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End of Tour and Post-Tour
 Reception at the Thirsty Goat Bar
 and Restaurant on Scovill Street

HISTORIC WALKING TOURS
 WITH EDWARD J. HALLIGAN

W DOWNTOWN
 WATERBURY

1. Welton Drinking Fountain: What was to become the Green was founded as the Town Center in 1678/1679? It was a swampy area until the 1850s when it was landscaped. The Welton Drinking Fountain is very near the spot where the Puritans, who founded Waterbury, built their meeting house. In 1796 this meeting house was replaced with a Congregational Church which is long gone. The fountain, which was made possible by a bequest from Caroline Welton, was completed in 1888. The top of the fountain is surmounted by a 2,500-pound bronze likeness of Caroline Welton's favorite horse, Knight.

2. Reynolds Block: This handsome and prototypical pre-Civil War commercial space was actually built as two buildings on separate adjacent parcels but connected to appear as one. It is in the Italianate style popular before the Civil War and uses the elongated Tuscan window to great advantage. This was the type of commercial architecture that was swept away by the Fire of 1902.

3. Odd Fellows Hall: This 1895 building was designed by Wilfred E. Griggs in the Venetian Gothic style and is made of red sandstone, brick and terra cotta. It once was the home of the Grieve, Bissett and Holland department store and in 1968 it housed the Waterbury Savings Bank. Venetian Gothic is the local variant architectural style for Venice of Italian Gothic architecture, with a confluence of influences from local building requirements, some influence from Byzantine architecture, and some from Islamic architecture, reflecting Venice's trading network with the Eastern Mediterranean.

4. Waterbury Savings Bank: This 1927 building was originally commissioned by the Dimes Savings Bank and 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 the Spanish Renaissance Revival style and exhibits an intricate but subdued version of a Plateresque inspired decorative program centered on its magnificent bronze doors.

5. Elton Hotel: This distinguished Beaux-Arts hotel was designed by Wilfred E. Griggs who used the French Renaissance as his inspiration. It opened in 1904 was the epitome of Belle Epoque style, service and modernity and was considered one of the finest hotels in New England. It had 147 bedrooms and suites all equipped with telephones and 59 of these had private bathrooms. There were 11 public bathrooms to take care of the remaining 88 rooms.

6. Basilica of the Immaculate Conception: This imposing church was dedicated in 1928 and was designed by the Boston firm of Maginnis and Walsh in a Late Italian Renaissance/Early Roman Baroque style. Its construction symbolized the success of Italian Americans in Waterbury who first arrived in the area in the 1840s and who experienced widespread discrimination before striving to take their place with the local and long-established Congregationalists and Episcopalians.

7. Lux Clock on the Green: This handsome limestone clock was erected in 1915 to commemorate Old Home Week which was a week-long celebration of the opening of the new city hall on Grand Street. It was built by Paul Lux, a German immigrant who worked for the Waterbury Clock Co. before establishing the Lux Clock Company in 1914. The company started out making only clock movements but eventually made the entire clock unit.

8. Lilly Building: This was one of Waterbury's early steel-framed skyscrapers designed in 1912 by Wilfred E. Griggs. Its exterior shows Griggs at his best in utilizing the basics of Italian Renaissance design for a dignified, tall commercial building.

9. John Kendrick House: This is the last house left on the Green and was built in 1866 by Green Kendrick for his son John. Green came to Waterbury from North Carolina and also lived in a house on the Green but that structure was demolished. This prime example of Italianate house design shows the influence of New Haven architect Henry Austin and there has been speculation that Austin was its designer but no definitive proof has come to light. The house was donated to the Mattatuck Historical Society which occupied it until 1986 when it moved across the Green.

10. Farrington Building: This attractive Georgian Revival building of original storefronts with rentable space above, was constructed in 1930 as an addition to the Queen Anne apartment building behind it. This apartment building was built circa 1900 to complement the Queen Anne style rectory on the corner of West Main and Church Street.

11. Rectory Building: This building, which was constructed in 1886, was the residence of the minister of St. John's Episcopal Church and his family. Its overall design is classified as late Victorian and Queen Anne but its heavily arched front porch shows the influence of the Romanesque while its chimneys and gable show a somewhat Tudor Revival appearance.

12. St. John's Episcopal Church: The first St. John's was built at the corner of West Main and Willow Streets in 1743 and this church community was so successful that it was able to build a new edifice in 1797 at the west end of the Green. Its position here meant that it faced the Congregational meeting house at the east end of the Green. The 1797 building was replaced with a Gothic Revival one in 1848 when that picturesque style was very much in vogue for churches and residences. Unfortunately, this building burned down on Christmas Eve in 1868. It was replaced in 1873 with an updated Gothic Revival church designed by the New York architect, Henry Dudley.

13. St. John's Parish House: The parish house was designed in the 1920s by New York architect, Richard Dana. It's early 20th century interpretation of the Gothic Revival is more archaeologically correct than its Victorian predecessors and shows the enormous influence of Ralph Adams Cram, America's premier apologist for the Gothic and one of its major architects.

14. Soldier's Monument: This impressive Civil War monument was dedicated in 1884 and was the work of sculptor, George Bissell who had once been a resident of Waterbury. The bronze allegorical figures at each of the four corners of the work represent the farmer, the mechanic, the veteran and the emancipation group. The bas relief panels show a Union charge of a Confederate battery and the 1862 Battle of the Monitor and Merrimack. The entire ensemble is surmounted by the triumphant figure of Victory holding a laurel branch.

15. Masonic Temple/Mattatuck Museum: The Masonic Temple was built in 1914 and was designed by local architect Wilfred E. Griggs in an unusual L-shaped configuration. The interior included ceremonial as well as rental spaces all featuring fine and robust wooden paneling and flooring. These grand spaces are now exhibition galleries and offices for the Mattatuck museum which moved across the Green from the John Kendrick House in 1984 when the current entrance and courtyard building opened in 1984.

16. Y.M.C.A Building: This 1924 building was designed in the Federal Revival style by architect Richard Dana who also did the St. John's Parish House and St. Margaret's School. The original Y.M.C.A. building was designed on this site by Wilson E. Griggs in 1892 and was adjacent to the High Victorian Gothic First Congregational church complex which was set back from the Green on a gently sloping lawn. Unfortunately, this impressive ensemble was torn down and was eventually replaced by the 1971 low-rise, brick addition to the 1924 building.

17. Baube's Corner and Urban Renewal Battle: The south east corner of the Green, which was formerly known as Baube's Corner, is now dominated by a bank and office building that was built as a result of a massive and destructive urban renewal program in the late 1960s and 1970s. In 1973 the Waterbury Urban Renewal Agency was given a large federal grant to implement a sweeping central business district demolition and rebuilding initiative. The destruction of 83 of the district's 113 buildings was mandated by the terms of the grant and by 1977, 63 had been demolished and only 3 new buildings had been built.

18. The Palace Theater and Waterbury's Broadway: Before mid-19th century, this section of East Main Street was crossed by two streams; one known as Great Brook and the other as Little Brook. They were eventually channeled under the street where they continue to flow to this day. The Palace Theater was commissioned by theatrical impresario Sylvester Poli who wanted a new venue for Vaudeville as well as motion pictures on the site of his former establishment. He engaged the services of the foremost American theater architect, Thomas Lamb of New York who produced a stunning Italian Renaissance Revival complex of theater, stores and offices.

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