

City of Twinsburg

Walking Tour of Historic Sites

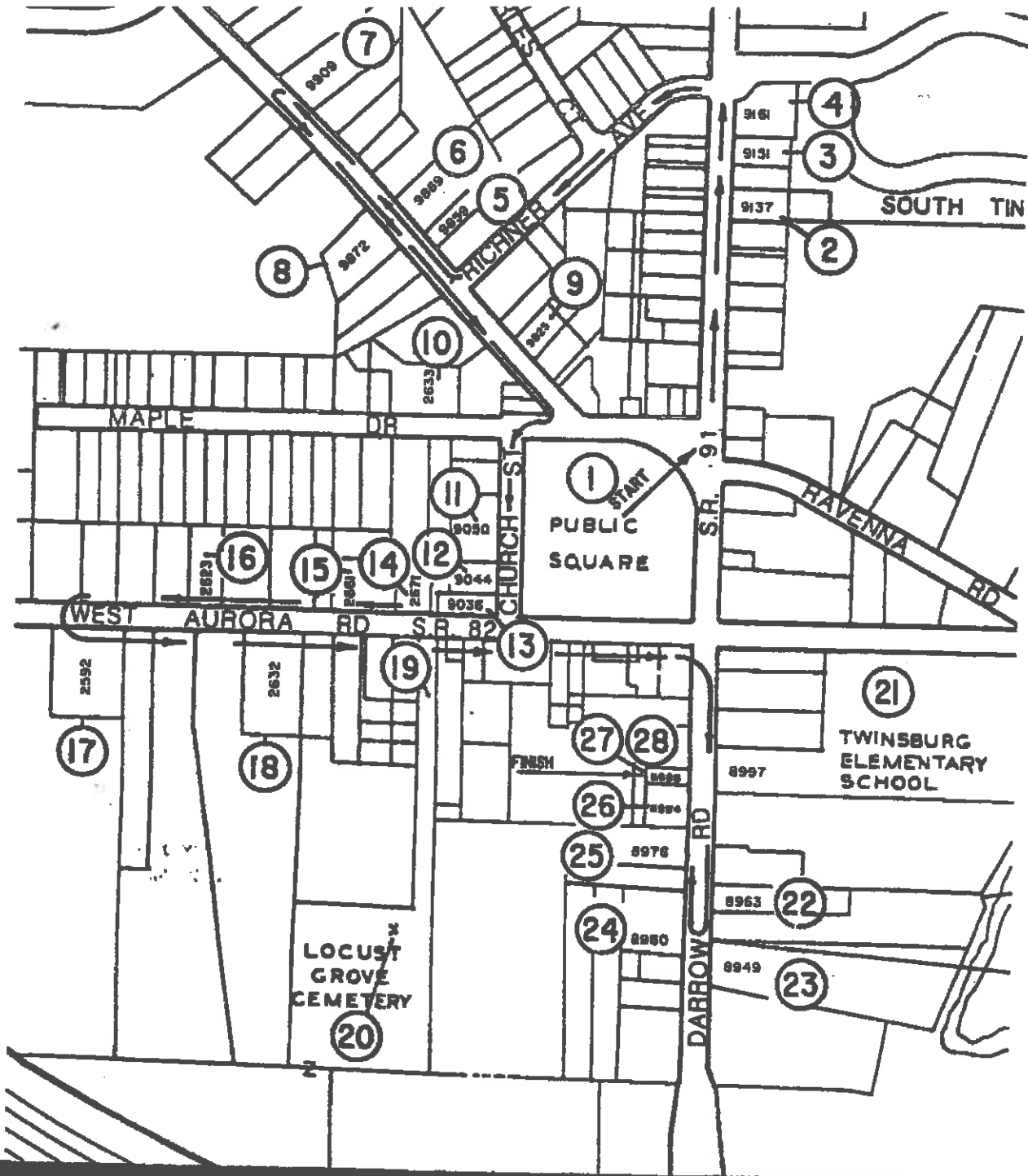
This tour, designed to take you on a stroll past many of the Century buildings that are located within walking distance around the Square, will give you the opportunity to share the Heritage of Twinsburg.

