

WOO MOVES

Art Museum Walking Route - 1.6 Miles

Progress Markers



BEGIN/END
City Hall Common

 PALLADIUM - 261 Main St.
.25 Miles

 MAIN ST. & HIGHLAND ST.
1 Miles

 MCPHS UNIVERSITY
10 Lincoln Sq.
.5 Miles

 MAIN ST. & GEORGE ST.
1.25 Miles

 TUCKERMAN HALL
10 Tuckerman St.
.75 Miles

 MAIN ST. & ELM ST.
1.5 Miles

Art Museum Walking Route 1.6 Miles Points of Interest

*Info on points appearing on this route were generously provided by
Preservation Worcester, PreservationWorcester.org*

- a. Harrington Corner
- b. Head of Pearl Street
- c. From Pearl Street looking North on Main Street
- d. Grout's Block
- e. Mechanics Hall
- f. Corner of Main and Exchange Streets
- g. Elwood Adams Block
- h. Old Worcester County Courthouse
- i. Lincoln Square
- j. Worcester Armory
- k. Tuckerman Hall
- l. North High Gardens
- m. Worcester Art Museum



City of
Worcester

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City of
Worcester



a Harrington Corner - 421-427 Main Street (Corner of Main and Front streets)

This 1850 Italianate style commercial block, was designed by Elbridge Boyden, architect of Worcester's Mechanics Hall. It was one of many commercial buildings built in the 1850s along Main and other downtown streets replacing earlier wood stores and residential buildings as the city grew quickly due to the success of the Industrial Revolution. A well-known photograph of Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), poet, abolitionist, Transcendentalist philosopher, and author of *Walden*, was taken in a Harrington Corner photographer's studio. In the late 19th century, Worcester's first telephone exchange was located in this building. Before the American Revolution, an 18th century store on this site was operated by Loyalist Judge John Chandler and his sons.

b Head of Pearl Street - 5 Chestnut Street

The former Chestnut Street Congregational Church stands at the head of Pearl Street. Completed in 1897 and inspired by Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, it was designed by prominent Worcester architect, Stephen C. Earle in the Gothic style. Gargoyles once extended from the top of the towers, which were shortened several years ago for safety reasons. Smaller gargoyles can still be seen on the corners of the front porch. Their fierce expressions are exaggerated in the wintertime when icicles hang from their mouths.

c From Pearl Street Looking North on Main Street

The view northward down Main Street shows the strong early-20th-century, urban, character of downtown. This view is a reminder of the days when the city was at its peak of industrial success and wealth. Notice the tall office buildings with elaborate Classical detailing. Of special interest is the former State Mutual Life Insurance Building at 340 Main Street, now known as the Commerce Building. Built in 1897 for State Mutual (now Hanover Insurance), this Classical Revival style office building was designed by Boston architects Peabody & Stearns, who also designed the handsome 1898 Worcester City Hall. The builders for the project were the nationally-recognized Worcester builders, Norcross Brothers. Worcester's first "skyscraper," this nine-story, steel-framed building is sheathed in marble and lavishly trimmed with Classical style ornamental details.

d Grout's Block - 379-385 Main Street

Crowned with a mansard roof and recently restored to its Victorian period glory, this building is a good example of a popular 1870s commercial building type once common downtown.

e Mechanics Hall - 321 Main Street

With its arches and columns overlooking Main Street, Mechanics Hall was designed by prolific Worcester architect Elbridge Boyden for the Worcester County Mechanics Association to provide classrooms, meeting rooms, and a lecture/concert hall. Classes in the mechanical arts for the city's industrial workers were offered here, as well as cultural and political events for the entire community. The lecture and concert hall, known as the Great Hall, is renowned for flawless acoustics and favored by world-recognized musicians as a venue both for concerts and recording sessions. Completed in 1857, this outstanding Italian Renaissance Revival style building is, architecturally, the finest hall, as distinct from theatre, remaining in the United States from the pre-Civil War decade. Threatened with demolition in the 1970s, the building was restored through broad community support and reopened in 1977.

