deep River evolved from the mother town. Yale University was founded in Old Saybrook as the Collegiate School for the education of ministers in 1700. The Saybrook College of Yale University Seal is used as the Town logo on its letterhead and town-owned vehicles.

Because of its location at the mouth of the river, Saybrook became an important center for coastal trade from river boats to ocean ships. Along the shore of North Cove and extending out onto the river shore were built many warehouses and wharves to handle cargo. But otherwise industry never gained an enthusiastic foothold in town.

Instead the seaside location lured the tourist trade early on. The first resort development was recorded in 1870 when a company was formed to build cottages and hotels at Lynde's Farm, known as Light House Point where it was said the temperature seldom rose above 84 degrees and "sea breezes blew from three points on the compass." This development set a new standard for seaside resorts by restricting building specifications and prohibiting amusement concessions. One of the new breed of leisure class to seek out those sea breezes was Dr. Thomas Hepburn who brought his family to the Fenwick area of Old Saybrook in 1912. His daughter Katharine, was not yet five at the time.

Our walking tour of Old Saybrook, up and down Main Street, won't actually see the historic waters but won't be so far away as to miss the salt air when the breezes are up...



**1. Memorial Green**  
**300 Block of Main Street**

Memorial Green is a 2-acre square open space where Korean War and World War monuments are grouped. The gazebo was donated by the Old Saybrook Rotary Club in 1975. Ornamental plantings have been placed throughout the Green, giving it the appearance of a park.

FACING THE GREEN, TURN RIGHT  
AND WALK DOWN MAIN STREET,  
STAYING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF  
THE ROAD (THE GREEN SIDE).

**2. Grace Episcopal Church**  
**336 Main Street**

This is the second church for the Episcopal congregation on this site, constructed in the English Gothic style in 1871. The first church meetings began in 1825 and the cornerstone for the initial church was laid in 1830. When it was replaced it was moved, minus its spire, around the corner on the Boston Post Road. The Victorian rectory to the south was constructed in 1892; the white frame house to the north, the Chapman House, was acquired by Grace Church in 1972.

**3. William Hart House**  
**350 Main Street**

William Hart was equally adept on horseback and at the helm of a sailing ship. During the American Revolution he led the First Regiment of Connecticut Light Horse Militia to join a force of 500 militia and 100 Continentals to Danbury against a raid by deposed New York governor William Tryon. Hart and his brothers also armed their merchant ships in privateering forays against the British. Hart and his first wife, Ester Buckingham were noted in Colonial Connecticut for their lavish parties in this handsome Georgian house that dates to 1767. The small Greek Revival entrance came along in the mid-1800s. The house is now headquarters of the Old Saybrook Historical Society. Behind the house is a replicated carriage shed that contains the Frank Stevenson Archive.

**4. First Church of Christ**  
**366 Main Street**

This is the fourth meetinghouse for the congregation that was organized in 1646. The Greek Revival building features a square, two-stage tower that surmounts an impressive portico of fluted Doric columns. One of the windows from the previous meetinghouse that was built on the Church Green across the way in 1726, a casement leaded sash with imported English glass, is on exhibit in the treasure cabinets inside.

**5. John Shipman House**  
**404 Main Street**

The core of this house stretches back into the 17th century; inside it still has four fireplaces and a beehive oven.

**6. Buckingham House**  
**412 Main Street**

This is another house with roots extending back into the 17th century, owned by the Buckingham family, perhaps as early as 1671. Thomas Buckingham, a minister of First Church, was in on the founding of the school that became Yale University. The sloping rear gives the Colonial house a saltbox appearance.

CROSS THE ROAD TO THE SOUTH  
SIDE OF MAIN STREET AND WALK  
BACK TOWARDS THE CENTER OF  
TOWN.

**7. Timothy Pratt House**  
**325 Main Street**

Timothy Pratt built this house in 1746 where his son, Timothy Pratt, Jr. was born two years later. Pratt the younger became a carpenter and served as a deacon in First Church across the street. Before the 18th century was out, the building served as a co-educational school. Today the Pratt house is a bed-and-breakfast that retains many fine original details including original wide-board floors, hand-hewn beams, wainscoting, a corner cupboard, beehive oven and 12 working fireplaces.

**8. James Gallery & Soda Fountain**  
**2 Pennywise Lane**

Built in 1790, the core of this building was the general store for the Humphrey Pratt Tavern. It is said that the Marquis de Lafayette stopped at the store in 1824 to make a purchase. Tradition maintains that the French hero of the American Revolution left with either a pair of socks or a bar of saddle soap.

The store was originally located adjacent to the tavern but was moved here in 1877 where it became a pharmacy. Peter Lane added the soda fountain in 1896. When he went to fight in World War I he left his sister-in-law, Anna Louise James in charge of the pharmacy. And so she would remain for the next 50 years, until 1967. Miss James was the first black woman to graduate from the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy and the first female African American pharmacist in the state of Connecticut.

**9. Humphrey Pratt Tavern**  
**287 Main Street**

Built around 1785, the Humphrey Pratt Tavern was a well-known stage stop between New York and Boston. The town's first post office was housed here. The gambrel-roofed ell extending to the back featured a ballroom on the second floor. The building was only owned by two families for more than 200 years.

**10. St. John Church**  
**161 Main Street**

The Norwich Diocese established a presence in Old Saybrook when the Catholics bought an abandoned skate factory and converted it into a church. In 1884 the building was renovated and a steeple and organ loft added.

**CROSS BACK OVER MAIN STREET  
AND TURN RIGHT.**

**11. old advertising sign**  
**276 Main Street**

America has a long history of painting advertising signs on buildings; barns in rural areas and brick walls in towns. Here is a painted sign for a real estate broker that still endures.

**12. The Katharine Hepburn**  
**Cultural Arts Center**  
**300 Main Street**

Old Saybrook's most famous resident was Katharine Hepburn, born in Hartford to an heiress to the Corning Glass fortune and a urologist father. In 1911 Thomas Hepburn bought a summer home in Fenwick, Old Saybrook. In 1997, after retiring from the most honored career in American movie history, Katharine Hepburn moved from her New York City home to live in the family retreat full time. She died here in 2003 at the age of 96.

Old Town Hall was constructed in 1908 in the Colonial Revival style as a performance house for the old Saybrook Musical and Dramatic Club. The Town Hall also screened the first movies in Old Saybrook as the center of the town's entertainment for more than 40 years. In the 1950s the Town of Old Saybrook brought the theater to an end, dividing the audience chamber into town offices and turning the stage into a conference room. In 2003, with the town government removed into more expansive quarters, the building was restored to its original use as a theater. Two years later, the Hepburn family approved the naming of the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center.

**13. Town Hall**  
**302 Main Street**

The Main Street School was built in the Colonial Revival style in 1936. It landed on the Connecticut Trust's "Most Important Threatened Historic Places" in the early 2000s, just before money was appropriated to spruce up the brick building for the new Town Hall.

**YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO  
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.**

*Look Up,*

# *Torrington*



## A Walking Tour of Torrington...

When this pocket in the Litchfield Hills was settled in the 1730s it was known as Mast Swamp because the tall pines that blanketed the area were much used in shipbuilding. The tumbling waters of the Naugatuck River provided ample water power for a mill that was built in the early 1750s but few residences followed. One family that did settle in town was the Browns and John Brown, who would become a fiery abolitionist and one of the most divisive figures of the 19th century, was born here on May 9, 1800.

In 1813 Frederick Wolcott of Litchfield purchased some riverside property and erected a woolen mill. This enterprise did attract a sizable workforce and the community that sprung up around the mill became known as Wolcottville. It would not become Torrington until 1881.

In 1834 Israel Coe and Erastus Hodges began the construction of rival brass mills; Coe was making the first brass kettles in America, using a hammering technique known as the battery process. This was the beginning of the brass industry in Torrington, an industry that would later be synonymous with the entire Naugatuck valley. The Naugatuck Valley Railroad arrived in 1849 and the manufacturing ethos would hum for the next 100 years, attracting waves of European immigrant workers. Medical needles, woolens, lathes, skates, electrical goods and hardware all helped to place Torrington in the front rank of Connecticut industrial towns.

