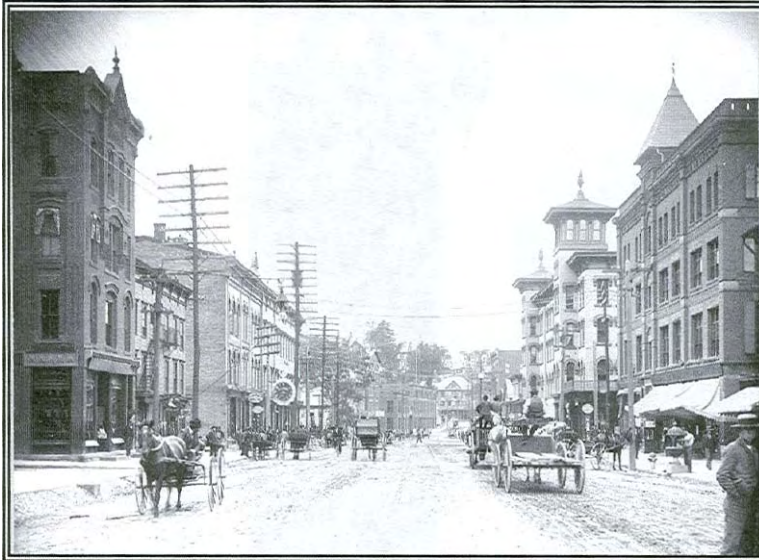


*A Walk Through History -*

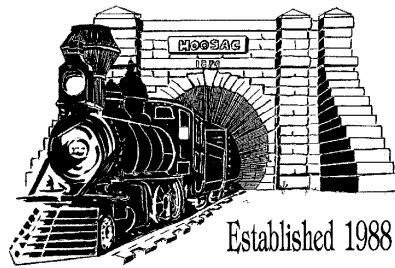
*Main Street and Other Historic Areas*

*North Adams, Massachusetts*



*Main Street, North Adams, MA*

# North Adams Historical Society



The North Adams Historical Society, Inc. (NAHS) was established in 1988 as an outgrowth of the Hoosac Tunnel Museum Society. Its mission is to protect, preserve, and promote the history and heritage of the people of North Adams. In September 1997 the North Adams Local History Museum was opened in Western Gateway Heritage State Park, expanding to Building 5A in 2001 to become the North Adams Museum of History and Science.

The restored buildings that once served as part of an 1800's train station provide wonderful space to share the community history for the education and enjoyment of everyone. The NAHS collects and preserves books, photographs, and objects of historical interest pertaining to the life of the people of North Adams.

The NAHS encourages the study and enjoyment of local history through its exhibits on three floors as well as programs at the Museum and other venues. The Museum features changing exhibits and programs designed to recreate the life and times of our ancestors. The Museum is open free of charge to the public and by appointment for groups of six or more. Donations are always welcome.

The North Adams Museum of History and Science is located in Western Gateway Heritage State Park.

## **A Walk Though History North Adams, Massachusetts**

*The village viewed from the top of a hill to the westward, at sunset, has a peculiarly happy and peaceful look; it lies on a level, surrounded by hills, and seems as if it lay in the hollow of a large hand . . . It is amusing to see all the distributed property, the aristocracy and commonality, the various and conflicting interests of the town, the loves and hates, compressed into a space which the eye takes in as completely as the arrangement of a tea-table.*

North Adams, July 1838. Nathaniel Hawthorne,  
The American Notebooks

North Adams was originally the north village of the township of East Hoosuck, first settled about 1740 and incorporated in 1778 as the town of Adams. Exactly a century later, in 1878, the north village split off and incorporated as the town of North Adams, a prosperous manufacturing and railroad center. In 1895 North Adams became a City.

North Adams today contains a wealth of historic neighborhoods and architecturally important 19th century buildings, many listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This pamphlet contains a suggested walking tour in the center of the city as well as many other historic areas and properties throughout the city.

**Unless otherwise noted, all homes on this walking tour are privately owned and are not open to the public.**

### **A Walk Though History North Adams, Massachusetts**

#### **Main Street**

Present-day Main Street is believed to follow the original path of the Mohawk Trail, used by the Mohawk Indians of upstate New York to reach hunting grounds near the Connecticut River. Since the early days, the Mohawk Trail has been a famous scenic and tourist route. The south side of Main Street was replaced by an Urban Renewal project, but much of the north side has retained its turn-of-the-century buildings.

*The tour begins near the northwest end of Main Street, across the street from City Hall and uphill past the bridge.*

**A-1**

The monument here marks the location of the **North Adams Iron Works** blast furnace which it is believed smelted the pig iron for the USS Monitor, famous ironclad Union warship of the Civil War. The Monitor fought the Confederate ironclad Merrimac to a standoff in the world's first battle of armored ships, forever changing the nature of naval warfare. Further back in history, this was reportedly the intersection of the two Indian Trails which followed this valley: the Pontoosuc Trail from the south and the still famous Mohawk Trail.

