

East view of Norfolk, (central part.)

"This little village . . . is uncommonly neat and beautiful."

— John Warner Barber in *Connecticut Historical Collections*, 1836

1 Railroad Station – 10 Station Place • The Central New England Railroad brought flocks of summer visitors to Norfolk when this station was built in 1898. Station Place had become the primary entrance to the village center, and the new "artistic" station presented the proper image of a cultivated town to travelers. Designed by the New York-based firm Hill & Turner, the building

is sheathed in native granite and has a broad roof with slightly-flared eaves. At the time it was built, a sign in brass letters read: "Norfolk, the Highest Railroad Station in Connecticut."

2 Shepard Barn • This 19th century frame barn with a distinctive rooster weathervane on the cupola stood on the property of Captain John H. Shepard, proprietor of Shepard Tavern (formerly Pettibone Tavern, see #7). His son Frederick M. Shepard (1827–1913) was instrumental in shaping the town in the late 19th century. President of the Goodyear Rubber Company in NY, Frederick Shepard built the water

works that piped fresh water from Wangum Lake to the village center and opened streets such as Emerson and Mills Way through his extensive properties for an expansion of housing.

3 Norfolk Library – 9 Greenwoods Road East • Isabella Eldridge, daughter of the town pastor, engaged Hartford architect George Keller to design a library for the town in 1888. A disciple of the great American architect Henry Hobson Richardson and architect of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch in Hartford's Bushnell Park, Keller used russet freestone, quarried at Longmeadow,

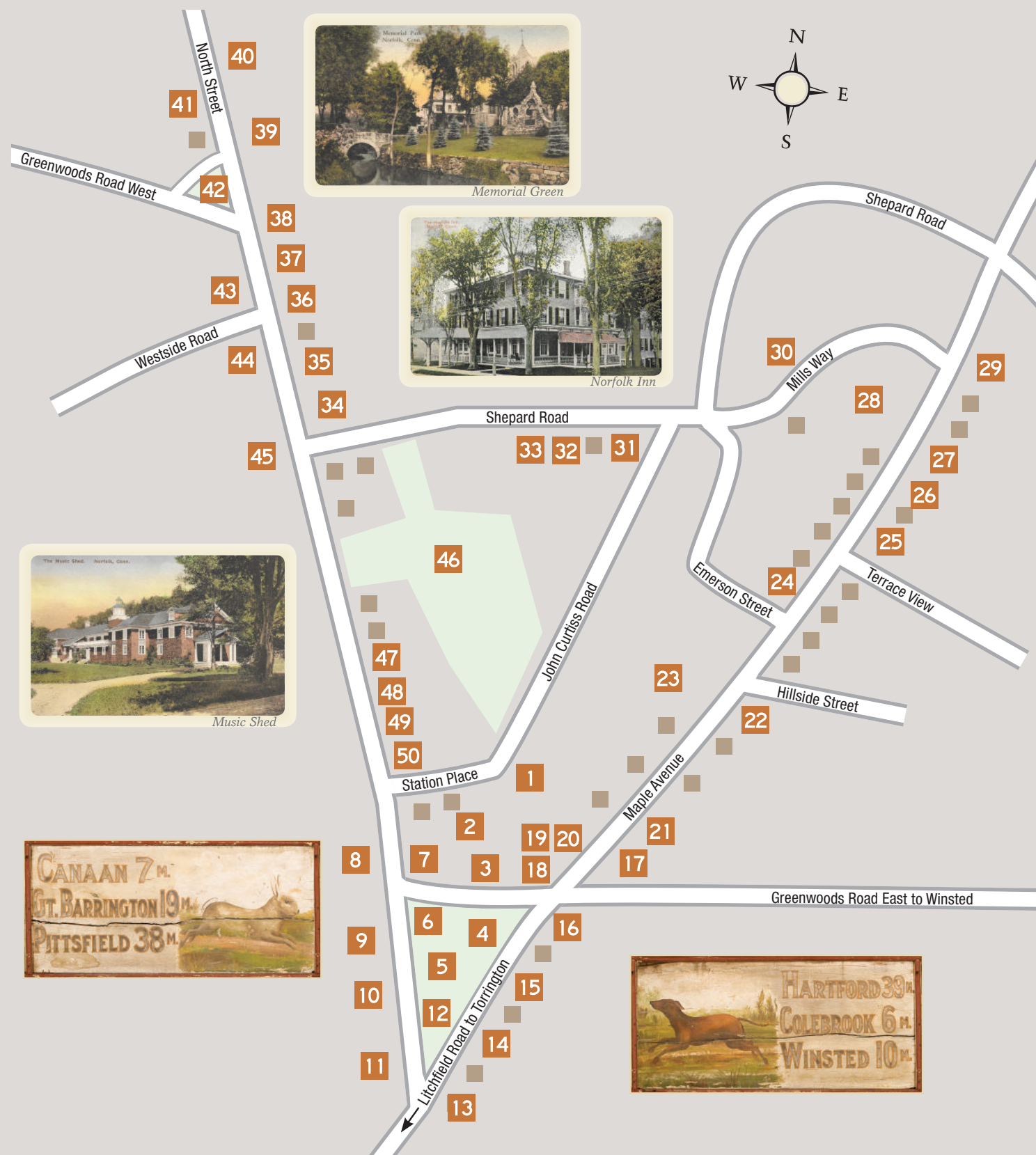
Massachusetts, and fish scale shingles below a roof of fluted terra cotta tile. In 1911 he designed a seamless addition, a large reading room opening at the rear of the library and lit by two rose windows created by Maitland Armstrong. To the east the one-story Smith children's wing, also sheathed in Longmeadow stone, was added in 1985.

