

MANCHESTER

A Brief History & Highlights

North of Bennington is home of the Battenkill River and the American Museum of Fly Fishing, birds of prey at the Equinox and Vermont Summer Festival Horse Shows every July at Harold Beebe Farm. In the towns where milk trains once loaded up with the output of local dairy farms, outlet stores are now cunningly tucked into colonial buildings.

Once a year, Manchester raises the clans and pipe bands for the Southwestern Vermont Highland Games, while Arlington calls out Scandinavian storytellers for Troll Night and the feast of Santa Lucia. Cultural and revolutionary history abounds.

The Northshire Museum And History Center on Historic Route 7A houses the Manchester Historical Society. Sunderland will host Ethan Allen Days June 19 & 20 — battle reenactments, period music, food, camp tours, artisans an old fashioned barn dance in a

170 year old restored barn. The Vermont Chamber of Commerce has billed this weekend as one of Vermont's Top 10 Summer Events.

Robert Todd Lincoln's Hildene, the home of Abraham Lincoln's descendants until 1975, celebrates a later and more leisurely period with antique car shows, sleigh rides and croquet tournaments, peonies in the formal gardens, picnicking, cross-country skiing and punch by candlelight.

In a literary light, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, author of "Understood Betsy" and a prolific writer in the early 20th century, lived and died in Arlington on a farm she inherited from her great-great grandfather.

Head north on Route 7A to find the Robert Frost Stone House Museum in Shaftsbury. Frost was living here in the 1920s when he wrote "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," on a hot June morning.

Vermont's oldest cultural organization, the Southern Vermont Arts Center, inhabits a National Historic Trust Mansion. The Elizabeth de C. Wilson Museum, opened July, 2000 displays the center's 800-piece Permanent Collection and special traveling exhibitions of classic and contemporary art.

Dorset Theatre Festival opens its season in early summer. The Weston Playhouse and Ballet Manchester gear up for Christmas revels.

The Barrowes House Littlest Music Festival rings with bluegrass and sea chanties. For classical music, try the Rondo Music Festival at Southern Vermont College, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra at Hunter Park and Manchester Music Festival.



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BENNINGTON

A Brief History & Highlights



Before any settlers of European descent appeared, the Bennington area was inhabited by Native Americans who lived and hunted here as early as 5000 to 4000 BC.

The area is protected by mountains, which surround the broad, flat valley. Rivers and streams abound, and it is rich in wildlife, wood, stone and minerals. There was also an abundance of rich soil for farming. As the community developed, these features became enduring assets.

Chartered in 1749, Bennington was settled in 1761. The town center, now Old Bennington, was the earliest in the region. Its church, courthouse and other early structures were the first in the area.

The settlers' first sustained activity was farming, but in 1762, small mills appeared, using waterpower. During the 19th century industrial revolution, larger factories were built downhill to harness the energy of the abundant water sources and the transportation opportunities provided by the railroad. As time went by, commerce, housing and cultural activities clus-

tered in the present downtown. Agriculture and manufacturing remain key aspects of Bennington's modern day economy.

Walking Tour

Begin east of Route 7, at the intersection of Benmont and County roads. Head south toward River Street.

1. BIG MILL, BENMONT ST.

The firm of Hunt and Tillinghast built this 4 1/2-story Italianate structure and seven-story bell tower in 1885 to manufacture paisley shawls. Bennington once had the greatest concentration of knitting mills in Vermont, and this 30-acre complex remained a weaving mill until 1949. Extensive rehabilitation in the 1980s has brought new businesses to the mill.

2. COMPANY STORE, BENMONT & RIVER STREETS

A smaller building in the same style as the mill, and built at the same time. In 1872, millwright and engineer Alexander Drysdale ran the store. He came to Bennington from Scotland to help set up the weaving mills in the shawl mill. Follow River Street two blocks east to

3. BENNINGTON AND RUTLAND STATION RIVER & DEPOT ST.

William C. Bull designed the Romanesque revival building of blue marble, rough cut to look like granite. He designed several other prominent Bennington buildings, including his own colonial revival house, in a range of architectural styles.

4. CLARK COTTAGE, EAST OF DEPOT ST.

Decius W. Clark, a master stoneware potter and ceramic chemist, lived in this 1850 slate-roofed, Gothic cottage. He came to Bennington to work in the town's ceramic industry. Along with the weaving and knitting mills, Bennington thrived as a center of pottery and iron manufacture in the mid-to-late 19th century. River Street ends at Route 7. Follow Route 7 south, pausing at the corner of Pleasant Street, to

5. STARK HOSE HOUSE NO. 1

Spartan Engine Company No. 1 had the clapboard firehouse built in 1851 and added the mandard-roofed front block in 1890. The Stark Hose Co. celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1987 and still joins other volunteer companies in fighting Bennington's fires. North and South streets (Route 7) and Main Street (Route 9) meet at the heart of downtown Bennington. Follow Main Street east to

6. OLD BENNINGTON COURTHOUSE, SOUTH ST., JUST SOUTH OF MAIN ST.

This five-bay building with a monumental second story replaced a burned-down courthouse in 1870. Building a courthouse in the valley, instead of in Old Bennington up the hill, proved how far the manufacturing power of downtown Bennington had outstripped the waning influence of the older settlement. The courthouse had a bell tower and Town Clock until 1939.

7. FIRST COMMERCIAL BLOCK, CORNER OF NORTH & MAIN ST.

Enos Adams, a local manufacturer and businessman, built this double building, the first brick commercial block in town, in 1845. It stands at the Four Corners or Putnam Square, a focal point for the town.

8. METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The church was dedicated in 1858 or 1859 and renovated and enlarged between 1906 and 1909. The north and west walls still show traces of the original stonework.

9. MASONIC TEMPLE

The industrialist Olin G Scott donated the Masonic Temple, a Tudor revival building with Masonic symbols on door latches and above the oriel window.

10. BENNINGTON FREE LIBRARY, SILVER ST.

Seth B. Hunt and Trenor W. Park bought this building in 1865 and fitted it to house 1,300 volumes, founding the Bennington Free Library. The hall on its second floor held village functions and the town's first movie theater.

11. FEDERAL HOUSES

Three of Bennington's surviving Greek-revival houses from the early industrial period, these have delicate fan lights and pilasters from the late 18th and early 19th century.

12. MT. ANTHONY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The school began as the Bennington High School in 1913 — a neoclassical design complete with fluted columns, decorative medallions and separate entrances marked for "girls" and "boys."

Driving Destinations

Follow Route 9 west to

13. BENNINGTON MUSEUM

A jaunty mix of Vermont history, from Grandma Moses to pottery to menorahs, living history and family events, trails and concerts, changing exhibits and lectures year round. Turn off Route 9 onto Monument Avenue; the giant tower of the Bennington Monument will point the way to

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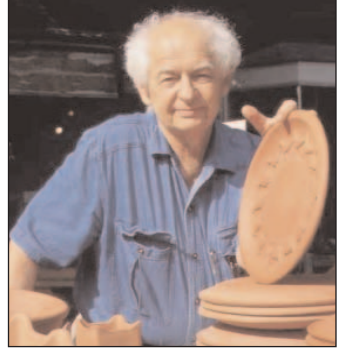
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Bennington Potters



At Bennington Potters, we've been creating handmade stoneware for over 56 years. Located in the center of Bennington, Vermont, our potters and retail stores share four garden-filled acres and historic buildings.

Bennington Potters is known by collectors and cooks for bakeware, bowls and mugs featuring sturdy, robust walls that easily withstand the rigors of heavy kitchen use. Most of our pieces have a generous lip, rim or handle that fits snugly in your hand ensuring a firm grip and a satisfying feel. Our various shapes represent the best of more than 50 years of design ingenuity by our founder, David Gil, a graduate of Alfred University, whose works grace the collections of museums in this country and abroad.



Bennington Potters founder David Gil

While some of our designs date back five decades, everything we make can be used with confidence today in your oven, microwave, freezer and dishwasher. Over the



The Potters Back Stamp

years, we've perfected our "secret" clay recipes by blending carefully selected components for strength and beauty. Our lead free glazes have been refined to provide rich colors and easy to clean surfaces. All our handcrafted stoneware is high fired at 2,200 degrees, a temperature that produces exceptionally durable pieces that all but eliminates cracking and chipping. Together, these efforts produce beautiful, durable bowls, bakeware, dinnerware and more that will last for

generations and fit comfortably into your busy lifestyle.

Today, Bennington Potters is one of the few working production businesses remaining from the thousands that once existed in New England mill towns. Free tours are available daily and reservations can be made for students or groups.



In the eyes of many, Bennington Potters is a step back in time.

14. OLD BENNINGTON

Gov. Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire chartered the town of Bennington in 1749, to emphasize to the governor of New York where New Hampshire's border was. Both governors sold the land to different settlers, and the territory dispute that followed bred the Vermont's Revolutionary War Militia, the Green Mountain Boys. The whole of Old Bennington is part of a National Register Historic District.

The next several stops begin at the top of Monument Street.

15. BENNINGTON BATTLE MONUMENT

The monument commemorating the 1777 Revolutionary War Battle of Bennington stands 306 feet high, easily visible above the tree canopy, even from Route 7. The British Army marched on a Continental Army storehouse here; a smaller marker honors the site. The monument is open for tours from April to October. Historic houses, all privately owned, line Monument Street.

16. MEMORIAL STATUE

Olin Scott erected this granite statue in honor of Colonel Seth Warner, commander of Vermont's Green Mountain Boys, in 1910, as a more literal memorial of the battle than the tower.

17. CATAMOUNT

A bronze statue of an American panther marks the site of the Catamount Tavern, which burned down in 1871. Seth Warner, Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys often met in the tavern's council room. The Bennington Museum has a display of tavern photographs, artifacts and information.

18. WALLOOMSAC INN

Bennington's first minister, Captain Elijah Dewey, had this gambrel-roofed inn built in 1784. Battle of Bennington prisoners ate in its kitchen. It collected a third-story ballroom in 1800 and a porched annex in 1899. Ralph Earle's early American painting of the original Inn hangs in the Bennington Museum.

19. ROBERT FROST'S GRAVE, OLD CONGREGATIONAL 1ST CHURCH CEMETERY

The cemetery predates the 1805 church building. Founders of Bennington, Revolutionary War soldiers, Vermont governors and the poet Robert Frost lie buried here. The Old First Church was restored in 1937 and rededicated as Vermont's Colonial Shrine. Volunteers open it to visitors in the summer. Follow Route 9 a jot further west to the corner of Gypsy Lane to

19. BENNINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Changing exhibits of painting and sculpture relating to Vermont, Native Americans and the surrounding countryside share space with the Covered Bridge Museum. From Route 7 just north of downtown, follow Northside Drive, Route 67A.

20. PARK-MCCULLOUGH HOUSE, PARK ST.

The Gilded Age meets Bennington. Tenor and Laura Park built the 35-room Victorian Mansion in 1865. Tenor Park was a Bennington lawyer and native who made his fortune in California, managing the Mariposa gold mines. The house stayed in the family until 1965. Its furnishings are largely untouched and its records and archives uniquely unbroken. The Parks' oldest daughter, Eliza, and her husband, John McCullough, renovated the house in 1889 and entertained President Benjamin Harrison when he came to dedicate the Bennington Memorial.