In August 1955 the Naugatuck River breached its banks during hurricanes Connie and Diane and the severe flooding destroyed the center of town that had been old Wolcottville, killing seven and causing \$13,000,000 in property damage. In the years since the town has recovered and rebuilt but many of the workers that used to man the Torrington manufacturing plants began to commute to Hartford and Waterbury and Danbury. One of the steps taken to breathe life back into downtown Torrington was to recognize and preserve its architectural and historical heritage. Our walking tour to observe the fruits of this effort will begin on the banks of that fickle Naugatuck River, where a municipal parking lot awaits...

**1. Torrington Library**  
**12 Daycoeton Place**

The Torrington Library began life as a private, not-for-profit community library in 1864, organized by a small group of town businessmen. Each founding member supplied a quantity of books for the enterprise. Elisha Turner, president of the Turner and Seymour Manufacturing Company and the Torrington Savings Bank, donated the funds for a permanent home to greet the 20th century but he died in 1900 before it could be completed. His contribution totalled \$100,000. New York City architect Ernest Greene crafted the Neoclassical library of white marble with a stack capacity of 42,000 volumes.

CROSS INTO COE PARK  
IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY.

**2. Coe Park**  
**intersection of Litchfield Street and**  
**South Main Street**

In 1834, Israel Coe, a Connecticut farmer, helped co-found a brass mill in town. Manufacturing kettles and brass buttons was a skilled process that required importing workers from Great Britain. This sometimes took the form of smuggling workers in wooden casks away from employers not anxious to lose their proprietary. As the brass industry spread, in 1863 Lyman W. Coe, brother of Irsrael, funded the Coe Brass Company that was to become Torrington's dominant industrial concern.

This triangular park was the site of the Coe home, created in 1906 when the land was donated by the Coe children to the town. The gift came with the stipulation that the house be removed from the site; the outline of the house is marked by low stone walls. The park now boasts several memorials, including a large boulder that was moved down from Migeon Avenue with a heavy-duty wagon and a team of 20 draft horses.

TURN AND WALK NORTH ON  
SOUTH MAIN STREET, ACROSS  
THE NAUGATUCK RIVER INTO  
DOWNTOWN.

**3. Lilley Block**  
**11-21 Main Street**

A fire in 1894 destroyed the buildings of the Turner and Seymour Manufacturing Company along the Naugatuck River. Waterbury developer George Leavens Lilley bought the land and erected this Victorian commercial block in 1896. He would build three more commercial buildings along Main and Water streets in the next 15 years. He also managed to fit in a political career amongst his real estate dealings. Lilley served in the Connecticut House of Representatives from 1901 to 1903, and was elected as a Republican for three terms in the United States Congress. He was elected governor of Connecticut in 1909 but died in office of unknown causes at the age of 49 before serving even one full year.

**4. Allen Building**  
**42 Main Street**

Hometown architect William E. Hunt used Art Deco-influenced styling for this building, which was constructed in two stages in the 1930s. The first part of the two-story commercial block was the northern part, attached to the wood-frame Allen House on the corner. The hotel was crippled by fire in 1934 and after it was torn down Hunt stretched the building to the corner.

**5. Nutmeg Conservatory of the Arts**  
**56-66 Main Street**

James E. Mallette was a penniless orphan who began his working life as a stable boy and became Torrington's leading real estate developer and financier. He constructed this three-story Neoclassical brick building in 1916 for the local Chamber of Commerce. Today the building has been rehabilitated for the Nutmeg Conservatory and Nutmeg Ballet.

**6. Warner Theatre**  
**68 Main Street**

The Warner Theatre was built by Warner Brothers Studios as a movie palace. When the Art Deco creation of noted theater architect Thomas W. Lamb opened on August 19, 1931 it was widely hailed as "Connecticut's Most

Beautiful Theatre.” Inside movie fans were greeted by murals of historic Litchfield County sites and a magnificent star-shaped chandelier in the auditorium. After a 1955 flood the theater staggered through years of neglect before closing in 1981. Grass roots preservationists helped the Warner dodge the wrecking ball and it has re-emerged as a performing arts center.

**7. Mertz Department Store**  
**84-94 Main Street**

Walter Lewis established a retail emporium on this site in 1883. The business was carried on by his son-in-law, W.W. Mertz, who remodeled the Victorian storefront with a Beaux Arts facade. The present building dates to 1931 and the drawing board of Torrington designer William E. Hunt. Hunt gave the store a modernistic look with intricate geometric details made of cut limestone and a front entry surrounded by smooth, dark green Vermont marble. Torrington’s oldest store went out of business in 1978 and today it is has been converted into a performing arts center by the Warner Theatre group.

**8. The Yankee Pedlar Inn**  
**93 Main Street**

Frank Conley sailed to America as a nine-year old apprentice shoemaker. As an adult Conley went into the hospitality business, always keeping a personal ambition to open a hotel unrivaled in Connecticut. He saw his chance in 1890 when he purchased this corner of Main Street and Maiden Lane for \$8,000. Another \$40,000 later Conley had a modern structure built of brick and trimmed in Vermont marble fronted by a wide verandah on both sides of the street.

Inside guests found marble floors in a black and white diagonal mosaic, wainscoted carpeted floors and pictures on every wall. There were 52 bedrooms and private and public dining rooms could handle 150 people at one sitting. The chairs and tables were of antique oak, each room had a two-light chandelier and hot water was always available. The success of Conley’s Inn from the start was in no small part due to Alice Conley - an outstanding cook and hotel manager.

In 1918 the Torrington Company, expanding rapidly due to the need for surgical needles in World War I, purchased the hotel and expanded the number of rooms to accommodate over 200 female employees. The selling price was \$75,000 - the largest single property transaction ever made in Torrington up to that time. Back in the hospitality game by the 1950s, the hotel/restaurant became the Yankee Pedlar Inn in 1956.

**9. Torrington Savings Bank**  
**129 Main Street**

Chartered in 1868, Torrington Savings Bank is one of the longest established banks in the state. The bank survived the Great Depression and moved into this Colonial Revival home in 1938. The design came from the pen of Torrington architect Carl Victor Johnson.

**10. City Hall**  
**140 Main Street**

Carl Victor Johnson was working both sides of the street in the mid-1930s. He incorporated classical Colonial Revival elements into his design for City Hall, just as he did for the savings bank it faces.

**11. Center Congregational Church**  
**155 Main Street**

In 1828, there was no church in the growing community of Wolcottville, the section of present-day Torrington where the church is located. Captain Uri Taylor, who built the community’s first school and first hotel, inspired the building of a simple, white frame structure. The congregation itself was not officially gathered until July 11, 1832. A new stone structure was erected in 1867 and still stands as part of our sanctuary that was expanded to it’s present size in 1900 and was reborn as Center Congregational Church. The church was torched by arsonists in 1979, destroying all but the gray granite walls which retain a 19th century appearance.

**12. U.S. Post Office**  
**8 Church Street at Main Street**

This is another Depression-era project that added a Colonial Revival building to the Torrington streetscape, like the savings bank and city hall. Completed in 1936, the old post office has been adapted for commercial use.

**13. St. Francis of Assisi Church**  
**160 Main Street**

The first Catholic Mass was held in Torrington in 1835 under the auspices of the Hartford parish. The area's six Catholic families then passed to Waterbury's charge in 1847 as circuit pastors celebrated Mass in the Academy building on South Main Street. The congregation's first frame church was constructed in 1860 and today's soaring brick Gothic church with its 151-foot steeple was dedicated and consecrated on November 13, 1887.

**14. Hotchkiss-Fyler House**  
**192 Main Street**

Local businessman and politician Orasmus Fyler had this Queen Anne mansion constructed in 1900 by the Hotchkiss Brothers Company, into whose family Gertrude Fyler married. She donated the home to the Torrington Historical Society in 1956 as a house museum.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO  
CHURCH STREET AND TURN  
RIGHT. TURN LEFT ON PROSPECT  
STREET.

