



THE MATT@ROSE HILL

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HISTORIC WALKING TOURS
 WITH **EDWARD J. HALLIGAN**

W DOWNTOWN
WATERBURY

Cowell-Guilfoile Building: This 1908 Beaux-Arts building with Georgian Revival detailing was designed by local architect Joseph Smith. Francis P. Guilfoile was a lawyer, legislator and mayor of Waterbury and George H. Cowell was a Waterbury District Court judge.

Waterbury American Building: This 1894 building was designed by local architect, Joseph Jackson in the late Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style. The Waterbury American was the city's first newspaper established in 1844.

Morris Plan Bank Building: This 1920 Federal Revival building was the last to be constructed on Grand Street after the Fire of 1902. It housed the Waterbury branch of a national chain of banks which were established to provide loans to working class Americans who could not get loans from the traditional banks of the period.

Judd Block: This Beaux-Arts building with Georgian Revival detailing was designed by local architect Joseph Jackson. In the early 1920s, the elaborate, storefront and stained glass was added by the McCoy's Music Company. It is now the home of the John Bale Bookstore.

Republican Building: In 1907 the Republican newspaper leased space in this Beaux-Arts building with Renaissance Revival detailing. In 1924, the Republican merged with the American.

Beers Block: This small Beaux-Arts commercial building with Georgian Revival brickwork is noteworthy for the establishment of The Turf restaurant in 1946.

Holmes Building: This 1903 Federal Revival building was erected for C. L. Holmes and Company which was a brokerage house that eventually became the Waterbury Trust Company in 1907.

Buckingham Building: (Demolished) On this site stood a very fine Florentine Renaissance Revival multi-use building funded by J. H. Whittemore. The building was named for his wife's family and the proceeds from the stores, offices and interior concert hall benefited Waterbury Hospital.

Bank Street Historic District: These four attached brick commercial buildings in different architectural styles, were built over a 20-year period at the end of the 19th century when Waterbury was booming. Moving left to right, they are: The Romanesque Revival Pritchard Building, The Late Georgian/Federal Revival Whittemore Building, The Queen Anne Revival styled Griggs Building, and the Republican Building which is noteworthy for being the site of the historic Diorio's restaurant, established in the early 1920s.

Former Austin Steel House: At the corner of Grand and Bank Streets, this building is one of the oldest in the commercial core and it also survived the Fire of 1902. Originally built in 1845 as a transitional Greek Revival-Italianate house, it became the first office for the Waterbury National Bank in 1847 which gave Bank Street its name in 1857. The first telephone wires were installed here to connect the bank to its president's house on Prospect Street.

Howland Hughes Department Store (now Post University): This store was built immediately after the fire of 1902 by Reid and Hughes which became Howland Hughes in 1922. It was designed by local architect Wilfred Griggs in an idiosyncratic interpretation of the Second Renaissance Revival. The Fire of 1902 started in the basement of the former Reid and Hughes store on this site.

Jones Morgan and Company Building: This building was designed by local architect Joseph Jackson for this store which specialized in men's and boy's clothing and was founded in 1885. It is a good example of the Second Renaissance Revival style.

Weisman Building: This Second Renaissance Revival building was built for Charles Meigs who was part owner of a baking company with the Trott family on East Main Street. There was a small concert hall on the fourth floor.

Russell Building: This building is noteworthy as the law office of Rosalind Russell's father whose name has been left on a second story window. The building is also notable for its unique decoration which references the Arts and Craft movement which saw its last flowering in the 1920s.

Bohl Block: This building was designed in 1888 by local architect Joseph Jackson in the Richardsonian Romanesque style for Simon Bohl who was a German immigrant who had a meat and provisions business. It is the first building in Waterbury to use steel frame construction and was the tallest building in town when completed.

Apothecaries' Building: This 1894 building was designed by Theodore Peck in the full-blown Italian Renaissance Revival style which had proved so popular and influential at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago of 1893. It replaced a small Greek Revival building of 1849 which housed the original Apothecaries' Hall which was a drug store. The current building used to have a popular drug store and soda fountain at street level.

Brown Building: This 1930 Art Deco building was originally supposed to be eight stories tall. In fact, the foundation still has the structural strength to accommodate an additional five stories.

Platt Building: This 1888 building was built for Irving G. Platt who was an inventor and entrepreneur associated with Platt Brothers Metal Company. It is a good example of the fusion of patterned brick with some Queen Anne/Eastlake detailing. Woolworth's Waterbury branch once occupied the ground floor.

The Frederick Building: This blond brick and terra cotta detailed structure is a fine example of the type of commercial building that proliferated after the Chicago Fair of 1893. Its blind Ionic pilasters accentuate the verticality of the façade. It provides a good transition to the Palace Theater.

The Palace Theater: This handsome Italian Renaissance Revival, mixed-use commercial and entertainment building was designed by the famous New York theater architect, Thomas Lamb in 1922. It was commissioned by Sylvester Poli who wanted to have a venue for vaudeville as well as movies.

St. Patrick's Hall: This 1889 building is the finest example of Richardsonian Romanesque in Waterbury. It occupies the site of the first Roman Catholic church in the city, St. Peter's chapel. The Hall was built as a companion to the first Immaculate Conception church and rectory which stood across the street where UConn is now. The Hall had a Sunday school, library, gym and performance space which was used by Catholic and non-Catholic social groups alike.

Trott Block: This 1889 Eastlake-styled apartment building was built for the Meigs and Trott Company which became the Trott Baking Company in 1894. The Trott family also operated a grocery store on the ground floor for many years. The northeast corner tower originally had a medieval styled turret on top.

Odd Fellows Hall: This 1895 building was designed by Wilfred Griggs in the Venetian Gothic style and is made of red sandstone, brick and terra cotta. In 1948, it once housed the Grieve, Bisset and Holland department store and in 1968 it housed the Waterbury Savings Bank.

Waterbury Savings Bank: This 1927 building was designed by the notable New York firm of York and Sawyer who were famous for their bank buildings. Both York and Sawyer had started out in the famous New York firm of McKim, Mead and White. The building is done in a variation of the Spanish Renaissance Revival style and boasts a rich decorative program centered on its magnificent bronze doors.

End of Tour: Walk on the Green to Leavenworth Street and Drescher's Bar and Restaurant.