Follow Main Street north to Sage Street and then to Welling Townhouse.

21. VERMONT ARTS EXCHANGE, SAGE ST. MILL

East of Main Street, on the shore of Lake Paran, the community school of the arts offers classes and mentoring programs in dance, music and visual arts.

22. NORTH BENNINGTON ART PARK, MAIN ST., BEHIND THE POST OFFICE.

A garden of monumental sculpture and park benches, it overlooks the railroad tracks and the North Bennington Railroad Depot.



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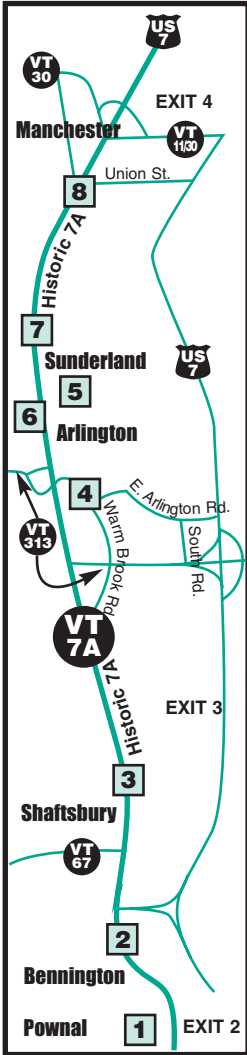
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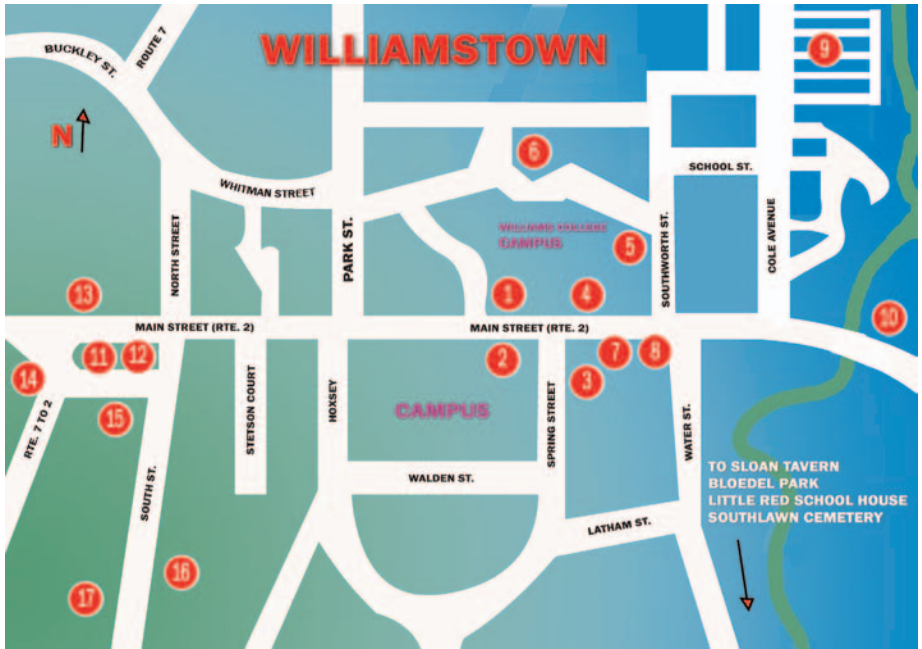
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EXPLORE THE BEAUTY OF VERMONT!

WILLIAMSTOWN

A Brief History & Highlights



Col. Ephraim Williams Jr. (1714-1755), gave his name to the town and its renowned Williams College, and town and gown have been interwoven ever since — the college funded town buildings, and the Williamstown National Bank opened for business in 1884 in the office of the college treasurer.

Williams was the son of a European resident of the Indian Mission at Stockbridge. He surveyed two townships in North Berkshire County in 1739. As a Colonial officer, he also took charge of the line of forts that included Fort Massachusetts, in what is now North Adams.

He founded a free school for the children of the men he commanded. Today, Williams College is one of the nation's preeminent liberal arts colleges. It has a body of 2,000 students and offers a rich program of musical, theatrical and artistic performances year-round. The Williamstown Theatre Festival, celebrat-

ing its 50th year, takes over the college's Adams Memorial Theatre every summer and will move into an adjacent \$50 million-plus new performing arts center next year.

Williamstown is known for having one of the highest museum-to-student ratios in the country. Beside the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute and the Williams College Museum of Art, the college's Chapin Library houses over 25,000 rare books, first editions and historical documents. It is the only place where the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, the Constitution and the Articles of Confederation are displayed together.

The college's Hopkins Forest Farm Museum and Rosenburg Center on Northwest Hill Road maintains a collection of farm equipment, some livestock, a 19th-century flower garden and trails. The tree canopy walkway and the sugar shack are open to visitors in season, and the college leads nature walks at spring and harvest festivals.

Walking Tour

Begin on Main Street, Route 2, by the lilac hedge at the top of the hill.

1. NEW FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

After the Second Meeting House burned in 1866, the town built a brick church with \$6,000 of college money in 1869. The college used it for an auditorium. Students still hold contra dances there. In 1914, the old brick church was rebuilt in a Colonial style modeled on a church in Old Lyme, Conn. On the right, the brick building that crowns the hill is the college's oldest building

2. WEST COLLEGE

It was built in 1790-1791 as the Free School with money from the estate of Col. Williams and \$3,500 raised by lottery. The English Free School and an academy opened Oct. 20, 1791. The trustees petitioned the General Court to allow conversion to a college, and Williams College opened its doors in October 1793, under President Ebenezer Fitch. The English Free School was closed, but the academy continued until 1811. Continue east on Main Street. On the far side of Spring Street, at the top, just past Lasell Gymnasium, stands

3. FORMER N.F. SMITH BOOKSTORE BUILDING

(now Where'd You Get That, Pierre's Barbershop and Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation)

Originally built in 1842 on the lot where the Congregational Church now stands, the N.F. Smith Bookstore served as a drugstore, general store and post office (1848-1879), the town's first telegraph office (1876) and its first soda fountain (1885). Before baths were installed in college dormitories, students took public baths in the basement of the building. It was moved in 1867 to the present site of the Lasell Gymnasium, and again in 1886 to its present location beside Lasell. Across Main Street is

4. THOMPSON MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Mary Clark Thompson donated the money to build the chapel in 1903-04, in memory of her husband, Frederick Ferris Thompson (Williams class of

1856). The 19th-century stained-glass artist John LaFarge created the west transept window dedicated to President James A. Garfield (Williams class of 1856). It is one of only 400 LaFarge windows in existence. On the Williams campus, off Southworth Street (look left to find Southworth), is

5. WILLIAMS COLLEGE CEMETERY

Set aside in 1856 from college land and enlarged by a gift from Amos L. Hopkins in 1882, this cemetery was designed for the use of trustees, faculty, alumni, their immediate families and the descendants of President Mark Hopkins. The alumni category was dropped in 1940. The first person to be buried here (1858) was Gray Perry, the infant son of Arthur Latham Perry, professor of political economy and amateur historian. There are monuments to presidents Ebenezer Fitch and Edward Dorr Griffin, who died in 1833 and 1837, respectively.

Head slightly west, past the cemetery and into campus, passing Dodd House, a large colonial dorm that was once the Williams Inn, on the right. Off on the left, the apple and almond trees in the students' Forest Garden have just begun to bear fruit after seven years' growing, and summer visitors can find fresh raspberries in season. Follow the paved road west to

6. HAYSTACK MONUMENT

In 1806, this area was primarily open fields, dotted with haystacks. A group of Williams students holding a prayer meeting took refuge from a sudden thunderstorm under one of the haystacks. A pledge made that afternoon became the inspiration for the founding of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The monument was erected in 1867. Return to Main Street. Opposite the war monument and Griffin Hall, the octagonal brick of Lawrence Hall is unmistakable.

7. WILLIAMS COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

The museum in Lawrence Hall displays ancient and modern work from artists around the world —



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anything from a Tibetan pavilion and African American narratives in silhouette to a digital tour of an Assyrian temple. Thomas Tefft designed the original octagonal structure, inspired by Jefferson's Monticello, and built it in 1846 as the college library. The art department and the museum share it now. Charles Moore designed a recent addition to it. His "ironic" columns stand on the south side of the building.

8. HOPKINS OBSERVATORY

This is the oldest extant college observatory in the United States. Professor Albert Hopkins and his students built it between 1836-38 from stone they quarried on East Mountain.

The planetarium and museum are open to the public during the academic year and for a limited time in summer.

The next stop is slightly farther off Main. Traveling east toward North Adams, take a left at the one and only stoplight in Williamstown and walk down Cole Avenue to see the railroad tracks and the Hoosic River. You are now in the

9. MILL VILLAGE NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Williamstown Manufacturing Co. built the "station mill" in 1865, taking advantage of Hoosic River's water power. Williams College President Paul Chadbourne played a key role in building both the mill and the village, where workers imported from Canada lived. The Green River runs east of Cole Ave. to meet the Hoosic, and there are walks along the riverbank, with entrances from Elm Street or Route 2.

Return to Main Street for the final stop, or, if in the mood for a good hike, drive over the bridge at the end of Cole Ave. and take a right. Follow the railroad tracks; the next left leads up to the head of the Pine Cobble Trail.

10. NEHEMIAH SMEDLEY HOUSE

This house was built in 1772 by one of the original town proprietors and an officer in the Williamstown militia. It operated as a tavern. Benedict Arnold spent the night of May 6, 1775, here on his way to join Ethan Allen in taking Fort Ticonderoga. The house has a large oven in the basement in which bread was baked to feed Capt. Smedley and his military company the day after the Battle of Bennington, Aug. 16, 1777.

Driving Destinations

Although further afield from the walking tour, the first several stops are within walking distance from the college or from the Clark Art Institute. Head west on Route 2, past the Adams Memorial Theatre, to the rotary where Route 2 meets Route 7.

Start on a park bench at the top of Main Street by the visitors' center, the Williams Inn and the library.

11. FIELD PARK

The rotary encloses the last remnant of the town green, a common grazing area that ran the length of what is now Main Street. Cyrus W. Field (of Atlantic cable fame) and the Village Improvement Society created the park in 1878. The wall at the east end marks the site of the first and second meetinghouses. Richard Babcock, a restorer of New England barns, built the war memorial at the eastern end.

12. 1753 HOUSE

This house on the green was built for Williamstown's bicentennial with the same tools and methods the British settlers used. It stands near the site of the first seven houses built in town, between 1752 and 1753, along Hemlock Brook.

13. SITE OF FORT HOOSAC

See the marker in stone. After the end of the French and Indian War, the fort became the meeting place for the town Proprietors until the building of a schoolhouse on the northeast corner of North and Main streets.

14. GLEN FEMALE SEMINARY, 39 COLD SPRING RD.

The Misses Snyder opened the Glen Female Seminary in 1878 in this 1830s Greek-revival house. As enrollment grew and the school admitted boys, the school expanded to build the house next door. Head down South Street toward the Clark Art Institute

15. CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

Possibly designed in 1886 by Stanford White, this building served as the home of the Delta Psi fraternity. In 1960, it became the Center for Development Economics, one of two Williams College graduate programs (the other is art history). The center offers master's degrees to young economists from government and financial institutions in developing countries.