Close to this spot were the beginnings of North Adams' first industry, lumber, and a major 19th century industry, textiles, both taking advantage of the abundant waterpower. In 1791, when Giles Barnes acquired part ownership of the first sawmill and gristmill, this area was just taking shape as the north village of the newly incorporated town of Adams, named for patriot Samuel Adams. The north village then consisted of 5 houses, 2 gristmills, and 2 sawmills, and was located in the midst of a pine forest which furnished high quality lumber. The best lumber was exported, and the remnants were used to construct the early buildings and fences, which earned the village the nickname "Slab City."

About the year 1795 Captain Jeremiah Colegrove, a settler from Worcester County, built a new gristmill on the west side of the Hoosic River. It was about 1802 that he hid a runaway slave in the wheel pit of this gristmill. About 1804, Captain Colegrove erected a two-story building on the east bank of the river and began the carding of wool and the fulling and finishing of wool cloth, which was handspun and woven by local women in their homes. From these beginnings the manufacture of textiles became a major industry in this city until well into the 20th century.

Looking north from the bridge just downhill from the Monitor Monument, you can see part of the 24-acre complex which has been pivotal in the city's economic history. This was the main plant of **Harvey Arnold & Co.** (Arnold Print Works). Once spoken of as one of the country's most



successful cloth printers, it prospered on the site from 1862 to 1940. Founded by 3 sons of a “local farmer of modest means”, it grew to \$5 million in annual sales by the mid 1890's. In the 1940's George B. Flood purchased the empty complex for Sprague Specialties (later Sprague Electric Company). From 1950 to 1985, Sprague's Corporate Headquarters occupied the site. Sprague was a leading international manufacturer of capacitors and other electrical components, employing as many as 4,000 people in North Adams at its peak. Hard times came to North Adams with the departure of Sprague in the mid-1980's, but the site is experiencing a renaissance with the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA). This multi-disciplinary center for visual, performing, and media arts opened in May 1999.

*Cross to City Hall and proceed eastward on Main Street, crossing State Street and then American Legion Drive. On your right is the newly constructed part of downtown. Look across to the north side of Main Street for the best view of the historic buildings.*

### **A-2**

The yellow brick two-story Empire Building (49-61 Main Street), built in 1912, is located on the former site of the **North Adams House**, a large hotel built in 1836. Nathaniel Hawthorne stayed there during the summer of 1838 and explored the area on foot, describing North Adams in his “American Notebooks” and being inspired by a visit to the limekiln, used it as the setting for his story “Ethan Brand”. Also the site of the **Wilson House**, North Adams' grand hotel, built in 1866 with the Empire theatre in the rear. Theodore Roosevelt spoke in the theatre in 1912 when campaigning for the Bull Moose Party. Just a few months later a fire consumed the theatre and hotel and gutted the city's first six-story building, the Sullivan Block. The Sullivan Brothers rebuilt the theatre, renaming it the Empire, which is where the office block they built in front of it got its name. The Empire became the Paramount in the 1930's; the theatre's foyer is a business at 55 Main Street.

### **A-3**

Look down Holden Street (the side street) to see the light-colored building on the right. This is the **First Blackinton Block** (6-40 Holden Street), the only one of its type surviving in downtown North Adams from that period. The ornate Italianate-style brick structure was designed by Marcus Fayette Cummings of Troy, NY, the architect who had the

single greatest impact on the architecture of North Adams during the Victorian heyday. It was built for Sanford Blackinton, one of the city's most successful industrialists, whose magnificent mansion (now the Public Library) stands on Church Street at the head of Main. A self-made man, Blackinton served eight years as an apprentice in local woolen mills and then, in 1821 at the age of 24 went into business with two fellow apprentices. The three were so young that for years their establishment was known as "The Boys' Factory". In 1859 the firm was reorganized as S. Blackinton & Co. Factories were built a couple miles west of downtown North Adams.

The village was originally known as Centerville, with much of it actually in Williamstown. It became Blackinton Village when Sanford's influence overwhelmed so many facets of its existence. Many of the original buildings in Blackinton Village may still be seen along Massachusetts Avenue near the Williamstown line.

#### A-4

The commercial buildings, which form the main block of the historic side of Main Street, were constructed between 1880 and 1902. Their proud opulence indicates the great prosperity of North Adams during those years. All were architect-designed and many display, engraved in stone, the names of their developers. From left to right, starting with the building on the corner of Holden and Main, note the rich variety of architectural ornamentation.

- The **Second Blackinton Block** is distinguished by a fortress-style roof parapet. This Romanesque-style building used to have a mock tower on the Main Street side directly above the door to the upstairs. It is worth a trip to the 3rd floor (entrance at 69½ Main Street) to see the wood-paneled sky lit atrium surrounded by two-story Victorian townhouses.

- The **New Kimbell Building** (85 Main) is a turn-of-the-century skyscraper topped by a bracketed roof cornice and swan's neck pediment. Look for the lions' heads between the 5th floor windows and all along the roof edge. It's the first building in



North Adams built on steel pilings; it was built on top of a quicksand pit.

- The **Hoosac Savings Bank Building** was designed with intricate terra cotta detailing by architect H. Neill Wilson of Pittsfield. If you have very sharp eyes, and a good imagination, you may be able to see the ghoulish faces atop the columns between the 4th floor windows.

