

*A STEP  
BACK  
IN  
TIME*



**A WALKING TOUR  
OF HISTORIC  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN**

*Sponsored by  
the Washtenaw County Historical Society  
and Washtenaw Wanderers  
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1. Begin your tour at the Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main Street. The Washtenaw County Historical Society moved this 1835 home from Wall Street, restored it and opened it as a museum in 1999. It provides researched exhibitions that change throughout the year.

2. Walk east on Kingsley. Turn Right on Fourth. Hollanders' building was originally the Godfrey Moving and Hauling Company, located close enough to the railroad for easy trips.

3. Cross Fourth Avenue at Catherine. The 1856 building at this corner which now houses the Observer magazine was the home of Moses Rogers' agricultural implement show-room. The building has also been a textile mill and a laundry.

4. Turn left at Detroit Street. As you do, notice Argiero's restaurant. Can you tell by the shape of the building that this was originally a gas station? It was a cooperative station in the 1930's. The brick building behind Argiero's, originally the barn for Eisele's marble works became a Co-op food store - one of largest in the U.S. On your left is the Farmer's Market, given to the city in 1931 by Gottlob Luick, who had a lumber yard there.

4. Cross Fifth Avenue at crosswalk. At the end of this block is Zingerman's Deli. Rocco Disderide and his wife operated a neighborhood grocery in this building which they built in 1902.

5. Turn right at Kingsley Street. This street originally was called North Street because it marked the northern city limit. It was renamed for Judge Kingsley. #224-226 was the site of one of the two elementary schools Ann Arbor built when public education was mandated. St. Thomas Parish later also used it as a school.

6. Pause at Division and look left. The apartment building on NW corner was the Clark School for Young Ladies, famous for its academic curriculum. The Clark sisters operated the school for 40 years with students coming from as far away as New York. It closed in 1874 when Mary Clark died.

7. As you approach State Street you will pass St. Thomas Church. This structure replaced a more modest church in 1900. St. Thomas was Ann Arbor's first Roman Catholic parish and reflects the Irish/Italian ethnicity of the neighborhood.

8. At the SW corner of State and Kingsley was the first St. Joseph's hospital. When the Sisters of Mercy began the hospital in 1909, it was just a large home. It soon

outgrew its space and a new St. Joe's was built two years later. You can still see it to the east as you cross Lawrence Street.

9. Turn left at Ann Street. # 712 was built in 1851 for Moses Gunn and his wife, Jane. Gunn was one of the first professors in the medical school and reputedly brought cadavers on the train with him when he came to Ann Arbor. Cross Thayer.

10. Before turning right at Ingalls Street, don't miss the stone hitching post in front of the home and office of Ann Arbor's first licensed female MD. Mrs. Harriet Hilton graduated from the U of M Medical School in 1873.

11. Before turning left at Huron Street, look to the right. Decorating the side of the new North Quad building is the façade of the only Carnegie Library in Washtenaw County and probably the only such library that was built in conjunction with a public high school in the entire country. The old high school building was razed.

12. Cross Huron at Fletcher. Nestled in the trees to your right is a statue of U of M alumnus, Raoul Wallenberg, who saved 100,000 Jews during WWII. This memorial is on the site of Ann Arbor's first grave yard. Continuing down Fletcher, you will pass the League, which opened in 1929 as place for female students whose access to the Union was very limited.

13. Turn left at North University. Pass the Dental School (which has a great exhibition concerning history of dentistry). Unless you want to pop in and see the dinosaurs, Veer left at Exhibit Museum and notice the big building on your left which was the Homeopathic Hospital. Alternative medicine was very popular in the 19th century. After years of controversy, the University of Michigan was required by the state to open a separate school of homeopathic medicine.

14. Take pedestrian bridge to Observatory Street. Turn left. The building on your left is Mosher-Jordan Hall. In 1896 when Eliza Mosher became dean, women still lived

in the same boarding houses as did male students. The move to segregated housing began with Myra Jordan.