16. WILLIAM HORSFORD HOUSE, 196 SOUTH ST.

William Horsford built his house on Main Street in the early 1760s. Eight span of oxen moved it to its present location in 1802. It became infamous for retailing "evil spirits" and running a "rum hole" in the basement and earned the name "House of Spirits."

17. CLARK ART INSTITUTE

The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute arranges changing exhibits around its renowned collection of French impressionist and 19th-century American art. Behind the museum, take a relaxed walk up Stone Hill, either up the hill where cows graze in warm weather or up a trail along it to the stone bench.

Take Route 2 east, take a right on Route 43 (Green River Road) along the Green River, past Mount Hope Park. (If you head through the park and follow the road beyond, it will bring you— eventually— to the head of the Hopper trail.) Route 43 meets Route 7 and Sloan Road at the Five Corners in South Williamstown.

In this area: Ambrose Hall, lawyer, banker and great-grandfather of Sir Winston Churchill, built a house in 1806. A boys prep school founded by Benjamin Mills (1842) became the Idlewild Hotel, a resort with private lake and golf course. Lauris G. Treadway started his career in hotel management here and the Cheese Factory served Idlewild Hotel and the surrounding area. The hotel was demolished in 1932. In late spring, bloodroot and marsh marigolds thrive along the Green river tributaries. At the intersection, handy with parking, sits

18. SLOAN TAVERN

Samuel Sloan built the tavern in 1770 on land he bought from Isaac Stratton. Sloan later moved to the town center and built the 1802 Federal-style house where the Williams College president now lives. Sloan Tavern served as the first South Williamstown post office (1827). William Vanderbilt, former Rhode Island governor, bought “Steele’s Store” (1905-1978) and renamed it Store at Five Corners. It was fully ren-

ovated and restored in 1992. Across the way (watch for traffic), you can pause at a table in

19. BLOEDEL PARK

Lawrence H. and Eleanor P. Bloedel donated this area as public park. It was the site of South Williamstown’s first general store, from the early 1800s to 1927. The first Williamstown telephone came here in 1903. Follow Route 7 a little way south to reach

20. SOUTH CENTER SCHOOL (LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE)

Edward Curtis built it in 1865, replacing the original 1810 building. It housed the South Williamstown Public Library from 1920 to 1962. It is sublet now as a private nursery school and used for South Williamstown community affairs. Children’s theater plays in the schoolhouse during the summer. Across the road is Waubeeka Golf Links.

21. SOUTHLAWN CEMETERY

Established 1769 on land given by the first settler, Isaac Stratton, it received its first burial in 1777: Reuben Burban, the 3-year-old son of the second settler family.

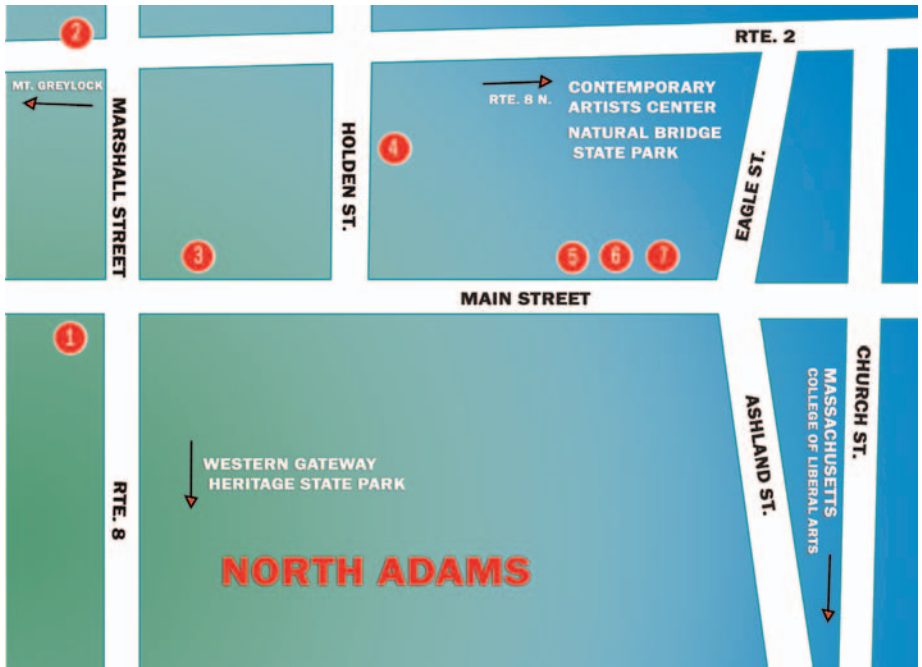
The Williamstown Historical Commission provided much of the material for this compilation.



The summit of Mt. Greylock is the highest point in the state, towering over the Berkshire Hills.

NORTH ADAMS

A Brief History & Highlights



North Adams began life as the north village of the township of East Hoosuck, settled about 1740 and incorporated in 1776 as the town of Adams. It established its independence in 1878 after the railroad began running through the northern part of town, through the new Hoosac Tunnel. The railroad tracks logically divided Adams to the south and North Adams to the north.

North Adams holds the distinction of being the smallest city in Massachusetts — but only in population. Cafés and taverns share pavement here with family-owned businesses that have been open for 100 years. Measured by its location, history, attractions and activities, the Tunnel City scores high.

The city claims the largest museum of contemporary visual and performing arts in the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, built on 13 acres of the sprawling former Sprague Electric Co. complex

off Marshall Street. In addition to huge galleries, the museum, which celebrates its fifth anniversary here, offers several performance venues, films, dances and special events throughout the year. The museum has served as a catalyst for the city's recovery from the loss of Sprague, once its largest employer.

On the First Friday of every month, Main Street shops keep their doors open late for dinner, shopping discounts, music, prizes, games and giveaways. Last summer, the first annual Northern Berkshire Food Festival highlighted dozens of local restaurants for cooking demonstrations, microbrewery beer and fine wine tasting, entertainment and competitions.

Every Saturday, local musicians jam at the Appalachian Bean on Main Street, and Joga Café on Eagle hosts entertainment on Thursday nights and weekends. The Windsor Lake concert series presents well-known Berkshire bands, Wednesdays from June to August. The city also hosts its annual summer fes-

tival (formerly known as La Festa), a weekly farmer's market, a massive fireworks display for the 4th of July, the annual Mayor's Downtown Celebration and the Fall Foliage Festival, culminating in a parade that attracts thousands.

The North Adams SteepleCats baseball season begins in June. Regular home games continue through July at Joe Wolfe Field. Local Historian Paul Marino gives guided downtown tours and cemetery walks, alternate Saturdays from May to Oct.

The Main Street Stage produces plays year round, by nationally known and local authors. Inkberry, a literary nonprofit, holds writing workshops and book discussion groups continuously and hosts readings by poets and writers from across the country and across the street. Papyri Bookstore has free readings and open-mike nights by local authors every month.

Walking Tour

Most of the north side of Main has kept its turn-of-the-century buildings, while the south side features modern buildings constructed during urban renewal. Begin at the northwest end of the street, across from City Hall and uphill past the bridge.

Main Street is believed to follow the original path of the Mohawk Trail, the path the Mohawk Indians traveled to hunting grounds near the Connecticut River. The Pontoosuc Trail followed the valley south. Westbound travelers come into North Adams on Route 2, around the famous Hairpin Turn, with magnificent sweeping views of the valley.

1. THE MONUMENT NEAR CITY HALL

The monument marks the location of the North Adams Iron Works blast furnace, which is said to have smelted pig iron for the U.S. Monitor, the famous ironclad Union warship of the Civil War.

North Adams' first industry, lumber, began near

here in the 1700s and earned the village the nickname "slab city" Textile manufacturing took off as well. In 1795, Capt. Jeremiah Colegrove built a grist mill on the west side of the Hoosic River, and in 1802 he hid a runaway slave in the mill's wheel pit. By 1804, Colegrove had expanded to a two-story carding and finishing mill, making wool cloth.

Looking north from City Hall, one can see the old Arnold Printworks, one of the country's most successful cloth printers. It later became Sprague and is now Mass MoCA.

2. MASS MOCA

The arts complex has an ambitious and far-ranging collection of visual arts, theater, dance, history and music, and its historic buildings provide a unique venue. In 1930, the city became home to Sprague, which at its height employed about 4,000 people. The company abandoned the city in the mid 1980s and was eventually sold. Walk back to Main.

3. THE EMPIRE BUILDING

This two-story yellow-brick complex, built in 1912, stands on the site of North Adams House. Nathaniel Hawthorne stayed at North Adams House in 1831 and described the city in his American Notebooks. He explored the area on foot, and used the lime kiln as a setting for Ethan Brand. Later, North Adams' grand hotel, the Wilson House, stood on the same site, with the Empire Theatre at its back. Theodore Roosevelt spoke in the theater in 1912, while campaigning for the Bull Moose party.

The commercial buildings on the north side of Main, left to right, starting with the building that houses the Appalachian Bean Café building, sprang up in the prosperous years between 1880 and 1902.

4. BLACKINGTON BLOCKS

Down Holden Street, behind the Bean, is an ornate Italianate brick structure built for Sanford Blackington, one of the city's most successful industrialists. He went into business at age 24 with two fellow apprentices from the woolen mills. They were so



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young, their establishment was called 'the Boys' Factory' for years. The library (top of Main Street) began as Blackington's mansion.

The second Blackington Block (where the Bean is) has a fortress-style roof parapet. It used to have a mock-tower on the Main Street side. At 69 1/2 Main, one can go up to the third floor to see the wood-paneled, sky-lit atrium, surrounded by two-story Victorian townhouses.

5. NEW KIMBALL BUILDING, 85 MAIN ST.

A turn-of-the-century skyscraper, the first building in North Adams built on steel pilings. Look for the lion's heads between the fifth-floor windows and all along the roof edge. Also look for the ghoulish faces between the fourth-floor windows on the nearby Hoosac Savings Bank.

6. DOWLIN BLOCK

Edwin Thayer Barlow, a major architect who lived in North Adams and helped design the facade of the New York Library, also designed this granite-faced, Italian Renaissance skyscraper.

7. MOHAWK THEATRE

One of the few commercial buildings built here in the Great Depression. It is built in art-deco style. The city recently restored its marquee, which glitters and beckons visitors downtown on weekend nights. Plans are underway to renovate the 1,000-seat theater into a performing arts center.

Past Eagle Street, at the top of Main St., the Soldier's Monument stands at Monument Square, in a circle of traffic. The library stands behind it, at the intersection of Main and Church streets. Church Street has one of the most outstanding collections of Victorian residential architecture in the county. The city's economic and political leaders built homes here between the Civil War and the turn of the century.