**15. Allen G. Brady House**  
**258 Prospect Street**

Before the Civil War, Allen Brady operated a cotton mill on Water Street. He served during the war as Major and commander of the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. At the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, he took over command of the regiment following the death of Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Fowler during the fighting at Barlow's Knoll. He then remained regimental commander throughout the rest of the war. When

he returned to Torrington after Lee's surrender he built a hotel and this Victorian home in 1867. Later he moved to North Carolina to rebuild a cotton mill there. He died in Fayetteville, North Carolina in 1905 a few days before his 83rd birthday and was buried back in Torrington in Center Cemetery. His old house has served as a funeral home since 1927.

**16. Torrington National Bank**  
**236 Prospect Street**

Torrington National Bank was founded in 1899 and moved into this trend-setting Colonial Revival headquarters in 1917. The grand building cost \$75,000 to construct and became the model for several subsequent buildings around town seeking to exude the same sense of strength and stability for their institutions. Torrington National melded into the Hartford National Bank and Trust in 1958 and later with the Connecticut National Bank.

**17. Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**220 Prospect Street**

The original Episcopal Church on this site was built of wood in 1844. It also had a square bell tower. Some of the earliest members of this church were English laborers imported to work in the Coe Brass Company. The present Gothic Revival church made of granite was constructed in 1897. The Tudor style rectory located on the corner of Maiden Lane was built in 1917. The church, parish house and the rectory surround a central courtyard and create an enclave unlike any other in downtown Torrington.

**18. Lilley Block #3**  
**29-57 Water Street**

Dominating the west side of Water Street is this Romanesque (note the arched upper windows) block that steps up in segments from Main Street. It is another of the commercial properties built by developer George W. Lilley at the end of the 19th century. Architect Theodore S. Peck designed the ground floors for retail businesses and the upper floor for high-end residential apartments.

**19. Morrison Building**  
**63 Water Street at southeast corner**  
**of Prospect Street**

Italianate was the most popular architectural style for downtown commercial buildings across America. This well-preserved 1896 example was constructed by William H. Morrison who operated his plumbing and hardware business from this location. The front of the building still has splendid examples of pressed metal trim above the windows and at the third story cornice. The first floor of the building has been occupied by a hardware store since the building opened.

CONTINUE ON PROSPECT  
STREET ACROSS THE RIVER TO  
THE LIBRARY PARKING LOT  
ON THE LEFT AND THE TOUR  
STARTING POINT.



*Look Up,*

# *Waterbury*



## A Walking Tour of Waterbury...

The Indians who lived near here called it Mattatuck, roughly translating to “badly wooded region.” The English named it Waterbury, choosing to focus on the positive - the abundant streams - and not the rocky, treeless hills. Nonetheless, after it was settled as part of Farmington in 1674 no one rushed down to move here. When two scouts conducted a four-day survey in 1686 they concluded that the land could support “but 30 families.” They weren’t too far wrong. One hundred and fifty years later the population of the town had scarcely scraped over 2,000.

But the dire prognosticators did not reckon on brass. There were button shops around town by the late 1700s but it wasn’t until the 1820s that the brass industry began to take off in Waterbury. Englishman James Croft came to town to produce a striking orange tint favored by Americans on their brass buttons in 1820 and the ensuing decades would bring better techniques and advances in the craft. Waterbury brass was used in coins, ammunition casings, screws, tacks, clocks, cocktail shakers. By the end of the 1800s the town was truly “Brass City” - more than a third of all the brass manufactured in the United States shipped from the Naugatuck Valley.

By World War II the lightly regarded townsite had surpassed 100,000 people and was one of the ten largest cities in New England. Plastic and aluminum eventually came to replace many of the uses for brass and the big manufacturers moved away in search of cheaper labor, no longer in need of the mechanical talent that was once synonymous with Waterbury.

A fire in 1902 wiped away much of the downtown so our walking tour will dial back to an image of an industrial American city from the early 20th century at the zenith of its importance. A wealthy, rebuilding Waterbury attracted many important American architects who left a monumental footprint in the city, most notably Cass Gilbert, who designed the Woolworth Building in New York as the tallest building in the world. In Waterbury Gilbert created a landmark hotel, City Hall, a bank, a private club and a head-turning headquarters for a brass company. But first we’ll start in the middle of the town green around which the earliest settlers built their houses when no one thought Waterbury would ever amount to anything..

**1. Clock on the Green  
center of Green**

Paul Lux opened a small shop in town to manufacture clock movements in 1914 and within a year he was busy enough to force a search for more spacious quarters. He designed this 15-foot granite tower and it was dedicated on the Green on November 25, 1915. But not without controversy from those who thought it was a desecration of the Green not an improvement. The town's two newspapers were on either side of the debate, publishing commentaries vociferously. Charles Colley, president of the Chamber of Commerce, fought so vigorously for the installment of the clock that it is referred to by locals as "Colley's Clock." Now, 100 years later, you can decide who was right.

FACE NORTH, THE LONG SIDE  
WHERE PROSPECT STREET RUNS  
INTO THE GREEN, AND WALK  
OVER TO WEST MAIN STREET.

**2. The Basilica of the  
Immaculate Conception  
74 West Main Street**

The Immaculate Conception began ministering to Waterbury Catholics in 1847. The current monumental white marble church was dedicated in 1928, modeled by architects Maginnis & Walsh after a 17th century Roman Basilica. The Latin inscription over the doorway translates to "This is the House of God and the Gate of Heaven."

TURN RIGHT AND WALK  
TOWARDS THE EAST SIDE  
OF THE GREEN.

**3. The Elton  
30 West Main Street at northeast corner  
of Prospect Street**

Wilfred Elizur Griggs was born in Waterbury on May 2, 1866, a descendant of a family that settled in New England in 1635. In 1891 he went to work with Robert Wakeman Hill, the dean of the city's local architects and would go on to design many of Waterbury's most notable homes

and buildings, including many around the Green. In 1905 he delivered the city its grand hotel, the six-story, Beaux Arts-style Elton. Its 170 rooms came to be known as one of the best stays in New England. Today it lives on as an assisted living facility.

**4. Odd Fellows Building  
36-48 North Main Street, across northeast  
corner of Green**

Here is another creation by Wilfred Griggs, delivered for the International Order of Odd Fellows in 1895. It was dedicated on October 15, the 50th anniversary of the order in Waterbury and, coincidentally, the first observance of a new holiday created by the Connecticut General Assembly, called Lincoln's Day. The factories were shut down, the schools were closed and business in town suspended at noon. A grand parade, said to have been attended by the biggest crowd to ever gather in Waterbury - 5,000 people - celebrated the opening of the Odd Fellows Building. Built of light-colored brick, terra cotta and sandstone, it cost \$100,000 to construct and, although it is missing the original decorative cornice and roof pediment, there is plenty of Gothic Revival detailing remaining.

TURN RIGHT ON  
NORTH MAIN STREET.

**5. Carrie Welton Fountain  
east end of the Green**

This fountain has anchored the east end of the Green since its dedication on November 10, 1888. The funds for its construction came from Caroline Josephine Welton, the only daughter of a Waterbury businessman, Joseph Welton. Carrie was a well-known figure around town, always seen riding her black stallion, Knight. In 1874 an accidental kick to the head by Knight killed her father. Ten years later Carrie perished in a mountain climbing accident in Colorado at the age of 42. In her will she left the bulk of the family fortune to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Her outraged relatives declared her insane and contested the will which was upheld after a lengthy, contentious court battle. A stipulation of the will provided

\$7,000 for this fountain with a statue of Knight - not her father. It was executed by Karl Gerhardt of Hartford.

TURN LEFT ON EAST MAIN STREET.

**6. Lombard Centre**  
**inside corner of East Main Street**  
**and South Main Street**

This was the Brown Building when it was constructed at this prominent corner in Exchange Place in the early 1930s, adopting a fashionable Art Deco facade. It replaced an earlier wooden structure here that had stood for 40 years.