15. Continue down the street to the Detroit Observatory (on left). Built in 1854, it is called "Detroit" because \$22,000 of donations came from Detroit businessmen who wanted accurate time calculations. Originally built on a site considered so far from Ann Arbor, it no longer can be used research due to light pollution. Check website for hours and educational programs.

16. Cross Observatory Street at light and turn right. Notice the plaque for the Simpson Institute, an Albert Kahn building. Continue south on Observatory to Forest Hills Cemetery. Designed in 1858, it reflects 19th century's new idea of a park-like resting place. The gate house, built in 1867, was designed by Gordon Lloyd. This is where the exhumed bodies from Fletcher Street were reburied.

17. Turn Right at Geddes named for a pioneer farm family whose acreage was in vicinity. Cross Washtenaw where the street becomes North University, so called because it designated the north side of the original 40 acre site of the U of M. Continue across Washtenaw and past bus shelters. Take pedestrian mall to left. This used to be East University Street to mark the eastern boundary of the original site.

18. Turn right at South University. Before continuing down the street, note the arch which marks the beginning of the "Diag." Mid block is the Clements Library dedicated to American history, donated by William Clements, a Michigan alumnus. The building was designed by Albert Kahn in the style of a renaissance villa since that is when the age of exploration started. Kahn said it was his favorite building. The building to the west of the Clements is the only one of the original four professors' houses built when the University opened in 1841. The first university president, Philip Tappan, lived there in 1851, thus it became the home of all the presidents of U of M.

19. Cross State Street, which has never been called West University though it marks the western boundary. Check steps of Student Union to find the marker where John Kennedy made his impromptu suggestion for a Peace Corps. The 2:00 AM crowd was so responsive, that he later did propose it formally.

20. Proceed through the garden to the right of the Union, taking a moment to spin Bernard Rosenthal's rotating Cube, a gift from the class of 1967.

21. Continue west on Jefferson Street. Cross Division. You will zig-zag left at Fifth, right at Packard, and left at Main before turning right again on Jefferson. William Maynard developed the residential neighborhood, west of Main, through which you are walking. Many Germans lived in this area which became the second ward, but is locally known as the "Old West Side."

22. Cross Ashley, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Streets. When you arrive at the corner of Fourth Street, pause to notice three buildings. First the Gothic Revival Church built 1896. It was originally a German congregation, but due to anti-German feeling during WWI, it's named changed to West Side United Methodist Church. Since 1951, it has been Community of Christ. Across Fourth is Bach School built in 1861 as the second ward school and named in 1898 for Philip Bach, a German immigrant who was a successful merchant, school board member and mayor of Ann Arbor. Finally if you look westward, you will see the Jefferson Market. Before refrigerators, neighborhoods were dotted with little family owned markets. This one, now a market cum cakery is still open for business.

23. Turn right on Fourth and continue until you see Mathematics Reviews on your left. This building was a brewery in 1907. On your right is Argus Camera. Once the Michigan Furniture Co. begun in 1861 by John Keck, a cabinetmaker, it was enclosed in brick 1891. It expanded south-ward and became the Inter-national Radio Co. in 1931 which manufactured the first car radios and first clock radios until 1936 when they added Argus cameras. These easy to use, inexpensive cameras were so popular that the company abandoned radios three years later.

There is a museum on the 2nd floor, open during business hours. Cross William. Returning to the west side of Fourth Ave. you will find Argus2. During WWII Argus had so many orders for special lenses that it expanded into this second building which only has east side windows due to blackouts. During the Korean War, Argus added second floor.

24. Continue northward on Fourth Avenue. Turn right on Liberty. Turn left and cross at Third Street. As you walk, be aware of the slope of the land. You are entering a vast floodplain created by the Allen Creek which used to flow north-south but which was enclosed in pipes in the 1920's. As you approach Washington Street, notice the construction of the Ann Arbor Y. There are no facilities on the ground level due to the flood plain.

25. Turn right at Washington Street. Did you know that there are 4,974 streets in the U.S. named Washington? Because of the Allen Creek, many factories were built in this area. Notice the Flour Mill sign.