Driving Destinations

From the west end of Main, take Route 8 south over the Hadley Overpass and take an instant right on Furnace Street to get to

8. WESTERN GATEWAY HERITAGE STATE PARK

The park is also within walking distance of Main. The visitors center here offers numerous historic photographs, rotating artwork and a permanent exhibit outlining the creation of the Hoosac Tunnel, which remains one of the city's greatest claims to fame. The 4.74-mile tunnel, running through Florida Mountain, opened in 1875 and at the time was the longest tunnel in North America and second-longest in the world. The park in the old freightyard district surrounds restored 19th-century structures, including

a restaurant and pub, a gift shop and the North Adams Museum of History and Science. In summer, the state Department of Conservation and Recreation runs Junior Rangers and childrens' activities through its visitors center. Local musicians perform at its Thursday Night Concert Series, July through August. Bring a chair or a blanket.

From the park, exit on Furnace, take a right up the hill and a left onto Reservoir Road, and drive up Notch Road to get to the summit of

9. MOUNT GREYLOCK

(There is another entrance off Route 2, on Marion Avenue, to meet Notch Road from the other direction, and the lower roads there are better maintained). The summit, located in Adams, offers stunning views on clear days.

Back in the valley, head up Main and take a right at the statue on Church Street south to

10. THE MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

MCLA hosts lectures, concerts, plays and sporting events on its 122-acre campus, as it has for 106 years. The historic and imposing Murdock Hall was its first building. The college began life as North Adams Normal School and was later known as North Adams State Teachers College and North Adams State College.

Taking Route 2 north from the city, follow Route 8, which branches off to the left, just past the historic Eclipse Mill and Eclipse Dam. The large mill building coming up on the left is the

11. CONTEMPORARY ARTIST CENTER

Artists working in the old Beaver Mill on Beaver Street create a wide range of art – paintings, sculpture, billboards, installations, etc. Gallery exhibitions begin in early June. The CAC shares mill space with the Dark Ride Project, a ride through the sensory integrator into creative space— with special headgear. CAC founder Eric Rudd also opened a monumental sculpture exhibit, A Chapel for Humanity, on Summer Street, off Main Street, cross from the post office.

Continuing on Route 8, just past the artist center, is the entrance to

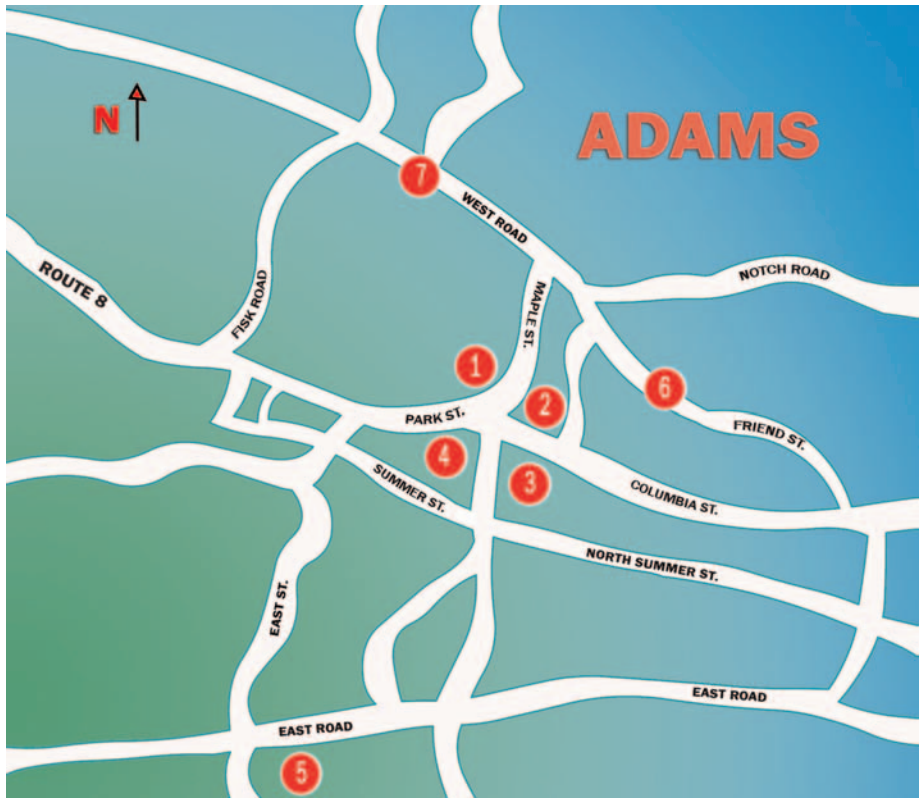
12. NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK

This is a geological wonder, a record of events that began over 500 million years ago. The park's natural white-marble bridge is unique in North America. Meltwaters from mile-thick glaciers cut deeply through the marble, sculpting the Hudson Brook chasm and the bridge that spans it.

Much of the above information was compiled from the North Adams Historical Society's "A Walk Through History, North Adams," with the society's permission.

ADAMS

A Brief History & Highlights



The Bay Colony offered the East township — now Adams and North Adams — at auction in 1762, after the French and Indian War had quieted. Quakers from Smithfield, R.I., bought up the settling lots. They opposed slavery, war and capital punishment, and they befriended the local Native Americans. They dressed and spoke plainly. They were persecuted in eastern New England for their refusal to recognize a clergy and their willingness to recognize women as equal to men.

Their vitality over the years carved out a farming and industrial center in the wilderness. They were the first of successive waves of immigrants — Irish, Scots, Germans, French Canadians and Poles, who in the 19th and early 20th century came to labor in the Adams textile industries — and stayed.

When the town was incorporated in 1778, it was named after the fiery Samuel Adams, a sign that some patriotic Baptists had joined the pacifist Quakers in town by the Revolution. The statue in the center of town is of President William McKinley, erected in front of the library in 1903 after his assassination. McKinley was a friend of the textile industry through his high-tariff policy, and a friend of an Adams manufacturing family, the Plunketts.

Specialty Minerals on Howland Avenue, which mines calcium carbonate (limestone) from the east side of Mount Greylock, and Jaeschke Orchards on Gould Road, which grows apples on the mountain-side, stand as the two themes of Adams life going back to its beginnings: industry and agriculture.

Today the town that invented Squeeze soda has a new

visitors center downtown as part of the Ashwilticook Rail Trail, a paved biking and walking path that follows the old railroad tracks around Cheshire Reservoir and into Lanesboro, past the Berkshire Mall.

While six northern Berkshire towns share the honor of hosting the 12,000 acres of the Mount Greylock State Reservation, the mountain's summit, elevation 3,491 feet, is in Adams. Every Columbus Day since 1965, the Adams Chamber of Commerce has sponsored the Mount Greylock Ramble, when about 2,000 people hike up the Cheshire Harbor Trail. The 3.3-mile climb in brilliant autumnal foliage leads to 100-mile views from the Veterans Memorial Tower on the summit.

Walking Tour

Begin at the Adams Free Library, at the junction of state Route 8 and Maple Street. Note that Route 8 in Adams is variously called Howland Avenue, Columbia Street, Park Street, Center Street, Commercial Street, Grove Street and of course Route 8 — but it's all the same highway.

1. THE ADAMS FREE LIBRARY

The building was designed to house the library and serve as a patriotic memorial to the veterans of the Civil War; the names Washington, Lincoln and Grant are listed on the building's cornice. President McKinley laid the cornerstone of the building in 1897. The distinctive buff-colored brick is trimmed by marble quarried at the former Adams Marble Co. The second floor of this building was used as a meeting hall for veterans groups of the Civil War. Today it houses the Adams Historical Society collection.

2. THE MCKINLEY STATUE

It stands in the Y intersection by the library. It commemorates the president's economic policy of protectionism that facilitated Adams' greatest prosperity. After McKinley's assassination in 1901, the Plunkett family (see Berkshire Mill No. 1, below) started a collection to pay Augustus Lukeman to sculpt the statue, which was installed in 1903. As a friend of the Plunketts, McKinley visited Adams three times.

3. THE NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

(Across from the library) The armory was built in 1914 and modeled after a Norman medieval castle. The armory of Company M is an example of the monumental architecture and large green spaces that grace the northern entrance to Park Street.

4. BERKSHIRE MILL NO. 1

The mill lies about three blocks north at the corner of Columbia Street (Route 8) and Hoosac Street. The first of four mills built by W.B. and C.T. Plunkett, it signaled the greatest economic develop-

ment the town has ever seen. Because of these cotton mills, Adams reached its peak in population and wealth just before World War I. The mill has been preserved and developed into apartments.

Driving Destinations

5. SUSAN B. ANTHONY PLAQUE

A plaque where East Hoosac Street crosses the Hoosic River honors Anthony (1820-1906), the daughter of Adams Quakers, who dedicated her life to securing equal rights for African-Americans and women.

The East Road area, known as Bowns Corner, was a bustling subcommunity in the early 1800s. Anthony's father built her house in the Federal style in 1817. Although she lived in Adams only six years before her father moved the family to New York state, where her father managed a mill, the beliefs and aspirations of the Adams Quakers influenced her.

6. THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

The meetinghouse and cemetery that surrounds it are on Friend Street, an easy walk west from the library up Maple Street. The East Hoosuck Meeting of the Society of Friends — the official name for the Adams Quakers — built the meeting house in 1782. The name 'quakers' is derived from their founder George Fox's admonition to "quake" at the word of the Lord.

The building is Adams' most important and best-preserved piece of early-American architecture. The earliest settlers of the town, including David Anthony, designed and built it with dignified simplicity. The Hick site national schism in the Friends around 1827 led two groups to share the building for two different services on Wednesdays and Sundays. The schism and the lure of the West led to a decline of Quakerism in Adams.

The open areas in front of the meeting house are the unmarked graves of Friends. The Society of Friends Descendants still holds an annual meeting in the house on the last Sunday in August. Follow Friend Street until it turns into West Road, and the take a left up Gould Road to

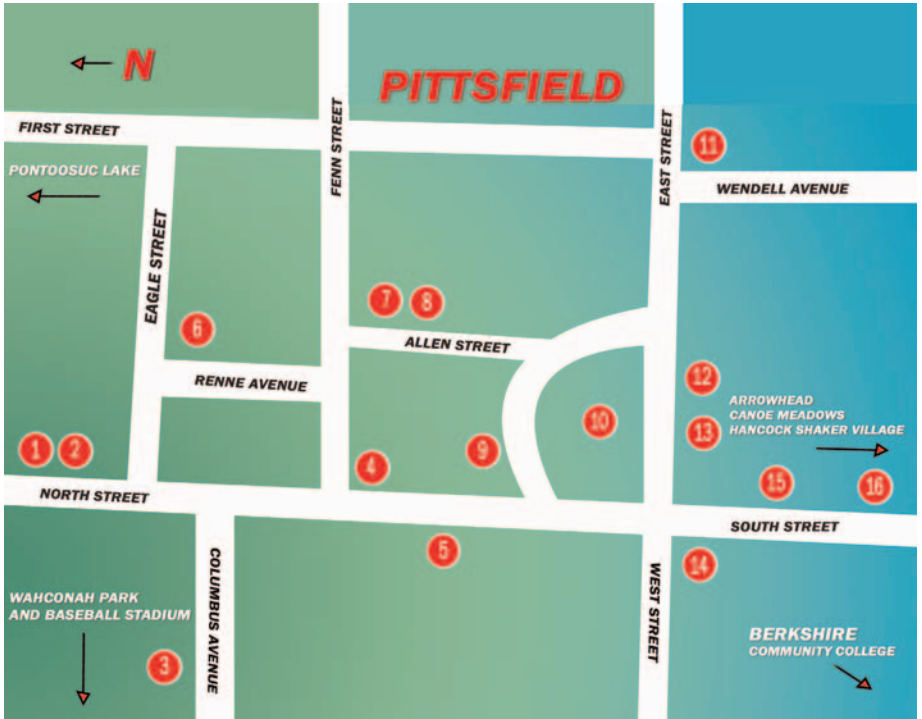
7. GREYLOCK GLEN

The beautiful, rugged natural property at the base of Mount Greylock offers hiking and fishing in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter. In the fall, the stands of birch and alder in its marsh meadows turn early, and the colors of the leaves are unusually stunning. The Glen hosts recreational and educational programs, cleanups and hikes. This is the site of the proposed Greylock Center project, envisioned as an environmental center and network of trails.

