

*Look up,
Rhode Island!*

Walking Tours of 12 Towns
in the Ocean State

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LOOK UP, RHODE ISLAND!: WALKING TOURS
OF 12 TOWNS IN THE OCEAN STATE

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Cruden Bay Books
PO Box 467
Montchanin, DE 19710
www.hikewithyourdog.com
www.walkthetown.com

International Standard Book Number 978-1-935771-03-6

Manufactured in the United States of America

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How to use this book...

There is no better way to see Rhode Island 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, Rhode Island!* describes a mix of historical and architectural and ecclesiastical landmarks. A quick primer on identifying architectural styles seen on Rhode Island streets can be found at the back of the book on page 80.

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, Rhode Island!

Look Up,

Bristol



A Walking Tour of Bristol...

It did not take long after Bristol was settled in 1669 for its new inhabitants to take advantage of the unusually deep harbor in the Narragansett Bay with which it was blessed. There would be times in Colonial America when Bristol was among the four busiest ports in the colonies.

Much of that bustle took place in the notorious "Triangle Trade," centered around the importing of slave labor from West Africa. Slave trade was introduced in Rhode Island around 1700 and the colony soon took the lead in the unsavory business in the Americas and Bristol led the way in the colony. Rhode Island sloops would carry horses, livestock and finished goods such as rum to Africa where they would be used to purchase human beings who were shipped to the Caribbean and exchanged for sugar and molasses and coffee destined for Bristol.

The prosperous seaport was a natural target for the British during the American Revolution and the first attack came early - on October 7, 1775. For the better part of four years the town would be plagued by the British. It is no wonder that the harried citizenry got together after the Revolution on July 4, 1785 to stage the first of what is today America's oldest continuous Fourth of July celebration. With the war in the past, Bristol shipping picked up almost immediately, reaching greater heights than ever before. When America went to war with England again in 1812, this time Bristol retaliated with privateers looking to menace British shipping. One brigantine, the *Yankee*, made six forays during the war and captured British property estimated at over a million pounds sterling.

By the 1820s slave trade was finally on the decline and many of Bristol's fleet turned to fishing and whaling. By the end of the 1800s the town's reputation in the slave trade was receding and its exploits on the high seas were celebrated in a wholly different endeavor - America's Cup yacht racing. After beginning his career designing steam-powered vessels, including the nation's first torpedo boat, Bristol native Nathanael Herreshoff turned his talents to creating the largest, most expensive and most powerful yachts on the water. From 1893 until 1920 Herreshoff produced a succession of undefeated America's Cup defenders. The tradition of building Cup contenders continues in Bristol to this day and the America's Cup Hall of Fame is located here.

Our walking tour will begin on the historic waterfront, now revitalized as an entertainment and hospitality center, and fan out along Hope and High streets, where the many finely crafted 18th and 19th century homes and public buildings are testament to the wealth that once flowed across Bristol docks...

1. Thames Landing
251-267 Thames Street

Through fifty years and three generations, the DeWolf family operated America's largest slave trading operation out of Bristol. It is estimated DeWolf ships brought 10,000 Africans from the west coast of Africa through the slave marts of southern and Caribbean ports as part of the "Triangle Trade." James and William DeWolf built the stone warehouse at No. 259 in 1818. Ships would dock alongside and goods would roll into both levels of the storehouse. During the Great Hurricane of 1938 the Prudence Island Ferry was slammed against the south side of the building and you can still see the dent today. The DeWolfs also operated a rum distillery on the Bristol waterfront where the Bristol Harbor Inn stands today.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE WATER,
WALK A FEW STEPS OVER TO STATE
STREET.

2. Holmes Block
1 State Street

Hugh Holmes built this exuberant Second Empire commercial block in 1884. The ground floor was set aside for retail space, primarily the People's Market, and the upper floors contained hotel rooms. Its glory days were long gone by the Depression days of the 1930s and the building had spent most of its life in disrepair when it was rescued in 1999 and given an award-winning restoration.

WALK IN THE OPPOSITE
DIRECTION TO THE NEXT
CORNER AT BRADFORD STREET
(THE WATER WILL BE ON YOUR
LEFT). TURN RIGHT.

3. Bristol Phoenix Building
1 Bradford Street at Thames Street

William H.S. Hayley put out the first edition of the *Bristol Phoenix* in 1837; it is now the flagship paper of East Bay Newspapers that publishes nine weeklies in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The clapboard building is a mere youngster by comparison - it was built in 1854.

WALK UP TO HOPE STREET
AND TURN LEFT.

4. Colt Andrews School
Hope Street and Bradford Street

Using money donated by the Andrews family this Colonial Revival brick school was built to honor Robert Shaw Andrews, one-time superintendent of Bristol schools, in 1938. The building is wrapped in brownstone quoins and features a finely detailed cornice and cupola.

5. Rockwell House
610 Hope Street

Colonel Giles Luther, the first recorded marshall of Bristol's historic Fourth of July Parade, built the Federal-style core of this house in 1809. Two hundred years later the house displays a hodgepodge of Greek Revival, Italianate and Victorian features as well. Charles Rockwell, owner of the Cranston Worsted Mills, acquired the house in 1897 and eventually donated it to the Bristol District Nursing Association as the town hospital.

6. Dimond House
617 Hope Street

Self-taught Russell Warren is considered the architect who brought the Greek Revival style to Rhode Island. He built this formidable conveyor of the style in 1838 with a front gable that reaches towards the street with a pedimented portico supported by four Ionic columns. This lot was purchased in 1833 by Francis M. Dimond, who would become governor of Rhode Island in the 1850s, for \$1,050.

7. Charles Collins House
620 Hope Street

When anti-slave trade laws were passed the powerful DeWolf family was able to circumvent the authorities by having Bristol declared an official port of entry and Charles Collins, the brother-in-law of James DeWolf, named customs

inspector. Collins would “miss” slave ships moving in and out of the harbor. In 1820 slave trading was made a hanging offense, bringing the trade to a halt in Bristol. Russell Warren designed this two-story Federal-style brick house topped by a fine cornice and low-hipped roof. The windows are decorated with stone lintels.

8. Talbot House
647 Hope Street

Another example of Russell Warren’s Greek Revival designs, this one is executed with a recessed entranceway. It was constructed in 1838 for Joseph Talbot.

TURN RIGHT ON FRANKLIN STREET. TURN RIGHT ON HIGH STREET.

9. First Congregational Church
300 High Street

The story of First Congregational Church goes as far back as the town itself - both were founded in 1680. The current sanctuary is the congregation’s third, constructed of stone in the Gothic Revival style, in 1855. The original meetinghouse that was built in 1683 was located roughly where the courthouse now stands on the town common. The DeWolf Memorial Chapel was dedicated in 1870.

10. First Congregational Church Parsonage
291 High Street

This building shows what a simple stone house can achieve when it puts its mind to it. The Victorian makeover executed by William Henry DeWolf in the 1860s brought a side tower, elaborate Stick Style porch and decorations in the gable. It now does duty as the parsonage for First Congregational Church.

11. First Baptist Church
250 High Street

Thomas Nelson founded the congregation with 23 members in 1811 and shortly work was begun on a church located here on land granted by the town. Completed in 1814, the meetinghouse

was built with granite blocks, with a gable roof supported by post and beam construction held together with wooden pegs. Today it is the oldest extant church in Bristol.

12. Bristol State House
240 High Street

Bristol was in the original rota of five meeting places for the Rhode Island General Assembly. After the original state house on State Street became dilapidated the General Assembly ordered it sold. Warren jumped into the void in an attempt to wrest the county seat from Bristol but the town held on with the guarantee of this location on the Common. The new State House was ready by 1817. Its architect is unknown but often attributed to the town’s go-to designer of the age, Russell Warren. Two decades later a major redesign and expansion took place that covered the Federal-style bricks with stucco that was scored to resemble large stone blocks in the fashionable Greek Revival style of the day. The General Assembly retreated to only Newport and Providence in 1854 and the building continued in use as a courthouse. The business of the law was conducted here until the 1980s. In disuse and decaying, the building was purchased for a single dollar from the state by the Bristol Statehouse Foundation to restore and reuse the old state house as it approaches its bicentennial anniversary.

TURN RIGHT ON CHURCH STREET AND WALK TO HOPE STREET. TURN LEFT AND GO DOWN A HALF-BLOCK.

13. Four Eagles House
341 Hope Street

John Howe, a recent Brown graduate about to enter the Rhode Island bar, began building this five-bay Federal-style house in 1807. Howe was destined to serve in the General Assembly for nearly two decades, right after he sold the house in 1822. Another politician, whaler and mill president Byron Diman bought the house in 1825. Diman would enter the governor’s office for a term in 1846. Despite that illustrious legacy,

the house is noted today mostly for the short tenure of Benjamin Churchill, who owned the house between Howe and Diman. Churchill was captain of the celebrated privateering ship *Yankee* and it is believed his crew carved the quartet of American eagles that grace the corners of the Chinese Chippendale roof balustrade.

TURN TO SEE THE HOUSE ACROSS
THE STREET AND AFTERWARDS
TURN LEFT TO WALK BACK
NORTH ON HOPE STREET (THE
WATER WILL BE ON YOUR LEFT.)

14. Royal Diman House
344 Hope Street

This survivor from the 18th century was built by Royal Diman, a cooper, around 1792. It has received several modifications over the years, including an impressive pedimented entrance with classical Ionic pilasters.

15. William H. Bell Block
365 Hope Street

This large commercial block sports a fashionable mansard roof from its construction period of the 1870s. Built of brick with granite trim, the Masons have met behind its shield on that upper floor since it opened in 1879. Of particular note are the original cast iron pilasters at the corners and sides of the doors.

16. St. Michael's Episcopal Church
399 Hope Street

The Anglican Church established four original mission churches in Rhode Island by missionaries sent by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel based in London. St. Michael's was one of them, meeting first in 1718. The first church was built two years later but was burned by the British during the Revolutionary War. This is now the fourth church for the parish, a soaring Gothic Revival brownstone edifice designed by Saeltzer & Valk of New York City and George Ricker of Newark. It was constructed in 1861; the clock came along the next decade.

17. St. Michael's Chapel
399 Hope Street

Architect Stephen C. Earle added this handsome single-story building of Massachusetts brownstone to the Bristol streetscape in 1876. Earle carried the Gothic style through the arches in the window and door openings, the open-air belfry and the batten-style wooden doors.

18. Burnside Memorial Building
400 Hope Street

It is probably safe to assume no one born in Indiana ever had as much impact on Rhode Island as Ambrose Burnside. Command of Fort Adams in Newport brought Burnside to the Ocean State in 1852 where he found a wife and a permanent reputation as the inventor of a famous rifle that bore his name - the Burnside carbine. That reputation propelled a Civil War career that led Abraham Lincoln to offer him command of the Union Army. Major General Burnside turned him down believing, correctly, that he lacked the appropriate experience.

After the war ended Burnside was immediately elected to three one-year terms as Governor of Rhode Island and then mixed a successful business career with his political ambitions. At its inception in 1871, the National Rifle Association chose him as its first president. In 1874 he was elected to the United States Senate and was serving a second term when he died of a heart attack in Bristol in 1881 at the age of 57.

The erection of this memorial, now serving use as a town building, was quite a big deal in 1883 when it was planned. A crowd of some 5,000 overwhelmed the streets of Bristol to hear President Chester A. Arthur speak at the laying of the cornerstone. The building itself was designed by Stephen C. Earle of Worcester, Massachusetts and displays many of the hallmarks of the Richardsonian Romanesque style including prominent arches, multi-chromatic materials and pillar groups. Long completely clad in ivy, an award-winning restoration revealed the design details and red mortar between the stones. To the side and rear is the Bristol War Veterans Honor Roll Garden.

TURN RIGHT AND WALK UP COURT STREET.

19. Bristol Historical and Preservation Society 48 Court Street

The Bristol County Jail was a few steps down from the courthouse in this stone building that was constructed in 1828 from the ballast of sea-going ships. It housed not only prisoners but the jail keeper and his family as well. The old jail has seen be re-adapted for use by the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society, founded in 1936.

RETURN TO HOPE STREET AND TURN RIGHT, CONTINUING YOUR TOUR OF HOPE STREET.

20. Old Post Office and Customs House 440 Hope Street

The federal government came to Bristol to construct this red brick building in 1857 under the direction of Ammi B. Young, Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury. Much of the Renaissance Revival detailing has been removed but the corbelled brick cornice and finely crafted iron balcony over the arched openings remain. The post office left in the 1960s and although the YMCA next door bought the building it didn't keep the triad of arched doors from being sealed.

21. YMCA Block 448-452 Hope Street

This fanciful Tudor-style commercial block was actually built as the town YMCA in 1899. The first floor was always used for stores as it continues to be a century later. The upper floors contained a gymnasium, auditorium and a library. Patrons reached the public rooms through the large central archway.

22. Bradford Dimond-Norris House 474 Hope Street

This was the location of Deputy-Governor William Bradford's house that was burned by

the British in 1778. The family rebuilt their winter home in 1792; they lived at Mount Hope in the summer. Today the off-center Ionic portico indicates an addition to the old Georgian Colonial mansion. The most eye-catching feature of the house are the crested parapets which crown each of the three stories.

23. Linden Place 500 Hope Street

Much of Bristol's history has traveled up and down the spiral staircase of this landmark mansion since it was built in 1810 by the town's dominant architect Russell Warren. The first owner was George DeWolf, the town's leading merchant and slave trader. Rubber magnate Samuel Colt moved in at the end of the 19th century and during much of the 20th century Ethel Colt Migletta, daughter of acting legend Ethel Barrymore, was in residence here. Its appearance reflects the seven generations that lived here before it reached its 200th birthday as a museum. Warren's work can be seen in the stately proportions and wrapping quoins of the Federal period, now existing behind a powerful Neoclassical Corinthian portico.

24. U.S. Post Office 515 Hope Street

If some of the parts of this single-story post office that was built in 1963 look like they would not be out of place in the days of Jefferson and Madison it is because that's where they came from. For the better part of 150 years the Wardwell House, designed by Russell Warren, stood here. When it was razed exterior woodwork and windows were salvaged and used in the post office.

25. Rogers Free Library 525 Hope Street

Maria DeWolf was born in 1795 and married Robert Rogers of Newport, three years her elder, in 1814. Rogers entered business with his new father-in-law. A merchant and head of Bristol's Eagle Bank, he eventually became the richest man in town; when he died in 1870 his estate was valued at over a million dollars - at a time when a good working wage was about a dollar a day. Part of the money was used by Mrs. Rogers

to build this library of rough-faced brownstone in 1877. She filled it with about 4,000 volumes from her late husband's collection and bought an additional 1,200 with her sister. Maria DeWolf Rogers died in 1890.

26. Colt Memorial High School
570 Hope Street

Samuel Colt, whose uncle developed the revolver that “Won The West,” was a New Jersey native who spent much time in his mother's hometown of Bristol growing up. After graduating from Columbia Law School he returned to Bristol to make it his home. In 1887 he organized the Industrial Trust Company bank and later took control of the bankrupt hometown India Rubber Company. He transformed the floundering enterprise into the U.S. Rubber Company, becoming the dominant producer in the industry.

In Bristol Colt purchased several old family farms on Poppasquash Neck to create Colt Farm that he conceived as a beauty spot for the public to enjoy. He engraved an open invitation on the marble entrance gate: “Colt Farm. Private property, Public Welcome.” Colt also constructed buildings for the public and gave them to the town. Here he spent \$300,000 for a school as a memorial to his mother in 1906. The main building sports a green-tiled hip roof and is fronted by a pedimented portico with fluted Corinthian columns.

TURN LEFT ON BRADFORD
STREET TO RETURN TO THE
BRISTOL WATERFRONT AND
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

East Greenwich



A Walking Tour of East Greenwich...

East Greenwich, bounded by the Narragansett Bay to the east and rolling coastal hills to the west, rests in the geographic center of Rhode Island. This was Pequot Indian land until King Charles II bought it in 1644. The General Assembly incorporated the town in 1677 and granted land to 48 men who served during King Philip's War, one of the most overlooked, yet bloody, conflicts to have occurred on American soil. The town took its name from Greenwich, England in County Kent.

Greenwich developed as a trade center for the surrounding farms and was vibrant enough to be selected county seat in 1750 and the state General Assembly met here from 1750 until 1854 on a rotating basis with the other four Rhode Island government seats. Over the decades light industry, mostly textile related, began mixing in with the commerce from the sea.