**7. Palace Theater**  
**100 East Main Street**

This theater was built in 1922 for New Haven show business impresario Sylvester Z. Poli. It was designed by pre-eminent theater architect Thomas W. Lamb and it was one of the largest he ever built with 2,700 seats. The theater features Lamb's love of the exotic, blending Greek, Roman, Arabic and Federal motifs. Poli sold his regional circuit of theaters in 1934 and the Palace became one of the premier properties of the Loew's chain. After it closed in 1982 it quickly landed on the National Register of Historic Places. After a \$35 million grant from the State of Connecticut the resplendent Palace opened once again in 2004.

**8. St. Patrick's Hall**  
**120 East Main Street**

The Catholic Church began acquiring property on this block in 1847. A chapel once stood here and was replaced in 1889 with a fine Richardsonian Romanesque building featuring such trademarks of the style as contrasting light and dark, heavy, rough-cut stone and multiple arches. St. Patrick's Hall served the parish in many ways - as a Sunday School, a reading room, an entertainment hall and a gymnasium among others.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO NORTH MAIN STREET AND EXCHANGE PLACE, HISTORICALLY THE COMMERCIAL HUB OF WATERBURY. TURN LEFT AND BEAR TO THE RIGHT, DOWN BANK STREET.

**9. Apothecary Hall**  
**63 Bank Street at inside corner of**  
**South Main Street**

The original Apothecary Hall at the junction of Bank and South Main streets was built in 1849 when Dr. Gideon Platt began to peddle his patent medicines, chemicals and fertilizers. Hopefully he kept everything straight. The new flatiron skyscraper was constructed in the Venetian style in 1894.

**10. Howland-Hughes Building**  
**120-140 Bank Street**

Waterbury's worst fire broke out on February 2, 1902 near Bank and Grand streets. Before the conflagration was contained the following day 32 buildings and 100 businesses had been destroyed. One was a dry goods store that had been operating since 1890 run by Adam Reid and George Hughes. When it reopened a year later it was a full-service department store. Reid eventually sold out to a one-time shoe salesman, John Howland and Howland-Hughes managed to last longer than any other Connecticut independent department store, making it until 1996. You can still buy things in the mammoth retail space today - the Connecticut Store sells only items made in the Nutmeg State and operates a small Connecticut Hall of Fame as well.

**11. M.A. Green Clock**  
**east side of Bank Street**

The historic two-dial clock was moved from its original 1920 site on Grand Street to Bank Street in 1935. The 17-foot tall timepiece, made by Seth Thomas Co., was given to the City in 1993.

TURN RIGHT ON GRAND STREET.

**12. United States Post Office**  
**135 Grand Street**

You are certainly greeted by an appropriately grand building on Grand Street. The magnificent Art Deco post office was built in 1931 on designs from George Oakley Totten. Totten is best remembered as one of Washington D.C.'s most prolific architects of the Gilded Age at the end of the 20th century. Many of the mansions he designed in the nation's capital now serve as foreign embassies.

**13. 100 Block of Grand Street**

This commercial block across from the post office was constructed after the fire of 1902 obliterated the existing businesses. You can see the rich variety of architectural styles in play in that era by this line of buildings.

**14. Chase Municipal Building**  
**236 Grand Street**

When Henry Sabin Chase, who had founded Chase Brass and Copper Company in 1876, hired Cass Gilbert to design a new corporate headquarters in 1916 he had one specific request - make it look different than the Colonial Revival City Hall across the street that Gilbert had just completed. He delivered a Renaissance-inspired tour-de-force that is considered one of his finest buildings. The central pavilion draws its influence from the ancient Roman clocktower, the Tower of the Winds, and the flanking wings are fronted by classical pilasters. When the company moved to Ohio in 1963 it sold the headquarters to preservationists for one dollar, who in turn sold it to the City of Waterbury for offices, which it still is today.

**15. City Hall**  
**southwest corner of Grand Street**  
**and Field Street**

Waterbury's first City Hall, built on West Main Street facing the Green in 1869, went up in flames in 1912, torched by an arsonist. Cass Gilbert, one of America's foremost architects of monumental buildings, won the commission for this replacement and work was begun in 1914.

Gilbert used Vermont marble and North Haven brick to create a Colonial design, built around a rectangular court laid out as a sunken Italian garden. The lower story features white marble laid in rusticated courses while the upper stories are red brick with white marble Corinthian pilasters. In recent years, suffering from years of neglect and vandalism, the building was condemned by the City's own building department. Preservationists are at work to get City Hall to see its 100th birthday.

**16. Silas Bronson Library**  
**267 Grand Street**

Silas Bronson made his money as a merchant in New York City but never forgot the fresh air he breathed growing up in the Naugatuck Valley. After he died in 1868 he left \$200,000 to Waterbury for an "institution of culture, intelligence, education and general information." The library was built on land known as the Old Burying Yard where the first burials of the town took place in the 1670s. The original library is gone; the current building, constructed of bronze and glass, was built in two sections in 1963 and 1968. The statue of Benjamin Franklin sitting on a bench in the Library's plaza, was sculpted by Paul Wayland Bartlett in 1916.

**17. Union Station**  
**333 Meadow Street at the end**  
**of Grand Street**

Waterbury station was originally a union station built in 1909 for the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company, and was modeled after the Torre del Mangia at the Palazzo Pubblico in Siena, Italy. The station was designed by the celebrated New York firm of McKim, Mead, and White. The 240-foot high clock tower was built by the Seth-Thomas Company, and added on July 12, 1909. The story goes that New Haven Railroad president C.W. Mellon noticed the slender tower while traveling in Italy and determined to put it on the next depot he built and here it is. Today, it is the home of the *Republican-American* newspaper, with the Metro-North platform located outside and to the south of the building.

TURN RIGHT ON  
MEADOW STREET.

**18. Anaconda American Brass Company**  
**northeast of Grand Street and**  
**Meadow Street**

American Brass formed in 1899 with the consolidation of Ansonia Brass & Copper Company, Waterbury Brass Company, and Coe Brass Manufacturing Company. It was the first large brass manufacturing firm in the United States, and for much of its existence was the largest brass manufacturer in the country. Although acquired in 1922 by Anaconda Mining Company of Montana, it kept its name until it changed to Anaconda American Brass in 1960. This semi-circular brick building was used as their headquarters while in Waterbury. It was built in 1913 using a design by Trowbridge & Livingston of New York. Today it is home of the Superior Court.

TURN RIGHT ON  
WEST MAIN STREET.

**19. *Soldiers' Monument***  
**West Main Street and Church Street**

Local sculptor George C. Bissell designed this 48-foot high bronze monument to the fallen soldiers of the Civil War. It was cast in Paris at the cost of \$25,000 and was dedicated on October 23, 1884.

**20. St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**16 Church Street at West Main Street**

This church is a re-build of a Richard Upjohn design that was destroyed by fire on Christmas Eve, 1868. This time granite was used and the church was consecrated in 1873. The church is blessed with several Tiffany stained glass windows.

**21. Mattatuck Museum**  
**144 West Main Street**

This is the only museum in Connecticut solely dedicated to collecting and exhibiting Connecticut artists and sculptors and reflecting the industrial history of the state. At first the collection was displayed in the Kendrick House, built by Griggs and Hunt in 1912, on the opposite side of the Green. The museum moved into this renovated Masonic Lodge in 1986.

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO  
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

*Look Up,*

# *Wethersfield*



## A Walking Tour of Wethersfield...

John Oldham was one of the members of the Massachusetts Bay Colony more interested in the commercial possibilities of the New World than the religious freedom it offered. Accused of plotting a revolt, he was banished from the colony in 1624. As a trader Oldham sailed to Virginia and back to England. In 1634 he led a group of men known as “The Ten Adventurers” up the Connecticut River to establish the first English settlement in the valley. Oldham did not settle here, however, and in 1636 he was murdered by Naragansett Indians on Block Island, Rhode Island.

Those who stayed in Wethersfield found land richly endowed with deep, fertile soil, a legacy from the glaciers and the annual flooding of the Connecticut River. The first bounty from this agricultural treasure was an onion with a dark red-hued skin that became world-renowned as the Wethersfield red onion. Their pungent scent caused outsiders to know the little village as Oniontown. Soon Wethersfield became America’s first major seed-producing area.