This tour is adapted with permission from two publications of the Adams Historical Society: "A Walking Tour of Park Street" and a "Historic Auto-Tour of Adams." Those pamphlets, are available at the Adams Free Library.

PITTSFIELD

A Brief History & Highlights



Berkshire County's central metropolis, Pittsfield has a population of nearly 50,000. The city was called Pontoosuc Plantation until it was incorporated in 1761 and named after the British statesman William Pitt. (Pontoosuc, in Mohican, refers to hunting the winter deer.)

In its first years, Pittsfield chiefly depended on agriculture. Park Square, at the end of North Street and at the heart of downtown Pittsfield, hosted the first agricultural fair in the states in 1810. The legendary Pittsfield Elm stood in the square until 1861.

Later, retail business and industry firmly established themselves. The General Electric Co. arrived in 1907. Today, the city offers everything from museums and galleries to shopping and sports. A growing community of artists display sculpture and paintings in open studios along North Street, and the city is redis-

covering a long tradition of theater and cinema.

Downtown is in transition, under vigorous efforts to make it the social center of the city again. Enjoy baklava and Greek dancing at the annual Greek Festival, or salsa, meringue and tango at Unidad Latina's annual celebration. Indian, Chinese, Polynesian, Vietnamese, Mexican, Italian and Greek restaurants share the downtown with casual diners, a bagel shop and a bakery that acts as a meeting place and a newspaper-reading spot.

In summer and fall, look for a weekly farmers' market and several outdoor concerts, including the Substance-Free Concert Series at Onota Lake, just west of the city.

Onota lies near Berkshire Community College, west of downtown off Lakeway Drive. In the northwest section of the city, there is swimming, picnicking, hiking and nature trails in Pittsfield State Forest.

Walking Tour

Begin at the north end of North Street, heading south.

1. ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, 414 NORTH ST.

St. Joseph's is the oldest Roman Catholic church in the Berkshires. It opened its doors on Melville Street in 1844. The congregation moved to North Street in 1866, in time for the Christmas Mass. The church is built of blue granular limestone and is the only street-level church without steps in the country.

2. WELDEN'S BLOCK, 226 NORTH ST.

This is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Pittsfield and has changed very little since 1874. The building slants to follow the railroad tracks. The first train to reach Pittsfield, one engine and one car, arrived 30 years earlier, in May 1841. Whelden's was the first building raised in the north area of Main Street — so far north of the rest that local merchants claimed it catered to the Lanesboro trade.

Pass Anthony Sottile Park on the east and at the corner of Columbus Avenue, Persip Park is on the west. Look down Columbus Avenue to see

3. THE BERKSHIRE REGIONAL INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER

The Berkshire Regional Transit Authority has financed the building of the first bus and train center in the region, using federal grants. It will be the first bus station in the county with indoor seating. Rail, intercity bus and regional bus routes will converge here. The BRTA expected the center to open this spring. Passengers will be able to browse through a visitors' center and food court while they wait out of the rain. On the east side, at the intersection of Fenn Street, is

4. 1ST AGRICULTURAL BANK, 100 NORTH ST.

This classic Vermont marble structure opened in 1818, 10 years after the city's first bank. In the days of Pittsfield's prosperity as a woolen manufacturing center, the Agricultural Bank financed the makers of textile machinery, shoes, paper and electrical supplies. Look down the block to the west for the next stop before turning left on Fenn Street to

5. CENTRAL BLOCK, GRAND CENTRAL HALL, 75 NORTH ST.

This 1881 building introduced North Street to plate-glass windows. People gathered in its open third floor for lectures, dances and meetings. J.J. Newberry's five-and-dime opened here in the 1940s and stayed for more than 50 years. Head down Fenn Street. Renne Avenue, a one-block side street, opens on the north side.

6. BERKSHIRE ARTISANS, THE LICHTENSTEIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

A mural half a block long fronts this community

gallery. Berkshire Artisans has painted many murals on municipal buildings around town. It also hosts regular art shows, runs art classes, gives space to the Berkshire Writer's Room and maintains a portable stage. Across from Renne Ave., turn down Allen Street to

7. CITY HALL, 70 ALLEN ST.

Mayor Remo DelGallo renovated this Italian Renaissance style building and moved the City Hall into it in support of the effort to maintain Pittsfield's historic architecture. Like the Agricultural Bank, the building is made of Vermont marble, but it was built later, in 1910.

8. CENTRAL FIRE STATION, 66 ALLEN ST.

The fire station replaced the local bucket brigade in 1895, although it took the city a year longer to buy draft horses to pull the fire engines. In 1915, the city installed a compressed air "hooter" to summon volunteer firemen. It also announced snow days and called up the militia. The fire station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. E.J. Cowell, a Pittsfield builder and city building inspector, designed it. Allen Street comes out on Park Square.

9. FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, 27 EAST ST.

This is the third congregational meetinghouse built in Pittsfield. The proprietors of Pontoosuc voted to build a Congregational Church in 1753, but the French and Indian War, construction delays and a tendency to cheer the builders on with rum held up the building until 1770 and left it unfinished. Fire damaged its successor, a Charles Bulfinch design, in 1851. The current church dates to 1853 and incorporates the Bulfinch design for its church clock, bell and boot scrapers.

10. PARK SQUARE

The island in the rotary commemorates Vietnam War veterans, the Pittsfield Elm and the country's first agricultural fair. People gather among the statues there for every kind of festival and social event, from holding political rallies to building snowmen. Cross Park Square. Slightly to the east, at the corner of Wendell Avenue is

11. BERKSHIRE ATHENAEUM, 1 WENDELL AVE.

The Pittsfield library exhibits Herman Melville's manuscript correspondence, first editions, family pictures and personal artifacts from pipes to harpoons in its Melville Room. It hosts concerts, readings and genealogy talks all year round. Head west, back toward the far end of Park Square, where North Street turns into South Street.

12. BRIGGS MEMORIAL PLAQUE, EAST ST., NEAR THE TOURSIT KIOSK

A plaque honors Henry Shaw Briggs, a Lanesboro native and brigadier general in the Civil War from

1861 to 1864. On the reverse side of the rock, another plaque commemorates the Peace Party House built by Col. James Easton in 1776. John Chandler Williams moved it to Wendell Avenue in 1783, and that September it hosted a grand and glorious feast in honor of the peace between England and the colonies.

**13. PROBATE COURT, CENTRAL COUNTY
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, 44 BANK ROW**

This is the original library building, Venetian gothic. Thomas Allen donated \$50,000 to have it built in 1876.

**14. BERKSHIRE CORNER, SOUTH CORNER OF
WEST & NORTH ST.**

The Berkshire Life Insurance Headquarters built this structure as its headquarters in 1868. Early evidence of a more urban style of architecture, this building housed banks, the post office, a gas company, the Masonic Order and city offices in its early years. It stands on the site of the Merrick Inn, a meeting place of the Federalist Party, and the Berkshire Hotel, which boasted visits from Presidents Van Buren and Tyler, John Quincy Adams and Daniel Webster. Head down South Street to

15. THE BERKSHIRE MUSEUM, 39 SOUTH ST.

Its recent interactive exhibits have explored the connection between the senses and art, the Victorian world of Sherlock Holmes, springs, sprockets, mobiles and weather. Many of its ongoing exhibits of art, natural science and history relate to Berkshire County, but some encompass ancient Egypt and relatives of the stegosaurus on the front lawn. Zenas Crane of Crane & Co. founded the museum in 1903.

16. COLONIAL THEATRE, 113 SOUTH ST.

The century-old building takes its superb acoustics from famed theatre designer J. B. McElfatrick and is considered one of the 10 greatest theaters in the world. From 1903 to 1934, it attracted world-class actors from the Barrymores to Lillian Russell. The city has supported an ongoing effort to renovate it. Friends of the Colonial Theatre give tours in summer and fall.

Driving Destinations

On Route 7 north, find

17. PONTOOSUC LAKE

Pittsfield shares the lake with its neighbor, Lanesboro. People from both sides gather at the lake all year, for sailing and fishing — ice fishing in the winter. Head west at the top of North for

**18. WAHCONAH PARK & BASEBALL STADIUM,
WAHCONAH ST.**

The historic, west-facing ballpark may be the only

stadium in the states that takes a timeout at sunset. Pittsfield has hosted minor league baseball teams for the better part of the last century and plans are afoot for a renovated stadium and a new team next year.

Take Route 7 South to Route 20 and follow signs for Berkshire Community College. Keep going for Onota Lake and the state forest.

**19. BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
WEST ST.**

BCC presents innovative and often multicultural events on its campus and in its Koussevitzky Arts Center. The college hosts theater, guest speakers, music and events from one-act neo-Noh plays and Bolivian guitarists to judo demonstrations and the annual Not-Your-Average-Dog Show.

Stay on Routes 7 and 20 south almost to the Lenox border and take a left (east) on Holmes Road for

20. ARROWHEAD, 780 HOLMES RD.

Herman Melville lived at Arrowhead from 1850 to 1863 while he wrote his classic “Moby Dick” and kept up a correspondence with Nathaniel Hawthorne. The Berkshire Historical Society keeps up the house and has its office here. Tours are available, by candlelight in December.

**21. CANOE MEADOWS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY,
HOLMES RD.**

Trails and beaver ponds thread the Massachusetts Audubon sanctuary at an old Mohican canoe launch site on the Housatonic River. Mass Audubon guides lead birding treks, frog finds and classes on local and natural history, and the Berkshire Museum runs a Mohican summer camp here. Take Route 7 south to Route 20 and then Route 20 west until it crosses Route 41 to find

22. HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE, RTS 20 & 41

Delve into the life of a Shaker religious community from the early 19th to the early 20th century. Learn about the Shakers’ ingenious inventions for carrying on the work of their communal village and their powerful, physical and mystical brand of worship. The village and the Heritage Breeds Association demonstrate farming practices from plowing fields to cutting ice and exhibit rare breeds of animals in the round stone barn. The village offers tours and special family weekends year-round.

Historical information was compiled using the Berkshire Historical Society’s “The Melville Trail,” with its permission. Walking-tour information was largely compiled from “Pittsfield, Massachusetts, A self-Guided Walking Tour,” by former Mayor Sara Hathaway, the Senior Volunteer Program and the Pittsfield Commission on Tourism.