Our walking tour of downtown East Greenwich will find a bit of history preserved from the 1700s, the 1800s and 1900s, a bit of maritime history, a bit of military history, a bit of ecclesiastical history, and we'll start in the center with a bit of governmental history...

**1. Kent County Courthouse /
East Greenwich Town Hall
125 Main Street**

When East Greenwich was established as the Kent County seat in 1750 the first courthouse was constructed on this site. In 1775, it was the practice of the General Assembly to rotate among the five Rhode Island counties. When the wheel landed on East Greenwich in 1764 the legislature established the school that would become Brown University; in 1775 the legislature passed the resolution that created the United States Navy. That original building was replaced in 1804 with this handsome Federal-style structure built by Oliver Wickes, a Revolutionary War veteran. Wickes added some Revolutionary-era styling as well with the square tower and decorative corner quoins. History continued to be made here (or at least close by). In September 1842 the convention for the framing of the Rhode Island Constitution met here but when the heating system failed the meeting was adjourned and the final vote actually taken in the Methodist church several blocks away.

In the early days the courtyard had on one side of its walk a liberty pole and on the other a whipping post. The building, by far the largest structure in Kent County in its day, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. After 1854 the General Assembly restricted its activities to Providence and Newport but the building continued in use as a Courthouse and cases were heard here until 1978. After many years of vacancy and neglect the Courthouse was given a \$2.3 million make-over for re-use as the East Greenwich Town Hall.

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

**2. Greenwich Hotel
162 Main Street**

A tavern or public house has existed on this site for more than 250 years. In 1770, 31-year old William Arnold, the town's most successful shipping merchant, built a large inn here under a wooden sign with a cluster of grapes. After Daniel Updike married into the family and assumed

control in the 1820s he changed the name from "The Bunch of Grapes" to the Updike Inn. That 125-year old building was razed in favor of this three-story hostelry with its central Ionic columns in 1896. In the 1920s, when the hotel became a notorious gambling house during Prohibition, it assumed the name of the Greenwich Inn and today approaches the age of its predecessor as the Greenwich Hotel.

**3. Masonic Building
173 Main Street**

This three-story Italianate brick building was constructed in 1893 as a town social center and fraternal meeting house. Over the years the storefronts on the first floor have served many masters, including the post office for some years.

**4. United Methodist Church
214 Main Street**

This Greek Revival building was constructed as the United Methodist Church in the 1830s on land donated by Mrs. Joseph Greene. In this meetinghouse on November 5, 1842 the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations was adopted. The action ended the charter form of government in the state. In 1846 the parsonage was built at the rear of the church and in 1850 the church was cut in two and the sections moved apart to make way for a new central section. Further renovations through the years have sacrificed a classical portico and today the former church operates as retail space.

**5. Kent House Hotel
252-254 Main Street**

This 1850s building is typical of the Italianate style of architecture that dominated American downtowns in the middle of the 19th century. The most noticeable elements is the fine, heavily bracketed cornice and the dual bay windows connected by a rail porch. Roland G. Brown was the builder.

6. East Greenwich Fire Station
262 Main Street

The East Greenwich Fire Station was incorporated in 1797 with the right to levy taxes. Water was piped down to Main Street through hollowed out wooden logs shortly after 1800. An official firehouse for the company was not constructed until this brick building came along in 1914. At the time it housed only hand and horse-drawn apparatus - the first gasoline-powered equipment did not come along until 1928.

7. Reynolds House
294 Main Street

John Reynolds built the first brick house in East Greenwich in 1767 and it still stands today. It features a prominent gambrel roof and may have also had a store on the first floor. The Greek Revival entrance door is an 1840s addition. Reynolds moved on after a few years and a succession of owners, including Colonel Micah Whitmarsh, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, followed.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS
ON MAIN STREET TO DEDFORD
STREET. TURN LEFT AND CLIMB
THE HILL. TURN RIGHT ON PEIRCE
STREET.

8. Samuel Knowles House
100 Peirce Street

Samuel Knowles, a self-educated lawyer who became president of the town council and a Rhode Island state senator, had this expansive Greek Revival home constructed in 1850.

9. Kentish Armory
90 Peirce Street

In 1774, the year it was chartered, the commanders of the Independent Company of Kentish Guards voted to reject an aspiring officer, citing a stiff knee. The young man swallowed his pride and signed on as a private. The next year Rhode Island commissioned him a brigadier general and gave Nathanael Greene the command of its three

regiments. Greene became one of the most successful combat leaders of the Revolution, rising to second-in-command to George Washington. The Greek Revival armory was built after the armed insurrection led by Thomas Wilson Dorr to change Rhode Island's electoral system in 1842. The Kentish Guard, the nation's fifth oldest chartered command, used it for meeting and drill sessions.

10. East Greenwich Free Library
80 Peirce Street

Daniel Albert Peirce was a direct descendent of one of the town's founders, Giles Peirce. In 1913, while serving on the library board he donated the site of his boyhood home for a new library - and, by the way, he would pay for the building, equip it and endow the enterprise as well. The Free Library, constructed of grey Coventry granite with fine woods inside, was dedicated on June 29, 1915 in the memory of his daughter who died as a young girl. Daniel Peirce would live into his 94th year before dying in 1932.

11. St. Luke's Church
99 Peirce Street at Church Street

St. Luke's Church was organized in 1833 and a wooden church constructed a year later. In 1875 the building was sold and shipped to a different location. This Gothic-style replacement of Coventry granite was built at the cost of \$32,000. Beginning in the 1880s forty-three stained glass windows, including some by Tiffany and some by the renowned glass artist Wright Goodhue, were installed. In 1923 a spire was added, containing a carillon of bells.

12. James Mitchell Varnum House
57 Peirce Street

James Varnum was an honor graduate of the first class of Rhode Island College, later Brown University. He rapidly attained fortune as a successful lawyer and, like his friend Nathanael Greene, entered the militia in 1774 with no prior military training. Varnum fought with distinction in the Boston and New York campaigns and was commissioned as a brigadier general on February 21, 1777. He retired in March 1779,

eager to return to his lucrative law practice. However, he was back in the war in 1780, now a major general, assisting the French Army. After the war he was elected a United States congressman and ventured to Marietta, Ohio, as judge of the Northwest Territory, where he died in 1788 at the age of 42. Varnum constructed this Georgian two-story frame house, which also contained his law office, in 1773. It sports a hipped roof, modillioned cornices and a central pedimented doorway with columned porch. The two-storied ell was a late 1800s addition.

13. First Baptist Church
30 Peirce Street at Montrose Street

The Baptists trace their time in East Greenwich back to the founding pioneers. Their first church, located on Division Street, blew down in the Great Gale of 1815, which left a lasting impression on the congregation. When the current sanctuary was planned in the 1880s it did not include a steeple for fear it too would be felled in a coming storm. The church of High Victorian style was dedicated in 1887.

TURN RIGHT ON DIVISION STREET.

14. Miller-Congdon House
20 Division Street

This gambrel style house has been anointed as the oldest house in East Greenwich; its construction date pegged as 1711. Of its early owners, Miller was a silversmith and the Congdons a family of sea captains.

TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.

15. Varnum Memorial Armory
6 Main Street

The Varnum Continentals built their brick Armory in 1914 in medieval style with towers, massive double doors, multiple arched windows, and a crenellated parapet along the roofline. Inside is a rifle range and drill hall. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the armory has contained a military museum since after World War I with a collection of more than 1000 items dating back to 1500. This was the second site of

the Rhode Island Central Bank, the town's first bank.

16. Old Post Office
11 Main Street

East Greenwich had some of the earliest federal postal service in America, beginning in 1789; the first postmaster was Giden Mumford. This Colonial Revival building was constructed of brick with stone pilasters in 1932. It soldiers on as a restaurant.

17. Greenwich Odeum
65 Main Street

The Greenwich Theatre originally opened as a vaudeville house in 1926. It changed soon after to a motion picture house and in 1933 screened the first "talkie" in town. Movies were shown in the two-story brick Neo-Colonial theater until 1990. In its last incarnation the theater was renovated by a non-profit organization and renamed the Greenwich Odeum.

18. Browning Block
110-112 Main Street

The John Tibbits Tavern once stood here, before it went up in flames in 1872. William G. Browning built this decorative Victorian block in 1876 for his household furnishings store. It features a Second-Empire inspired mansard roof (altered and less decorative) and fanciful window hoods (same as they ever were). The store remained in the Browning family until 1939.

WALK A FEW MORE STEPS ON
MAIN STREET TO THE TOUR
STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Kingston



A Walking Tour of Kingston...

For most of its time after settlement in the early 1700s Kingston was known as Little Rest. No one really knows why. An early theory maintained that troops rested here while fighting in King's Philip's War in 1675. In Colonial times as many as five taverns operated here so there was ample opportunity for a little rest in the village for travelers.

The Washington County government set up here in 1752 and Little Rest joined the five-town rotation of the Rhode Island Assembly. Still the village remained clustered around its traditional core. After 1840 few buildings were added and when the village name was changed in 1885 to Kingston the population was still less than 300.

A few years later the school that is now the University of Rhode Island arrived but it developed to the north of Kinston Village. Walking down Kingstown Road you won't even know it is there. In *Rhode Island: A Guide to the Smallest State*, compiled during the Great Depression of the 1930s, Kingston is described as "a quiet town with a wide main street, untouched by commercialism, and lined with elm trees, some of which are from 150 to 200 years old."

That description would apply to our walking tour, except that there are more cars on Kingstown Road and the trees are 80 years older...

**1. Washington County Jail/
Pettaquamscutt Historical Society
2636 Kingstown Road**

What looks today like a well-groomed, peaceful stone house was in fact the county jail when it was built in 1858. The granite walls are buried three feet in the ground and are three feet thick. If any prisoner thought about tunneling to freedom the floors were two feet thick with a coating of concrete. The ceilings are stone and the doors and windows made of heavy iron.

The first Kingston jail was built across the street and replaced with a two-story wooden jail on this site in 1792. The prisoners were kept in cell rooms upstairs while the jailer's family lived downstairs. Breakouts were common with such a set-up. In 1812 two prisoners escaped by burning part of the jail and in 1827 came the "Great Escape" - everyone broke out. There were still escapes after this fortress was constructed but they were not the fault of the building.

In 1956 Rhode Island closed its four county jails in Kingston, East Greenwich, Bristol and Newport in favor of a state prison system. In 1960 the newly formed Pettaquamscutt Historical Society bought the jail for \$1.00 and has adapted the building as its headquarters.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE OLD
JAIL TURN RIGHT AND WALK
DOWN KINGSTOWN ROAD,
STAYING ON THE SOUTH SIDE
OF THE ROAD.

**2. Kingston Congregational Church
2610 Kingstown Road**

The first Congregationalist sermons in Kingstown were preached in 1695. Construction on the current church began in July of 1820 on land donated by Elisha Reynolds Potter who served several times as the Speaker in the Rhode Island State Assembly and as a United States Representative from 1796 to 1797 and 1809 to 1815. On January 17, 1821 the meetinghouse was dedicated; the town clock arrived in 1877.

**3. John Douglas House
2574 Kingstown Road**

The core of this two-story yellow frame house with a gable roof, central stone chimney, green shutters, small-paned windows and a side ell, is one of the oldest in Kingstown, erected in 1753.

**4. Kingston Hill Store
2528 Kingstown Road**

This two-story building of weathered clapboards was built in 1897 as a general store. It has been an emporium of sorts ever since, most recently dispensing rare books and antiques.

**5. Tavern Hall
Kingstown Road at Route 138**

Elisha Reynolds built this frame structure in 1738 after purchasing the land from Henry Knowles. Reynolds was grandfather of Elisha Reynolds Potter who served for some thirty years in the Rhode Island legislature, was four times elected to the federal Congress, and in 1818 was unsuccessful candidate for the governor of this state. But the house is remembered more for its legacy after it departed the Reynolds family. South Kingstown's first newspaper, *The Rhode Island Advocate*, was published here. Its successor was the *South County Journal* in 1854, which became the *Narragansett Times* that continues to operate out of Wakefield. Beginning in 1888 the building was used to house visitors to Kingstown, including students attending the state agricultural school that became the University of Rhode Island. One early visitor was Viennese opera star Pauline Lucca who came to rest in Kingstown after a strenuous performance run in New York City. She enjoyed her stay so much she requested the inn be called the Lucca House. In 1911 the Tavern Hall Club, an organization of students, faculty and village residents began meeting here. In 1923 the club became institutional sponsor of Boy Scout Troop 1, Kingstown, one of the oldest continuously operating boy scout troops in America.

CROSS THE STREET TO THE
NORTH SIDE OF KINGSTOWN
ROAD AND TURN LEFT.

6. South County Art Association Annex
2579 Kingstown Road

This building was constructed in 1759, shortly after Little Rest became the county seat. It served as a private school for some time.

7. Helme House
2587 Kingstown Road

Christopher Helme was born in Sutton, England in 1603 and died in Warwick in 1650, leaving four young sons and beginning a long line of descent that would one day include President Jimmy Carter. Helme came to Rhode Island with the Gortonists after Samuel Gorton was banished from Massachusetts for his radical beliefs. Helme was a prosperous farmer who was under constant scrutiny of the suspicious authorities and awaiting trial when he died. This family home was built in 1802. Since 1944 it has been the home of the South County Art Association that organized in 1929.

8. Kingston Free Library
2605 Kingstown Road

Although the legislators wouldn't recognize it today, this was one of Rhode Island's original state houses when the General Assembly rotated its meetings among the five counties between 1776 and 1791. When Kingston was dropped from the rotation it reverted to its original use as the county courthouse. The building was constructed in 1775 using posts and beams hewn from the thick forests nearby.

For its 100th birthday the courthouse received a Victorian makeover highlighted by a French Empire-style mansard roof supported by an abundance of decorative brackets. The original belfry was removed and then plopped on top of the new roof. The new look couldn't forestall the march of time, however, and in 1895 a new courthouse was built in West Kingston. The first floor was converted into the town library and the second floor became a community meeting hall. For its 200th birthday, in 1974, the old

courthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

9. Little Rest Archives
2605 Kingstown Road

The original King's County Court House was built across the street in 1752. All that remains of its existence are the court records and in 1857 this fireproof granite vault was constructed to store them. After the courthouse moved to West Kingston in 1894, the records went with them. So too, apparently, did the combination to a large safe in the back of the building which no one today knows how to unlock or the contents inside. Under the auspices of the Kingston Free Library Association the little building became the Little Rest Museum.

TURN RIGHT ON
UPPER COLLEGE ROAD.

10. University of Rhode Island
Upper College Road

What would one day become the University of Rhode Island was established at Kingston in 1888 as the Rhode Island Agricultural School and Agricultural Experiment Station. For the cost of \$5,000 Oliver Watson's 140-acre farm was purchased for the new campus. The first graduating class in 1892 had 17 members.

In short order the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of New York's Central Park and the most famous landscape architect in the country, was retained to design the grounds. It was their vision that created the school's Quadrangle and the tradition of locally quarried gray granite buildings. To tour the Rhode Island University campus continue on Upper College Road through the granite World War I Memorial Gateway. From an enrollment of 562, Rhode Island State College sent 334 men to war. Twenty-three were killed.

In addition to the Quadrangle, some of the buildings to look for include Oliver Watson's farmhouse, still standing from the 1790s and the oldest building on campus (Farmhouse Road) and Lippitt Hall, a Tudor-style granite building constructed as a drill hall and gymnasium. Named for sitting governor, Charles W. Lippitt,

the recently restored building was completed in 1897 as the third building to populate the Quadrangle.

RETURN TO UPPER COLLEGE ROAD
AND WALK BACK TO KINGSTOWN
ROAD. CROSS THE STREET TO RETURN
TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Newport



A Walking Tour of Newport...

Shortly after Roger Williams was banished from Massachusetts for his liberal religious beliefs, Anne Hutchinson suffered the same fate in Boston. On his recommendation Hutchinson and her followers purchased Aquidneck Island from the local Indians and settled at the northern end of the island in an area known as Pocasset in 1636. Her little band too experienced a rift and in 1639 a group led by William Coddington and Nicholas Easton moved south to form Newport.

Blessed with one of the deepest natural harbors in the country, Newport was an established shipbuilding center within a decade. Over the next hundred years more than 150 wharves would be constructed and the bustling seaport was handling as much trade in rum, candles, fish, silver and, yes, slaves, as the leading American ports of Boston and New York and Charleston.