Some of the homes have been in the same family for generations, while others have been transferred by countless owners. Some can even be traced back to the original builders. A number of the buildings look much the same as they did when they were built, either by being carefully preserved or by being carefully restored to their original design. Others have been remodeled or added to, sometimes beyond recognition. Still others have suffered by time.

You will find, in this brochure, a map of the tour and a description of the homes, along with a little history about them. Each site is numbered on the paragraphs about them and a corresponding number on the map shows their location.

The tour begins at the Civil War Monument on the Square and ends at the Twinsburg Historical Society Museum on Darrow Road.

We hope this tour will put you back into the nineteenth century, before the days of automobiles, when people walked around the town as a natural form of transportation. You may be surprised how many of your friends you meet along the way!



1. The 'Square'

Being located in the geographical center of Twinsburg, this park has been the focus of the residents social life down through the years.

The base of the Civil War Monument is solid sandstone quarried in Twinsburg. The marble upper portion of the monument is inscribed with the names of the 120 volunteers from Twinsburg who served in the Civil War. The top is surmounted by a large spread eagle.

2. 9137 Darrow Road

This home was built sometime in the 1840's and is owned by Mrs. Annie Wymer. The home was known as the Isaac Jayne House. Mr. Jayne was a quarryman, Justice of the Peace, and Sunday School teacher.

3. 9151 Darrow Road

This house was built in 1840 by Professor John Fessenden who taught music at the Samuel Bissell's Institute. Mr. Fessenden formed the Criterion Band in 1884. This was the first organized band in Twinsburg and played for more than 10 years.

4. 9161 Darrow Road

The house next door to the Fessenden house, is approximately 150 years old. It is presently owned and was remodeled by Whitlatch Investment Company.

5. 9859 Ravenna Road

The original part of this house was built around 1850 and was part of a butcher shop which was located across the street. The house is presently owned by Nina and Rick Nolze.

6. 9869 Ravenna Road

This building was built about 1830 by a prominent Twinsburg merchant, Harvey McFarland. It was also owned by teacher, Elza Reed. Over the years, it has been remodeled extensively and now houses apartments.

7. 9909 Ravenna Road

This 'Shotgun' house was built in 1844. A shotgun house is small and square, and if a gun was fired through the front door, the bullet would exit through the back door. The home is currently owned by Harlan and Dorothy Pritchard.

8. 9872 Ravenna Road

This century home is unique in Twinsburg because of its tower-like structure on the side. It is presently owned by Mrs. Bush.

9. 9825 Ravenna Road

This building is presently the home of the NESCA Senior Citizen Center and the Twins Days Festival Committee. Until 1979 it housed the Twinsburg City Hall and the Police Station. The building was once a Baptist Church and was built in the 1860's.

10. 2633 Maple Drive

This century home was built by Ethan Alling in 1837. It is framed with 4 X 4 oak studding and sided with whitewood. The home was later owned by Dr. R. B. Chamberlin, and his son Dr. Glenn Chamberlin used it for his office. The house is presently owned by William Cornell.

11. 9050 Church Street

This peaceful white church overlooking the Square was built in 1847. It is the classic New England style architecture with its tall spire and simple lines. Its design is attributed to master builder Simeon Porter. The bell in the tower was used to announce church meetings, fires, and deaths. It was tolled once for each year of the age of the deceased. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

12. 9044 Church Street

This century building has seen many uses over the years and presently houses several shops. It is currently owned by Rich Pavlik.

13. 9036 Church Street

This home was built circa 1875 and was heated originally by a wood burning stove. The foundation is constructed of sandstone which was quarried in Twinsburg. It is currently owned by Tom Roseberry.

14. 2671 E. Aurora Road

The home of Mrs. Lois Gandee was built about 170 years ago. The first known owner was Adam Stingle who was a Village Blacksmith. The original oak beams run through the center of the house and the floor joists of roughly set poplar are still in the home.

15. 2661 E. Aurora Road

This home was built in 1839 as the Methodist Parsonage. The lot was purchased by the church for \$100.00. The house is presently owned by the Davis family.

