

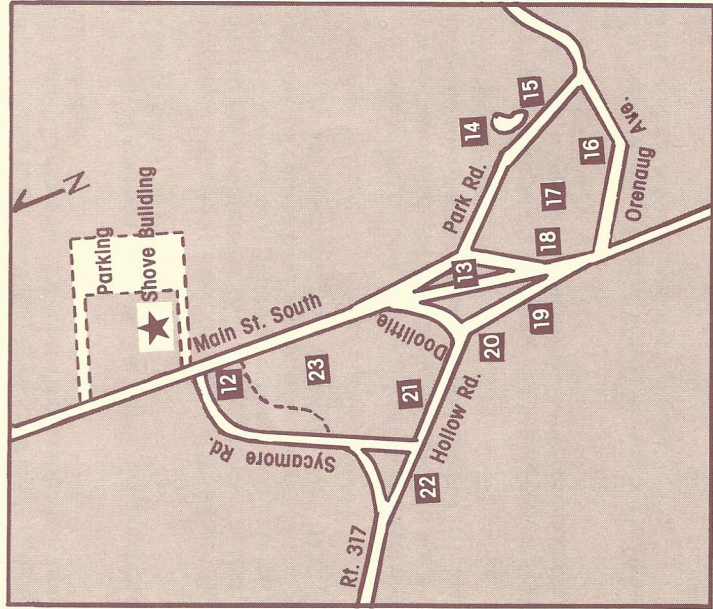
Walking Tour of Woodbury South Tour (1.2 Miles)

★ The self-guided south tour, through a National Register Historic district, begins at the town office buildings and heads south on Main Street. The Shove building was the home of Dr. Harmon Shove and was built in 1867.

12 The Episcopal Church across the street was built in 1785. The small building on the right housed the town's probate office until 1956, when the office was moved to join the town offices.

As you walk south along Main Street you pass a series of five Greek Revival houses, starting with the Lewis Building built in the 1840's. #331 is a stick style Victorian. #337 is an early colonial. #345 is a Gothic Revival. Across the street #346 is a center chimney colonial built in 1753.

13 The Civil War monument was built in 1871 on Cannon Green to honor 56 men from Woodbury who died while serving in the Union Army.



Scale
0 500 1000 2000 feet

14 Turn left on Park Road. The house on Webb's Pond is a gambrel-roofed farm house built in 1750. Most of the pond is owned by the town as part of Orenaug Park.

15 The entrance to the park is marked by two stone pillars made up of stones from all 50 states. It marks the beginning of a hiking trail that goes up the mountain and ends at the town offices.

16 #11 Orenaug Avenue is the site of the home of Zechariah Walker, the first minister in Woodbury. The present house was built in 1721.

17 At the end of Orenaug Avenue, facing Main Street, is the Greek Revival King Solomon Masonic Temple, built in 1839, the oldest in continuous use in Connecticut.

18 The one-room schoolhouse for District 2, built in 1867, was used until 1900. It has been authentically restored by The Old Woodbury Historical Society.

19 Hollow Road takes you past The New Morning Country Store, formerly a blacksmith shop.

20 The Hurd House, built circa 1680, is one of the oldest houses on its original site in Connecticut. It is currently the property of and has been restored by The Old Woodbury Historical Society.

21 Across the street is the colonial home of Jabez Bacon built circa 1763. The adjacent building served as his store and was built circa 1750. Unconfirmed reports put Jabez as the first millionaire in America.

22 The Glebe House, circa 1745, has been authentically restored. It is where ten clergy met in 1783 to elect Samuel Seabury, the first Episcopal Bishop in the United States. The house was restored in 1923. Its English garden was designed by Gertrude Jekyll in 1927 but not planted until 1988 when the plans were found at the University of California.

23 A walk through the Old Cemetery takes you past the Father's Monument to the first three ministers in Woodbury, Zechariah Walker, Anthony Stoddard, and Noah Benedict, and back to the Shove building. Length of tour is 1.2 miles.

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Walking Tours



of Historic Woodbury Connecticut

Tour Hours for Historic Houses
Open to the Public
Hurd House

Open Sundays 2:00-4:00 pm July-October
and Thanksgiving morning from 10:00 am-Noon

Glebe House

Open Wednesday-Sunday 1:00-4:00 pm April-November

A Brief Review of the Long History of Woodbury

The Town of Woodbury, first settled in 1673 by families from Stratford, encompassed 173 square miles including the present-day towns of Southbury, Roxbury, and parts of Washington and Bethlehem. The early settlement was spread over a large area with some of the first families farming land along the Pomperaug River. Main Street was the focus of settlement because of the Congregational Meetinghouse and a mill.

By the end of the eighteenth century Woodbury had developed as a thriving center of agricultural trade because of its proximity to the Housatonic River, which provided a major navigational route to the coast. A measure of Woodbury's relative wealth was the large number of artisans and tradesmen such as millers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights and clothiers as well as tinsmiths, tanners, joiners and goldsmiths.

The population growth pressures of the colonial period coupled with the exceptional size of the town led to the establishment of the separate parishes of Southbury, South Britain, Bethlehem, Washington and Roxbury in the 1700's. With the exception of South Britain, these parishes became incorporated towns, establishing Woodbury's present size.