During the American Revolution the British wasted no time securing Newport and its fine natural harbors. When hostilities erupted, Captain James Wallace controlled Narragansett Bay with a small force that remained in place until driven away in April 1776 by fire from shore batteries. General Henry Clinton would not leave for three years and in that time some 400 houses - almost half the town - would be destroyed for firewood and other uses.

The Newport harbor was essentially closed for the entire Revolution, and the seaport never regained its prominence as a shipping center. The population cascaded from 11,000 in 1775 to barely half that a year later. The population scarcely rose again by 1870. The factories and warehouses that were built elsewhere during the Industrial Revolution proved to be a blessing for Newport. In the 1840s when wealthy Southern planters sought relief from humid Lowcountry summers they found retreats in a place progress had passed by - Newport. For the next century America's wealthiest families beat a summer path to town and in their wake came artists and theologians and writers and architects. The Newport "cottage" was the symbol of America's Gilded Age.

Our walking tour will begin on the fringes of this opulence and work down to the historic waterfront where the sea has shaped Newport for the better part of 400 years...

1. Newport Casino
186-202 Bellevue Avenue

This was one of the earliest commissions for the New York firm of McKim, Mead and White that would become one of the legendary firms in American architecture. Charles McKim drew up the plans for the exterior and Stanford White executed the interior of what would be recognized as America's first country club. The Casino's club rooms, grass tennis courts, theater and stores catered to the social elite who summered in Newport. Today the Casino is regarded as one of the pioneering and finest examples of Victorian Shingle Style architecture in America. In spite of its pedigree the Casino was in imminent danger of demolition by the 1950s with Newport's glory days as a Gilded Age resort behind it. It was rescued by the United States Lawn Tennis Association which held its first championship at the Casino in 1881. The tournament, today the U.S. Open, was staged at the Casino until 1914 when the annual Horse Show and Tennis Week was among the biggest events of the Newport social season. The Casino became the home of the International Tennis Hall of Fame and inside retains many of its original design elements.

The Newport Casino is the centerpiece of one of the most spectacular commercial blocks in America. To its right, on the corner of Memorial Boulevard, is the Travers Block designed by prominent architect Richard Morris Hunt in the Stick Style and to the immediate left is the Kings Block, developed by the King family who made their fortune in the China trade and reinvested the money in Newport real estate. Diagonally across the street is their estate, Kingscote. At the end of the block the colorful glazed terra cotta Audrain Building was developed in the Italian Renaissance style by Bruce Price, an architect of choice for many of Newport's elite.

**WALK DOWN WILLIAM STREET,
ACROSS FROM THE NEWPORT
CASINO.**

2. John Davis House
68 William Street

This neighborhood was home to a tight-knit community of free blacks in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Most of the homes built here have long been demolished. John Davis bought this lot in 1804 and is believed to have built this simple two-story, side gable house, a single room deep. The Davis property also included the lot next door on which today stands the Coggeshall House that originally stood in Westport, Massachusetts and was built around 1710. The Newport Restoration Foundation purchased the house in 1977, disassembled it, and relocated it to the William Street site.

**AT THE END OF WILLIAM STREET,
TURN LEFT ON SPRING STREET.
WALK PAST THE NEWPORT
LIBRARY AND TURN RIGHT ON
YOUNG STREET. GO TO THE
BOTTOM AT THE HILL TO
THAMES STREET. TURN RIGHT.**

3. Samuel Whitehorne House
416 Thames Street

Samuel Whitehorne made a lot of money distilling rum and trading slaves. He padded his coffers with interests in a bank, an iron foundry and shipping. With most of Newport in post-Revolutionary War shambles, Whitehorne was one of the few merchants prospering and he built a grand Federal-style mansion overlooking the harbor to show it. Unfortunately, after two of his ships were lost at sea, he went bankrupt and the house was sold at auction a year before his death in 1844. The house was converted to shops and apartments and badly deteriorated when it was purchased by the Newport Restoration Foundation in 1969. A restoration, including the re-establishment of the classical entry portico and a formal garden, has brought the house back to its original glory.

4. Francis Malbone House
392 Thames Street

Colonel Francis Malbone made one of Newport's largest shipping fortunes in the days before the Revolutionary War. And apparently not all the goods flowed through the custom house - subterranean passages found in the cellar of this house built in 1758 have been traced to a subway leading to the pier where Colonel Malbone moored his fleet. The well-proportioned Georgian mansion was designed by Peter Harrison, one of colonial Newport's most prominent architects.

5. Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
Thames and Brewer streets

In 1896 a quartet of Greeks arrived in Newport from the Aegean Sea island of Skiathos, drawn by Newport's small, but thriving fishing industry. Many fellow Greeks followed and services within the Greek Orthodox Church became necessary. After meeting in various borrowed spaces, the community purchased an early 19th century clapboard building in 1924. In the 1940s a brick veneer was applied to the building's exterior, the entrance was moved from Brewer Street to Thames Street, and twin towers were added, making the church visible from every point in nearby Newport harbor.

6. The Newport Armory
365 Thames Street

The Newport Armory was designed by Edwin Wilbur and built in 1894. Among other things, it was noteworthy as the site of the media center for the historic 1983 America's Cup. Armory Wharf, including Ann Street Pier, is the only publicly owned property on Newport Harbor on this stretch of Thames Street between Perrotti Park and King Park.

7. Perry Mill Wharf
337 Thames Street at the foot of
Memorial Boulevard

Large stone mills were built on the Newport waterfront to house the growing whaling and textile industries in the 1830s. Alexander

MacGregor, a talented Scottish immigrant and stonemason who built Fort Adams, constructed this massive structure of random ashlar in 1835 to be a textile mill. The Industrial revolution never truly ignited in Newport and General Electric took over the commodious space in 1943 for light manufacturing. In 1984 the mill was renovated as a shopping and hotel complex.

BEAR LEFT ON AMERICA'S
CUP AVENUE.

8. *The Wave*
north side of Perry Mill Wharf

Local artist Kay Worden created this whimsical sculpture in 1983. The feet can often be seen wearing a pair of socks.

9. Seamen's Church Institute of Newport
18 Market Square

The institute was founded in 1919 to serve all seafarers including fishermen, sailors, naval personnel, and yachtsmen. The completely furnished and equipped three-story Georgian Revival building was a gift of Edith and Maude Wetmore, daughters of Governor and Senator George Peabody Wetmore. The building, open to the public, contains an ornately painted chapel and a six-foot square mural of Narragansett Bay, painted by William H. Drury.

10. Cardines Field
20 America's Cup Avenue

Cardines Field is believed to be one of the oldest ballparks in the country. Construction of the stadium can be dated to 1908 - the backstop is original - but references to games played here can be found as early as 1893. Regardless, it survives in the tradition of stone-and-wooden bleacher ballparks from the early days of professional baseball. It continues to host both amateur and professional games.

TURN RIGHT ON BROADWAY.
TURN RIGHT ON THAMES STREET.

11. Newport History Museum
127 Thames Street

Peter Harrison began his career as a merchant and shipowner before shifting his skills to architecture, designing many of Newport's best 18th century buildings. For the town market place in 1762 he reproduced the Old Somerset House in London using brick instead of stone. The exterior of the front of the building, three stories high, displays pilasters, decorative capitals and arcade columns topped with fine dentil work and peaked and arched pediments above each window. The decorations on the side of the building are doubled in width.

The Brick Market had many uses besides an open air farm produce market. In the 1790s the building was used for a hardware/novelty store and on the second floor was a theater and a printing office. By 1842 the town hall was located here. In 1928 the exterior was completely restored. And two years later, the interior. Today it houses the Museum of Newport History.

TURN LEFT ON TOURO STREET
INTO WASHINGTON SQUARE.

12. Commodore Perry statue
Washington Square

Oliver Hazard Perry was raised in Newport and commanded a fleet of gunboats in the town when he was still in his early 20s. During the War of 1812 he built a fleet of ships that he led to victory in the critical Battle of Lake Erie on September 10, 1813. In 1819 Perry died while on a diplomatic mission in South America; he was only 32 years old. Local artist William Greene Turner sculpted a full-size model of Commodore Perry that was dedicated in 1885.

13. Buliod-Perry House
29 Touro Street

This Georgian-style house was built in 1750 for Peter Buliod with wooden siding scored to look like expensive rusticated stone. Oliver Hazard Perry, hero of the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812, bought this house in 1818. He died the following year but his family remained in the house until 1865.

14. Jane Pickens Theater
49 Touro Street

This building began life as the Greek Revival Zion Episcopal Church in 1834, designed by Bristol architect Russell Warren. It became a Catholic parish in 1885 but after the congregation moved in 1912 the building was converted into a theater by stripping away its classical colonnade and bricking in the front section to beef up its seating capacity. In 1974 it was named for Jane Pickens, a popular singer on Broadway, radio and television who became a Newport fixture after marriages to two prominent New York businessmen.

CROSS OVER TO THE NORTH SIDE
OF WASHINGTON SQUARE.

15. U.S. Navy YMCA
50 Washington Square

This Beaux Arts building was constructed as a YMCA for the enlisted men of the U.S. Naval base, a gift in 1911 of Mrs. Thomas J. Emery. Look for polychromatic terra cotta decorations around the top of the building. The YMCA moved onto the base in 1973 and the building was converted into low income housing and a social service facility.

16. Newport Colony House
northeast end of Washington Square

The Colony House served as one of five rotating state houses for the Rhode Island General Assembly until 1901 and today is the fourth oldest surviving state house in the United States. From this brick assembly house, constructed in 1739, came the news of the most important changes of the 18th century. The official death of George II and the ascendancy of George III was read here, and so was the Declaration of Independence on July 20, 1776. Rhode Island became the final state to accept the new republic's Constitution in the Old Colony House in 1790. In March of 1781 General Washington greeted French lieutenant general Count de Rochambeau here. A portrait of Washington by native son Gilbert Stuart is in the collection of the Newport Colony House.

**17. Newport County Courthouse
head of Washington Square**

Two noted houses were moved off this site so this courthouse could be constructed in 1927. The Boston firm of Appleton & Stearns designed the building in a Colonial Revival style to harmonize with the Colony House next door, 200 years its senior.

**18. Joshua Wilbour House
51 Touro Street**

Joshua Wilbour, a housewright, built this fine Federal house in 1800 at a time when Newport's depressed economy made such stylish homes as rare as a windless day on the Narragansett Bay. The house has served as the headquarters for the Newport Restoration Foundation since its founding by Doris Duke in 1968. Miss Duke, considered the richest woman in the world at the time, spearheaded the purchase, restoration and maintenance of 86 early houses in Newport and Portsmouth. Many of these houses can be seen on the cross streets between Spring Street and Thames Street, which is where the tour is heading. Many are not original to the site, some having been moved from other parts of town, some coming from as far away as New Jersey. Often the houses endured serious changes and renovations through the years. Look for tell-tale signs on these houses that have been restored to period appearance as you walk down Spring Street or explore the cross streets down to Thames Street.

TURN RIGHT ON SPRING STREET.

**19. Trinity Church
141 Spring Street**

Trinity Church is the oldest Episcopal parish in Rhode Island. It was founded around 1698; its first meetinghouse was built in 1700. The present church building was constructed in 1725-26 by local builder Richard Munday, who based his designs on those that he had seen that Sir Christopher Wren had used in London churches in the late 17th century. It looks very similar to that of Old North Church in Boston. Trinity, however, was built entirely of wood. It is believed to be the only church building with its three-

tiered wineglass pulpit remaining in its original position in the center of the aisle, in front of the altar. The building was enlarged in 1764, but otherwise retains its original character with box pews.

TURN RIGHT ON MILL STREET
AND WALK DOWN THE HILL.

**20. Fire Station No. 1
25 Mill Street**

The City of Newport built this firehouse in 1885 for Old Torrent No. 1, considered one of America's first organized fire companies. The Fire Station was home to Newport's first horse drawn steam engine. In 1913 the city called for the replacement of steamers with gas-powered equipment. The early model trucks were not yet able to handle the steep incline of Mill Street and it spelled the end of the firehouse. Fire Station No. 1 was closed on September 3, 1915. The last fire department horses were sold one week later, followed by an auction of the steamer and the building itself. A restoration was completed in the 1990s.

TURN LEFT ON THAMES STREET.

**21. Music Hall
250 Thames Street**

This brick building with brownstone quoins and window trim was constructed by D. W. Sheehan in 1894. Its stand-out feature a century later is its decorated wooden parapet. The Italianate-style gabled building next door dates to 1854.

**22. Kinsey Building
286 Thames Street at southeast corner
of Green Street**

Rough-faced red brick and sandstone trim were used to fashion this headquarters with the diagonal entrance for the National Bank of Rhode Island in 1892. Later it was home of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust.

**23. Federal Building
320 Thames Street**

This Beaux Arts federal building of stone and brick features highly decorated rounded windows above a rusticated base. The facade is further enhanced with oval medallions and a balustrade across the roofline.

**TURN LEFT ON
MEMORIAL BOULEVARD.**

**24. St. Mary's Church
southeast corner of Spring Street
and Memorial Boulevard**

St. Mary's parish was founded on April 8, 1828 and is the oldest parish in the Diocese of Providence. The present stone Gothic church was designed by Patrick C. Keeley of Brooklyn, New York and dedicated on July 25, 1852. A century later on September 12, 1953 Jacqueline Lee Bouvier wed John Fitzgerald Kennedy in this church. St. Mary's was designated a National Historic Shrine in 1968.

**TURN RIGHT ON BELLEVUE
AVENUE TO RETURN TO THE
TOUR STARTING POINT.**

For additional touring:

You are standing at the head of one of America's most storied and sensational residential boulevards, Bellevue Avenue. Stretching 2.4 miles, it is the backbone of Newport's Gilded Age, along which most of the resort's fabulous "cottages" were constructed. Many of the homes represent pioneering work in the architectural styles of the time by major American architects. The wide street, originally dirt when George Noble Jones built the first such mansion in 1839, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

If you choose to walk down Bellevue Avenue, about a third of the mansions can be clearly viewed from the street across fences and hedges. Nearly all are private but some are open to the public. The Preservation Society of Newport County has placed several history markers along both sides of Bellevue Avenue.

Look Up,

Pawtucket



A Walking Tour of Pawtucket...

Roughly translated from the Narragansett dialect as “the place by the waterfall,” Pawtucket is one of two Rhode Island cities - Woonsocket is the other - to use the same native place that appeared in long ago Early American gazetteers. It is an appropriate honorific as those falls have played the critical part in the city’s growth since that beginning. Thick stands of timber and rocky hills prevented the Rhode Islanders who followed Roger Williams from spreading out to the north after the 1630s. It was not until 1671 that Joseph Jencks, Jr., a blacksmith, became the first European to move into what would become Pawtucket. He eyed the falls where the Blackstone River narrows before reaching the tidal flow of Narragansett Bay as a source of power for his forge. He crafted plows, scythes and other iron household items and was successful enough that other smiths soon set up shop along the Blackstone.

Pawtucket became a manufacturing center and a favorite stopping place for travelers on the Boston Post Road through the colonies. During the American Revolution the forges churned out ammunition and muskets for the patriot cause. In 1789 Moses Brown, of the influential Providence Browns, became interested in the machine manufacture of thread and he chose the falls in Pawtucket as the site for his first mill. A power spinning-frame had been invented in England some years before enabling fine English cloth to gain a stranglehold on the world market and they passed draconian laws to keep the secret. However, a new American arrival named Samuel Slater had been a master mechanic in Nottingham and he just happened to have full knowledge of the spinning frame committed to memory. He contacted Brown and together they commenced the Industrial Revolution with the first successful spinning mill just downstream from Pawtucket Falls.

With its fortunes cast as an industrial town Pawtucket now grew rapidly. But the jurisdiction under which the town grew was always a bit murky. The Blackstone River was the Rhode Island-Massachusetts boundary line until 1862 and the community evolved as part of Providence and part of Rehoboth, Massachusetts. For many years this was the largest community in the United States operating under town government. It was not until 1886 that Pawtucket filed its city charter and not until 1899 that the border dispute with Massachusetts was finally settled and included cession of the Pawtucket area to Rhode Island.

Our walking tour of downtown Pawtucket will take in both sides of the historic Blackstone River and see what remains of this important American industrial city. We’ll start down by the river where there is an unusual city hall and those mills that Samuel Slater carried around in his head...

1. Pawtucket City Hall
137 Roosevelt Avenue

New Deal funding in the 1930s made possible this mammoth civic building. John O'Malley designed the new city hall in the Art Deco style - unusual for New England - with a soaring central tower that displays the clean lines emblematic of the Art Deco movement. The tower is marked by four splendid concrete eagles. City Hall, now on the National Register of Historic Places, has been restored twice. In the first go-round back in 1974 somehow it was deemed a good idea to wrap the 143-foot tower in yellow brick and strip away the eagles. The most recent restoration put the soaring eagles back in flight and won a preservation award.