LENOX

A Brief History & Highlights



The economy and appearance of Lenox have grown out of history as a prominent vacation retreat, although it was a farming community and the home of glassworks and other industries.

From 1880 through 1920, wealthy Americans built estates that still influence the physical character of the town. Many of them were converted to prep schools and resorts. The prep schools are gone now, but many of the resorts remain. The houses and grounds at Edith Wharton's "cottage" the Mount, Ventfort Hall and Springlawn are all open to the public.

Downtown Lenox is home to galleries, craft shops and a wide range of restaurants, many in converted old houses. Several craft fairs bring quilts, wooden mobiles and wild honey to Lilac Park every summer. Besides this central green lawn near the war memorial, the downtown encompasses Triangle Park's fountain and gives easy access to Kennedy Park's hiking trails.

An easy distance from the downtown, visitors can walk the labyrinth beside Kripalu's wildflower meadows or stroll quietly around Tanglewood during the

day — and perhaps overhear a music class or rehearsal in progress or combine Shakespeare & Company's Elizabethan gardens with free Punch and Judy shows, burlesque, ballads, madrigals, Morris dancing and an outdoor theater in the round.

Walking Tour

Begin at the north end of Main Street, Route 7A.

1. CHURCH ON THE HILL, MAIN ST.

A classic example of the New England church, which evolved from earlier barn-like meeting houses. Architect Benjamin Goodrich of Richmond designed the church. On Jan 1, 1806, it was dedicated in a service led by the Rev. Samuel Shepard. As the official town and state church until 1834, it held an important place in the political, social and religious life of Lenox. Today it is one of the Berkshires' most familiar landmarks.

Just beyond the church, a paved road leads uphill into Kennedy Park. Head south on Main Street on the east side. The next three stops sit at the corners of Main and the following three cross streets.

**2. ISRAEL DEWEY HOUSE,
THE BRICHWOOD INN, 7 HUBBARD ST.**

The property was deeded to Israel Dewey in 1764, and the first town meeting gathered in his house in 1767. His simple farmhouse is the core of the present structure, which expanded many times in later years. Laddock Hubbard bought the property in 1798 and opened the Hubbard Tavern. In 1806, Azariah Egleston converted it back to a private residence in the Second Empire style. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dana bought it in 1885, and the Dana family kept it until 1953. It later became a halfway house for mentally disabled World War II veterans. It was converted to an inn in 1981.

3. ST. ANN,S CHURCH, 130 MAIN ST.

With the influx of immigrants and cottagers, the Catholic community grew in Lenox and built a small wood church in 1871. In 1911, the congregation replaced the first church with this much larger Norman Gothic Revival structure, designed by New York architect Francis Burrell Hoffman. The parish extended into the neighborhood of the Lenox Glassworks and another Catholic church, St. Vincent de Paul, opened in 1904 in Lenox Dale.

**4. COLONIAL HALL/WASHBURN HOUSE 5 &
9 FRANKLIN ST. (ANTONIO'S RESTAURANT)**

William and Ella McCarthy built the double

house now occupied by Antonio's in the 1880s. Louis Regnier converted the simple vernacular building around the turn of the century to an upstairs dance hall known as "Colonial Hall," a popular social gathering place. A grocery store and plumbing business occupied the ground floor. Regnier also moved the 1850 Franklin Washburn House next door from Main Street. Cross to the west side of Main to

5. LENOX ACADEMY, 65 MAIN ST.

The new Lenox Academy opened in this Federal-style structure in 1803 and operated until 1866. After the academy closed, the building served as a public high school from 1869 until 1879 and again from 1886 until 1908. The Trinity School occupied it from 1911 through the 1920s. The town bought the vacant building in 1947, and it now serves as the Lenox Historical Society Museum. The collections include 1800s school desks, lumps of blue-green glass from the glass-factory slag heap and a sled of the same kind as the one that crashed to inspire Edith Wharton's "Ethan Frome."

**6. FIRST LENOX LIBRARY, 55 MAIN ST.
(CHURCH ON THE HILL CHAPEL)**

This building was the original site of the Lenox Library. It was designed by J.F. Rathbone and built in 1877. The Congregational Society purchased the property after the library moved out. Back on the east side of Main street, look down Housatonic Street for the next two steps.

**7. ELM COTTAGE, SCHERMERHORN COTTAGE,
12 HOUSATONIC ST. (HERITAGE TAVERN)**

This originally stood on Main Street. Frank C. Hagyard moved it to its present location in 1910, when he built his drugstore on its former site. It is one of two Victorian eclectic summer cottages known as the "Elm Cottages," which George C. Haven built in 1881. W.C. Schermerhorn bought the house in 1887. It was later converted to a tavern and apartments.

**8. FIRST COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
27 HOUSATONIC ST.**

Originally located just west of the present Town Hall, this square two-story building was constructed in 1791 as the First County Court House. The building was made of wood with a hipped roof and square cupola, typical of New England meetinghouses. When the new county courthouse was built, this became the Town Hall and post office. Regnier's Store occupied space on the first floor, and people often gathered here after Sunday church services. In 1903, after the present Town Hall was built, Thomas Post moved the building to the northeast corner of Church and Housatonic streets for storefronts and apartments.

**9. BERKSHIRE COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
18 MAIN ST. (LENOX LIBRARY)**

Capt. Isaac Damon designed the building. The



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town built it in 1815 to replace the first Berkshire County Courthouse. After the county seat moved to Pittsfield in 1868, Mrs. Adeline Schermerhorn, a longtime summer resident of Lenox, secured the property for a public library and community center. Town offices leased rooms on the second floor, and the old courtroom became an auditorium until 1889, when the town added a one-story annex called Sedgwick Hall for meetings and performances. The library's first floor also housed the newly chartered Lenox National Bank, and the first telephone service in Lenox operated from the rear of the building. Recent renovations have reopened the old courthouse rotunda and revealed its original paintings of hummingbirds and morning glories.

Turn left onto Walker Street. At this corner, on the north side, sits

10. CURTIS HOTEL, 6 MAIN ST.

The site of an inn since the 1770s, the hotel came to dominate the entire northeast corner of Main and Walker streets. Now the building houses shops, galleries and apartments for elderly tenants. Cross to the south side to

11. LENOX TOWN HALL, 6 WALKER ST.

Built in 1901 for town offices, Town Hall also originally contained a post office, bank, police station and fire station. George C. Harding, a Pittsfield native, designed it and used the popular Neoclassical style of red brick with white trim to match the Curtis Hotel across the street. For a time, the rear of the building became an opera house, and in the mid 1900s the town screened films every week in the auditorium.

12. LENOX FIRE HOUSE, 14 WALKER ST.

The town formed the Lenox Fire Department and built this firehouse in the wake of the Easter fire of 1909, which had devastated many buildings in the center of Lenox. By this time, architect George C. Harding had formed a partnership with Henry M. Seaver, and together they designed the new firehouse in the same Neoclassical style as Harding's Town Hall. It was built by Clifford & Sons, the firm in whose building the 1909 fire is thought to have started.

13. NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH. BUILDING, 48 WALKER ST.

Thomas Post and Edward McDonald built this narrow, three-story Victorian commercial structure in 1900 for lease by New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. It was sold in 1928 for a Knights of Columbus meeting hall. In 1972 it was converted to retail shops and apartments. Kemble Street, Route 7A, veers off from Walker Street here.

Follow it to the entrance to Springlawn or about half mile farther to the main entrance of

14. SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY, 70 KEMBLE ST. (SPRINGLAWN, FOUNDER'S THEATRE, ROSE FOOTPRINT)

Summer and fall, the company performs Shakespeare plays, new works and adaptations of Edith Wharton, Henry James and other writers. The actors provide educational programs in Berkshire schools throughout the off-season.

The company is preparing for a reconstruction of the Rose Theatre, which produced Shakespeare's early works before he moved on to the Globe. The summer Bankside Festival fills the grounds with free outdoor theater before evening shows. New walking trails have opened at the north end of the property, and picnickers are welcome.

Continue down Walker to

15. TRINITY CHURCH, 11 KEMBLE ST.

This impressive Norman Gothic-style Episcopal church replaced the older Episcopal church on Church Street and was largely funded by summer residents.

The original plans simulated ancient ruins, but parishioner Col. Richard Auchmuty objected and drew up his own. President Chester A. Arthur laid the cornerstone, and the building was consecrated in 1888.

16. LENOX BROTHERHOOD CLUB, 65 WALKER ST. (LENOX COMMUNITY CTR)

George E. Turner built the center in 1932 as a memorial to his son. The Classical Revival structure was designed to resemble a large country house. It became the home of an organization of men's church clubs called the "Brotherhood Club." In the 1930s, membership was expanded and eventually became open to all.

It now houses after-school programs, the Council on Aging and the Parks and Recreation Department.

17. VENTFORT HALL, MUSEUM OF THE GILDED AGE, 104 WALKER ST.

The Ventfort Hall Association has been restoring Sarah and George Morgan's Berkshire Cottage since 2000. The association offers tea and lectures, architecture programs, balls and puppet shows and tours year round. The mansion served as the orphanage in the film "The Cider House Rules."

Driving Destinations

Follow Walker Street west to Route 183 west at the monument for

18. FRELINGHUYSEN MORRIS HOUSE MUSEUM

George Morris and Susy Frelinghuysen's art deco house displays many of their paintings and murals.

19. TANGLEWOOD

The Boston Symphony Orchestra's summer home opens its grounds during the day for early concertgoers with picnic blankets. The BSO and other groups perform nightly and Sunday afternoons and hold open rehearsals several times a week. Just this side of the Stockbridge line, by the Kripalu wildflower meadows and cornfields, the road forks. Take the right fork, not Route 183, and follow it uphill to

20. YOKUN RIDGE OVERLOOK

This walled lookout area gives a view over the mountains to Stockbridge Bowl and a trailhead for many walks through preserved forestland. From Walker Street, take Route 7A to its intersection with Route 7 and head straight across the intersection to Plunkett Street to

21. THE MOUNT

The Edith Wharton Restoration has completely renovated the exterior of Wharton's Berkshire Cottage and, in recent years, replanted the lime walk, reinstalled her fountains, re-sculpted her gardens and redecorated many of her rooms. The Mount offers tours and lectures on women writers and gracious living throughout the summer.

Follow Routes 7 & 20 north toward Pittsfield to

22. PLEASANT VALLEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Abutting Kennedy Park, the wildlife sanctuary lies along West Dugway Road, the first left after 7A joins Route 7.

The Massachusetts Audubon Society owns and operates it, offering bat talks, frog and salamander walks, canoe trips, nature displays, easy walks and longer trails.

23. FARMERS' MARKET

Lenox House and Country Shops, Lenox farmers and crafters will gather on summer Saturdays with fresh produce. Follow Walker Street east across Route 7 & 20 into the village of Lenox Dale.

Turn left on Willow Creek Road and pass the post office and the site of the Lenox Dale Glass Factory and

24. BERKSHIRE SCENIC RAILWAY MUSEUM

1920s excursion trains leave the station at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., weekends and holidays, bound for Stockbridge.