4 Village Green • The Village Green was not always the visual centerpiece of Norfolk. Originally called the meetinghouse green, it was a utilitarian space used for grazing livestock and the site of a schoolhouse, horse sheds, and Sabbathday houses for churchgoers. In the 1850's William Rice, headmaster of the Norfolk Academy, organized a program of tree planting that served to adorn the space and express civic pride, part of the campaign for village beautification which spread across New England in the second half of the 19th century. In 1900 Norfolk historian Theron Crissey wrote: "The glory and beauty of Norfolk in these modern days is this charming little park, with its noble trees, its beds of exquisite flowers and shrubs."

5 Soldiers Monument – Village Green • Erected in 1868 to the design of William A. Burdick, the granite obelisk bears the names of thirty-five Norfolk soldiers who were killed in the line of duty during the War of the Rebellion. Funds for the monument were largely raised by private subscription.

6 Turnpike Signs – Village Green • A pair of wooden turnpike signs with painted animals has stood on the Green since the 1800's. This set is a 1965 copy of the signs that were created in 1931 as part of the Public Works of Art Project. The originals are now in the Norfolk Historical Museum and pictured on the map.

7 Pettibone Tavern – 3 Greenwoods Road East • Built in 1794 by town leader Giles Pettibone, the house is a classic five-bay Georgian design with a symmetrical façade, center chimney, and classical door surround. With the opening of the Greenwoods Turnpike in 1800, the location of this house made it ideal for use as a tavern, operated by Giles Pettibone, Jr., and later by Captain John H. Shepard.



8 Whitehouse – 17 Stoeckel Road • In the summer of 1801 Rev. Thomas Robbins, son of town pastor Ammi Ruhamah Robbins, visited Norfolk and reported in his diary: "Mr. Battell building a very elegant house near my father's." The house was completed in time for merchant Joseph Battell's marriage to Sarah Robbins. The hipped roof and Palladian window above the entrance gave it a measure of sophistication, and its white coat of paint distinguished it for townsfolk who called it Whitehouse. The house was remodeled several times and in 1906, during the residency of Joseph Battell's granddaughter Ellen Battell Stoeckel, the third story and colossal portico were added. When she died, Mrs. Stoeckel left the house and estate in trust for the use of Yale University for a summer school of music and art. It is now the home of the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival.

9 Church of Christ – 12 Village Green • Designed by master builder David Hoadley in 1813, the Church of Christ was built on the site of the original 1760 peach-blow pink meetinghouse. The church was widely heralded for its graceful, tiered steeple, and the design was emulated in nearby churches. The three doorways, originally arched, were remodeled in the Victorian era, and the marble porch with colossal portico was added in 1927. A granite stairway leading up to the Church provides access from the Village Green. The artistic ensemble with stone piers surmounted by tall wrought iron lamps was designed by Arts and Crafts architect Alfredo Taylor in 1908.