FACING CITY HALL, TURN
RIGHT (THE RIVER WILL BE
ON YOUR LEFT).

2. Slater Mill Historic Site
67 Roosevelt Avenue

In 1793 Samuel Slater returned from England with the plans for a mechanized cotton mill stored in his head. A 43-foot by 29-foot two-story wooden building suitable for manufacturing cotton yarn by water power was constructed on this site. Slater Mill was soon the first successful water-powered cotton-spinning factory in America. Industrial America was born.

Three buildings remain on the site, which is interpreted as a national historic landmark. Hand-spinning and weaving are demonstrated in the 1758 Sylvanus Brown House. In the original 1793 Slater Mill the transition from hand weaving to mechanical production is interpreted. The architectural style, management procedures and workforce in the yellow clapboard mill were emulated throughout New England. The stone 1810 Wilkinson Mill is powered by a rebuilt eight-ton water wheel, the only one of its kind in America. Also on the 5 1/2 acres are trenches to facilitate water power, a dam anchored in natural rock and bleaching fields where the sun gradually whitened fabric and yarns.

TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.

3. Providence County Savings Bank
216 Main Street

The Providence County Savings Bank organized in 1853; the Beaux Art marble facade dates back to 1901. Hallmarks of the style include the engaged Ionic columns, fan windows and fish-scale glazing. Its assets were absorbed in 1922 by the Hospital Trust Company who stayed at this location until the 1970s.

4. Wheaton Building
230 Main Street

James L. Wheaton constructed this brick-and-iron building in 1892 with a distinctive curving facade. William K. Toole bought the property in 1922 and had local architects Monahan & Meikle more or less seamlessly add two more stories to the original three under the ornate cornice.

TURN RIGHT ON MAPLE STREET.

5. Pawtucket Mutual Insurance Company
25 Maple Street

The Pawtucket Mutual Insurance Company was chartered by the state in 1848 and moved into this headquarters in 1906. The brick building demonstrates several flourishes common to the Beaux Arts movement afloat in the country at the time while retaining the overall dignity of an insurance company. Look for the exuberant brick lintels above the first floor windows, limestone decorations that create columns from the brick and urn-like finials on the roof.

AT SUMMER STREET TURN RIGHT
AND WALK DOWN THE SHORT
HILL TO HIGH STREET.

6. Old Post Office
1 Summer Street at High Street

This oddly-shaped lot was selected for the new Pawtucket post office in 1896. At the time not many cities yet had their own post office buildings. William Martin Arkin, supervisory architect for the Treasury Department, gave the green light for an early Beaux Arts treatment for the building, most evident in the bulbous copper dome

that tops the rounded corner entrance. Seemingly every inch of the building received some decoration - arched windows with keystones, Doric columns, a balustrade at the roofline and a pair of watchful eagles at the entrance. The exuberant building did duty as a post office until the 1940s and was turned over to the City. In the 1980s, after a renovation, it became part of the Pawtucket Public Library.

TURN AND WALK BACK UP SUMMER STREET.

7. **Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library** **13 Summer Street**

In 1898, Pawtucket's first Mayor, Frederic Clark Sayles donated this land for the construction of a free public library and then traveled to Europe seeking architectural inspiration from Europe's most majestic book depositories. On October 15, 1902 the library was formally dedicated in memory of his late wife, Deborah Cook Sayles. Sayles' research led to an expression of Greek Revival architecture by designers Carm, Goodhue and Ferguson, built of the finest-grained white granite quarried at North Jay, Maine. Four massive Ionic columns form a portico at the formal entrance. Six marble panels by sculptor Lee Laurie of New York depict scenes from Roman, Grecian, Egyptian, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, and Teutonic civilizations. The Library is not only distinctive in its architecture, but also in its service. It was one of the first libraries in the country to allow users open access to the book stacks and one of the first to be open on Sundays, accommodating the many Pawtucket mill workers who worked six days a week.

8. **Pawtucket Family YMCA** **corner of Summer Street and Maple Street**

The Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London, England, on June 6, 1844, in response to unhealthy social conditions arising in the big cities at the end of the Industrial Revolution. The Pawtucket/Central Falls Young Men's Christian Association was organized in 1889. After leasing space around town for many years they moved into their own Colonial-Revival styled brick building. Modeled and constructed

to become the best possible substitute for a young man's home, the new facility housed dormitories, a reading room, parlor, game room, swimming pool, gymnasium and a bowling alley.

9. **Feldman's Furniture (Summer Street Stables)** **21-23 Summer Street at corner of North Union Street**

Harold F. Arnold commissioned the building of this massive brick structure to house 176 horses with space for carriages, a hay loft, a blacksmith shop and comfortable waiting rooms for ladies and gentlemen in 1891. It took 650,000 bricks to complete the livery a year later. The state-of-the-art transportation center sported water-powered elevators, electric arc lights and running water at wash basins indoors and a drinking fountain outdoors. The days of the horse-drawn carriage, of course, were almost at an end, but is remembered through the terra cotta plaque on the North Union Street side that quotes the biblical verse Joel 1:18: "How Do The Beasts Groan!"

TURN RIGHT ON EXCHANGE STREET.

10. ***The Pawtucket Times*** **23 Exchange Street**

George O. Willard founded the paper as the non-partisan *The Evening Times* in 1885. Five years later, David O. Black bought the paper, and became the first of four generations to keep it in his family. The presses were moved into this Romanesque headquarters in 1895. The building, which resides on the National Register of Historic Places, has been up for sale in recent years.

11. **Pawtucket Elks Lodge** **27 Exchange Street**

This 1926 fraternal lodge is a riot of Spanish Revival affectations from the red tile roof down to its rusticated stone base. Look for the requisite elk's head, a colonnade of arched windows with engaged Corinthian columns, medallions displaying the Elks' virtues, and balconets with delicate iron railings supported by stout scroll brackets - just for starters.

CONTINUE ON EXCHANGE
STREET DOWN THE HILL AND
ACROSS THE BLACKSTONE RIVER.

12. Geo H. Fuller & Son Co.
151 Exchange Street

George H. Fuller was born in South Attleboro in 1832, and when about 15 years of age he learned the trade of a jeweler. Being of an ingenious turn of mind and gifted with business foresight, he originated what was practically a new industry by the invention of machinery for the manufacture of jewelry supplies. He began in 1858 at South Attleboro, but in 1860 removed to Pawtucket. More than 150 years later the name Fuller is still synonymous with jewelry findings.

13. Tolman High School
150 Exchange Street

The handsome Neo-Colonial four-story school building of red brick and limestone trim was built in 1926 at the cost of \$1,500,000. Hometown architects Monahan and Meikle gave the building two large end pavilions with Corinthian pilasters, pediments and ornamental balustrades. The central section is highlighted by a graceful tower approached through a Corinthian portico. The gymnasium is still original, the oldest in the state. The high school has starred on the silver screen, appearing in scenes of the movie *Moonstruck* and the pool was featured in *Mermaids*.

14. Pawtucket Armory Center for the Arts
172 Exchange Street

Construction on the Pawtucket Armory began in 1894 as one of the first large-scale armories in Rhode Island. The fortress of red brick on a common stone base was designed by the Providence firm of William R. Walker & Son. William Russell Walker served as a lieutenant colonel in the Pawtucket Light Guard with the Union Army in the Civil War and eventually reached the rank of major general in the state militia. He began practicing architecture in the 1860s from his base in Pawtucket and eventually drew up plans for civic buildings across the state. The National Guard moved out in the 1990s and the building has since been converted into a center for the arts.

TURN RIGHT ON BROADWAY.

15. Metcalf Mansion Carriage House
139 Broadway

This eye-catching little building is one of the few Victorian-era carriage houses remaining in Pawtucket, although it has long ceased to serve its original purpose.

16. Free Will Baptist Church
130 Broadway

John Colby organized the first Free Will Baptist Church in the state in Burrillville in 1812. This former meetinghouse was constructed in 1884 in the eclectic Queen Anne style with decorative fish-scale shingles, fine spindlework and an asymmetrical massing.

17. Pawtucket Congregational Church
Broadway and Walcott Street

The Pawtucket Congregational Society was organized on April 17, 1829 with a membership of eight woman and one man. A small church was erected on this site but burned to the ground in 1864. The congregation had grown enough by that time to warrant the construction of this substantial Romanesque church with a gable roof and three-stage spire.

TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL
AND RE-CROSS THE BLACKSTONE
RIVER.

18. Main Street Bridge

This two-span stone arch bridge was built over the historic Pawtucket Falls in 1858 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. As you cross you can still see the rusted souvenirs of the industrial age at its foot.

TURN RIGHT ON ROOSEVELT
AVENUE TO RETURN TO THE
TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Providence



A Walking Tour of Providence...

What do you do if you are a 30-year old Oxford, England-educated minister and you sail across the Atlantic Ocean to practice your religious beliefs in the way you desire and you discover the new boss is the same as the old boss? Well, if it is 1636 and the Massachusetts Bay colony and you are banished for your “newe and dangerous opinions against the authorities” like Roger Williams you go and live with a people who know nothing about such authority. And when you get lucky enough to be given some land on a navigable harbor you name your new settlement in gratitude “for God’s merciful providence unto me in my distress.”

Williams made only civil laws for his new town. Each person would have the right to worship without interference or regulation by the state. Despite its welcoming disposition Providence grew slowly, due in large part to its topography. Williams’ land was dominated by hills that would in the future draw comparisons to the beauty of Rome and the splendid city that grew on its seven hills. But in the beginning it impeded farming and instead the early days found Providence a shipping and shipbuilding town. Trade was especially brisk between Providence Harbor and the West Indies in rum and molasses and slaves.

Following the war, the economy shifted from maritime endeavors to manufacturing, particularly machinery, tools, silverware, jewelry and textiles. Providence boasted some of the largest manufacturing plants in the country, including Brown & Sharpe, Nicholson File, and Gorham Silverware, and at one time was America’s ninth-largest city. The city’s manufacturing boom lasted into the 1920s but was crippled when the nation spiraled into economic depression in the 1930s. The Great Hurricane of 1938 flooded the city and destroyed more businesses. Today, the city that once fashioned itself the “Beehive of Industry” is home to eight hospitals and seven institutions of higher learning, which has shifted the economy into service industries.

Our downtown walking tour will visit the city’s arts district and financial district and governmental center. We’ll walk along Benefit Street where more than 200 restored houses, taverns and other buildings constructed by sea captains and shipbuilders have created the “Mile of History.” But first we’ll start where Roger Williams himself did, on the site of the original Rhode Island settlement, along a narrow strip of land between the river and the hills...

1. Roger Williams National Memorial
282 North Main Street

This landscaped five-acre park has been carved out of downtown Providence to remember the site of the 1636 settlement. Here Roger Williams found a fresh water spring around which to develop his new colony after being thrown out of the Massachusetts Bay Colony for his religious beliefs. A visitor center tells his story.

CROSS NORTH MAIN STREET.

2. Cathedral of St. John
271 North Main Street

King's Church was established in 1722 as one of the four original parishes in Rhode Island. The present church dates to 1811 when John Holden Greene, architect of many buildings around Providence, designed it to replace an earlier wooden structure on this site. The building of Smithfield stone with brownstone trim has seen several renovations, blending Gothic elements into its original Federal form. The Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island was formed in 1790, but it was not until 1929 that St John's Church was designated the Episcopal seat and was renamed the Cathedral of St. John.

Directly behind the church at 88 Benefit Street is the former home of poet and spiritualist, Sarah Helen Whitman. Whitman was engaged to be married to Edgar Allan Poe in 1848, but the marriage never took place. During the courtship Poe was known to stroll through the small cemetery in the churchyard.

TURN RIGHT ON NORTH MAIN STREET. TURN LEFT ON CHURCH STREET AND WALK UP THE HILL TO BENEFIT STREET. TURN RIGHT.

3. George R. Drowne House
119 Benefit Street

George R. Drowne built this exuberant mansion with a blend of Federal, Italianate and Second Empire elements in 1866 but shortly sold the property to George A. Seagrave, a textile owner and bank president. Frank Evans Seagrave built

an observatory in the backyard at the age of 18 in 1878 to house a 6-foot telescope that his father had bought him as a 16th birthday present. The telescope was the third largest in New England and by far the most powerful privately owned refractor in the region. Seagrave would later gain an international reputation when he was able to predict the appearance of Halley's comet within a fraction of a minute in 1909.

4. Old State House
150 Benefit Street

This is one of five former Rhode Island state houses that survive from the days when the General Assembly convened in rotating sessions among the state's five county seats. The English Baroque building of red brick with rusticated brownstone and painted wood trim, completed in 1762, replaced the town's first County House, a two-story wooden structure on nearby Meeting House that burned in a Christmas Eve fire in 1758. It was here on May 4, 1776 that the Rhode Island General Assembly renounced allegiance to King George III and so Rhode Island Independence Day is celebrated two months earlier than America's.

The Rhode Island government operated here throughout the 1800s during which time the building was altered and renovated several times. When the current State House on Smith Hill was completed to usher in the 20th century, the Old State House shifted duty from the executive branch to the judicial branch. The Sixth District Courthouse heard cases here until 1975 and is today the home of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission.

5. State Arsenal
179 Benefit Street at southwest corner of Meeting Street

Prolific Rhode Island architect Russell Warren, known for his Greek Revival creations, turned to the Gothic Revival style for the state arsenal in 1840.

TURN RIGHT ON MEETING STREET.

6. Old Brick School House 24 Meeting Street

This timber-framed building constructed on a foundation of rough stone rose in 1769 on the site of Rhode Island's first state house that had burned a decade earlier. In an upstairs room, the Corporation of Brown University met in the 1770s to pick the site for the college that was relocating from Warren. In 1800, one of the first free public schools in America opened here. It maintained a legacy of education for nearly 200 years; today the school house is a part of the Providence Preservation Society.

7. Shakespeare's Head 21 Meeting Street

John Carter was a Philadelphian who learned the printing trade under Benjamin Franklin. He came to Providence in 1768 and took a partnership in the *Providence Gazette and Country Journal*, which was begun in October 1762. He built this three-story structure, one of the town's oldest still standing, to house the paper's printing presses and the Carter family. Also inside was a bookstore. The building became known locally as "Shakespeare's Head" for the sign Carter hung that sported a carved bust of William Shakespeare. In 1790 the building became Providence's first post office when Carter was appointed town Postmaster. The paper and post office departed in 1793; Carter died in 1814 at the age of 68.

TURN LEFT ON NORTH MAIN STREET. TURN LEFT ON THOMAS STREET TO HEAD UP THE HILL BACK TOWARDS BENEFIT STREET.

8. First Baptist Meetinghouse 75 North Main Street

After arriving in Rhode Island Roger Williams held religious services in his home before converting his congregation into America's first Baptist church in 1638. Baptists in Rhode Island through most of the 17th century declined to erect meetinghouses because they felt that buildings reflected vanity. Eventually, however, they came to see the utility of some gathering

place, and they built severely plain-style meetinghouses like the Quakers. When it was built in 1774-1775, the current church represented a dramatic departure from the traditional Baptist style. It was the first Baptist meetinghouse to have a steeple and bell, making it more like Anglican and Congregational church buildings. Designer Joseph Brown, a "gentleman architect," copied the five-stage steeple configuration from a plate in James Gibbs's *Book of Architecture* from 1728 to create one of the outstanding churches in New England. The building was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966.

9. Providence Art Association 7-11 Thomas Street

Stepping up Thomas Street is a picturesque procession of studios, galleries and the clubhouse of the Providence Art Club, considered the oldest art club in the nation after the Salmagundi Club in New York City. Launching the parade at #7 Thomas Street is the distinctive Fleur-de-lys Studios designed in 1885 by Sydney Richmond Burleigh, a leading member of the Rhode Island art community and a painter in the realist style, with a flurry of bas-relief medallions across its colorful facade. It was built in 1885 in conjunction with the Art Workers Guild to be used for art studios, including Burleigh's own. An important monument to the American Arts and Crafts Movement, the studio was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1992. In 1887 the Club moved into the brick 1790 Obadiah Brown House at #11 Thomas Street which was furnished as a clubhouse that has served the organization ever since.

TURN RIGHT ON BENEFIT STREET.

