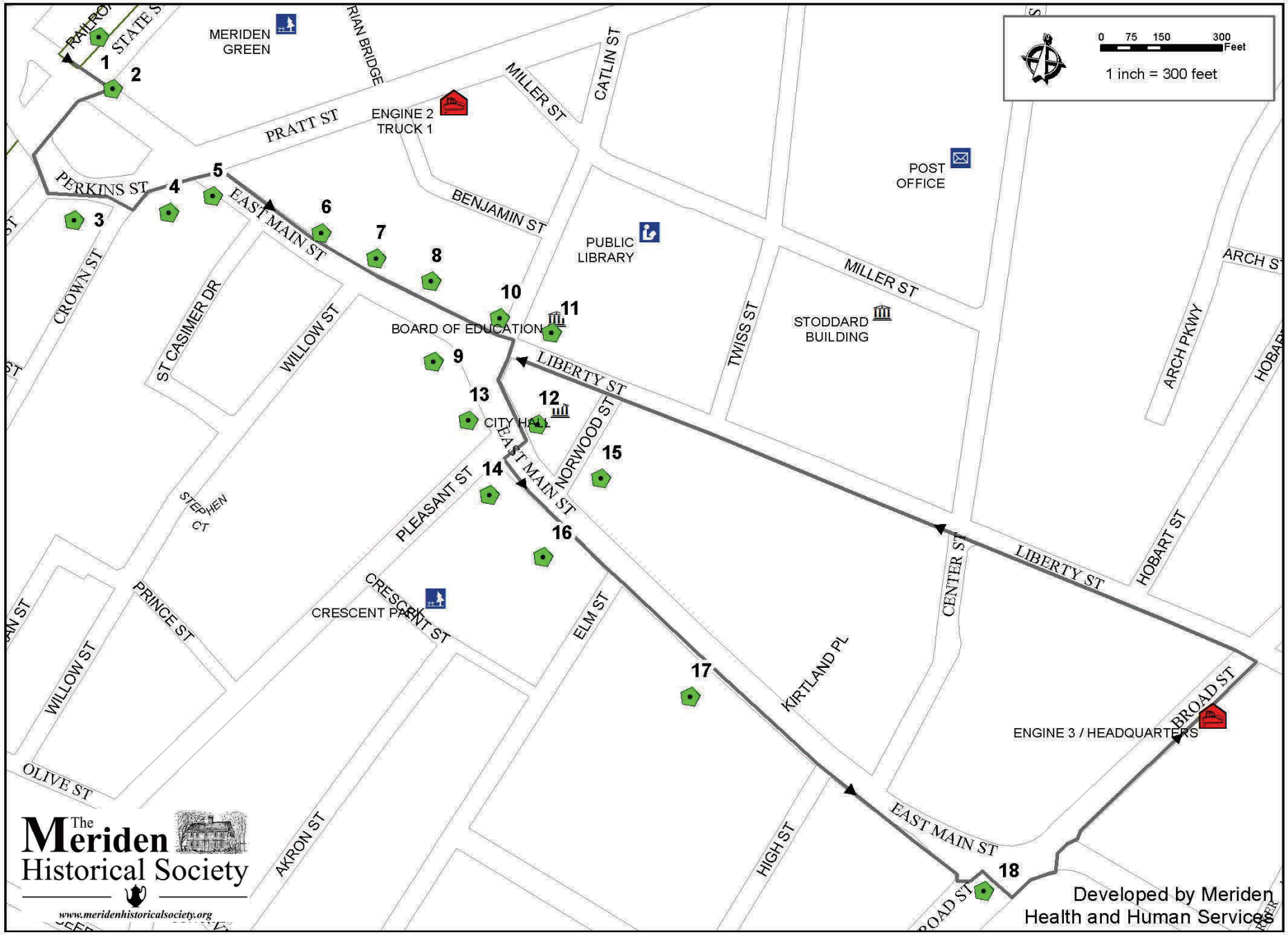
Meriden Historical Society—Walking Tour of Meriden 2017



Keep a look out for these landmarks on your walk through Meriden.

The number on the map corresponds with the picture below.

1) **Intersection of Railroad and East/West Main Street** as it looked in the 1930s. The canopy of the station (tracks were laid in the late 1840s) reached almost all the way to East Main Street.

2) Looking east up **East Main Street from West Main and Colony 1888.** One can make out the old City Hall building in the distance.

3) At the corner of Perkins and South Colony is **<u>The Meriden Record Meriden Journal Building</u>** (soon to be demolished), sums up all of Meriden Newspaper Publications: The Meriden Daily Journal 1887 - 1953; The Meriden Daily Republican 1857 - 1899; the Meriden Journal 1886 - 1987; the Meriden Morning Record 1899 - 1924; The Meriden Morning Record and Republican 1899 – 1902; The Meriden Record 1886 – 1963 and the Meriden Weekly Republican 1892 – 1917: The Weekly Visitor that dates back to 1867 and is the forefather of today's Record Journal in itself a merger of the Morning Record and the Meriden Journal.