10 Battell Chapel – Village Green • In 1887 Urania Battell Humphrey engaged New York architect Josiah Cleveland Cady to design a chapel for the Church of Christ in memory of her parents, Joseph and Sarah Robbins Battell. Urania was the widow of James Humphrey, a United States Congressman from Brooklyn. A masterpiece of ecclesiastical design in the Romanesque Revival style, Battell Chapel incorporates traditional architectural elements with modern functions: the semi-circular apse projecting toward the Green was used as a parlor, and the bell tower served as the principal entry into the sanctuary. Sheathed in native granite, the Chapel is a harmonious grouping of attractive forms, which provided a place for worship as well as parish gatherings. The addition to the south was constructed in 1966 for Sunday School and meeting rooms.

11 Battell House – 20 Litchfield Road • Built by the Rev. Joseph Eldridge in 1845 and designed by Charles Thompson of New Haven, this four-square house with hipped roof was the family residence for eighty years. Following the death of their parents, Mary, Isabella, and Alice Eldridge made extensive alterations. Architect J. Cleveland Cady added a third floor and a gallery to the south, dressing the house with classical trim, appropriate for the terraced Italian gardens kept by the sisters. In 1935 after the death of the sisters, Ellen Battell Stoeckel purchased the house, asked architect Alfredo Taylor to return it to its original lines, and presented it to the town as a community center. It is now part of the facilities used by the Yale Summer School of Music and Art and the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival.

12 Battell Fountain – Village Green • Mary Eldridge built Battell Fountain in 1889 in memory of her uncle Joseph Battell. Designed by Stanford White with bronze work by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the fountain is executed in pink stone in the conventional arrangement of round column topped by a sphere with a trough for animals on one side and a fountain for humans on the other. Streams of water spurt from the mouths of fish on the sphere, and from a lion and fish mounted on either side of the column. Two more animal heads on the side of the trough spurt water into shallow basins at grade for small animals. The nearby marble bench was part of the original composition, and the two tall handsome free-standing bronze lamps were added at a later date to match the two on the column.

13 Crissey Place – 21 Village Green • Built circa 1810 by Captain Darius Phelps who kept a tavern here, this house later belonged to Ralph Crissey, brother of Theron Crissey, author of *History of Norfolk* (1900). By then a mansard roof had been added, creating a third floor and making this one of the few Second Empire style houses in Norfolk. During the early decades of the 20th century, Cora Brown opened the house to summer boarders and called it Crissey Place. As its popularity increased, Cora expanded the facility to include the two neighboring houses to the north.

14 Norfolk Academy – 13 Village Green • The Norfolk Academy was a private school for boys and girls built in 1840 in the Greek Revival style. The triangular pediment of the gable end evoked the Greek temple form and the ideals of that ancient democracy to which our young country aspired. The school flourished for twenty years under the leadership of William Rice, a graduate of Williams College, and attracted students from as far away as New York. Quarterly tuition ranged from \$3 to \$5 depending upon the course of instruction. One of the Academy's most distinguished graduates was the astronomer Asaph Hall, who discovered the moons of Mars. The building was later used as Town Hall, and in the 1920's it was part of Cora Brown's popular boarding house Crissey Place (#13). It is now the Norfolk Historical Museum.



15 Joseph Jones House – 7 Village Green • A tailor by trade, Joseph Jones had just finished framing his two-story house when he left Norfolk to join the Continental Army in 1776. Upon his return three years later, his financial circumstances required that he reduce his house to one story, cutting the posts to lower the roofline. In the mid-19th century, the house was owned by Amos Pettibone, a member of the Norfolk Anti-Slavery Society. First-hand accounts published in Crissey's *History of Norfolk* document the house as a station of the Underground Railroad.