The museum houses model trains, exhibits and photographs of Gilded Age.

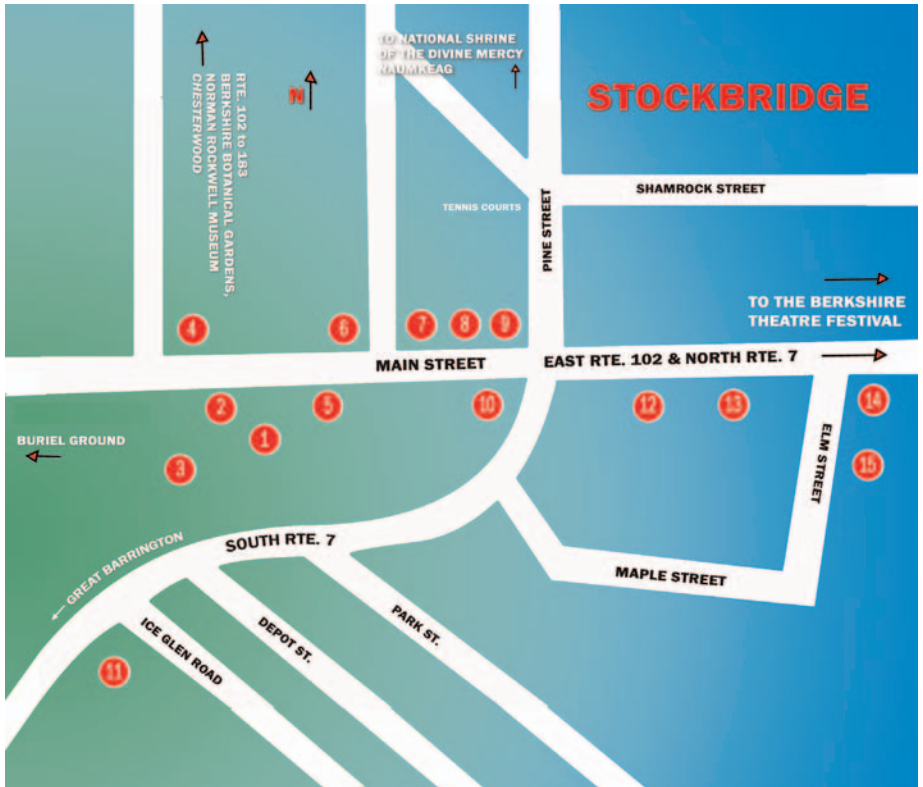
The above information was compiled from information from the Lenox Library Association, Lenox Historical Commission and Lenox Historical Society.



Winter in Southern Berkshire County

STOCKBRIDGE

A Brief History & Highlights



The Rev. John Sargent founded a mission here among the Mohicans. When Mohican leaders gave up land elsewhere in exchange for the land around the mission, in an attempt to preserve their people by fitting in with colonial settlers, they formed Indiantown — which is now Stockbridge. There are Mohican names on the town's original deeds and Select Board roster.

The Mission House, down Main Street, still stands as a record and a museum. Stockbridge's Main Street is well preserved, and many political battles have been fought to keep it that way. Stockbridge has the oldest civic improvement society in the country — the Laurel Hill Association — reflecting the town's determination to protect its natural and architectural gifts.

For exactly 207 years, visitors have sat on the

porch at the Red Lion Inn, ordered a drink and watched the world go by. But don't just stick to Main Street. The renowned Alice's Restaurant, now Naji's restaurant (Middle East cuisine) and catering business, is just down the alleyway. Elm Street, at the east end of town, offers shops — from wine to photographic supplies — galleries, Hose House No. 1 and rows of old houses.

Walking Tour

Begin at the west end of Main Street, on the south side.

1. VILLAGE GREEN AND TOWN HALL

Town Hall is a stately Greek-revival building with Doric columns. The rear is 101 years old and the front somewhat newer: 1904. The building was renovated in 1964.

2. THE CHILDREN'S CHIME TOWER

The tower was dedicated in 1878.

By the donor's wishes, it is rung every evening from "apple blossom time until frost."

3. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The 160-year-old red-brick church lies just west of Town Hall.

4. STOCKBRIDGE CEMETERY

Across from the church, the cemetery houses the Sedgwick Pie.

The Sedgwicks have been leading figures in Berkshire history and literature. Their 1785 Mansion on Main Street is privately owned.

Head east along Main Street to

5. MERWIN HOUSE

The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiques maintains this 1820s Federal-style brick structure also known as "Tranquility."

6. THE MISSION HOUSE

John Sergeant, the first missionary to the Mohican Indians in this area, built this house.

It was moved to its present site in the 1920s.

7. BERKSHIRE COTTAGES

Several examples of the mansions built by wealthy industrialists during the Gilded Age sit well back from the road.

8. FIELD HOUSE

The first Atlantic cable message was received in 1858 in this small white building.

Where Pine Street meets Main Street on the north and Route 7 splits off to the south, both intersections surround islands of grass.

9. SOLDIERS MONUMENT

Commemorates Civil War veterans (1866.)

It stands directly across from

10. THE CAT AND DOG FOUNTAIN

The fountain dates from 1862. It sprays among flowers in summer and alongside the town's Christmas tree in winter.

A detour down Route 7 leads to walking and hiking trails and

11. LAUREL HILL

The Laurel Hill Association, the nation's oldest village improvement society (1853), maintains meadows and trails from a footbridge over the Housatonic River to a trek through the Ice Glen and a climb to Laura's Tower, a lookout with a fine view.

Back on Main Street, continue east to

12. 1884 HOUSE

This was the original Town Hall.

13. THE STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY

The library houses a collection of local artifacts dating back 400 years. Besides documents, furniture and other paraphernalia, the library also has replicas of Mohican tools and crafts, and some of the real thing.

14. THE OLD CORNER HOUSE

This 1790s house was the original Norman Rockwell Museum until the modern museum opened in 1992. Look right down Elm Street at

15. THE POST OFFICE

Immediately on the left. The building was named in honor of one of Stockbridge's favorite citizens, Tom Carey (1881-1967), a taxi driver who brought the mail from the railroad station to the post office daily for 55 years.

Driveable Destinations.

Follow Main Street and 102 east to

16. BERKSHIRE THEATRE FESTIVAL

Long ago, the Berkshire Theatre Festival building was a gambling house. Now, it is a summer stage that has launched the careers of famous actors and successful plays. Heading west down Main Street, take West 102 to the intersection with Route 183 and

17. BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN.

It encompasses a rock garden, pond garden, rose garden, herb and vegetable gardens, mostly maintained by volunteers.

Follow Route 183 south to

18. NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM

Norman Rockwell was the second most popular American artist in the 20th century, after Walt Disney. The museum displays many of his "Saturday Evening Post" illustrations and other works, a replica of his studio and works by illustrators of all ages.

19. CHESTERWOOD

Behind the village of Glendale in Stockbridge, Chesterwood, the former estate of sculptor Daniel Chester French (1850-1931), shows his work and hosts a contemporary-sculpture show every summer. French is best known as the creator of the Lincoln Memorial. From Main Street, follow Pine Street, north of Prospect Hill Road, to

20. NAUMKEAG

The Trustees of Reservations own and operate the former summer home of Joseph Choate and family. It was built in 1886 and designed by architect Stanford White.

21. NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE DIVINE MERCY

Thousands of pilgrims travel to the Marion shrine every year to take part in special Masses.

LEE

A Brief History & Highlights



While other towns feature boutiques and gift shops, downtown Lee is still home to old-style barbershops, hardware stores and Joe's Diner, which Norman Rockwell used for the background of his famous painting of a runaway boy with a policeman. Joe Sorrentino, the original Joe, learned to cook in the Army and served both famous and local customers for 46 years until he retired.

The town was incorporated in 1777, and took its name from Gen. Charles Lee, second in command to George Washington in the ongoing war for independence. The town's downtown is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The farmhouses, estates, business blocks and factories that have pumped life into the town since 1760 are still here.

Lee takes pride in its history as a workmen's town. The town has handsome brick 19th-century mills: the Schweitzer Maudit, Eagle and Columbia mills and the Hurlbut paper mill, with its tumbling

waterfall, on state Route 102 in South Lee. Lee Lime Corp. is still a major producer of lime for agriculture and industry.

Lee was once famed for papermaking and for its marble. Lee marble, said to be the hardest and finest quality marble in the world, attracted a population of Italian stonecutters, and many of their descendants still live in town. Lee marble went into the construction of the nation's Capitol building, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Columbia University, Grant's Tomb, New York City Hall and the Empire State Building, the Statehouse and public library in Boston and many of downtown Lee's finest structures. Main Street buildings have all been made accessible for people with handicaps.

Begin in the triangular park at the south end of Main Street, by the church and the visitors center.

1. PUBLIC DRINKING FOUNTAIN

The fountain was dedicated in 1899 to the memory of Amelia Jeannette Kilbon.

Daniel Chester French designed it, and it is made

of Lee marble. Originally, it stood at the corner of Main and Railroad streets, with the horse basin facing the road and the fountain facing the street. It was moved to the park at about the time automobiles took over. The two little basins for dogs to drink from have broken off. The face of Chief Konkapot is carved into the fountain. He and 20 other Mohicans sold the southern half of Berkshire County, including land on which the town of Lee now stands, to European colonists in 1722.

2. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 20 PARK PL.

This Romanesque church is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It was built in 1857 but had two predecessors on the site. Pioneers from the Cape built the first meetinghouse in 1780. They razed it 20 years later, replacing it with a larger Colonial structure. This burned in the fire of 1857. The church's wooden spire, supported by a 105-foot timber frame, is the tallest of its kind in the nation. Its Seth Thomas clock is one of only two of its type ever made. The auditorium was decorated with trompe l'oeil by two German artists and is regarded as one of the finest examples of this work in the United States.

3. MEMORIAL HALL

This structure houses the town offices and the Lee Police Station. It was built in 1874 of local marble and red brick. The entire structure is a Civil War memorial. The names of 38 local soldiers, some as young as 16, are inscribed on three tablets inside the building. The former courtroom is now used for meetings. It was in this courtroom that young Arlo Guthrie, then 18, faced Judge Jim Hannon on charges of dumping trash down a Stockbridge hillside. Cross the street and continue north for the next five stops.

4. KELLY FUNERAL HOME, WELLINGTON SMITH HOUSE

Wellington Smith, owner of the Smith Paper Co., lived in this Second-Empire French mansard villa with an Italianate-style veranda. This was the first house in Lee to be supplied with water from a reser-

voir and the first with bathrooms. Smith's company capitalized on the prosperity of the Civil War. At the Columbia Mill, the company was the first in America to commercially produce paper from wood pulp, using Berkshire poplars. The company's four mills (Columbia, Eagle, Housatonic and Valley) used steam power and operated 24 hours a day. They were at that time the largest papermakers in the world. Smith was a friend of President McKinley. He died in 1910.

5. ZABIAN'S STORES/PARK BUILDING

This 1914 building has plate-glass windows with copper cornices and teardrop leaded-glass transoms. It was considered to be Lee's finest commercial structure. Architect Henry S. Moul of Hudson, N.Y., and Lee designed it and several other buildings downtown, including the Central Fire Station. It is built of Lee marble.