In the early nineteenth century population remained relatively stable. However, by the mid-century, industrial growth led to a building boom of Greek Revival-style houses, a reflection of the town's continuing prosperity, especially in the factory villages of Pomperaug, Hotchkissville and Minortown. Woodbury remained an agricultural community throughout the nineteenth century. Even during the industrial boom, only 15 percent of the population worked at the mills and not more than 5 percent were involved in commerce.

During the late 19th century Main Street became fully developed from South Pomperaug Avenue north to Quassak Road, and Victorian mansions and cottages interspersed the earlier colonial houses. The south end of Main Street became the civic center but remained more residential, while the upper end, north of Washington Road, becoming known as North Woodbury, was the location of new commercial and residential growth. In addition, neighborhoods were developed on the periphery of Main Street, such as on Washington Road, Park Road, Mountain Road, and on Spring and Pleasant Streets, from the mid 1870's to the 1920's.

The early 1900's saw the Americanization movement, which idealized colonial life and transformed the center of Woodbury. The multi-hued houses on Main Street were painted white, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church lost its Victorian embellishments and returned to its colonial form.

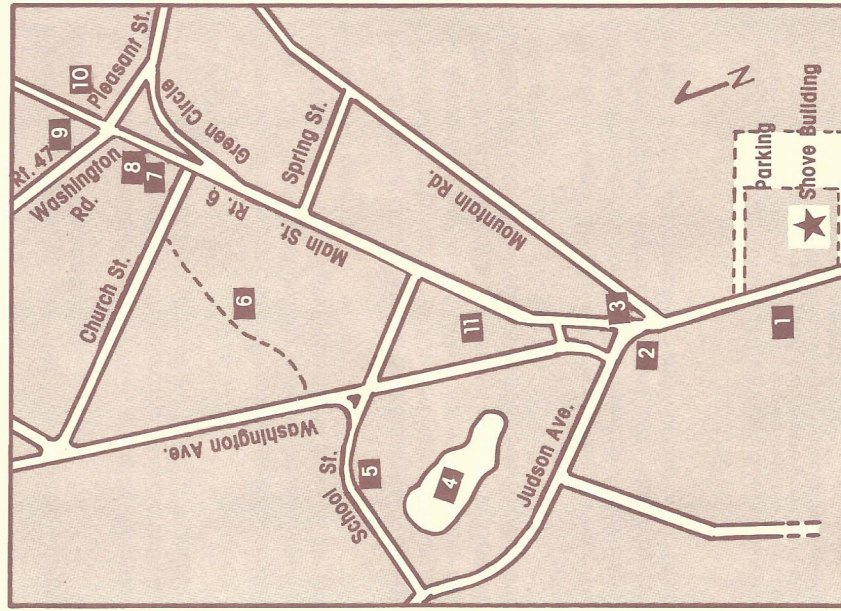
During the latter half of the 20th century Woodbury gradually changed from a rural community to a suburban community. This change began slowly in the 1950's but accelerated thereafter until the community became as it is today.

Walking Tour of Woodbury North Tour (2.2 Miles)

The self-guided north tour, through a National Register Historic district, begins at the Shove Building. Cross the street (South Main Street-Route 6). You are facing the house Noah Benedict built for his son in 1795. Walking north along the sidewalk you will pass many 18th and 19th century homes, now used for both residential and commercial purposes.

The federal style First Congregational Church was built in 1818.

The temple-fronted Old Town Hall was built in 1846.



4 Turn left on Judson Avenue and continue past the Manville Glacial Kettle. This property, 6.5 acres, was the first land donated to the Flanders Nature Center in 1973. It was formed by a glacier circa 12,000 BC. It is now home to wood ducks, red wing blackbirds, turtles, frogs, spring peepers and migrant waterfowl.

5 Turn right on School Street, which borders the kettle. The Salt Box house was built before 1770.

6 Turn left on Washington Avenue. Walk up through North Cemetery, which was first used for burials in the 1830's. It was owned and operated by the town until 1906, when it was turned over to the Woodbury Cemetery Association.

7 Turn right on Church Street toward the United Methodist Church. The entrance to the church originally faced Main Street but the congregation found that two flights of stairs up to the entrance was too steep a climb, so in 1875 the church was turned to face Church Street.

8 Turn left on Main Street. The small brick structure was used as the Town Clerk's office until 1952, and is now the archives of the Historical Society. Charles Hurd sold to the town just enough land to accommodate a building with the condition that the Town retain use of the property or it would revert to his heirs. Consequently, the town continues to store some records there.

9 Across Washington Road is the North Congregational Church, built in 1816.

10 Opposite is Canfield Corner, the center of Woodbury. The building was constructed in 1875. It was purchased by Harry Canfield and used as a pharmacy, complete with soda fountain, that still exists today. The park in front marks the end of the trolley line which ran from Waterbury from 1908 to 1931.

The walk around the park and back down Main Street takes you past many 18th and 19th century Houses. #36 was the site of the original school house, #50 was built in 1791, and #100 was built circa 1770.

11 St. Teresa Catholic Church, in the neo-classical revival style, is the newest addition to Woodbury's religious structures, constructed in 1904.

The North Walking Tour of Woodbury ends at the Shove Building. Total distance covered is 2.2 miles.

For further information, write or phone the Selectman's Office, Town of Woodbury, P.O. Box 369, Woodbury, CT 06798. (203) 263-2141.