16 Dennison Store – 16 Greenwoods Road East • E. H. Dennison built this store in 1814 just north of his residence. In the later 19th century the house was owned by William Scoville, who operated a furniture and undertaking business. In 1881 Isabella Eldridge opened a reading room in this house, before building the Norfolk Library in 1888.

17 Mills House – 19 Greenwoods Road East • Built in 1806 by Deacon Michael F. Mills, this house was the home of Rev. Ralph Emerson, second pastor of the Church of Christ and cousin to the writer Ralph Emerson. In 1874, the house was owned by Frederick E. Porter, who with his brother Lucius helped organize the Norfolk & New Brunswick Hosiery Company. After his death in 1899, his son Dr. William H. Porter used the house as a summer residence, not an ideal location with the smoke and soot from locomotives emerging from the nearby railroad underpass.

18 Welch Fountain • Given by the town in 1892 in memory of Dr. William Wickham Welch, the fountain originally served as a circular watering trough for horses and dogs at the entrance to Westside Road opposite the Welch homestead. Dr. Welch was the last of the dynasty of Welch doctors who took care of Norfolk townsfolk for over a century.

19 Railroad Bridge Railing – Maple Avenue • In 1905 there were six eastbound and six westbound trains passing through the Greenwoods Road underpass each day, including freight trains that transported anthracite coal from Pennsylvania. Isabella Eldridge undertook to improve the railroad right-of-way near the library that she had built in 1888 and asked Alfredo Taylor to design a railing for the northern edge of the railroad underpass, which would replace the boxed-in water pipes that had previously served as protection. Taylor's design is marked by an elegant combination of straight and curved lines with two rough-cut granite piers descending in an arc to the carved wooden railing. Mounted on the piers are two Arts and Crafts wrought iron electric lamps, also designed by Taylor. The railroad underpass is now filled in.



Historic photo, Marie Kendall

Founded in 1960, the Norfolk Historical Society maintains its collections and mounts exhibitions in its Museum, formerly the 1840 Norfolk Academy building on the Village Green. The Museum is open to the public on weekends from June to October and by appointment for research and study. Admission is free. These books on Norfolk's history and architecture are available for purchase.

Alfredo Taylor in Norfolk

An Architect of Place and the Village Beautiful

The Life of James Mars, A Slave

Marie Kendall's Glimpses of Norfolk

The Magnificent Battells

Norfolk, Connecticut: 1900–1975

Picturing Norfolk: 1758–1958

20 Giles Thompson House ~ 5 Maple Avenue • Giles Thompson was the son of a tanner and shoemaker who married the daughter of tavern-keeper Giles Pettibone, Jr., and built this house by 1802. Maple Avenue was just beginning to be a residential street at the time, and the Thompson house is the first in a series of small vernacular houses that were built on the west side in the early 1800s.



21 Collar Bros. Store ~ 12 Maple Avenue • In the early 20th century, there were as many as ten food stores in Norfolk, many of them operated by Irish-American families. This building was built by Walter and Burton Collar about 1904. Richard Whalen was later the owner and proprietor.



22 Judge Pettibone House ~ 22 Maple Avenue • Augustus Pettibone built his residence in 1802 when Maple Avenue was still a country lane connecting the meetinghouse green with Beech Flats (now Laurel Way). The front of this classic five-bay Georgian design faces south with later additions. Pettibone was a member of the State Legislature who helped draft the Constitution of Connecticut in 1818. The house passed on to his grandson Augustus P. Lawrence who developed Maple Avenue, selling lots and opening Terrace View in 1889.



23 Eldridge Gymnasium ~ 19 Maple Avenue • Alice Eldridge built the gymnasium in 1892 in memory of her cousin Ellen Battell Stoeckel's son Frederic Battell Terry, who died unexpectedly at the age of sixteen. Designed by Henry Rutgers Marshall and constructed of buff-colored pressed bricks with a broad sloping roof that was originally terra cotta tile, the gymnasium offered rowing machines, exercise apparatus, a bowling alley in the basement, and two tennis courts in front where the CT State Championships were held. The southeast extension was originally a porte-cochere, and the large veranda on the west has been enclosed. Dances, parties, lectures, and recitals were held in the Gymnasium. In 1906 Mark Twain's daughter Clara Clemens made her singing debut at the Gymnasium, following which the author gave his now-famous speech on stage fright. The building was sold to the town in 1920 for use as a Town Hall. It was remodeled in 1985.