Industry-wise, shipbuilding brought the first prosperity to town. The first ship said to be built in Connecticut, *The Tryall*, was constructed at Thomas Deming’s shipyard and launched here. Between 1661 and 1699 warehouses for the West Indies trade dotted the waterfront around Wethersfield Cove. Exports included furs, hides, bricks, fish and salt beef. And, of course, onions. At the height of the export trade more than one million bunches of onions crossed the Wethersfield wharves. The coastal towns inevitably usurped the town’s prominence as a Connecticut port in the 19th century and the pace of life slowed.

The evidence of these days lives on in the largest historic district in Connecticut, with more homes built before 1850 than any other town in the state. Our walking tour will begin in the center of town, where there is abundant parking, and circle Connecticut’s “most auncient town”...



**1. Keeney Memorial Cultural Center**  
200 Main Street

Erected in 1893, this brick and sandstone building originally served as a Wethersfield public school. Additions and renovations came over the years and today it does duty as the home of the the town museum, Chamber of Commerce, exhibition hall and visitor center. After Mrs. William Keeney funded a major renovation of the building in 1985 it was named in memory of her only son, Navy Lieutenant Robert Allan Keeney who perished with hundreds of servicemen when the *U.S.S. Indianapolis* was sunk in the last days of World War II.

FACING THE KEENEY  
MEMORIAL, TURN RIGHT.

**2. Chester Bulkley House**  
184 Main Street

This Greek Revival brick house dates to 1830; it lives on as a bed and breakfast.

**3. Old Academy**  
150 Main Street

The Federal-style brick building was constructed between 1801 and 1804. It is little adorned beyond simple stone lintels over the windows and a centered, bell-shaped cupola on the roof. In 1824 the Reverend Joseph Emerson moved his female seminary from Massachusetts to the Old Academy. Emerson was a pioneer in women's education, writing several educational works in addition to organizing his school of religious instruction for women. It became a public school in 1839. After its educational function was exhausted the building served as Wethersfield's Town Hall and Library. Today it is home to the Wethersfield Historical Society.

TURN AND WALK  
BACK UP MAIN STREET.

**4. Fire Company Number 1**  
171 Main Street

Firefighting in Wethersfield traces its origins all the way back to 1690 when parishioners of The First Church voted to stockpile ladders and leather buckets in the back of the church and to ring the church bell whenever fire threatened. Formal "Chimney Viewers" were appointed in 1708. The Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department was formally chartered by the Connecticut State Legislature at its May session in 1803 making the company the oldest volunteer fire company in continuous existence in the state, and the oldest in New England. Following catastrophic fires in 1831 and 1834 that consumed whole blocks of buildings and destroyed the center of town a special act of the State Legislature formally incorporated the "Wethersfield Fire Company." In 1927 Company #1 found a home here; the present brick building dates to 1974.

Out front is a restored "hose gig" belonging to *Hope 1*, the town's first ladder carrier, purchased for \$125 after the Civil War. At first, *Hope 1* was pulled by men, and later by draft horses. It was housed in a former car barn of the Hartford/Wethersfield Horse Railroad right next to Comstock Ferre Seed Company further north on Main Street.

**5. Hurlbut-Dunham House**  
212 Main Street

Sea captain John Hurlbut built this elegant brick home in the Georgian style in 1804. In the mid-19th century the house received an Italianate makeover picking up a bracketed cornice along the roof and porches at every turn. The Dunham family acquired the house in 1875 and in the early 20th century Howard Dunham and his wife Jane traveled the world to collect furnishings for their home. Dunham was the Connecticut State Insurance Commissioner from 1923 until 1935.

**6. Silas Deane House**  
211 Main Street

Silas Deane was born in Groton in 1737, the son of a blacksmith. After graduating from Yale College and being admitted to the Connecticut bar in 1761, Deane came to Wethersfield to estab-

lish his law practice. Mehitabel Webb, widow of Joseph Webb, became a client and, soon enough, Deane's wife. After she died in 1767 Deane soon reeled in another rich widow, the granddaughter of a former Connecticut governor, and he quickly found himself on the political fast track.

Silas Deane designed this house himself in 1770 to serve as a power base for his personal ambitions. In 1774 he was sent to Philadelphia as one of Connecticut's delegates to the Continental Congress. By 1776 Deane was serving as America's first diplomat, negotiating in Paris with Benjamin Franklin to gain French recognition of the United States as an independent nation. His whirlwind career was derailed however by charges of misappropriation of funds. Although Deane was never found guilty of the accusations his life became twisted with intrigue and he died in England in 1789 - poisoned perhaps - as he was readying to sail back home. He was buried in an unmarked grave.

**7. Joseph Webb House**  
**211 Main Street**

The house was built in 1752 by Joseph Webb, a young and successful merchant. He hired Judah Wright to frame a stylish three-and-a-half story house and shop with a massive gambrel roof that provided greater upper-floor storage for Webb's trade goods. Joseph Webb died in 1761 and the house passed to his son Joseph, Jr.

The younger Webb and his wife Abigail were robust entertainers and their home was known in the colonies as "Hospitality Hall." One of their guests, for five nights in 1781, was General George Washington who met in the front parlor with French commander the Comte de Rochambeau to plan the joint military campaign that led to the victory at Yorktown and the end of the American Revolution. It was later owned by famous antiquarian and businessman Wallace Nutting and in 1919 sold to the Colonial Dames of Connecticut to be preserved as a house museum.

**8. Isaac Stevens House**  
**211 Main Street**

Isaac Stevens was a leathersmith who built this center hall Georgian house in 1788-1789. It remained connected to the Stevens family for 170 years until it was acquired by the Connecticut Colonial Dames and opened to the public as part of the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum.

**9. First Church of Christ**  
**250 Main Street**

Founded in 1635, this is one of the oldest Congregational churches in New England. The core of the brick church was built in 1761, modeled along the lines of the South Church in Boston. The building is marked by diamond-patterned brickwork and an open belfry with slender spire. Behind the church are the graves of many of the town's earliest settlers, stretching back to 1648.

**10. John Williams House**  
**260 Main Street**

John Williams built this Greek Revival home between 1832 and 1834 perpendicular to Main Street - the impressive two-story Ionic portico is attached to the side of the brick house. John Williams was the son of Ezekiel Williams, a successful merchant and public servant in town who lived until 1818 before dying just short of his 90th birthday.

**11. Simeon Belden House/ Comstock,**  
**Ferre & Seed Co.**  
**249 Main Street**

Simeon Belden built this typical Connecticut pre-Revolution house in 1767; look from the side to see the gambrel roof. The house still boasts its original broken scroll, or swan's neck, pediment over the front door. This was a signature entranceway throughout the Connecticut River Valley but only a few remain. James Lockwood Belden was born in the house in 1774 and lived here when he founded the Wethersfield Garden Seed Co. in 1820. It evolved into the Comstock, Ferre & Seed Co., the oldest continuously operating seed company in the United States until it closed in 2009.

**12. Henry Stillman House**  
297 Main Street

The Henry Stillman House is an example of the Gothic Revival style constructed in 1872.

**13. Trinity Episcopal Church**  
300 Main Street

The cornerstone of Trinity church was laid on June 1, 1871 but the tentacles of Episcopalianism reach back to 1729, when the Reverend Samuel Johnson of Stratford attempted unsuccessfully to establish a church in Wethersfield. The stone sanctuary was designed by Edward Tuckerman Potter, who also created the Mark Twain House in Hartford, in the High Victorian Gothic style with a distinctive polychromatic roof.

**14. Captain Allyn Stillman House**  
330 Main Street

Allyn Stillman was a member of the Connecticut militia and a blockade runner in the Revolutionary War. His house, constructed in 1766, features a double entrance door commonly found on Connecticut River Valley homes.

**15. Captain Timothy Stillman House**  
340 Main Street

Like his brother Allyn, Timothy Stillman was a ship master who helmed the brig Ontario. The two-story Colonial with a gable roof and central chimney was built around 1740; Captain Stillman was a later owner.

TURN LEFT ON  
HARTFORD AVENUE.