4) 12 Crown Street is home to the **<u>The Main Street Baptist Church,</u>** a Gothic Religious style building built in 1867. The building is now the home of the Faith Center Church of God in Christ.

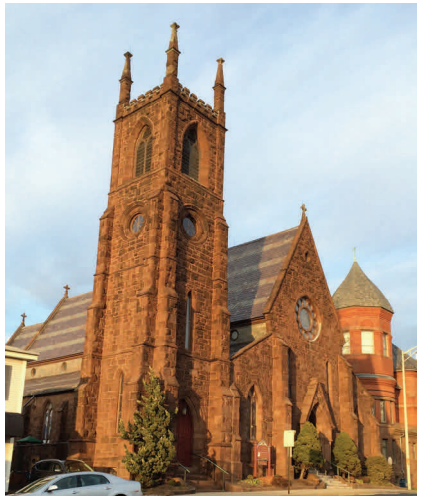
5) At 59 East Main Street you will see the **<u>Meriden National Bank</u>** and **<u>Meriden Savings Bank,</u>** an Italianate style building was built in 1880. It is known also as the Mission Block.

6) 88 East Main Street finds **<u>John J. Ferry & Sons Funeral Home.</u>** The building was built in 1937 in the Italian Renaissance style. The Ferry Family has been serving Meriden as funeral directors for over 125 years.

7) 112 East Main Street is home to the **The Masonic Temple**. It was built in 1927 in the Neoclassical Revival style on the former site of the J. Coe Mansion where, in 1898, the Thursday Morning Club rented 2 rooms to be served as the first free library in Meriden.

8) 120 East Main Street finds the **Lodge No. 35, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks**. It was built in 1928 in the colonial Revival Style. This is the birthplace of the Elks National Foundation.

9) At 127 East Main Street is the **Temple B'nai Abraham,** built in 1951 in the Modern style. This is the 3rd location of the Jewish congregation in town the first two were on Cedar Street.



10) 136 East Main Street is **St Andrews Episcopal Church**, which was built in 1866 in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. This congregation has its roots in town dating back to 1660s and the Andrews Homestead, at 424 West Main Street home to the Meriden Historical Society Museum.

11) 22 Liberty Street is home of the **Meriden Board of Education.** It was built in 1885 as the Meriden High School. Built in the Richardsonian Baroque Style, it features a stained glass ceiling.

12) 142 East Main Street finds **Meriden City Hall** and the **Christopher Columbus Monument.** This Colonial Revival style building was built in 1907 to replace the previous City Hall, destroyed in a fire on February 14, 1904. The blaze burnt for 8 hours, consumed city records and injured 6 firefighters before it was extinguished. Abraham Lincoln spoke here (in the old City Hall) on his presidential campaign. A marble plaque commemorating this event can be found along the stairs leading to the building.

13) 159 East Main Street finds the **First United Methodist Church,** a colonial revival style building that was built in 1949 to replace the original Gothic stone building erected at this site in 1866.

14) At 175 East Main Street is the **Augusta Curtis Cultural Center**, originally The Augusta Curtis Memorial Library, was built in 1901 in the Neoclassical (Greek) Revival style. Money for the land, the construction as well as a guarantee from the city to allocate $3,000 a year for its maintenance came from Augusta Munson Curtis. Up until the 1970s, the building served as the Meriden Public Library, replacing the two rooms free library in the J. Coe Mansion down the street.

16) 189 East Main Street finds **The Isaac C. Lewis Mansion**, now the mosque Masjid-Al-Rawda. It was built in 1868 in the Second Empire style for Isaac C. Lewis, the second Mayor of Meriden.

15) 5 Norwood Street and East Main Street is home to **St Paul's Universalist Church,** which was built in 1891 in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. In 2005, the building was purchased by the Holy Word Foundation Ministries and serves a Pentecostal Congregation. Note the beautiful stained glass windows of this church.

Almost done!

Only 2 more landmarks on the walking tour.

17) 241 East Main Street is home to **The Meriden Armory** , a Romanesque Revival style building that was built in 1908. It was originally home to a National Guard unit. The National Guard sold the building in 1988 to a private developer. At this time the building is undergoing internal changes transforming it to *The Armory of Darkness*, a “Chill and Thrill” attraction.

18) Last but not least, at the intersection of Broad and East Main Street, view the **Meriden World War Monument** that was erected in 1929. The Monument marks the beginning of Meriden Memorial Boulevard. It was designed and built by the Italian sculptor Aristide Berto Cianfarani. The inscription on the monument reads: *Dedicated To The Memory of Those From Meriden Who Made The Supreme Sacrifice In the Service Of Their Country During The World War 1917—1918.* The monument features four figures representing infantry soldiers, marines, sailors and nurses.

If you start and end at the first historical stop—where East Main Street turns into West Main Street near the railroad—you will have walked 1.5 miles. Did you know there was so much Meriden history in a 1.5 mile walk?

Thank you to the Meriden Historical Society for the pictures and narrative.
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The Meriden Historical Society
www.meridenhistoricalsociety.org

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Meriden Department of Health and Human Services