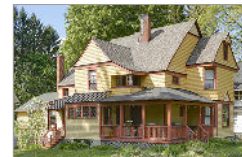


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Between 1885 and 1895, the residential neighborhood of Maple Avenue saw an increase in the number of houses built with the opening of Emerson Street, Terrace View, and Hillside. Many of these houses were built in the Queen Anne style, popular at the end of the 19th century, and have a variety of towers, turrets, bays, dormers, and porches. Often they were rented to summer cottagers who came to Norfolk for its healthy pure mountain air and spring water. Proximity to the Eldridge Gymnasium made these summer cottages especially attractive. Numbers 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 were built at this time.

24 John and Isabella Beecher Hooker House ~ 35 Maple Avenue • This house was purchased by the Hookers in 1896. The sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Isabella Beecher Hooker and her husband lived in Hartford and spent summers in Norfolk. Isabella was an active proponent of women's rights and suffrage.



25 Fairlawn ~ 44 Maple Avenue • During Norfolk's heyday as a summer resort, there were numerous boarding houses in addition to two large hotels. One of the most popular boarding houses was Miss Louise Rowland's Fairlawn. True to its name, guests enjoyed croquet on the lawn and outdoor concerts on summer evenings.



26 Mead Cottage ~ 50 Maple Avenue • Built in 1886, this house was acquired by the Mead family in 1893 and was the summer residence of Charles Mead, brother of architect William R. Mead of the renowned firm McKim, Mead & White and of the neoclassical expatriate sculptor Larkin Goldsmith Mead.



27 Walters Cottage ~ 54 Maple Avenue • Henry Walters of New Britain bought this lot from Augustus P. Lawrence in 1884 and built a house which he offered as a summer cottage rental. Multiple gables, paired windows, and varied surface materials are typical of the late Queen Anne style. An interesting feature is the chamfered corners and woodwork of the front façade.



28 The Alders ~ 69 Maple Avenue • Washington, CT-based architect Ehrick K. Rossiter designed this picturesque, Queen Anne-style house in 1898 for Charles Spofford, son of Ainsworth Spofford, Librarian of Congress. Now called Manor House, it was Rossiter's first commission in Norfolk. He would later design the Music Shed and Haystack Tower.



29 Bellows Block ~ 76 Maple Avenue • This house originally stood at the corner of Greenwood Road and Station Place and was known as the Bellows Block. When the Royal Arcanum building (No. 50) was constructed in 1904, the house was moved to Maple Ave. and provided rooms for boarders.



30 Church of the Transfiguration ~ 21 Mills Way • In 1893 Frederick M. Shepard donated property for an Episcopal chapel for summer worship. Designed by New York architect Bruce Price in 1894, the church is an example of the Shingle Style. The walking tour continues along Shepard Road, named for this benefactor of the town.



31 A.P. Curtiss Feed & Grain ~ 32 Shepard Road • The Augustus P. Curtiss coal and grain facility was built along the siding of the Central New England Railroad and included a grain mill and scales that weighed the loads as they passed under the arches at the rear of the building. Bulk grain brought by railroad cars ran down a chute from the second story level to the first floor where it was ground for retail and put into bags to be picked up by farmers.



32 Livery ~ 24 Shepard Road • This large brick building was built as a stable for the livery business of A. P. Curtiss. In addition to many stalls, there was a washstand for the carriages. Dirt roads left cakes of mud on the wheels and bodies of the vehicles, making a scrub down necessary. Roads were not hard-surfaced until the 1920s.



33 Norfolk Volunteer Fire Dept. Bell • Originally hung in the tower of the Royal Arcanum building, the fire bell was a gift to the town from Frederick M. Shepard in 1907. The bell was struck by the Meneely Bell Co. of Troy, NY. It was moved to this location when the new firehouse was built in 1974.



34 Site of the Norfolk Inn • A Norfolk landmark for many years, the Inn was demolished in 1968. In the 1890s it was known as the Stevens House and had the reputation of being one of the best-kept hosteleries in New England. The Inn provided housing for an influx of summer visitors and contained fifty-seven rooms with accommodations for seventy-five guests. Rates were \$2/day and \$10/week.