f Corner of Main and Exchange Streets - 285 Main Street

Heywood's Tavern once stood on the site where the surviving two lower floors of the former four-story Bay State House hotel are seen today. At Heywood's Tavern on September 6, 1774, Crown-appointed officials of the Worcester County court were made to sign papers denying their oath of allegiance to the King of England and, then, to "walk the gauntlet" along Main Street to the court house (which stood at the north end of Main Street) repeatedly reading their denials to a crowd of nearly 5,000 militiamen from thirty-six Worcester County towns. This event ended British rule in Worcester County seven months before the beginning of the Revolution in April of 1775. The Bay State House hotel, built on this site in the 1850s, was for many years considered the city's best hotel.

g Elwood Adams Block - 151 Main Street

This building is the home of Elwood Adams Hardware Store, Worcester's oldest business, which is said to be the oldest hardware store in the country. Built in 1831, the structure took its present appearance about 1865 when it was raised in height from two-and-a-half stories to four stories. Occupied by a hardware store since its construction in 1831, the building stands on a site where a hardware business had been in operation since 1782, when Daniel Waldo opened his hardware store at this location.

h Old Worcester County Court House (Corner of Main and Highland Streets)

This grand, Classical Revival style building stands on Court Hill, the historical site of Worcester County government from 1732 (shortly after the county's establishment in 1731) until the opening of the new Worcester Trial Court farther south on Main Street in 2007. Three court houses (1732, 1751, and 1802) stood on this site before the construction of the earliest section of the current building in 1843. With a handsome main façade completed in 1898, this complex consists of several sections dating from 1843 through 1954.

Note: On both sides of Main Street in front of the Old Court House are several historical markers and at the corner of Highland Street is a Civil War monument, the equestrian statue of General Charles Devens by noted American sculptor Daniel Chester French.

i Lincoln Square

Includes Worcester Memorial Auditorium, War Memorial Monument and the former Worcester Boys Club. The auditorium and monument are both dedicated to Worcester citizens who served in World War I. One of the city's most monumental buildings, the auditorium is an excellent 1931 example of the Art Deco style. Designed by Worcester architect, Lucius Briggs, together with New York theatre architect, F. C. Hiron, it is especially beautiful when seen in the morning light, showing off its colossal colonnade and the unusually fine, carved, low relief, ornament that distinguishes its main façade. The former Worcester Boys Club was built in 1929 on the original site of the Salisbury Mansion. To prevent its demolition, the Mansion was moved up the hill to its present location on Highland Street.

j Worcester Armory - 44 Salisbury Street (Grove and Salisbury Streets)

Built in 1889 in the Romanesque style popular at that time, the Worcester Armory served as a training site for the city's militia and later National Guard.

k Tuckerman Hall - 10 Tuckerman Street (Corner of Salisbury and Tuckerman streets)

This imposing Classical Revival style building, was built in 1902 as the headquarters of the Worcester Woman's Club. Designed by woman architect Josephine Wright Chapman, it now serves as a concert hall and the home of the Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra.

l North High Gardens - 60 Salisbury Street

Old North High School was built in the Classical Revival style in 1916 as an addition to the turreted, Romanesque style, brick and brownstone Salisbury Street School of 1889. The earlier building had served first as a grammar school before being dedicated to use as a high school in 1911. The two buildings were adapted as residential condominiums in 1982, after a new North High School was completed.

m Worcester Art Museum - 55 Salisbury Street

The museum was built in 1898 on land, originally part of the Salisbury family farm, donated by its founder, Stephen Salisbury III, and associated with both the historic Salisbury Mansion and Salisbury House. The original yellow brick building is largely hidden behind additions made in 1933 (main façade), 1970, and 1983. The second largest art museum in New England, it houses over 35,000 works of art dating from antiquity to the present day, representing cultures from all over the world, and including an important collection of armor from Worcester's former Higgins Armory Museum.



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