10. Memorial Hall 226 Benefit Street

This brawny building of brownstone-faced brick began life in 1856 as the Central Congregational Church. Thomas A. Tefft designed the church with flanking twin towers but they were damaged and removed in the Great Hurricane of 1938. Otherwise the exterior remains virtually unaltered as the building has been adapted for use by the Rhode Island School of Design.

TURN LEFT ON COLLEGE STREET. WALK UP THE HILL TO THE ENTRANCE OF BROWN UNIVERSITY.

**11. Brown University Van Wickle Gates
top of College Street**

The school was founded in 1764 in Warren as the College in the English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. It was the third college in New England and the seventh in the United States. The college's mission, its charter stated, was to prepare students "for discharging the Offices of Life with usefulness & reputation" by providing instruction "in the Vernacular and Learned Languages, and in the liberal Arts and Sciences." Strictly interpreted, to this day Brown University, named following a gift bestowed by merchant Nicholas Brown, Jr. in 1804, remains one of only two Ivy League schools without a business school or a law school.

The gates were installed a century later, in 1901, with the bequest of Augustus Stout Van Wickle, who had died at the age of 42 in a skeet shooting accident near his home in Hazleton, Pennsylvania in 1898. Van Wickle graduated from Brown in 1876 and within two years was president of the Ebenale & South Mountain Coal Company in the Pennsylvania coal fields. Built of iron, upon piers of brick and stone they feature the Brown University seal in the center, flanked by seals of the State of Rhode Island and the City of Providence. The side gates are never shut, the ceremonial center gates swing open only twice a year - once to allow new students in and once to allow new graduates out.

RETURN DOWN THE HILL AND TURN LEFT TO CONTINUE TOURING BENEFIT STREET.

**12. Providence County Courthouse
250 Benefit Street**

This massive Georgian Revival courthouse from the 1920s replaced a rambling High Victorian Gothic courthouse from 1877. Its nine stories reach to a height of 216 feet, the 10th tallest building in the city.

**13. Providence Atheneum
251 Benefit Street**

The Providence Library Company was founded in 1753 as an independent member-supported library. By the 1830s its burgeoning book collection demanded a new space and William Strickland of Philadelphia, the country's leading proponent of Greek Revival architecture, to create its new home. This Greek temple, completed in 1938, is the only building he ever designed in New England.

The Athenaeum served as the stage for much of the brief courtship between Edgar Allan Poe and Sarah Helen Whitman, considered one of the "best female poets of America." Greatly admiring the writings of one another long before they had corresponded or met, Poe, on a visit to Providence, saw Whitman for the first time in her rose garden behind her house on Benefit Street and immediately fell in love. The two were shortly engaged but the relationship ended in the library on December 23, 1848 when someone handed Whitman a note that said Poe had broken his promise and had been drinking again. Whitman immediately called off the wedding, rushing home and leaving Poe in the library. The two would never see each other again and Poe was dead within a year.

**14. First Unitarian Church
1 Benevolent Street at the southeast
corner of Benefit Street**

The first churches in the Providence Plantations were Baptist and it was not until 1720 that there were enough congregationalists to establish a church. This is their third meeting house, erected in 1815-16 to replace an earlier impressive church designed by Caleb Ormsbee, one of Providence's important early builder-architects, only twenty years earlier. It was destroyed by fire. John Holden Greene, another distinguished local master builder-architect tapped Renaissance and Gothic influences for the new building, constructed of white stone quarried in nearby Johnston. The facade is dominated by an enormous Gothic tri-pointed arch window tucked under the classical pediment. The intricately detailed tower contains the largest bell cast by Paul Revere and Son at their Canton, Massachusetts foundry.

TURN LEFT ON POWER STREET.

15. John Brown House
52 Power Street

John Quincy Adams considered this house “the most magnificent and elegant private mansion that I have ever seen on this continent.” The man who built it in 1788 was 52 years of age and was one of America’s great merchants, a slave trader, patriot and politician. John Brown, along with his brothers Nicholas, Joseph and Moses created a financial empire from a candleworks that extended into nearly every aspect of Rhode Island life. John Brown played a leading role in the Gaspee Affair that helped trigger the Revolutionary War in 1775 and he was named a delegate to the Continental Congress but did not attend. Later he was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1798, five years before his death. In 1976, the Brown family donated the house to the Rhode Island Historical Society for preservation.

TURN AND WALK BACK DOWN
POWER STREET TO THE BOTTOM
OF THE HILL AT SOUTH MAIN
STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

16. Old Stone Bank
86 South Main Street

The Providence Institution for Savings was founded in 1819 as one of America’s first mutual savings banks. In 1967 it officially changed its name to Old Stone Bank, as it was known in the community since the construction of this headquarters in 1854. In 1994 the bank’s assets were absorbed by Citizen’s Bank and the building with its iconic gold dome was acquired by Brown University for \$1.15 million. There were plans to move the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology into the building but renovation costs were deemed too high and the Old Stone Bank was sold again in 2009, this time for more than \$2 million.

17. Central Baptist Church
457 Main Street

Joseph Brown, the most politically active of the Brown brothers, built this expansive Georgian house in 1774. A self-styled architect, Brown designed the house himself as well as his brother’s house on Power Street, the Market House on the next block, University Hall at Brown University and the First Baptist Church of America. After his death in 1785 the house became the site of his brother John’s Providence Bank in 1791, the fifth bank organized in America.

18. Market House
4 South Main Street at College Street

The first market places in Providence were open spaces on the west side of the river. After many years of agitating by prominent businessmen the General Assembly authorized a lottery in 1771 to build a market house along the lines of those in Boston and Philadelphia where the lower floor would be dedicated to commerce and the upper floor for assemblies. Joseph Brown designed the brick market house and his brother Nicholas laid the cornerstone on June 8, 1773. Less than two years later, three hundred pounds of tea were burned here in the Providence Tea Party and when the Revolution came French soldiers were housed here. From 1832 to 1878, Market House served as the seat of city government. Markers on the building indicates the height reached by Providence River floodwaters in the aftermath of a big blow in 1815 and the Great Hurricane of 1938.

TURN LEFT ON COLLEGE STREET.

19. Waterplace Park
College Street at Providence River

In 1994 this urban park was carved out of the site of the 1848 Cove Basin where the waters of the Woonasquatucket River flow into the Providence River. The riverwalk in the park traverses Venetian-style footbridges and cobblestone walkways.

CONTINUE ACROSS THE
PROVIDENCE RIVER AND
STRAIGHT AHEAD ONTO
WESTMINSTER STREET.

20. Merchants Bank Building
20 Westminster Street

Today it is possible to walk right past the Merchants Bank Building as it stands alone, dwarfed by its soaring financial district neighbors. But when it was constructed in 1855 it was the tallest building in the city. Architects Clifton Hall and Alpheus Morse created a flatiron building on the triangular plot of land that stretched six stories high - the limits of masonry construction at that time. The Italian Renaissance brownstone Merchants Bank remained Providence's reigning "skyscraper" for more than 20 years and was retrofitted with the city's first elevator. The building was added to the National Historic Register in 1977.

21. Turk's Head Building
Westminster and Weybosset streets

The 16-story building, constructed of white brick and trimmed in granite and limestone, also enjoyed a stint as Providence's tallest building after it was erected in 1913. It was constructed as an investment for members of the Brown family, the last such privately financed large-scale project to appear in the city. This prominent intersection was the site of Jacob Whitman's house and shop back in the 18th century. He mounted a ship's figurehead of an Ottoman warrior above his establishment and the corner became known as "Turk's Head." When New York architects Howells & Stokes fitted the building into the v-shaped intersection they paid tribute to the legacy with a stone Turk.

BEAR LEFT ON WEYBOSSET STREET.

22. Bannigan Building
10 Weybosset Street

Considered Providence's first true skyscraper, this ten-story office building introduced steel-frame construction to the city when it was

constructed in 1896. It was financed by Joseph Bannigan who emigrated from Ireland after the potato famine and became an apprentice jeweler before eventually owning the fledging but growing Woonsocket Rubber Company. He eventually became president of the U.S. Rubber Company that bought out his local concern. After selling his interest in U.S. Rubber he ventured into real estate, beginning with this building.

23. Custom House
24 Weybosset Street

This formidable gray granite building originally stood at the head of Providence's largest wharf. Designed in 1855 by Ammi B. Young, the first Supervising Architect of the United States Treasury Department, it resembles many similar federal buildings of Young's with rusticated base and prominent corner quoins. Its large dome on top is not so common, however. When it was built the main post office, the customs house and federal court were all located here.

24. Providence Arcade
65 Weybosset Street

America's oldest surviving enclosed shopping center - closed since 2009 - was built in 1828. The Arcade was designed by architects Russell Warren and James Bucklin to mimic arcade malls that sprang up in Europe in the 19th century and actually serves as an indoor street connecting Weybosset and Westminster streets. Boasting six massive granite Ionic columns at either end and elaborate iron railings lining walkways that ring its upper floors, the Arcade is a nationally important example of Greek Revival architecture. It was constructed by Cyrus Butler and met initial ridicule for its remoteness from Market Square on the east side of the river but it was the beginning of today's downtown Providence.

25. Providence Performing Arts Center
220 Weybosset Street

In the early days of movies Loew's was in the business of selling tickets to its theaters - not the movies. In 1928 it sunk over \$2 million into this opulent showcase, designed by brothers George and C.W. Rapp, the pre-eminent theater ar-

chitects in America. On the opening day of the Loew's Movie Palace on October 6, 1928 more than 14,000 people showed up to see the gilded interior plasterwork, columns of imported marble, huge crystal chandeliers and listen to music on the \$90,000 Robert Morton organ. The incidental main feature was *Excess Baggage*. In the wave of extinction of downtown movie houses in the 1970s Loew's left in 1971. The theater struggled on as The Palace and then the Ocean State Theatre and barely escaped the wrecking ball. A 1990s restoration returned the theater to a world-class facility hosting first-class Broadway touring shows, plays, contemporary acts, and concerts.

26. Beneficent Congregational Meetinghouse
300 Weybosset Street

The Beneficent Congregationalists splintered from the church on the east side of the Providence River and built a meetinghouse here in 1743. The present church dates to 1809 with a Greek Revival makeover in 1836. Its hemispherical dome, a departure from the familiar New England steeple executed by architects Bernard Eddy and John Newman, earned it the popular nickname of "Round Top Church." The inside is highlighted by a crystal chandelier constructed of almost 6,000 individual pieces of glass.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO
MATHEWSON STREET AND TURN
LEFT, OPPOSITE THE PROVIDENCE
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER.

27. Grace Episcopal Church
175 Mathewson Street

Richard Upjohn, America's foremost advocate of the Gothic Revival style of architecture, executed this church, now on the National Register of Historic Places, in 1845. It features the first painted windows to appear on the Rhode Island streetscape. Between 1875 and 1929 fifteen stained glass windows were installed in the church, including one by Louis Comfort Tiffany.

TURN RIGHT ON MESSENGER
STREET TO WALK THROUGH
THE COMMERCIAL HEART OF
THE CITY IN THE LATE 1800s.

28. Union Trust Building
62 Dorrance Street at Messenger Street

Constructed in 1901, this Beaux Arts skyscraper subscribes to the convention of early high-rise building in conforming to the appearance of a classical column with a strong base, less decorated shaft and well-defined capital. Above the doorway is a carved sculpture by Daniel Chester French, creator of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., that depicts Roger Williams and Chief Neetops.

TURN LEFT ON
DORRANCE STREET.

29. Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street

In the 1870s it was popular among American town governments to construct civic buildings in the French Empire style, emanating Napoleon III's makeover of Paris in the style of Louis XIV. It was also popular a half-century later to start tearing down the old 19th century city halls in favor of more classical designs. One that survived was the Providence City Hall and after it evaded a planned demolition at mid-century, it even received a meticulous restoration and looks much as it did when it was completed to the plans of Boston architect Samuel J.F. Thayer in 1878 - right down to the original color scheme of olive green, maroon and tan.

TURN RIGHT AND WALK
THROUGH KENNEDY PLAZA,
AN OPEN SPACE THAT DATES TO
1848 WHEN IT WAS BIRTHED AS
EXCHANGE PLAZA IN FRONT OF
THE CITY'S FIRST RAILROAD
STATION.

30. Industrial Trust Company
55 Kennedy Plaza

This 1920s landmark looks as if it was plucked from the streets of New York City with its step-backs and massive presence. The step-backs were mandated in lower Manhattan to allow light into the cavernous canyons of the skyscraper age. New York architects Walker & Gillette brought the innovative design to the open air of Kennedy Plaza for a building that was New England's tallest for over twenty years. At 428 feet and 26 stories, it has been the tallest building in Providence since it was completed in 1927. Closer to the ground, the smooth powerful base was designed to match the rooftops of since-demolished four-story buildings to tie the banking headquarters to the surrounding streetscape.

31. Ambrose Burnside Statue
Burnside Park, north side of
Kennedy Plaza

The equestrian statue of General Ambrose Burnside was designed by Launt Thompson and cast at the Henry-Bonnard foundry in New York City in 1887 at the cost of \$40,000. On hand at the dedication of the 16-foot statue on July 4 were state luminaries from the governor on down and General William Tecumseh Sherman. Burnside, an Indiana native, married a Rhode Island girl while he was in command of Fort Adams in Newport in 1852. Burnside resigned his commission in the U.S. Army to manufacture a breech-loading carbine rifle and special brass cartridge. The weapon was widely used during the Civil War and its popularity led to his steady rise through the ranks during the war, in spite of his deficiencies as a field commander. And he knew it. When offered command of the Union Army of the Potomac by Abraham Lincoln he repeatedly declined, once saying "I was not competent to command such a large army as this." After the war ended he was immediately elected to three consecutive one-year terms as governor of Rhode Island and then twice elected to the United States Senate, where he died in 1881.

32. Federal Building
25 Kennedy Plaza at east end of plaza

The local firm of Clarke and Howe prevailed in a competition to design this building that anchors the east end of Kennedy Plaza in 1904 and delivered an important contribution to the canon of Beaux Arts architecture in America. When it was completed in 1908 at a cost of about \$1,300,000 it was hailed as one of the finest federal buildings outside Washington. Originally built as offices for postal, customs, and federal courts, the building is now solely used by the United States District Court. Two groups of allegorical statues, designed by J. Massey Rhind of New York, flank the major entrances on the building's west side. The marble statues are twice life-size, and each consists of a central seated figure with smaller figures on either side.

TURN LEFT ON
EXCHANGE STREET.

33. John O. Pastore Federal Building
3 Exchange Terrace

This three-story red brick and limestone building was constructed in 1939-40 at a cost of \$896,000 as a post office annex. A product of the New Deal-era Works Progress Administration (WPA), it is an example of Stripped Classical architectural style, with Art Deco elements in the low bas-relief designs over the entrances and windows. The U.S. General Services Administration acquired the building in 1961 and renamed it in 1977 for former Governor and U.S. Senator John O. Pastore.

TURN LEFT ON
EXCHANGE TERRACE.

34. Union Station
36 Exchange Terrace

Now the busy heart of the city, this area in 1847 looked much as it had when Roger Williams sailed up the Providence River 200 years earlier. That began to change with the arrival of the railroad and the construction of the original Union Station, then considered the longest building in

America at around 700 feet long (still much less than a football field). The station burned in 1896 and was replaced with a distinctive yellow brick Union Station for the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company and was soon serving nearly 300 trains a day. By the middle of the 20th century that number had dwindled to fewer than a hundred and by the 1980s a much smaller, more efficient depot was constructed a short walk away. Before the old station could be renovated it was decimated by fire and what emerged was a variety of office and retail space.

TURN RIGHT ON
DORRANCE STREET.

35. Providence Biltmore Hotel
11 Dorrance Street

In the 1920s large towns and small cities aspiring to bigger things fretted about whether the hospitality facilities in their burg were up to snuff for potential deep-pocketed visitors. It was common for local business leaders to band together to finance the building of a suitably impressive town hotel. Providence was such a city, albeit bigger than most. When the Providence Chamber of Commerce embarked on this project it was the biggest such parochial effort in the country. Completed in 1922, the 18-story Neo-Colonial skyscraper designed by New York hotel specialists Warren & Wetmore was actually the city's tallest building for a spell. And it reigned as the city's finest hotel from the day it opened until it closed in 1975. Local businessmen again orchestrated its rebirth, taking advantage of Federal tax credits to rehabilitate the building. The original 600 rooms were pared down to 292 more spacious guestrooms and it is once again at the first rank of Providence hotels.