35 Norfolk Drugstore ~ 58 Greenwood Road West • Now a private residence, this building was originally built as the Norfolk Drug Store, purchased by George T. Johnson in 1876. It is said that when he came east from Texas, Johnson intended to go to Norfolk, Virginia, but when he purchased his ticket at Grand Central Station in New York he was mistakenly given one to Norfolk, Connecticut. He stayed and operated the Drug Store for over sixty years. It was relocated to the Royal Arcanum building (No. 50) in 1906.



36 William Henry Welch Plaque • On the site of the Welch homestead, this plaque commemorates the birthplace of Dr. William H. Welch, son of Dr. William W. Welch and Dean of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, who revolutionized the practice of modern American medicine.



37 Frederick M. Shepard Fountain • This Memorial Fountain was placed at the front entrance to Center School (no longer standing) in 1917 and dedicated to Frederick M. Shepard who had given generously toward the construction of the school in 1915.



38 Church of the Immaculate Conception and Rectory ~ 4 North St. • In 1924 architect Alfredo Taylor was asked to enlarge the small frame Catholic church to accommodate a growing parish. His design completely changed the shape and size of the 1859 church and offered a stronger image of Catholicism. Walls are rough cast stucco which, at the time of consecration, were described as burnt sienna and yellow ochre in color, recalling the Italian campaniles of Taylor's birthplace. The same treatment was applied to the adjacent rectory, built in 1891 after Norfolk became an independent Catholic parish. Use of stucco draws on the Arts & Crafts idiom, while the rubble stone ties the building to the site. In contrast, the bell tower is without ornament except for the rose window. The gable roof of the bell tower is a later alteration.



39 Josiah Pettibone House ~ 10 North Street • Built in 1806 by the son of one of the original proprietors of Norfolk, this house was later owned by Major James Shepard, who operated it as the Exchange Hotel and built a large addition. The north ell is original.



40 Excursion to Center Cemetery and Haystack Mountain • Continuing up North Street, look for the Nathaniel B. Stevens House (#30) on the right. Built in 1834, it is one of the few examples of the Gothic Revival style in Norfolk, with a steeply-pitched roof and decorated verge boards on the gable. Take a left onto Old Colony Road, and you will pass the Nathaniel Stevens house on the right (#10), built by a hatter in 1764 and among the oldest colonial houses in town. Center Cemetery, established in 1757, is on your left. Alongside the founders of Norfolk lies the grave of James Mars, the last slave bought and sold in Norfolk (1798), who wrote his autobiography in 1868. Back on North Street, the excursion ends at Haystack Mountain State Park on the left. A short hike will take you to the granite tower designed by Ehrick Rossiter in 1927 for Ellen Battell Stoeckel in memory of her father Robbins Battell and her husband Carl Stoeckel. Note the bronze tablet in the wall inscribed with the motto "To thy God, to thy country, to thy family, to thy town, be thou ever faithful."



41 Methodist Church ~ 11 North Street • Now a private residence, this was a mission church that served, among others, factory workers in industries along the Blackberry River, with occasional services held in the Aetna Silk Mill. The classical entrance treatment and the gable "temple" front are marks of the Greek Revival style, popular in the 1830s and 1840s. The square steeple was removed when the church became a private residence.



42 Soldiers Monument ~ Memorial Green • In 1920 the Town of Norfolk commissioned Alfredo Taylor to design a war memorial that would be large enough to express the forces of war yet simple enough that the fathers and brothers of those who died could have built it. It was to be made of local materials without sculptural decoration. Constructed of granite ashlar, with seats built into each side and bronze tablets set into stonework commemorating those who fought, the triangular memorial houses a replica of the Liberty Bell, proclaiming the knell of war and the brotherhood of peace. Dedicated on Armistice Day in 1921, the memorial was said to symbolize a trinity representing the village, the country, and the world as a unit of good will. Evergreen trees were planted for each soldier who died. Notice Buttermilk Falls across Route 44.