26. Before you turn right onto First Street, you might want to cross Washington and take a peak in the front windows of the building on the NW corner. This was the Allmendinger Organ Factory building where historic organs are on display in the lobby.

27. As you walk south on First Street past the The Blind Pig, note that it was once the office for Central Mills. The walk-in safe remains behind today's bar. The Cavern Club/Millennium Club before 1882, when Central Mills moved in, was the Hauser Brewery (the beer vaults can still be found in the basement. In 1929 it became the Ann Arbor Implement Company, run by three generations of Lohrs.

28. Cross Liberty. Notice the new condominium called Liberty Lofts. Henry Krause's tannery was the first building on this site. Then in 1925 King Seeley Corporation, inventors of dash mounted gas gauges, moved in constructing several additions. Liberty Lofts' developers razed the old tannery building but used the

same footprint for the wing jutting westward to Second Street, which, by the way, is the most popular street name in the entire country.

29. Turn left at William and jog right at Ashley Street for about 50 yds. Ashley Street was named for James Ashley who began developing in 1889 "The Annie," a railroad line that ran between Toledo, Ohio and Frankfort, MI. Much smaller and less expensive than Michigan Central, the Annie's depot is now a Montessori pre-school with its own RR car.

30. Return to William Street, turn right and continue walking east across Main and Fourth. At Fifth Avenue, you will see the Muehlig Funeral Home. The Muehlig family has been in Ann Arbor since 1840. Like many in the funeral business, the Muehligs were originally furniture makers who then became coffin makers. Hiding behind its modern addition is a late Italianate house.

31. Turn left at Division Street. Just past the parking lot is a large red house. This was one of several private hospitals operated around the turn of the century. Next to it is a white 1853 Greek Revival house which is now the Kempf House Museum. It is open on Sundays 1-4. Free.

32. Once you cross Liberty and Huron Streets, you have entered the Old Fourth Ward. Many lovely homes line Division Street. #120 is a white house on the left which was the home of Moses Rogers. His daughter, Katie, was a professional artist. On the SE corner of Ann and Division is #121 is the Wilson-Wahr House. Mrs. Wahr was not happy with her home. She wanted a more "modern" home, so her husband built the house next door for her. Then she decided she like her old house better. "Too late," said Mr. Wahr.

On the NW corner of Ann Street is #205, the home of Dr. Alonzo Palmer who taught at the medical school. It was designed by Gordon Lloyd, the premier Gothic Revival architect in Michigan, who also designed St. Andrews Episcopal Church, a block further north, which is the oldest church in town. Alonzo Palmer's wife paid for the tower. (See #23) Cross Catherine.

33. Continue walking north on Division, past the Clark School at Kingsley St. until you reach the Broadway Bridge. As you cross it on the right side, look at the Michigan Central Depot which is now the Gandy Dancer restaurant. This railroad line began in 1839 just 15 years after settlement and two years before statehood. The Depot, built in 1886 at a cost of \$33,000, was considered one of the finest depots anywhere.

34. When you reach the opposite side of the bridge, you are in "Lower Town." Continue to the second light. Notice the names of the streets: "Broadway," "Wall Street," "Maiden Lane" which identify early settlers as New Yorkers. ¼ of Michigan's settlers were from New York.

35. Cross Broadway at Moore and turn left. Early settlers hoped to make this the center of Ann Arbor, but a cholera epidemic shattered that dream. The building occupied by St. Vincent de Paul is the oldest building in Ann Arbor, erected in 1832 by Anson Brown. As you re-cross the Bridge, consider the Huron River. Usually rivers mean transportation, but in Washtenaw County, it meant power. No less than 22 mills line the Huron between Dexter and Ann Arbor producing lumber, flour, textiles and ultimately electricity. There was a flour mill where Detroit Edison is today.

36. Proceed back across the bridge. Follow Beakes crossing Fifth and Fourth until you reach the Museum on Main Street and the end of your walk.