6. THE MORGAN HOUSE

Maria Cole, wife of Nat King Cole, owned this 3 1/2-story Federal house in the 1970s. William Porter, a lawyer and civic leader, built it around 1817. It became a public house in 1867, after the Hicks Hotel burned down on the site where Memorial Hall now stands. (Various fires over the years convinced residents of the superiority of marble as a building material.) The present owners maintain it as a restaurant and inn.

7. FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF THE BERKSHIRES

This bank was built in 1835 in a Greek-revival style but was altered to Italianate in 1858. The building's foundation is brownstone. The bank has hand-forged iron grills between the columns and still houses the original safe with brass timework in the door.

8. THE ANIMAGIC MUSEUM

This collection of exhibits on film making, animators, Oscar winners and new technology holds animation workshops regularly, and local film makers give talks. Cross Main Street again. Look down Franklin Street to see

9. ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This marble building replaced an earlier wood-framed church in 1865. It is a Gothic Revival structure with steeply pitched gable roof of slate and wooden belfry. Lee marble quarry owner Charles Heebner donated both the stone and the labor. Marble proved a good choice of material: In 1879, a fire destroyed most of the surrounding business district.

10. LEE LIBRARY

A DAR plaque at the right of the entrance commemorates the log cabin of Peter Wilcox, originally built on this site, where the first town held its first town meeting Dec. 26, 1777. Andrew Carnegie financed the library, a 1907 Beaux-Arts building with a hip roof covered with tile. At the time, Carnegie owned Shadowbrook in Lenox, and it was the largest private residence in America. After initial resistance to accepting Carnegie's

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gift, Lee accepted it at the town meeting of April 4, 1906. When an addition was added to the north side in 1977, the defunct Lee marble quarries reopened so the marble would match. Look down Adacemy street for

11. ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Mary's was built in 1856, in response to the rapid influx of Irish Catholics who came to build the Housatonic Railroad in 1849 and the Italian Catholic stonemasons who worked in the Lee marble quarries. By 1864, attendance was larger than at any other Lee church. By 1878, mission churches had been established in Stockbridge and West Stockbridge. St. Patrick's Church in West Stockbridge has a configuration identical to this one. Today the residents of Lee are still of predominantly Irish and Italian descent, and St. Mary's continues to enjoy the town's largest attendance. A 1,235-pound bronze bell rings daily at 7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. Across Main Street is

12. CENTRAL FIRE STATION

Henry S. Moul designed this Richardsonian Romanesque structure and built it of solid Lee marble throughout. It went up in 1912 on a lot that was part of the "burnt district" on the west side of Main — an area that had been vacant since the fire of 1880. Lee citizens bought the old firehouse bell in the tower in 1856. When Lee athletes are victorious, they get a ride through town on the fire trucks, with sirens blaring. Head down Railroad Street, on the west side of Main to find the last two stops.

13. OLD ST. MARY'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL (THE CHAMBERY INN)

This was the first parochial school in Berkshire County. It was built in 1885, and five sisters from France of the order of St. Joseph of Chambery staffed it. Joseph M. Toole moved the building from Academy Street to its present location on Elm and Main in 1989 and renovated it into a bed-and-breakfast. His grandfather, Thomas Toole, was a student when the school opened in 1886. This may be the world's only B&B with blackboards in the suites.

14. SULLIVAN STATION (OLD LEE RAILROAD STATION)

The New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad built this railroad passenger depot in 1893. It was converted into a restaurant in 1981. The building is "stick style," with a saltbox roof and a Victorian telegrapher's bay. It has Lee marble retaining walls. The passenger platform and canopy were removed.

Driving Destinations

15. SANTARELLA MUSEUM AND GARDENS

Take Route 102 to Tyringham Road and follow it south into Tyringham Valley, still part of Lee. Some

way along, on the left, look for a "gingerbread" house that was formerly the studio of Henry Hudson Kitson, sculptor of the Lexington Minuteman.

16. TYRINGHAM COBBLE

Once in Tyringham, make a right up the hill. About two-thirds of the way up, on the right, is a small sign marking Tyringham Cobble. A half-mile hike leads to the top, with a spectacular view of the valley.

17. A MONUMENT TO A COW, FAIRVIEW ST., SOUTH LEE

Off the beaten track, on property that was once Highfield Farm, is a monument to a cow that in 18 years produced 205,928.5 pounds of milk. It reads, "Here lies Highfield Colantha Mooie A Holstein-Friesian Cow Who held the World Record For Lifetime Milk Production. Born, Lived and Died On This Farm, 1919-1937."

18. JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL, ROUTE 20, JUST OVER THE LINE IN BECKET

The oldest dance festival in America brings performers from around the world, June through August. The weekly lectures and performances on the Inside/Out stage are free.



A Mt. Greylock hiking trail after a heavy winter storm.

GT BARRINGTON

A Brief History & Highlights



The town became part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1761. It enjoyed the revolutionary spirit, religious contention and light industry that fed colonial New England. The Housatonic River powered the mills and enriched the bottomland along it. The Barrington fairground and racetrack has closed, but the town bred some well-heeled trotters and pacers in its time, and even a thoroughbred winner on the Hialeah Race Track in Florida.

Great Barrington's Main Street and Railroad Street are two of the oldest and best-lit streets in the country. In 1886, William Stanley electrified the town: His experiment with alternating current electricity, in an abandoned factory, gave Great Barrington the first lighted street in the country, if not the world.

The innovations continue. Great Barrington is the commercial, social and political center of the southernmost end of the county. The closest commercial area to New York City, it is also the most influenced by metropolitan style. Not long ago, a lady could not

walk down River Street without a chaperone. "Dodge city" with a red-light district and bars has become "Little Soho" in just a few years.

Watch for the farmer's market and concerts at the gazebo through the summer and the Great Barrington Summerfest in mid-June.

Begin at the south end of Main Street, across from the South Berkshire Chamber of Commerce Visitors' Center.

Walking Tour

1. SEARLES CASTLE

At the south end of Main Street, it's hard to miss Searles Castle — wall and turrets all built from local stone. In summer, tours explore the castle during the day and Stockbridge Summer Music Festival at night. Head north, on the west side of the street to

2. ST. JAMES CHURCH, 352 MAIN ST.

St. James is made of the same local East Mountain stone. The church holds concerts and lectures often — world-class cellist Yehuda Hananni's Close Encounters with Music concert series, based here, mixes commentary with classical music.

3. TOWN HALL MONUMENTS, 334 MAIN ST.

The Town Hall boasts monuments to two local historical events. In 1774, 700 or more local farmers armed with muskets rose against the British tribunal guarding the town and prevented it from entering the building. Also in the 1700s, Mum Betts, a woman enslaved by Col. John Ashley, won her freedom by due process of law. Massachusetts became a free state from that time onward. Mum Betts changed her name to Elizabeth Freeman. Take a detour down Bridge Street, past the urban garden of native plants outside the local food co-op to

4. RIVER WALK, DOWNSTREAM

On the east side of Main Street, the river walk runs along the Housatonic River. More than 1,450 volunteers created 2,100 feet of nature trail, a meditation garden and memorial park, with bench and boardwalk. A higher section of the walk begins upstream by the library. Back on Main, continue north to the intersection of Castle Street, on the west side to

5. MAHAIWE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Mahaiwe opened in 1905 and is one of the few theaters of its generation still operating in the country. It opened with a tour of the comic opera "Happyland," which was on its way from Boston to New York City, and continued to attract all-star performers through the first half of the century, including Ed Wynn and John Philip Sousa. In 1913, it added its first motion picture screen.

6. GREAT BARRINGTON GAZEBO

All summer, local bands perform at the bandstand behind Town Hall. Town festivals and the farmers' market often center here. Railroad street meets Main Street at the next intersection and

7. THE RAILROAD STREET YOUTH PROJECT

This is the headquarters of an organization run by and for local teenagers. Amanda Root and several young colleagues in their 20s founded it in the late 1990s to help keep the town's teens drug-free. The youth project hosts performances and art exhibitions, runs writing workshops and supports community initiatives. A short walk down Church Street toward the river leads to

8. BIRTHPLACE OF W. E. B. DUBOIS

Civil rights activist W. E. B. DuBois was born at the base of Church Street. The town has a complete tour of sites important to him when he lived, went to school and worked here.

DuBois' family occasionally attended services at the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church on Elm Court, and DuBois gave a talk on his impressions of Europe for the congregation in 1894.

9. MASON LIBRARY, 231 MAIN ST.

The library often mounts exhibits centered on local history — quilts, a heroine of the American Revolution, Mohican artifacts.

Mary Augusta Mason left a bequest of \$50,000 to pay for its construction, and the first brick was laid in 1912.

10. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 241 MAIN ST.

Before religious diversity came to Great Barrington, its people all belonged to the North Parish of Sheffield, a trek of several hours to worship and back.

The Great Barrington congregation opened its first meetinghouse in 1742, with five members. It grew steadily, though not without contention, since all residents were expected to support the church, regardless of their religious views. The Rev. Sam Houston, its first pastor, has a monument dedicated to him in the Water Street Cemetery.

The current church building, manse and organ are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The organ is the largest of 34 surviving Hilborne L. Roosevelt organs, with 3,954 pipes, and the National Organ Society honored it with a plaque in 1975.

11. RIVER WALK, UPSTREAM

The north entrance to the walk along the Housatonic lies just past the library, set back from the road.

See stop 4.

Joy Lyon of the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce provided much of this information. Bernard Drew's "History of Great Barrington" helped fill in gaps.



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Driveable Destinations

12. MONUMENT MOUNTAIN, ROUTE 7 NORTH

Combining literary and natural wonders, visitors can hike the Poets' Hike. Every year, the town reenacts the famous trek on which Herman Melville and Nathaniel Hawthorne cemented a new friendship. From Route 7, take Route 183 north to

13. HOUSATONIC

Residents are working to preserve this village under the wing of Great Barrington, with its historic mills and artists' studios. The village has its own library, with a stage on the second floor where fiddlers and blues-and-bluegrass musicians regularly play and a sourdough bakery that uses only natural, airborne yeast. Drive by the Rising paper mill on state Route 183; like the Simon's Rock campus buildings, the mill has impressive slate roofs.

14. ARLO GUTHRIE CENTER, 4 VAN DEUSENVILLE RD., HOUSATONIC

In the church where Alice of "Alice's Restaurant" gave a young Arlo Guthrie a Thanksgiving dinner, Arlo and his family now run a community center and concert hall. The troubadour series brings folk legends and locals to the stage on summer Fridays and Saturdays — Pete Seeger, Dar Williams and Vance Gilbert all know how to find it. Just before Route 7 curves around to become Main Street, take 41 north to

15. SUNWAYS FARM AND PROJECT NATIVE

Railroad Street Youth Project and the Nature Conservancy teamed up to generate Project Native, a plant nursery and advocate for species native to New England. Project Native has in turn joined the Berkshire Natural Resources Council and the New England Heritage Breed Association in turning Sunways Farm into an agricultural center for growing unique plants and animals. Near Town Hall, take Taconic street west and follow signs (the road will curve right) for



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