43 Ariel Lawrence Tavern ~ 65 Greenwood Road West • Built in 1797 by Ariel Lawrence, the tavern served travelers on the Greenwood Turnpike and housed the first post office (est. 1804) in Norfolk. The mail, received twice a week, was kept in a small bureau drawer. Later the house was occupied by Matthew Ryan, who came from Ireland with his brothers and opened a woolen mill near Buttermilk Falls. In 1836 the first Catholic mass in Norfolk was held here.



44 Warren Cone House ~ Greenwood Road West • Deacon Warren Cone, manufacturer of grass and grain scythes, built this house in 1836 in the Greek Revival style which flourished in this country in the middle decades of the 19th century. With the gable end turned toward the street, forming a pediment, houses in this style evoked the Greek temple form, white and pristine, a symbol of the ideals of the ancient Greek democracy to which Americans aspired.



45 Excursion into Stoeckel Estate • A stepped masonry fence built of brick on a stone base and capped by marble dominates the streetscape on the west side of Greenwood Road, once lined with small houses. It marks the edge of the Stoeckel estate, now the summer quarters of the Yale School of Music and Art. The Battell-Stoeckel family had a long association with Yale. Robbins Battell, a 1839 Yale graduate, was a benefactor and patron of Gustav J. Stoeckel, the university's first professor of music. Gustav's son, Carl, became secretary to Robbins Battell and married his daughter, Ellen. Carl and Ellen Battell Stoeckel founded the Norfolk Music Festival for which they built the Music Shed, designed by Ehrick K. Rossiter in 1906. Mrs. Stoeckel left the 78-acre estate in trust for use by Yale University.



46 Town Meadow • The town meadow was once used as pasture for cattle belonging to Robbins Battell and marked by a wooden water tower.



47 Thurston Building ~ 24 Greenwood Road West • This Queen Anne-style building with varied shingle work was erected in the 1890s by William Thurston for his plumbing business. Note the quarter-round brackets with an incised radial pattern that support the first floor pent roof.



48 Village Hall ~ 20 Greenwood Road West • In 1882 a group of ladies saw the need for a hall for lectures and other forms of entertainment and began to raise the necessary funds. With stores and the post office on the first floor and a theater upstairs, the completion of Village Hall in 1883 enhanced the business district and provided a stylish cultural center for the community. Although the architect remains unidentified, the distinctive façade with its asymmetrical fenestration, flat wall surface with variegated shingles, and ornamental detail suggests the work of an architect familiar with Japanese aesthetics, the latest craze following the 1876 Centennial International Exhibition at Philadelphia. New York-based architect Josiah Cleveland Cady, working in Norfolk at this time, may have provided the design. At the time, his Metropolitan Opera House in New York was under construction, and it is perhaps no coincidence that both buildings are unusual examples of a multi-functional cultural center with shops on the ground floor.



49 Norfolk Bank ~ 18 Greenwood Road West • The construction of this attractive stone building for the Norfolk Bank in 1857 began to fill in the fabric of Norfolk's commercial center, and this stretch of road became known as Main Street. As with many New England buildings, the classical trim pieces including the pilasters, entablature, and pediment of the entrance are made of wood.



50 Royal Arcanum Building ~ 3 Station Place • This multi-purpose building was designed in 1904 by Alfredo Taylor to house the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department, organized in 1902, and the clubrooms of the Wangum Council of the Royal Arcanum, a fraternal society active in Norfolk. The insignia of both organizations mark their respective entrances fronting Station Place. The crown and monogram VMC on either side of the main entrance stand for the three governing principles of the Royal Arcanum: virtue, mercy, and charity. At the west end of the building a pedestrian arcade marked the entrance to the post office and drugstore.



With a steeply-pitched slate roof and exposed rafters, patterned red and green brickwork, and green faience panels, Taylor's distinctive design creates a lively textured surface firmly rooted in the Arts and Crafts impulse. A Beaux-Arts educated architect, Taylor designed over three dozen structures in the greater Norfolk area, and his imaginative designs are now part of a National Register Thematic District.

WALKING Historical NORFOLK



A Walking Tour of Norfolk, Connecticut
Compliments of the Norfolk Historical Society
www.norfolkhistoricalsociety.org



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