CONTINUE STRAIGHT ACROSS
THE RIVER AND UP THE HILL
ONTO FRANCIS STREET.

36. Providence Place Mall
1 Providence Place

Completed in 1999 as the centerpiece of a Capital Center revitalization plan, this is by far the largest shopping center in Rhode Island and, in fact, the largest building of any kind in the state. Its cost of \$500 million was borne by both taxpayers and developers in a joint public and private venture.

37. Rhode Island State House
Smith Hill at 90 Smith Street
between Francis and Gaspee streets

Between the building of the Old State House (seen earlier on the tour) in 1771 and the beginning of construction on its replacement atop Smith Hill in 1895, Rhode Island had grown into America's wealthiest state, per capita. America's most celebrated architectural firm, McKim, Mead and White of New York, was selected for the commission to deliver a suitably impressive monument for the state government. Rendered in gleaming white Georgia marble with 15 million bricks, the resulting building helped usher in an era of classically inspired public buildings across the country. The dome that is visible for miles is the fourth largest unsupported marble dome in the world. It is capped by a gold-covered bronze statue of *Independent Man*, weighing more than 500 pounds that is a representation of the independent spirit which led Roger Williams to settle and establish Providence and later Rhode Island.

Among the state treasures on display inside are the only two surviving regimental flags from Rhode Island's Continental Army, a full-length Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington, and mementoes of native son Nathanael Greene's career; a heroic statue of General Greene resides in the State House Plaza. Out front is the "Gettysburg Cannon," a bronze Civil War 12-pounder used by the Rhode Island Light Artillery, Battery B, at the point where General Pickett made his famous charge at the Union lines.

TURN RIGHT ON SMITH STREET
BEHIND THE STATE HOUSE AND
CROSS THE RIVER TO RETURN TO
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Slatersville



A Walking Tour of Slatersville...

Slatersville is acknowledged as the first planned industrial village in the United States. Ten years after helping to establish the nation's first successful spinning mill in 1793, Samuel Salter was eager to set out on his own. His brother John scoured the countryside for a location for their new enterprise and settled on Branch River where a few water-powered mills were then in operation. What the new site did not have, however, was people.

Workers would have to be imported to the remote location and so the Slaters would construct not only a new stone mill in 1807 but homes nearby for their workers, stores where they could buy supplies and eventually a meetinghouse where they could worship. This "mill village" model came to be known as the Rhode Island System and proved that manufacturing could thrive outside established population centers: "If you build it, they will come."

John Slater managed the mill and the surrounding village as it expanded until his death in 1845; Slatersville remained in the family until 1900 when it was sold to James R. Hooper. Hooper bleached and dyed cloth for a while and in turn sold the village to Henry P. Kendall in 1915. Kendall's tenure was more interested in preserving the village than wringing profits from the mill. He fixed up and landscaped many of the workers' homes and crafted Slatersville in the image of a postcard New England town.

Most of what we see on our walking tour of this pioneering American mill village is a testament to Henry Kendall's vision nearly a century ago, a foresight that enables us to look back more than 200 years...

1. North Smithfield Public Library
20 Main Street

The public library is housed in an old rubble-stone store house that is a remnant of an eight-building mill complex constructed in 1821.

WALK DOWN MAIN STREET WITH THE RIVER AND THE LIBRARY ON YOUR RIGHT.

2. Second Commercial Block
11 Main Street

This 11-bay, three-story commercial block was built in 1870 of rubble-stone with a brick facade. Mill workers would congregate in the upper floors after hours for dances, lectures and, in the 20th century, movies.

3. First Commercial Block
7 Main Street

The first commercial block was constructed for the mill workers in 1850. It included the company store and the First National Bank - on the western side you can still see the locked night deposit vault that was installed when the bank became the Industrial National Bank.

WALK DOWN THE HILL ON RAILROAD STREET TO SLATERSVILLE MILL.

4. Raceway
Railroad Street Bridge

To produce power for their textile mill the Slaters built dams on the Branch River that eventually created the 170-acre Lower Slatersville Reservoir. Raceways like this one that funneled water from the reservoir to the water turbines at the mill were common sights around Rhode Island during the Industrial Revolution.

5. Slatersville Mill
10 Railroad Street

The first textile mill erected by John and Samuel Slater was completed in 1807, the largest and

most modern industrial building in America. It burned in 1826 and was quickly replaced by the four-story stone building that stands today. The five-story tower on Center Mill was used for stairs to access the upper floors. Behind the main building, the Spinning Mill was constructed of a similar design in 1843. The former "Weave Mill," built in 1893, was where threads were once woven into cloth. In front of the complex is a wooden office building that is the only structure remaining from the original complex. The property has been restored for luxury apartments.

WALK BACK UP THE HILL TO MAIN STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

6. North Smithfield Town Hall
1 Main Street

Henry Kendall bought the village in the early 1900s with a mind for preservation and renovation. He added a great deal of Greek Revival architectural trim on the worker's abodes to make them appear less obvious as mill housing as he did not believe in class distinctions. You can see his handiwork up ahead on Green Street. In 1921 he donated this land for construction of the North Smithfield Town Hall. A hotel and boarding house had previously occupied the property.

7. Elisha Bartlett House
2 Green Street

Elisha Bartlett was born in Smithfield in 1804 before the Slaters arrived. After preliminary study in Quaker schools and private study in medicine, he entered the medical department of Brown University, and graduated in 1826. He spent enough time home in Smithfield to meet Elizabeth Slater, the daughter of John, who he married in 1829. He took up practice in Lowell, Massachusetts and was elected the first mayor of that city in 1836. Afterwards he began a peripatetic teaching career that took him to Kentucky and New York and Vermont. Along the way he published the first thesis on typhoid in America. In 1850, his health broken, he returned to his hometown and this substantial Greek Revival house. He died five years later on July 19, 1855.

WALK OVER TO THE
SLATERSVILLE COMMON.

8. Slatersville Common

The small triangular Slatersville Green was laid out in 1838 by the Slater family, providing the town with one of the very few town commons in Rhode Island. Many of the houses around the green were already here when it was constructed.

**9. Slatersville Congregational Church
Slatersville Common**

At the same time the Slaters created the green the family erected this Greek Revival Congregational Church to match it. John Slater had started one of America's first Sunday Schools shortly after founding the village in 1806 and the village meetinghouse was non-denominational, served by itinerant ministers of various faiths who visited the village to baptize, marry, bury their dead and lead Sunday services. Congregational missionaries became the most prominent group, and with fifteen persons, formed the Slatersville Congregational Church on September 8, 1818. The three-stage belfry with octagonal spire is a replacement; the much larger original was toppled in the Great Hurricane of 1938.

WALK OVER TO SCHOOL STREET
ON THE OPPOSITE SITE OF THE
COMMON FROM GREEN STREET.

**10. John Slater House
16 School Street**

John Slater's house originally stood across from Memorial Town Hall where the Bartlett House resides today. It was moved here in the 1840s and attached to a 1780s house. While many houses in the area were drastically renovated, losing many of their original elements the privately owned Slater house has been maintained for two centuries.

WALK BACK ACROSS THE
COMMON TO GREEN STREET
AND TURN RIGHT.

**11. Slatersville Cemetery
School Street**

This is the final resting place for many of Slatersville's most prominent citizens - the Slater family plot is behind a wrought iron fence at the center.

**12. Union Grange Hall
Washington Square**

The building began life in 1897 as a chapel for the St. Luke Episcopal Missionary; it has been used as a social hall since 1920 when the name was changed to Union Grange Hall.

TURN AND WALK BACK DOWN
GREEN STREET TO THE TOUR
STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Tiverton Four Corners



A Walking Tour of Tiverton Four Corners...

This land was originally part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, known as Pocasset and home to the Wamponoag-Pocasset tribe. The Wamponoag-Pocasset were the Indians of Pilgrim fame who helped the English settlers survive the harsh early days and participated in the first Thanksgiving dinner.

Things were not so civil a half-century later when the warrior Metacom, given the English name Philip by his tribal chief father, led a rebellion against the British. He was aided in his cause by his widowed sister-in-law, Weetamoo, that translates roughly to "sweetheart." During the King Philip War in the summer of 1675 Metacom and Weetaboo used the swamp here to hideout from British patrols. They might well have succeeded in defeating the British were it not for rival tribes in the region and on August 12, 1676 King Phillip was killed and the remnants of his tribe dispersed or sold into slavery.

Tiverton was originally incorporated in 1694, still a part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. After decades of bickering over the boundary between Rhode Island and Massachusetts, a Royal Decree landed it in Rhode Island in 1746. The next year the town was incorporated.

Tiverton was a farming community and grew with no town center; the populace migrated instead to scattered small villages. The Four Corners area was laid out in 1710 on an 80-acre lot around a grist mill called Nomscot, which was the name also applied to the village. The locals passed a law that a tavern could only be built where there was a four-way intersection and then made sure there wouldn't be any more by not building roads across the Eight Rod Way that had been surveyed in 1679 between Sakonnet and Plymouth Colony. The village had earned a new name.

In 1974 Tiverton Four Corners was designated a National Historic District. The privately owned buildings have evolved to contain antique stores, galleries and shops which translates into abundant off-street parking and our walking tour will begin at the four corners and go both ways on Main Road...

STANDING AT FOUR CORNERS, START AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER.

1. Andrew P. White Store 3883 Main Road

This store has anchored Tiverton Four Corners since 1876. The Victorian styling includes a French Empire-influenced mansard roof, a bracketed cornice and a cupola on top. Andrew White operated a mill and icebox in town. With the town post office here as well, this was a popular gathering spot in Tiverton. The “P” stands for “Peregrine;” White was a descendant of Peregrine White who was born aboard the *Mayflower* while docked at Provincetown Harbor and was the first English child born to the Pilgrims in the New World. His parents, William and Susanna, named him “Peregrine,” which means: “one who journeys to foreign lands.”

LOOK OVER AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER.

2. Arnold Smith House 3895 Main Road

The core of this shingled cottage with a gambrel roof dates to around 1750. Today it is an artist owned and operated gallery.

LOOK OVER AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER.

3. Gray’s Ice Cream 16 East Road

Annie Gray sold the first ice cream on this site from the back window of her house in 1930. The ice cream was churned in Fall River and delivered down the road by horse and buggy. She shortly added space for a sit-down parlor and began making vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, and, most famously, coffee ice cream on site. Annie died in 1938 and her daughter Flossie operated the parlor for a few years but sold the business out of the family. Gray’s is still an institution in Tiverton Four Corners, however, and Marilyn Dennis, who bought the stand in 1981, still

makes all the ice cream herself. Gray’s was named one of the “12 Best Places To Get Ice Cream In The U.S.” by *Gourmet* magazine and was named “Best of Rhode Island” by *Rhode Island Monthly* magazine so many times it was inducted into its Hall of Fame.

This southeast corner of Tiverton Four Corners has a much less tasty history, however. On the corner of the property once stood an upright stone post known as the Whipping Post that was in place from the earliest days of the village - it was erected in 1719. Public floggings were allowed in Rhode Island until 1812. The post disappeared in the 1950s and no one knows where it went.

LOOK OVER AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER.

4. Soule-Seabury House 3852 Main Road

The Soule family began in America with George Soule who arrived on the *Mayflower* and signed the Mayflower Compact. His descendants are considered to include Dick Van Dyke and Richad Gere. The Soule who purchased this house in 1809, built just before the Revolutionary War, was a veteran of that conflict - Abner Soule. Abner operated a forge and took part in whaling. His son Cornelius, a sea captain, inherited the house and he passed it to his cousin Cornelius Seabury, a prosperous town merchant. The handsomely proportioned Federal-style house is presently the home of the Four Corners Art Center, established in 1993.

CROSS THE STREET TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE ROAD WHERE THERE IS A SIDEWALK AND TURN LEFT TO WALK NORTH ON MAIN ROAD.

5. Wilcox-Davol House 3879 Main Road

Daniel Wilcox’s odyssey to Tiverton began in Lincolnshire, England. After arriving in Plymouth he married Elizabeth Cooke and eventually inherited this land from his father-in-law, who was a *Mayflower* survivor. In 1692 his house became a fortress after he led a small insurrection

to protest the absorption of Plymouth County into Massachusetts Bay. Royal forces laid siege on the Wilcox home and he was eventually found guilty of “mutinous and riotous acts.” The current Federal-style residence, built back from the street, dates to 1809. The Davol family were storekeepers in the village.

**6. Benjamin F. Seabury House
3842 Main Road**

A vernacular frame house was oriented with its gable facing the street when it was built in the 1840s. It received a fashionable Greek Revival entrance treatment. Benjamin Franklin Seabury was the 11th of 12 children born to merchant Cornelius and Mary Seabury.

**7. Union Public Library
3832 Main Road**

The first library in Tiverton dates back to 1820 and it was not a spur-of-the-moment affair. A group of young men calling themselves the United Society seeking a “social library” drafted a club constitution consisting of 24 articles. Among other things it dictated what kinds of books would be available and how members would be admitted. The Society disbanded in 1845 but reformed in 1860 by selling shares at one dollar each and lending books for a nickel a week. The library continued until 1876. In 1889 the Union Public Library was established in Four Corners and in 1914 purchased this one-story, wood-shingled building constructed a half-century earlier. It once served as a Temperance Hall.

WHEN THE SIDEWALK ENDS,
TURN AROUND AND RETURN TO
THE FOUR CORNERS. THE TOUR
CONTINUES A SHORT DISTANCE
TO THE SOUTH BUT THERE IS NO
SIDEWALK AND NO SHOULDER ON
THE LIGHTLY TRAVELED ROAD.
THERE IS A STRIP OF GRASS ON
THE WEST SIDE.

**8. Chase-Cory House
3908 Main Road**

This farmhouse with gambrel roof and center brick chimney was constructed around 1730 by either Benjamin Chase or his son Abner. It has been restored and maintained in pristine condition by the Tiverton Historical Society, which acquired the property in 1964. The Cory was Andrew, scion of a whaling family. Benjamin Chase, by the way, married Amy Borden who was the great-great-great-aunt of Fall River axe-murderess Lizzie Borden.

**9. Grist Mill/Store
3948 Main Road**

This is where the village grew up, around a primitive mill owned by Joseph and Stephen Taber. The thirty building lots that developed north of “Taber’s Saw and Grist Mill” became today’s Tiverton Four Corners. In the middle 1840s William Pitt Brightman bought the then abandoned mill from the Wilcox family and built the masonry and stuccoed stone mill and a store. The little enclave became known as Pittsville and the mill would grind local corn for johnnycakes until after World War II. The long, two-and-a-half story wood shingle building on the mill pond was constructed in the 1870s as a community hall and became the local Grange Hall in the 1890s

TURN AND RETURN TO THE
FOUR CORNERS AND THE
BEGINNING OF THE TOUR.

Look Up,

Wakefield



A Walking Tour of Wakefield...

A tavern and stagecoach stop were established here on the Post Road in 1745 and a snuff mill was built on the Saugatucket River by William McCoons around 1765. When mill owner Rowland Hazard changed the name of the village from McCoons Mill to Wakefield in the 1820s, supposedly after friends of his in England, the population was about 60. The industrial hamlet had almost as many businesses - a store, a carding mill, a grist mill, a saw mill and a blacksmith shop - as houses (nine).

Through the 1800s the neighboring village of Peace Dale usurped Wakefield as the manufacturing center of South Kingstown and instead developed as a commercial center. Wakefield has remained so ever since and in 1966 the village center along Main Street (the old Boston Post Road) between Belmont Avenue and Columbia Street was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Our walking tour will explore that Main Street and we'll start at the top, at Columbia Street, and work our way down...

FROM THE INTERSECTION OF
MAIN STREET AND COLUMBIA
STREET, WALK A FEW STEPS UP
COLUMBIA STREET.

1. Campus Cinema
17 Columbia Street

Now standing quite alone, this was once the heart of the village and the recently closed Campus Cinema represents a tradition of entertainment on this spot that reaches back some 150 years - it has unfortunately been a "hot spot" in another way. In 1882 Silas Wright built a replacement for the town's Columbia Hall which had just gone up in flames. The barn-like theater hosted traveling minstrel shows, lectures and stage performances. A 1918 conflagration swept away much of the town's building stock on this street, including Wright's Opera House. It was rebuilt as the Community Theater that morphed into the town's movie house. Fire struck again in 1968 but the single-screen theater soldiered on. The building was renovated in 1998 but its future appears to lie in residential use.

RETURN TO THE INTERSECTION.