16. 2623 E. Aurora Road

This house was built about 150 years ago and was the First Congregational Parsonage until 1927. Its first owner was Mrs. Lewis Alling and she donated the West Reserve style home to the church.

17. 2592 E. Aurora Road

Across the street, this house was built before 1830. The earliest known owner was Deacon Junia North who came to Twinsburg in 1824. The house is presently owned by Ramon Bissell.

18. 2632 E. Aurora Road

Heading back toward the Square, we come to a home built around 1845 and owned by three doctors in succession. Each used the eastern wing as an office. The house now belongs to the Paul family.

19. Locust Grove Cemetery

Continuing down the road, the next point of interest is Locust Grove Cemetery. The 1 & 1/2 acres for the cemetery was purchased by Ethan Alling in 1846 and the first burial occurred in July 1846. Many of the original settlers of Twinsburg are buried here, including the Wilcox Twins, Ethan Alling, and the Reverend Samuel Bissell. The cemetery is planted with locust trees and surrounded by a fence of stone quarried in Twinsburg.

20. Grave of the Wilcox Twins

Moses and Aaron Wilcox gave Twinsburg its name, and its Public Square. They were unique in that they married sisters, had an equal number of children, held their property in common, were taken ill of the same disease, died on the same day, and are buried in the same grave. Their grave stone has recently been replaced by the Twinsburg Historical Society and the original, much weathered, stone is on display at the Museum.

21. 8897 Darrow Road

This building, though not yet 100 years old, is historic to many in Twinsburg. It was built in 1921 to replace a wooden edifice on the same location, which was the first centralized school in town. It housed grades, kindergarten through twelve until 1958, when R. B. Chamberlin High School opened. It continued in use as an elementary school until June 4, 1992 when it closed its doors as a school.

22. 8963 Darrow Road

This is one of the most fascinating houses in Twinsburg. It was built in the 1870's by Dr. Lumnán Griste, one of the town's earliest doctors. All the outside entrances have stone headers and thresholds. An original brick wall still stands in the kitchen where the room was added.

There is a story told by some that the house played an interesting part during the Civil War. Slaves were brought in from Tinkers Creek through a tunnel to the basement of the house and then transported to Hudson as part of the underground railway. The home is presently owned by the Regis Brown family.

23. 8949 Darrow Road

This home was built around 1840 and was known as the John Clark House. The house has changed considerably over the years as it was remodeled. One complete wing was removed. The home is currently owned by the Holley family.

24. 8960 Darrow Road

This home was built in the 1850's and is presently owned by George Randall.

25. 8976 Darrow Road

This house was built in the early 1830's by John Kneale, an early Twinsburg settler. It can be traced through many generations of the VanBogart family and was also once the home of George Dodge, for whom Dodge Middle School was named. It is presently owned by Whitlatch Investment Company.

26. 8984 Darrow Road

This home, built in the 1830's once belonged to Reverend Samuel Bissell and may have been used as a dormitory for the Twinsburg Institute. It is presently owned by Whitlatch Investment Company.

27. 8996 Darrow Road

Presently the home of the Twinsburg Historical Society, this structure was built in 1860 by Reverend Bissell, largely with his own hands. Originally two stories high, the second story was removed when the building settled and became unsafe due to the weight of the stones. The building housed the Twinsburg Institute until Reverend Bissell's death in 1896 at the age of 99. In the course of his teaching, more than 6,000 students received an education. After remaining vacant for a number of years, it was sold to the Grange in 1917. A kitchen was added to the rear of the building and it became the social center of town where many dinners and dances were held. In 1963, because of the declining membership, the Grange donated the building to the Historical Society. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

28. 8996 Darrow Road

Your last stop on the tour is this carriage barn built around 1870 by Dr. Seth Freeman. The Freeman horses were the fastest in town and on busy nights the doctor could be found sleeping in his carriage in the barn, dressed and ready for the next call. The foundation is constructed of sandstone quarried in Twinsburg, and the 40' by 60' barn has three stories, hand hewn pegs and rafters, an elaborate cherry staircase and individual stalls for six horses.