**16. Francis Stillman School**  
127 Hartford Avenue

The Wethersfield public school system expanded dramatically during the 1920s leading to the construction of multi-classroom school buildings. The brick Colonial Revival Stillman School was built in 1924. In 2004 it was renovated for use by the Wethersfield Board of Education.

**17. Solomon Welles House**  
220 Hartford Avenue

Solomon Welles was a descendent of Thomas Welles, the only governor from Wethersfield. Work on the house, begun in 1774, stopped because the men had to go off to fight the revolution. When they returned, they retrieved their tools and completed the job.

WALK THROUGH WETHERSFIELD  
MEMORIAL PARK WHICH,  
BEGINNING IN 1827, WAS THE  
SITE OF THE WETHERSFIELD STATE  
PRISON. TURN LEFT ON GARDEN  
STREET AND BEGIN TOURING THE  
VICTORIAN SECTION OF TOWN.

**18. James Pratt House**  
223 Garden Street

This is the most notable of the Italianate houses that sprang up in this Wethersfield neighborhood in the middle of the 19th century.

**19. Michael Griswold House**  
116 Garden Street

An island of early 1700s architecture in a sea of newer homes, this is an unaltered example of a salt-box house.

AT THE WETHERSFIELD GREEN,  
TURN LEFT ON BROAD STREET.  
THE LARGEST ELM TREE IN  
AMERICA ONCE STOOD ON THE  
EAST END OF THE GREEN, UNTIL  
IT WAS LOST IN THE 1950S. IT  
MEASURED 102 FEET HIGH WITH  
A SPREAD OF 146 FEET. IT WAS 41  
FEET AROUND THE TRUNK.

**20. Silas W. Robbins House**  
185 Broad Street

In 1873 Silas Robbins, a partner in the Johnson, Robbins and Co. seed business, built a house quite unlike any yet seen in Wethersfield. The Second Empire mansion features two full stories

and a third under the mansard roof. The entire confection is crowned with an ornate cast-iron railing.

**21. Buttolph-Williams House**  
**249 Broad Street**

Its clapboards weathered nearly black, the Buttolph-Williams House approaches its fourth century. Built around 1711, the house reflects the continuing popularity of the traditional architecture imported from England. The house is thought to have been constructed for local tavern keeper Benjamin Belden, who lived in the house with his wife, Anne Churchill and their family. The historic house has been opened to the public since 1951.

TURN LEFT ON MARSH STREET.  
TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET TO  
RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING  
POINT.

*Look Up,*

# *Willimantic*



## A Walking Tour of Willimantic...

“Willimantic” is an Algonquin Indian word meaning roughly “land of the swift running waters” - an appropriate appellation since the 90-foot drop in the Willimantic River from the town’s western edge to its junction with the Natchaug River has shaped the community from the very beginning. These water-powered mills were built back in 1706. In 1822 pioneer cotton spinner Percy O. Richmond purchased water rights here and soon there were six mills humming along the river.

In 1849 the railroad arrived in Willimantic and five years later the iron horse brought a group of Hartford capitalists to the banks of the Willimantic River looking to manufacture linen, napkins and shoe threads using processes pioneered in Great Britain. At the same time, however, the Crimean War broke out and the new Willimantic Linen Company was forced to develop new technologies for the making of fine threads. This they did well enough that they earned the highest award at America’s Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876. In 1898 the company merged with the American Thread Company which was soon operating the largest manufactory in Connecticut. Willimantic had earned the moniker “Thread City.”

All this prosperity translated in the late 1800s into fine residential neighborhoods on the hills above the mills and a bustling Main Street. There were commercial blocks built in the finest architectural styles of the day, fashionable hotels with over 100 rooms and powerful banks. The Loomer Opera House was considered the finest entertainment venue between Hartford and Providence. Buffalo Bill Cody, Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel all appeared in Willimantic.

American Thread left town in 1985 and Willimantic lost its economic mojo. It also lost its government; in 1893 the city was incorporated as a section of the town of Windham. In the 1980s the government dissolved and Willimantic was folded back into Windham.

Our walking tour will begin down by the “swift running waters” among the souvenirs left behind by the mills that spawned “Thread City”...

**1. Windham Mills State Heritage Park**  
**322 Main Street**

Until the 1850s English and Scottish manufacturers dominated the market for cotton thread owing to unique atmospheric conditions in the British Isles that produced the ideal moisture content for spinning. Pioneering research by the Willimantic Linen Company, organized here in 1854, developed the first cotton thread manufactured in the United States. The American Thread Company bought these mills in 1898 and eventually constructed six large gray mills on the site. Mill Number 4 was the largest mill in the world and the first to have electricity. The largest factory of any kind in Connecticut, it employed 3,500 workers.

The mills closed in 1985 and have since been converted to commercial use; two were torn down. The double-arched bridge was built in 1857, designed to stand up to the floods that had washed away previous wooden bridges. It carried vehicles until 2001 when it was supplanted by the "Frog Bridge." It is now a garden, which can be reached by climbing the stairs in the park.

**WALK ACROSS MAIN STREET  
AT THE CROSSWALK.**

**2. Windham Textile and History Museum**  
**411 Main Street**

The Windham Textile and History Museum is housed in the 1877 headquarters of the American Thread Company. Exhibits shine a light on the culture that helped shape a large part of Connecticut life from the factory to the mill owner's mansion.

**TURN LEFT AND WALK UP THE  
HILL ALONG MAIN STREET.**

**3. Frog Bridge**  
**South Street at Main Street**

On a moonless June night in 1754 the villagers of Willimantic were alarmed by piercing shrieks from the nearby woods. Fearing attack by Indian warriors, or worse, many barricaded themselves in their homes while others pumped volley after

volley of musket fire into the still darkness. But there was no sign of the source of the blood-curdling clamor. It was not until the following daybreak that the evidence of the great battle was revealed - hundreds, perhaps thousands, of bullfrogs had fought and died for a piece of a drought-stricken millpond.

Where other communities may have breathed a sigh of relief, laughed it off and went about their lives, Willimantic adopted the frog as its mascot for evermore. The bullfrog appears on the town seal and in 2000 the new 500-foot, \$13 million bridge over the Willimantic River was adorned with four 11-foot frogs.

**4. Windham Historical Society**  
**627 Main Street**

Asa Jillson arrived in Willimantic Falls in 1826 and with his brother Seth retooled an old mill and built another stone mill, a wooden mill and a stone dwelling house. The house was built from gneiss granite which was quarried from the nearby Willimantic River, the same as the mills. The water was actually diverted from its bed to access the stone; you can still see traces of the quarry along the river today. The house was originally slated for demolition during 1970s redevelopment, but was saved by the Windham Historical Society and stands alone today as its headquarters.

**5. First Baptist Church**  
**667 Main Street**

The First Baptist Church of Willimantic was officially organized in 1827. The current building was constructed in 1858 and enlarged in 1889. Of Italianate design, this wood-frame structure is capped by an octagonal tower with round-arched vents in the four principal faces. The three-bays of the facade are framed by ornate Italianate pilasters. In 1968 The First Baptist Church of Willimantic had an opportunity to sell its building after a Valentine's Day Fire destroyed the 1865 Union Block. The declining church voted not to sell, and to remain a downtown church, which is where it still stands.

**6. YMCA**  
**824 Main Street**

The concrete screen masks the old Gem Theater, which along with the Capitol Theater, was one of the town's esteemed movie palaces.

**7. Windham House**  
**817 Street**

Developed by Seth Chauncey Hooker, the hotel was considered among the state's finest lodgings when it opened in 1887. Soon after Hooker sold the property in 1909, the burgeoning use of automobiles and lack of parking at the site sent the hotel into a long period of decline. For many years the building, severely compromised by a ground floor alteration, has operated as a residence hotel.

**8. Victorian Neighborhood Association**  
**869 Main Street**

This modest Greek Revival house was built by John Gray in 1831. Details include corner pilasters and a semi-circular window in the gable. It is currently the home of the Victorian Neighborhood Association.

**9. ACT Capitol Theater School**  
**896 Main Street**

The luxurious Capitol Theater opened on January 12, 1926 with 1,224 seats of leather on two floors and with a quartet of private boxes. Patrons found inside a marble staircase and brass lighting fixtures. It began as a Vaudeville house but by 1930 was only screening movies. The Capitol closed its doors on October 20, 1973. The last two movies shown were "Paper Moon" and "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." It has since been renovated as an arts academy.