2. Narragansett Times
187 Main Street at corner
of Columbia Street

The *Narragansett Times* traces its roots back to June 12, 1858 when publisher Duncan Gillies put out the first issue of the *South County Journal*. That paper lasted just about exactly one year when Gillies returned to his Scottish homeland. The paper was introduced as the weekly *Narragansett Times* under the direction of Thomas P. Wells. In August 1864 a distress letter was sent across the Atlantic urging Gillies to return to Rhode Island and take up the publishing of the paper again, which he did until 1881. Afterward the Gillies sons produced the *Narragansett Times*.

3. W.E. Stedman Co.
196 Main Street

This building with the mansard roof has been a fixture on this Wakefield corner since the 1870s when it was operated as the Columbia House inn by the Armstrong family. On the first floor the townsfolk could purchase a new conveyance from the Armstrong Carriage company. It also served as a shop for Dr. Horace Wilcox, where he made his "Fenagen" mouthwash and tonic. By the 1890s, brother Ben was selling bicycles out of the building.

In 1920 William Earl Stedman opened his shop in the building selling and repairing Indian Motorcycles, peddling gasoline and running a general store. In 1926 Stedman picked up ownership of Archie Brown's bicycle shop which also operated here when Brown died of pneumonia. It was not long before he was known as "Bicycle Bill," an honorific that passed through the family, which runs the business to this day.

TURN RIGHT AND
WALK DOWN MAIN STREET.

4. Wakefield Baptist Church
236 Main Street

The white frame church was constructed in 1852 at the cost of \$8,000. It replaced an earlier 1831 church that had been moved to the site.

CONTINUE ON MAIN STREET
AS IT BENDS TO THE LEFT
DOWN THE HILL.

5. Main Street Branch
297 Main Street

J.C. Tucker began selling farm goods out of this building in the 1860s. When the Narragansett Pier Railroad rolled through town it crossed Main Street right where the Tucker store stood. Locals took to calling it the "Wakefield Branch." In 1990 the J.C.Tucker Company was absorbed by the Arnold Lumber Company, a relative newcomer in business - Carold "Kit" Arnold opened his woodlot in 1911.

**6. William C. O'Neill Bike Path
Main Street**

The Narragansett Pier Railroad was chartered in January 1868 and the first trains began running between Kingston and Narragansett Pier in 1876. Regular passenger service continued until 1953 after which limited excursion service continued into the 1970s. By 1981, the line was pared back to being just a 2-mile line between Kingston and Peace Dale. Operations were suspended by 1981, and the line was never reopened. Trolleys like this sidelined red one operated from 1904 until 1907.

With the end of the railroad it was first proposed to use the line as a commuter "school train" to bring students to South Kingstown's public schools. Ultimately the plan for the nation's first such train was rejected and in 2000 today's bike path was opened.

**7. United States Post Office
corner of Robinson Street
and Main Street**

This handsome Colonial Revival brick building was constructed as a Works Progress Administration project during the Great Depression in 1936. The post office was most most noted, however, for what was inside - an oil on canvas painting by Ernest Hamlin Baker. Such works were commissioned by the Treasury Department's Section of Painting and Sculpture in the 1930s to decorate new federal buildings with art of the highest quality. Baker's *The Economic Activities of the Narragansett Planters* was an unusual depiction of a plantation in the North with slaves toiling under the command of a mounted planter. The controversial mural was on display in the post office until it closed in 1999; in 2003 it was restored and reinstalled at the Pettaquanscutt Historial Society in Kingston.

**8. Wakefield Trust Company
336 Main Street**

This was once the home of the Wakefield Trust Company that was organized in 1890. The bank moved into the brick vault with a Neoclassical projecting facade in 1924. Look for modest Corinthian columns and attached pilasters in

the Greek portico, which has had all traces of its banking heritage removed in a remodeling for office use.

**9. Bell Block
343 Main Street**

Louis Bell, president of the Wakefield Mill, built this commercial block in 1899, bringing a splash of Beaux Arts style to Wakefield. The building, dominated by a parade of bay windows on the facade is constructed of thin yellow bricks and rough-cut stone.

**10. Kenyon's Department Store
344 Main Street**

Kenyon's Department Store opened its doors in 1856; owners Charles Chase and Harry Lewis moved into this building in 1891. It remained a landmark on Main Street until 1996 when the last descendant retired. The building, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1992, was donated to South County Hospital to maintain as a medical supply store.

**11. Sheldon Furniture
349 Main Street**

The Sheldon Furnishing Company was established in 1857 on the other side of the Saugatucket River. The building and the business moved here in 1899 using oxen and plopped down on the ground floor retail space that was built for it. Furniture has been sold here ever since.

**12. The Church of the Ascension
370 Main Street**

After meeting in members' homes the congregation decided on February 28, 1839 "to establish an Episcopal Church in the Village of Wakefield" and to be called the Church of the Ascension. That first wooden frame church was constructed about one half mile from this spot and was ready on Ascension Day, June 3, 1840. The building was destroyed in 1935. The present stone sanctuary was consecrated in June 1883. The open frame bell tower was a later addition; otherwise the outside of the church

looks the same as it did to worshippers climbing the little rise 125 years ago.

CONTINUE TO HIGH STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

**13. Wakefield Mill
10 High Street**

William McCoon built a dam on the Saugatucket River in the 1750s and started a grist mill. Later, a saw-mill and a snuff mill were added to the operation. In the 1800s it transitioned into the textile industry. Several different businesses, including the Wakefield Woolen Mill, underwent ownership changes and expansions across the 20th century. In 1903, it was sold to the Wakefield Woolen Company, which installed new looms and carding equipment for producing high-grade woolen fabrics. It sold again in 1922 and four more times between World War II and 1984. Beginning in the 1950s, parts of the mill complex began to be converted to other uses that can be seen today.

**14. St. Francis of Assisi Church
114 High Street**

The first Mass for the parish took place on Christmas Day 1879. For many years services were held in a wooden church on High Street before moving into this rural-style stone sanctuary in 1932. The property is distinguished by the Father Greenan Hall, a community hall that was badly damaged by fire in 1939. The funds of the Depression-era parish were badly depleted at the time and pastor James Greenan set out to create a building that “would serve the needs of the parish, at the lowest possible cost.” The parish hall that he spearheaded was, said the *Providence Sunday Journal*, “a parish hall like no other in the country; new in the sense of a new building, old in all the materials used. Bricks - mostly red, but also white and black - came from the remains of an old mill that had been demolished in Providence. Windows were from an old and dilapidated restaurant, candelabra from a Vanderbilt estate, radiators from as far away as the North Shore in Massachusetts, and the iron girders from an old grocery wholesale house in Fall River.” Over the years the barn-like brick structure was used for

classrooms, boxing matches, carnivals and other church-related events. It recently underwent a nearly \$2 million renovation.

**15. South Kingstown Town Hall
180 High Street**

Rowland G. Hazard was born in South Kingstown in 1801 where his father founded the Peace Dale Manufacturing Company in 1802. Young Rowland was sent to Pennsylvania to grow up with his maternal grandfather but returned in 1819 to join his brother in managing the family business. He would remain involved in the textile mill for almost fifty years, spending a great deal of time in the South selling cotton goods. Hazard became active in the anti-slavery movement that crippled the company’s southern trade and forced a transition to higher grade woolens. Rowland Hazard won several terms in the Rhode Island House of Representatives, wrote extensively on philosophy and economics and built this stone town hall in 1877. Three major additions and renovations have brought the building to what you see today.

WALK DOWN CEMETERY LANE ACROSS THE STREET. CONTINUE TO THE BIKE PATH AND TURN RIGHT. FOLLOW IT BACK TO MAIN STREET. TURN LEFT TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Warwick



A Walking Tour of Warwick...

Samuel Gorton's beliefs were so odious to the leaders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony - such ideas as the separation of church and state, the banning of slavery and the payment of Indians for their land - that even after he was banished from the colony he was tracked down in Rhode Island and brought back for trial. After narrowly escaping death for blasphemy he had his punishment reduced to banishment from Portsmouth (Rhode Island). He had now been tossed from Boston, Plymouth, Aquidneck and Newport. Now ensconced in the wilderness of Rhode Island, he was still hounded by Massachusetts authorities who claimed that land he had purchased known as "The Shawomet Purchase" was subject to Boston rule.

Once again the government charged him with blasphemy and once again soldiers from Massachusetts arrived and burned his home. Gorton was again tossed in jail; released only on the condition that he leave the land that he and a band of about 100 followers known as Gortonists had purchased. So Gorton left. And sailed to England where he met an old friend, Robert Rich, the Earl of Warwick. With the help of the Earl, Gorton was granted a Royal Charter and received an order of "safe passage and conduct." When he returned to Boston this time the militia now had to escort him safely back to Rhode Island and the government was ordered to never interfere with Samuel Gorton or the Gortonists again.

In gratitude, Gorton named his settlement "Warwick."

Warwick developed as a loose federation of scattered villages. Most were agrarian communities tied to the sea but gradually the western section became more industrialized. Between 1920 and 1930 Warwick was the fastest growing town in New England as the population jumped from 13,481 to 23,196. In 1931, after two unsuccessful attempts, Warwick became Rhode Island's youngest city. In the next thirty years the population would nearly triple. The demand for housing and jobs levied a heavy toll on the historic Warwick building stock.

Our walking tour will explore the Apponaug Village, along the Post Road, now a busy roadway that was once an Indian path known as the Pequot Trail. The historic heart of the village, Apponaug Four Corners, once boasted two busy taverns from the 1800s and the house of Samuel Greene, the town's most influential citizen. All are gone. To see what remains we'll start a few steps to the east of venerable Four Corners...

1. Warwick City Hall
3275 Post Road

William R. Walker & Son, the go-to architectural firm for civic buildings in Rhode Island in the late 1800s, tapped several different styles for this distinctive town hall in 1893. Its dominant feature is the six-story Colonial Revival square clock tower with a domed belfry. Classical influences can be seen in the Ionic columns. The terra cotta date badge is indicative of the use of varying materials during the Victorian age. It cost \$75,000 to replace the 1834-35 Town House that stood here previously.

FACING CITY HALL, TURN
RIGHT AND WALK EAST ON
THE POST ROAD.

2. Henry Warner Budlong Memorial Library
3267 Post Road

This small, stately yellow-brick building once sported Tuscan columns but they were removed in the 1970s. Henry Warner Budlong, whose family could trace its roots back to the town's beginnings, donated \$25,000 for the construction of this Beaux Arts library in 1925. The Apponaug Free Library had been established in 1885 with space inside Town Hall and was ready to move.

3. Warwick Museum of Art
(Kentish Artillery Armory)
3259 Post Road

This red-brick armory with a battlemented parapet was built in 1912 to replace a wooden Greek Revival structure from 1854 that had burned a year earlier. It is another building designed by the Providence firm of William R. Walker & Son. The two dates on the building reflect the construction date and the 1797 founding of the Kentish Artillery at the recommendation of George Washington.

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places but that doesn't include the cannons that flank the entrance doorway in special niches. They are wooden replicas. In 1804 the Kentish Artillery was gifted with Revolutionary War armaments, including two cannons. These originals disappeared in 1972 and The Case of

The Missing Cannons has never been solved.

The Kentish Artillery continued until the late 1970s, when its last member died. The property was deeded to the City and the Warwick Museum of Art, that began as a Bicentennial project in 1976, moved in.

4. Warwick Central Baptist Church
3270 Post Street

The Warwick Central Free Will Baptist Church was organized in 1835 by the Reverend Benjamin Phelon to occupy the present sanctuary, built a year earlier. Baptist congregations had worshiped in Warwick as early as 1744 but all had dissolved through the years. The simple New England meetinghouse burned in 1905 and was reconstructed in its original spirit.

5. St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church
3252 Post Road

Irish Catholics began to trickle into Warwick in the middle of the 1800s, first to work on the railroad and then to populate the mills. Circuit preachers from East Greenwich began stopping twice a month. In 1873 a modest meetinghouse was constructed for the East Greenwich priests. The fortunes of the Catholic community in Warwick variously ebbed and waned until their own church could be completed, on this small rise, in 1916. Architect William McLaughlin used early Italian churches as his model for this brick sanctuary with an arched entrance through a tightly bunched quartet of Corinthian columns, two engaged and two supporting.

6. St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church
3257 Post Road

Warwick Episcopalians began meeting in the 1860s and by 1880 were able to think about building a church on land at this site. Noted Providence architect Howard Hoppin was hired and he delivered a memorable Queen Anne style, shingled building with a graceful porch and a round spiral tower. A devastating fire in March 1911 left only the front porch of the St. Barnabas Church. It took another decade to begin work on the beautiful fieldstone, rural English-type Gothic church that is seen today. The building

features a two-story central tower with corner buttresses and a battlemented parapet.

7. U.S. Post Office
3205 Post Road

One of the goals of the Works Progress Administration during the Depression of the 1930s was to bring significant architecture to towns across the country. This brick-faced Neoclassical post office is a typical example of such additions to the streetscapes of America.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS
ON POST ROAD AND TURN LEFT
ON COLONIAL AVENUE. TURN
RIGHT ON WATER STREET.

8. Apponaug Cove

In Colonial times this shoreline along Water Street was a bustling seaport and shipbuilding area. Most of the land around the cove was owned by Jacob Greene, older brother of Revolutionary War hero Nathanael, and the five Greene brothers controlled a number of thriving industries here. By 1850 most goods had stopped crossing the wharves and the shoreline became as quiet as you'll find it today.

TURN LEFT ON THE POST ROAD.

9. Henry Remington House
3376 Post Road

Despite renovations and additions since it was built by Henry Remington in 1801, this Federal-style house would still be recognizable to travelers along the Post Road between Boston and New York. Remington was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and later a justice on the Rhode Island Supreme Court. In fact, this stretch of road came to be known as "Judge's Row" and was considered the finest part of the village.

10. Warner-Harrison House
3384 Post Road

Like its neighbor, the Remington House, this is a fine example of a Federal-era five-bay, center chimney house with pedimented, fanlight doorways that have survived renovations over two centuries. Thomas Warner, a town clerk, is believed to have constructed the house sometime in the late 1700s. Thomas was not the first member of his family to serve the town in that capacity. Five generations earlier John Warner was Warwick's very first town clerk. He was also the first Warwick public official to be drummed out of office. Seems in 1652, Warner had threatened to kill all the mares in the town, asked Massachusetts to assume control, and said he would "beat out the brains" of a town officer.

Thomas Warner bequeathed the house to a daughter, Catherine, who married sea captain William Harrison. It remained in the family until 1920 and, after many years of abandonment and deterioration, now does duty as an office building.

CAREFULLY CROSS BUSY POST
ROAD TO THE WEST SIDE AND
TURN RIGHT.

11. Old Mill
3351 Post Road

From the 1940s until 1986, this gable-roofed structure at the bridge was known as the Central Cafe. A recent restoration has revealed old chestnut beams of the mortise and tenon type construction and an unbroken foundation under the original section that points to this structure being over 250 years old and one of the oldest buildings in Apponaug. The best guess is that it was constructed as a tidal mill, perhaps used for manufacturing snuff.

WALK DOWN TO THE
INTERSECTION AND TAKE
A FEW STEPS TO YOUR LEFT.

12. Greene Memorial House
15 Centerville Road

The Greens inhabited Warwick with founder Samuel Gorton in the late 1600s. Caleb, born in 1772, was a shipping merchant who later came into possession of a small mill in Apponaug and built this center chimney, Federal-style house in the late 1790s. It stands as the last vestige of the prosperous seafaring days at Appanoug Four Corners, the main crossroads of the village.

Although Caleb saw no military action of his own, he is related to two of America's most celebrated generals. His cousin was Nathanael Greene, second in command to George Washington during the Revolutionary War and his son, Major General George Sears Greene, is the man credited with holding the critical right flank of the Union Army on Culp's Hill at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. George, the second of ten children, was born in a small room on the southwest corner of the second floor of this house on May 6, 1801.

WALK BACK TO THE
INTERSECTION AND RE-CROSS
POST ROAD. WALK EAST ON POST
ROAD.

13. Old Town House
3292 Post Road

You wouldn't know by looking at it but this structure was part of the original town hall built in 1835. It was moved across the street by David Curtis when Warwick City Hall was built in 1893.

CONTINUE DOWN THE POST
ROAD A FEW MORE STEPS TO
THAT "NEW" CITY HALL AND
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Westerly



A Walking Tour of Westerly...

