

Points of Interest

From spring blossoms to the raging colors of a New England Autumn, there is no better way to enjoy the seasons than a walking tour. Ambling along tree-lined streets, there is a time to appreciate the architecture and history of Rocky Hill. The Riverview Walking Tour begins at the Old Academy Hall, and explores the residential areas that hug the river. The tour is approximately 1.8 miles, and takes about 45 minutes to complete.

1.) **Academy Museum** - 785 Old Main Street, built in 1803 to serve as an academy where the theory of navigation was taught. The Academy closed due to fire in 1839, and since that time the building has served a variety of purposes. It is on the *National Register of Historical Places*, and has housed the **Rocky Hill Historical Society** since 1967.

2.) **Riley's Corner** at the intersection of Old Main and Riverview, so named because the Riley seafaring family built a number of houses in the area.

3.) The 12-room **Riley House**, 736 Old Main Street, built in 1771 by Capt. Roger Riley.

4.) The house at **2 Riverview**, built in the 1960's was the first solar heated home in Rocky Hill.

5.) House at **3 Riverview** was once a Post Office. Dr. Rufus W. Griswold, practitioner and local historian, occupied it from 1859-1902. The Post Office is still in its original location at the end of the carriage shed.

6.) House at **20 Riverview** played a part in the Underground Railroad by sheltering slaves in a hidden room.

7.) House at **42 Riverview** was the home of Rev. Lebbens Burton Rockwood, and in 1855 it held the books of the Social Library, one of the first in Connecticut.

8.) **Shipman Park**, a small parcel of land on the northeast side of Riverview in front of number 53 and 55, offers a spectacular view of the river. The monument in the little park is dedicated to those who first built ships in Rocky Hill.

9.) **The Foundry** at the end of Glastonbury Avenue has been the site of numerous types of manufacturing since 1835, from carriages and a vinegar distillery, to cast iron goods. It is now awaiting renewal yet to be decided.

10.) **The Old Railroad Depot** at the foot of Glastonbury Avenue was built about 1892, serving the Connecticut Valley Railroad and its successors until 1971.

11.) **Ferry Park** on the Connecticut River is home to the nation's continuously operating ferry. The ferry has been in operation between Rocky Hill and S. Glastonbury since 1655. The park was once the site of a busy shipyard with large sailing vessels at the docks loaded with corn brooms, pewter and tinware, clock cases and shoes from area workshops.

12.) House at **276 Meadow Road**, built in 1800, was once a sail house where sails were fashioned in the shipbuilding era. Behind the house was a ropewalk, where rope was made for use on ships.

13.) **Bradford Hill** was where the home of William Bradford stood. He was a direct descendant of Massachusetts Governor William Bradford (7th generation). His silversmith shop was at the bottom of the hill.

14.) **Pratt Street Houses** 53, 54, 55 and 56 are all 18th century homes. #53 is being restored. #54 was once owned by Hezikiah Whitmore, a shipwright who built the ship Brutus in 1806 & the schooner Friendship in 1804

15.) House at **1 Beldon Lane** was built in 1690.

16.) **Center Cemetery**, Dividend Road, dates back to 1731. The first burial there was that of the infant daughter of Benjamin and Mary Deming. Her stone is located near the cemetery flagpole

17.) **Center Green** has memorials to those who served their country from Rocky Hill. A scion of the Charter Oak stands at the north corner.

18.) **First Congregational Church of Rocky Hill** is located at the intersection known as **Five Corners** where Main, Church, Elm Street and Glastonbury Avenue intersect. When Silas Deane Highway was built about 1930, it created a sixth corner, and the north part of Main Street was later named Old Main Street. The Church, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was originally established in the 1720's as the Third Ecclesiastical Society for people living in the southern part of Wethersfield.

19.) The Danforth House, 826 Old Main Street, built by Thomas Danforth in 1783. Danforth made pewter and tinware in his shop near Ferry Landing.

For more detailed information, books are available at the Academy Hall Museum, Tuesday mornings or by appointment.

ROCKY HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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