**10. Old U.S. Post Office**  
**967 Main Street**

This is the third historic home for the Willimantic Brewing Company. They began life in 1991 in the lobby of the old Capitol Theater building and then moved into the 1880, bay-windowed brick building at 877 Main Street.

One more move found the brewpub here, inside the Neoclassical post office constructed of granite and limestone in 1909. A newer post office opened on Main Street in the 1950s and the federal government abandoned this building in 1967. It spent most of the remainder of the 20th century vacant.

**11. Town Hall**  
**979 Main Street**

It took 1.25 million bricks to construct the Romanesque-inspired Town Hall in 1896. The Victorian confection rests on a foundation of ashlar brownstone and is capped by a copper clock tower with cupola. Warren Richard Briggs was the architect.

TURN RIGHT ON WINDHAM STREET PAST THE TOWN HALL AND WALK UPHILL TO THE "HILL SECTION," A 40-BLOCK AREA THAT BOASTS MORE THAN 800 VINTAGE HOMES AND BUILDINGS. THE VAST MAJORITY OF HOUSES WERE BUILT AFTER THE CIVIL WAR AND THE DISTRICT WAS FILLED IN BY 1910, THE ACCEPTED END OF THE VICTORIAN ERA IN AMERICA.

**12. Willimantic Normal School**  
**83 Windham Street**

The Connecticut General Assembly established the Willimantic State Normal School, the forerunner of today's Eastern Connecticut State College in 1889 and 13 students began instruction on the third floor of the Willimantic Savings Institute. In 1895 the new Normal School was erected on six acres of land deeded to the State by the Town of Windham in 1890. This "model" school for training teachers was constructed in the Beaux Arts style in 1907.



**13. Edward George House**  
**90 Windham Street**

This house that was originally built in 1880 was heavily influenced by the Shingle Style variant of Queen Anne architecture as noted by the dominating, wide front gable and the shingle sheathing. The Reverend Edward George once lived here.

**14. Albert Scripture House**  
**114 Windham Street**

Albert Scripture came to town to work as a grocery clerk in the company store of the Willimantic Linen Company in 1885. The last dozen years before his death in 1922 at the age of 66, he served as the town clerk and treasurer. His late Victorian home was constructed in 1885.

**15. Wilson Little House**  
**122 Windham Street**

Edith C. and Wilton E. Little, an employee of Hillhouse & Taylor, bought the property at 122 Windham Street from the Windham Cotton Manufacturing Company in 1892. In 1896, they sold the land and house to George P. Phenix, the second Principal of Normal School. The property was then sold in 1904 to Henry Burr for whom Eastern Connecticut State University's Burr Hall is named. The house was sold once again to Albert French who sold it to Roland B. Jordan, owner of the Jordan Auto Company. His daughter, Elizabeth, sold it to David Meyers in 1980. The house has been lovingly restored as the detail of the exterior attests.

TURN RIGHT ON  
PROSPECT STREET.

**16. William Grant House**  
**northwest corner of High  
and Prospect streets**

This picturesque Queen Anne Victorian house was constructed for William Grant and his wife Jenny in 1895. Signature details include the wraparound porch, asymmetrical massing and corner turret. It remained in the Grant family until 1998 when it was purchased by the state

of Connecticut and is now used as the Alumni House for Eastern Connecticut State University.

**17. George Tiffany House**  
**272 Prospect Street**

Although George Tiffany's occupation or source of income is lost to history, he was a prominent landowner in Willimantic in the last half of the 19th century. He owned several properties on Main Street and a large chunk of this block, which he bought in 1890. The front carousel porch mimics a merry-go-round, which was a favorite entertainment, especially among the young Victorians.

TURN RIGHT ON WALNUT STREET.

**18. St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**220 Valley Street at southwest corner  
of Walnut Street**

During The Civil War, enough Episcopalian families came to work in the new thread mills to warrant the Diocese to recognize the existence of a church in Willimantic. The small congregation assembled in various halls in town. In 1883 the first St. Paul's Church was erected at the present site. It was a gingerbread style church, which came in three sections from Central Village. The current stone church was constructed in 1912.

TURN LEFT ON VALLEY STREET.

**19. First Congregational Church**  
**of Willimantic**  
**199 Valley Street**

The First Congregational Church of Willimantic organized in 1828 with 16 members. The next year membership had grown to 45 and a church edifice was immediately erected and, with enlargements, put in 40 years of service. The current brick sanctuary was completed in 1871 at the cost of \$46,700, including grounds, chapel, furniture, and organ.

**20. Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church**  
**46 Valley Street**

Father Florimond DeBruycker, the third pastor of nearby St. Joseph Church, willed this property on Valley Street for the building of a church for the French-Canadian Catholics of Willimantic. In 1903 construction began in a Romanesque Style of architecture as practiced in France.

**21. Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church**  
**99 Jackson Street at northeast corner**  
**of Valley Street**

The cornerstone of this beautiful Gothic-style church was laid with much fuss on Sunday, April 17, 1873. In the roughly ten years of its existence the Catholic population of Willimantic had exploded with an influx of Irish workers into the town's textile mills. Architect E.S. Howland gave the brick building abundant granite trim and a graceful tower surmounted with a spire, the cross on the top of which is 172 feet above the street. Inside the magnificent high altar was imported from Munich, Germany.

The great Hurricane of 1938 claimed the church's tower as one of its victims. The tower was rebuilt immediately but it would not be for another half-century that the congregation could afford to install a six-ton replica of the original steeple.

**TURN RIGHT ON JACKSON STREET.**  
**TURN LEFT ON UNION STREET**  
**AND FOLLOW DOWN THE HILL TO**  
**THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT**  
**THE WINDHAM MILLS COMPLEX.**

*Look Up,*

# *Windsor*



## A Walking Tour of Windsor...

In 1635, Reverend John Warham brought 60 of his congregation overland from Dorchester, Massachusetts and stopped here where the Farmington River flows into the Connecticut River. They had arrived in America five years earlier on the ship *Mary and John* from Plymouth, England. Reverend Warham promptly renamed the settlement Dorchester. During the next few years, more settlers arrived from Dorchester, outnumbering and soon displacing the original Plymouth contingent, who mostly returned to Plymouth. In 1637, the colony's General Court changed the names of Connecticut's three original river towns - Dorchester to Windsor, Watertown to Wethersfield and Newtown to Hartford.

It did not take long for the settlers to find a way to make a living. In 1640 the first tobacco was planted in Connecticut in Windsor and the first curing shed brought from Virginia. By 1700, tobacco was being exported via the Connecticut River to European ports and the use of Connecticut tobacco as a cigar wrapper leaf was widespread by the early 1800s. Eventually there would be over 15,000 Connecticut River Valley acres in cultivation to grow tobacco. More than 2,000 acres remain so today. Before the 18th century arrived the brickmaking trade was also flourishing in Windsor; there was a time when the town boasted more than 40 brickyards.

The original town of Windsor comprised what is now the towns of Windsor, Windsor Locks, East Windsor, South Windsor, Granby, East Granby, Simsbury, Ellington, and parts of several other Connecticut towns. Even so, today's Windsor is spread out geographically, covering some 30 square miles. And our walking tour will be spread out as well, connecting the Broad Street Green with the Palisado Green on either side of the Farmington River, a distance of about a quarter-mile...

**1. Windsor Station  
41 Central Street**

Windsor Station was originally built in 1871 as the Hartford & New Haven Railroad Depot and rebuilt to its original Victorian architecture by the Greater Hartford Transit District in 1988, the same year it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A former freight house is located nearby, which now serves as the home of the Windsor Arts Center.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE  
RAILROAD TRACKS WALK LEFT  
AROUND THE STATION AND  
ONTO MAPLE AVENUE. TURN  
LEFT ON BROAD STREET GREEN.