The town of Westerly on the Pawcatuck River was incorporated in 1669 as the fifth town in the colony of Rhode Island. When settlers weren't squabbling over boundary disputes with their Connecticut neighbors across the river the usual suspects of mills and shipyards sprouted on the banks. In the nine villages that came to comprise Westerly - the name is derived from its geographic position in the state - farming dominated the economy.

You can still find vestiges of pre-Revolutionary Westerly among these outlying farms but downtown there is nothing today to betray that anything existed before the middle of the 19th century, a time that coincides with the beginnings of the industry for which Westerly gained national renown. It was in 1845 that Orlando Smith discovered an abundance of granite on his farm and within short order several granite companies were organized around town. Westerly granite is fine-grained, susceptible to delicate carving, and hence, particularly well-suited for memorials. The local quarries yield four varieties of stone: a red variety commonly used for building blocks; and white, blue and pink granite usually used for monuments. Monuments crafted from Westerly granite can be found in 32 states.

Our walking tour of downtown will indeed see Westerly granite on town buildings. Perhaps because it is the Rhode Island town most closely located to New York City, Westerly has more big-city architecture than other towns its size. But before we take a look at those we'll begin with another feature normally associated with big cities - a hundred-year old, award-winning park...

1. Wilcox Park

Harriet Wilcox began this botanical gem in the heart of Westerly's business district in 1898 by donating the seven-acre Rowse Babcock estate to the library association that had been started by her late husband, Stephen Wilcox. The park was designed using local plants by Warren H. Manning, a former associate of Frederick Law Olmsted and founding father of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The purchase of the adjacent nine-acre Brown estate expanded the privately owned and maintained park to its current size and eventually non-native plants were added to develop the park as an arboretum. Wilcox Park is widely recognized by both national and international organizations as a significant historic designed landscape. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and in 1999 received a Centennial Medallion Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

EXIT THE PARK AT THE
SOUTHWESTERN CORNER
ONTO BROAD STREET.

2. Westerly Public Library 44 Broad Street

This grand Romanesque building constructed of yellow bricks and red roof tiles was built in 1894 as a living Civil War Veteran's Memorial through the initiative of local industrialist-inventor, Stephen Wilcox. Wilcox, who died a year earlier at the age of 63, invented the water tube steam boilers that were used to efficiently power U.S. Navy and Merchant Marine ships. He is a member of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Wilcox donated the land and a matching grant of \$25,000 for the building's construction. In addition to the library the Wilcox Memorial boasted a bowling alley, gymnasium, art gallery, museum, and meeting space for the Grand Army of the Republic. It opened with 5,000 books and today is one of the state's largest libraries with over 160,000 items.

TURN RIGHT ON BROAD STREET.

3. U.S. Post Office corner of Broad Street and High Street

The town post office was constructed in 1914 under the auspices of James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the United States Department of the Treasury from 1897 to 1912. Knox was an associate of Cass Gilbert, one of America's leading proponents of a return to classical architecture at the time and this post office certainly does justice to the philosophy. Its gleaming white marble colonnade of fluted Doric columns curves smartly around the corner lot. The main cornice under a roof of green dull-glazed tile is decorated with lions' heads.

TURN RIGHT ON HIGH STREET,
THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN
WESTERLY'S COMMERCIAL
DISTRICT. MANY OF THE BLOCK'S
BUILDINGS DATE TO THE LATE
1800s.

4. Industrial Trust Company Building 14 High Street

The original bank constructed at this site in 1887 used red granite cut by the New England Granite works - its date is remembered in the facade of the current building that was erected in 1914. This Neoclassical vault features exquisitely carved engaged Corinthian columns and a domed roof. The bank shuttered in the 1960s and the impressive space was used as storage for a drugstore and studio space for local artist Lowell Reiland. It is currently owned by the Westerly Land Trust and many of the building's original features - doorknobs, molding, windows and such - are original.

TURN LEFT ON CANAL STREET.

5. The Artists' Cooperative Gallery of Westerly 7 Canal Street

Housed in a former Montgomery Ward's showroom, the Artists' Cooperative Gallery was founded by artists in 1992. The building to the east at #11 was the United Theatre that opened

in 1926 and operated until 1986. With a seating capacity of nearly 1,000, it featured a pipe organ from the prestigious M.P. Moller Pipe Organ Company of Hagerstown, Maryland.

6. Martin House
10 Canal Street

Michael Martin, who owned the Steamboat Hotel across the state line in Stonington, expanded his hospitality empire with this brick hotel in 1888. Hard by the railroad station and overlooking the Pawcatuck River, the Martin House was Westerly's leading hotel until it closed in 1939. It chugged on through the 20th century as the Foster House and the Granite City Hotel and the Hotel Savoy and survives today as condominiums.

TURN RIGHT ON
RAILROAD AVENUE.

7. Westerly Train Station
14 Railroad Avenue

Sporting a distinctive red tile roof, the Italian Renaissance depot was built in 1912 by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. It has been favored by a recent restoration. Historically, Westerly was one of the few stops on the express from Boston to New York; today the train ride to New York City, 142 miles away, takes about three hours.

8. The Westerly Armory
northeast corner of Railroad Avenue
and Dixon Street

After a wood-framed armory on Main Street burned to the ground this brick fortress was erected in 1901. The firm of William R. Walker & Son built the armory for a cost of \$30,000, adding to its lengthy legacy of armories and public buildings around Rhode Island. The two-story structure of red brick and white granite was designed in the Norman style with a small octagonal tower topped with battlements at each corner. In addition to storing provisions for local military outfits the armory was the scene of sports activities such as basketball with the New York Celtics, boxing matches, and bowling.

In 1996, when the Westerly Armory was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, it was deemed by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission as "the model armory in the State of Rhode Island."

RETRACE YOUR STEPS BACK
TO BROAD STREET.

9. Washington Trust Company
Broad Street and High Street

America's foremost bank architects, York and Sawyer of New York, came to Westerly to design this Italian Renaissance headquarters for the Washington Trust Company in 1925. The four-story structure uses Indiana limestone trimmed in Westerly granite. The Washington bank opened its doors on August 22, 1800 as the third bank in Rhode Island.

TURN LEFT ON BROAD STREET.

10. Westerly Town Hall
45 Broad Street

This is another contribution to the streetscapes of Rhode Island by William R. Walker & Son of Providence. The two-story granite structure projects a pedimented Ionic entrance portico.

11. Christ Church
Broad and Elm streets

The Christ Church parish was founded in 1834 and two years later the congregation erected its first church. That meetinghouse burned in 1872 with only the organ, the first in town, surviving. The present English Gothic church was completed in 1894, constructed of Westerly Blue Granite with Westerly red granite trim.

TURN RIGHT ON ELM STREET TO
TOUR STATELY 19TH CENTURY
HOUSES OF THE GREEK REVIVAL,
GOTHIC REVIVAL, ITALIANATE
AND SECOND EMPIRE STYLES.

12. Granite Theatre

1 Granite Street at corner of Elm Street

This renovated Greek Revival Church was organized in 1843 as “The Christian Chapel in Westerly.” The site was purchased for \$200.00 and Aaron Pierce and James Ells contracted to erect the building which was completed in 1849. Purchased for \$150,000 in 2000 the old church has been a theater ever since.

13. Christ Church Rectory

8 Elm Street

This splendid example of Greek Revival architecture now serves as the rectory for Christ Church.

WHEN YOU HAVE SEEN YOUR
FILL OF FINE HOMES, TURN
AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON
ELM STREET AND CROSS BROAD
STREET INTO WILCOX PARK AND
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Woonsocket



A Walking Tour of Woonsocket...

A plantation grant Richard Arnold received from the Providence Committee in the 1660s led to the European settling of the area around the serpentine Blackstone River. Unfortunately the grant didn't come with its own police force and in the early days there were constant spats around the Massachusetts border that included kidnapping and the use of armed forces. The land would not be peaceably settled into well into the 1700s.

Beyond that, there was little reason to take notice of the farming community that took the name Woonsocket Falls, a moniker of unknown derivation but is most accepted as a translation from the Indian tongue of "thunder mist" in describing the spray from the river's dominant falls.

That all changed in 1829 with the opening of the Worcester-Providence Canal. Suddenly the water power of the Blackstone River shifted from producing local meal and lumber to producing products - mostly textiles - for far-flung markets. By 1850 the area was teeming with factories and welcoming an influx of new workers, first from Ireland and then from French Canada. In 1888, the neighboring factory communities of Woonsocket Falls, Globe, Social, Bernon, Hamlet and Jenksville banded together to form the City of Woonsocket.

Our walking tour will visit four historic squares on both sides of the Blackstone River and we'll start at the namesake falls where some mills remain and some have been cleared to form a visitor-friendly parking lot...

1. Market Square
Main Street and River Street

The Blackstone River twists and turns through Woonsocket and the largest natural drop in the entire riverway occurs right here. Richard Arnold arrived in the 1660s and constructed a grist mill that operated on the natural power of Thundermist Falls. By the mid-1800s the river powered dozens of textile mills that lined up along Market Square and Main Street. The river is now corseted with flood control devices after a 1955 freshet sent 20 feet of water through the streets of town and destroyed many buildings and all but three of its bridges. Today, a small hydroelectric plant here generates more than seven million kilowatt hours of electricity per year, powering the city's water and sewage treatment plants.

The Market Square Pavilion stands on the site of the former George C. Ballou Mill that was torn down in the 1960s. After his original textile mill was destroyed by fire, Ballou constructed a massive stone mill that employed more than 200 workers with over 16,000 humming spindles. The Ballou Mill is the one that appears on the seal of the City of Woonsocket.

**WALK OUT OF MARKET SQUARE
ON THE WEST SIDE, TOWARDS
THE RIVER.**

2. River Falls
74 Main Street

This gray stone mill was built in the 1830s by the Woonsocket Rubber Company to process rubber for boots and machine rollers. Later it was occupied by the Falls Yarn Mill that produced wool and merino yarns until 1984. It has been restored as a restaurant and entertainment complex.

**TURN LEFT TO WALK UP MAIN
STREET (THE RIVER IS ON YOUR
RIGHT).**

3. Museum of Work and Culture
42 South Main Street

The Rhode Island Historical Society uses a former brick textile mill to tell the story of the French Canadian immigrant experience as Woonsocket transitioned from a sleepy agricultural community into one of America's busiest industrial hubs. The museum re-creates the sights and sounds of a working mill, a 1920s classroom, a church, and a union hall.

4. Honora Lippitt Mill Complex
1-15 Main Street

The three-and-one half story, Second-Empire influenced mill office capped with a mansard roof was built in 1865 by the Lippitt Woolen Company. John Lippitt came with Roger Williams in 1636 to found the Rhode Island colony and the family produced a long line of merchants, manufacturers and sea captains. When Henry Lippitt was president of the company, at the time this brick building handsomely trimmed in granite was built, its annual profits exceeded \$4 million a year - when a good worker's wage was about a dollar a day. In 1874 he became governor of the state, an office to which one of his sons and great-grandsons would hold as well.

The expansive stone building attached to the Lippitt Mill office is the mill of Dexter Ballou, whose family dominated the early spinning trade in Woonsocket. Dexter bought out his brother Hosea in 1828 and then watched two successive mills burn to the ground. This mill, designed in the Greek Revival style with a wooden stair tower, was constructed in 1836. In 1982, the mill was converted into residential space; the trench over which the entrance is accessed is the remnant of one dug in 1827 to channel water from the river to the mills.

5. Farrington Block
32-34 Main Street

French-Canadians from the province of Quebec were first recruited to work in the mills of the Blackstone Valley in the 1840s. It is estimated that a third of Quebec's population relocated to New England mill towns. By 1900, 60% of Woonsocket's population was French-Canadian;

there was a French language newspaper published until World War II and a French-language radio station broadcast until the 1960s. A century later in the 2000 census 46.1% of the population was still identified as being of French or French-Canadian ethnic heritage. Woonsocket likes to refer to itself as “La ville la plus française aux États-Unis” – the most French city in the United States.

This four-story brick building is typical of the Italianate-style commercial blocks that were constructed in the “French Quarter” in the mid-1800s. Built in 1868, the Farrington Block features decorated corner quoins, an ornate cornice and rounded cast iron window hoods.

6. The Buell Building 75 Main Street

The *Woonsocket Patriot* was the first newspaper to appear in town, in 1833. The *Patriot* was the sole dispenser of news in Woonsocket until 1873 when the *Evening Reporter* came along; the two papers merged in 1881. After a decade of enduring the Republican politics of the *Reporter* a group of town Democrats founded the *Evening Call*. Within three years it was successful enough to acquire its older rival. The paper moved into the Rescue Building on this site in 1914 and after it was destroyed by fire this building was constructed in 1922, named for one of the *Call's* original owners.

7. Woonsocket Institute for Savings 136-148 Main Street

The Woonsocket Institution for Savings was incorporated in 1849 as the first savings bank in town. It moved into this Neoclassical vault constructed of Indiana limestone in 1926. In the 1960s when the bank expanded into the empty Woolworth's next door the facade was carefully recreated to match this building.

8. City Hall 169 Main Street

The oldest section seen today was constructed by Edward Harris in 1856 and was known as the Harris Block. Built in the Italianate style, it was Woonsocket's first major commercial building

and the first public library in Rhode Island. Abraham Lincoln spoke in the building's Harris Hall in 1860. In 1889, a rugged, granite clad addition in the Richardson Romanesque style was added. The building became Woonsocket's City Hall in 1902.

9. Rhode Island Hospital Trust Building 162 Main Street

This six-story Neoclassical low-rise bank headquarters was Woonsocket's tallest building for many years after it was built in 1930. It is a scaled down version of the Hospital Trust Building in downtown Providence, where the Rhode Island School of Design is now located.

10. Depot Square Main Street and Court Street

The Providence & Woonsocket (P&W) Railroad arrived in town in 1846, a year later a depot was built and the surrounding square evolved into the commercial heart of the town. After the original station went up in flames it was replaced in 1882 with an elaborate Victorian brick station that was considered the finest on the P&W line. At its peak the railroad ran 26 trains a day through here.

It was followed on the square by the Longley Building in 1890, distinguished by its ring of bay windows and the two-story Globe Building that wraps around Globe Street and displays finely patterned wood trim in 1900. All joined the flatiron-styled Hope Building at 237-245 Main Street that was constructed in 1876.

BEAR LEFT AS MAIN STREET TURNS AT THE END OF DEPOT SQUARE.

11. Post Office 295 Main Street

The post office moved out of City Hall into this new Beaux Arts building in 1910. After 65 years the postal service moved on and it became a part of the YMCA.

12. Stadium Theatre
329 Main Street

When the Stadium Theatre was built in 1926 it was acclaimed as one of the finest theaters in New England, constructed under the supervision of R. E. Hall, chief consultant, architect and engineer in the construction of the Paramount Theatre in New York. The Stadium ceased operation in the 1970s but with strong grassroots and business support it was revived in the 1990s and restored to its former glory. Once one of six theaters that operated in Woonsocket, it is the only one that remains.

13. Civil War Monument
Monument Square

This was the first monument dedicated in the state to Rhode Island's Civil War dead, erected in 1870. The granite memorial topped with a soldier at rest is inscribed with the names of the battles in which Woonsocket men fought - 39 were killed during the War Between the States.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO DEPOT SQUARE. TURN LEFT ON COURT STREET AND WALK ACROSS THE BLACKSTONE RIVER.

14. Veteran's Memorial Bridge
Court Street across Blackstone River

The first bridge to ford the Blackstone River at this point was erected in 1868. It was a wobbly wooden affair that became wholly inadequate with the increase of traffic from the railroad. When the new Court Street Bridge was dedicated in 1895, more than 15,000 people turned out for the ceremonies. Its centerpiece was an impressive arch that spelled out "City of Woonsocket." That bridge lasted for 104 years until a \$10 million replacement was built in 2000.

15. Court Square
Woonsocket District Court

The courthouse, with its prominent tower, has been a Woonsocket landmark since its construction in 1896. It was designed in the Romanesque style by William Walker & R.W. Howard, who contributed many monumental civic buildings to the Rhode Island streetscape.

TURN RIGHT ON FRONT STREET.

16. Woonsocket Mill Company Complex
100-115 Front Street

Front Street runs through the guts of Bernon Village, one of six villages that comprise Woonsocket. The first mill was constructed in 1827 and is the oldest surviving example of heavy-timbered and rubble-stone construction that represented a vast improvement in fire protection. Two other mills from the four-mill complex stand today and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

TURN RIGHT ON BERNON STREET AND FOLLOW IT THROUGH THE REMNANTS OF INDUSTRIAL WOONSOCKET BACK TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN MARKET SQUARE.

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