**2. Visitor Center/Chamber of Commerce  
261 Broad Street**

Built in 1921 by John E. Luddy, this was the home of the manager of the Connecticut Leaf Tobacco Association and founder of the Windsor Company, a major textile provider. In 1964, the house and carriage house were sold to the Town of Windsor.

**3. Town Hall  
275 Broad Street**

The Georgian Revival Town Hall displays many of the hallmarks of the style - symmetry, corner quoins, balustrades and a center hall plan. It opened in 1966.

**4. Loomis Fountain  
Broad Street Green in front of Town Hall**

The Loomis Fountain was commissioned by Euphemia Anderson Loomis in memory of her husband, a founder of the Loomis Institute. In 1983, the 80-year old fountain was restored as part of a town-wide 350th anniversary celebration.

**5. Huntington House  
289 Broad Street**

Henry Huntington, a lawyer and judge, had this eclectic Edwardian mansion built in 1901 in

the style of a Newport, Rhode Island "cottage." The house remained the family home until 1998, when the last Huntington died at the age of 93. In the early 2000s it operated as a house museum but has since been converted into office space.

**6. Grace Episcopal Church  
311 Broad Street**

In 1842 the Reverend Arthur C. Coxe, Rector of St. John's Church, Hartford, began the organization of an Episcopal mission in Windsor. By November of that year St. Gabriel's Church was founded and a cornerstone laid for a new building. The current church, the first on this site, dates to 1865, the year before it was rededicated as Grace Church. The 1930s brought a flurry of enlargements and repairs to bring the church to its present appearance on the Green.

WALK ACROSS THE GREEN  
TOWARDS BROAD STREET.

**7. *Windsor Eagle*  
south end of Broad Street Green**

The *Windsor Eagle* monument was erected in 1929 as a war memorial to all the soldiers and sailors from Windsor who had fought in defense of the town and the nation. The monument was designed by Evelyn Longman Batchelder, who married Loomis Institute headmaster Nathaniel Horton Batchelder and moved to Windsor in 1920. She had previously created several noteworthy works, including the bronze doors for the United States Naval Academy chapel in Annapolis, Maryland. She donated her services to produce this town landmark.

TURN RIGHT ON BROAD STREET.

**8. Plaza Theater  
282 Broad Street**

In the 1930s Pauline W. Shulman designed two Art Deco movie houses in the Connecticut River Valley, the Webster in Hartford and the Plaza. Windsor Federal Savings bank opened its doors above the theater in 1936. The screen went dark in 1997.

CONTINUE WALKING NORTH ON BROAD STREET, PAST THE GREEN, AND BEAR RIGHT ON PALISADO RIVER. WALK UNDER THE RAILROAD OVERPASS AND DOWN TO THE FARMINGTON RIVER.

**9. Railroad Bridge  
Farmington River**

When the railroad came to Windsor in 1844 it arrived on a wooden bridge. The brownstone bridge you see today to your left replaced the wooden trestle in 1867. Wide arches allowed barge traffic upriver to Poquonock. A unique feature is the horizontal curve in the bridge. Designed by E.M. Reed, this bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a significant example of 19th century engineering.

CROSS THE RIVER AND WALK ON THE WEST (LEFT) SIDE OF THE ROAD.

**10. First Church of Windsor  
107 Palisado Avenue**

This is the first church not only of Windsor but the state of Connecticut, throwing back to 1635. The early days of the town and church, which was first built in the center of Palisado Green and enclosed by a protective stockade, are intertwined. The meetinghouse, the fourth for the oldest congregation in the New World, was sited in its present location in 1794. Major changes in the meetinghouse were undertaken in 1844, 50 years after its construction, prominent among them the installation of a Greek-Revival portico that replaced a tower with its tall steeple. The adjoining cemetery, which is not managed by the church, includes tombstones from graves dug in the 1600s. Reverend Ephraim Huit, an assistant pastor to the church who died in 1644, has the oldest original grave marker in Connecticut.

**11. William Russell House  
111 Palisado Avenue**

This house was built by Reverend William Russell in 1755. It has long been admired for the quality of its front doorway, emblematic of the formal entranceways favored in the Connecticut Valley in the 1700s. The doorway is flanked by fluted pilasters that support a capping entablature. After long being a private residence First Church now owns the house that was built by its one-time minister over 250 years ago.

**12. Martin Ellsworth House  
115 Palisado Avenue**

Oliver Ellsworth, ardent Revolutionary patriot, jurist and statesman who helped frame the United States Constitution, built this house for his son Martin in 1807. The broad gable faces the street and you can compare the additional detail involved with the Federal period of architecture by comparing this doorway with the earlier one at the Russell House. It is also now owned by First Church.

WHEN THE SIDEWALK ENDS TURN RIGHT AND CROSS THE ROAD ONTO THE PALISADO GREEN AND WALK AROUND IT, HEADING BACK TOWARDS THE FARMINGTON RIVER.

**13. Palisado Green  
Palisado Avenue**

This town green comprises part of the site of the Stockade built during the Pequot War of 1637. The green contains the Founders Monument which lists names of the Windsor settlers who came from England in 1630 on the ship *Mary and John*. The statue is a depiction of John Mason who was a founder of Windsor, Saybrook and Norwich. The first great military leader of the Connecticut colony, Mason organized the state militia in ousting the Pequot Indians from their fort in Mystic. The statue was actually dedicated in New London in 1889 and resided there for over 100 years until it was relocated here in 1995.

**14. The Dr. Hezekiah Chaffee House**  
**108 Palisado Avenue**

This substantial Georgian-style house was constructed in the 1760s for Dr. Hezekiah Chaffee. The 15-room mansion house under a Dutch-style gambrel roof is one of the oldest brick houses standing in Connecticut. The house was later used by the Loomis Institute, founded by descendants of Hezekiah - his daughter Abigail married Colonel James Loomis in 1805. Today the house is owned by the Windsor Historical Society and is open to the public, furnished with invaluable antiques, many made by local and regional artisans.

**15. Windsor Historical Society/Fyler House**  
**96 Palisado Avenue**

Records show that Lieutenant Walter Fyler built a one-room dwelling here in 1640 so somewhere inside the rambling complex of the Windsor Historical Society may be the oldest frame house in Connecticut. Fyler was deeded several pieces of land, including this lot, for services in the Pequot War. The Fyler House is also home to the town's first post office and an 18th century general store which specialized in imported fabrics.

WALK BACK TO PALISADO AVENUE  
AND TURN LEFT, RECROSSING THE  
FARMINGTON RIVER. MAKE YOUR  
FIRST LEFT ON UNION STREET,  
BEFORE THE INTERSECTION.

**16. Union Street Tavern**  
**20 Union Street**

The Windsor Fire Company organized in September 1830 when twenty prominent Windsor men each paid a subscription of five dollars. Nearly a century later, on September 17, 1927 the company, amidst great fanfare, moved into this new two-bay home. Constructed at a cost of \$23,009, it replaced the much smaller 1880 station at the rear of 20 Maple Street. The second cornerstone on the building front bearing the date 1915 commemorates the establishment of the Windsor Fire District and its legislative

charter as a taxing district. Both the fire and police stations moved to the present headquarters on Bloomfield Avenue in 1965.

WALK AROUND THE OLD  
FIREHOUSE TO THE RIGHT TO  
RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING  
POINT AT THE RAILROAD  
STATION.

# IDENTIFYING AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

*Recognizing Early American Architecture (1600-1840):*

## **POST-MEDIEVAL 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-gambrel 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 (four-sided) or side-gabled (two-sided)
- \* 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



### **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 (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 (EASTLAKE) 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 CHATEAUESQUE (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, often 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

### **ART MODERNE (1920-1940)**

- \* streamline, curved corners
- \* smooth stucco wall surface
- \* asymmetrical facade
- \* flat roof, usually with ledge at roof line
- \* horizontal grooves, lines, balustrades
- \* windows can turn corners and can be roundly shaped
- \* glass-block windows or sections of the wall

### **INTERNATIONAL (1925-PRESENT)**

- \* no decorative detailing at doors or windows
- \* smooth, unornamental wall surface
- \* asymmetrical facade
- \* flat roof, usually without ledge at roof line
- \* windows usually metal casements set flush with outer walls