- The **Dowlin Block**, with its granite face and Italian Renaissance skyscraper design, is by Edwin Thayer Barlow, a major architect who made his home in North Adams. Barlow helped design the façade of the New York Public Library.

#### **A-5**

- The **Mohawk Theater** was one of the few commercial buildings constructed in North Adams during the Great Depression of 1930-1939, symbolizing the great importance of the entertainment industry during that grim decade. The then-popular Art Deco style is shown in the building's simple geometric details and stylized decorations, both inside and out.

### **EAGLE STREET**

*Stand at the corner marked "B" on the map, so that you have a view of both sides of Eagle Street across the intersection.*

Jeremiah Colegrove deeded to the town in 1805 the road which became Eagle Street. Now undergoing restoration, Eagle Street reflects in its layout and buildings the history of North Adams. Its narrow curving



layout is a vestige of the earliest years, and its buildings date from every major period in the city's history. Never as grand as Main Street, Eagle has always been a more intimate side street. The gabled (pitched roof) buildings date from the street's early period as a residential area with craftsmen's shops in or behind the houses. Even today, many buildings contain a mix of commercial and residential uses.

On the **right side**, notice:

Elaborately trimmed windows and roof edges on both wooden and brick buildings from the 1870's and 1880's, and

### **B-1**

At midblock, the Greek revival building, circa 1830, echoing a Greek temple. On the **left side**, notice the “ghost” of an old sign, high on the side of a brick building, advertising Enna Jettick shoes for \$5 - \$6.

If you walk **down the street** you will see on the right the ghost of an advertising sign on the Tower and Porter block which was named for the two plumbers who built it.

### **B-2**

Midblock on the left, is a small painted brick Federal style building (Molly’s Bakery). This is the street’s oldest building and one of the city’s few surviving early 19th century structures. Note the name H. Lenhoff in the mosaic tile floor of the store entrance. The present storefront is a 1920’s “modernization.”

### **B-3**

At the far end on the right, the triangular “flatiron” building was built in 1854 in the Italianate style. The Flatiron block was not always a flatiron. The north end was originally flat, and the flatiron section was added later. Recent ownership changes have created housing for artists on the upper level while the street level stores became “Gallery Row” to attract new galleries and art-related retail stores. The exterior was upgraded, keeping the character of the building, while enhancing the window areas and the street level row of entrances.

### **B-4**

At the end of the block on the left, is an 1870’s building with turn-of-the-century style storefronts (one original and the others restored) featuring leaded prism glass panels above the display windows. Note the name of J. Lenhoff and number 49 in the mosaic tile floor of one store entrance.

## **MONUMENT SQUARE**

### **C-1**

Uphill at the top of Main Street is Monument Square with its **Soldiers’ Monument**, dedicated on the Fourth of July, 1878. The Union soldier stands in the center of a swirl of automobile traffic, surveying Main Street. A few months before the statue’s centennial it was hit and shattered by a motorist, but was pieced back together in time for a July 4, 1981, rededication.



Monument Square is the hub of the clustered church steeples which form the focal point of the city's skyline. Standing here you can see most of the **7 Churches** that are located within a block of the square. These give rise to another nickname "The City of Steeples".

### C-2

At the head of the Square is the magnificent **Blackinton Mansion** (1869), home of the North Adams Public Library since 1898. The handsome house, considered the most outstanding example of an unaltered Second Empire style residence in Berkshire County, was designed by Marcus Fayette Cummings of Troy for Sanford Blackinton. Blackinton was the first of the local mill owners to move away from his mill and his employees to an exclusive residential neighborhood, ending the paternalistic sense of community which had characterized the various mill villages of North Adams. While Blackinton no longer lived near his mills, he still visited them every day, and was known to leave a walking stick in a conspicuous place, so everyone would know that someday--- and no one knew when---he'd be coming back for it.



*Walking up East Main Street past the library, note especially these three buildings:*

### C-3

**165 East Main Street**, the first house on the left was built c. 1850 for George Millard a shoe manufacturer. Mr. Millard's son-in-law, Henry Siddons Mowbray, lived in the house for a time. Mowbray was the nephew (in-law) and adopted son of George M. Mowbray who made the nitro-glycerin for construction of the Hoosac Tunnel, the railroad project resulting in North Adams also being known as the Tunnel City and the Western Gateway.

### C-4

**182 East Main Street**, the first house above the library, is an outstanding example of the Stick-style of architecture, characterized by decorative wide boards ("sticks"), which define the rectangular zones of clapboards.

It was designed by a New Haven architect in 1881 for C. H. Cutting, then proprietor of a drygoods store on Main Street. The current owners have painted it to highlight the fine architectural detail.

#### **C-5**

Across the street and just beyond the Silvio O. Conte Middle School is another Marcus F. Cummings building, a brick apartment house at **191 East Main Street**. Note how adroitly the two halves of the East Main Street facade are offset to accommodate the sloping street, and notice the variety of decorative detailing so typical of Cummings' designs.

*Return to the Library. This would be a good opportunity to stop and see the interior and the complementary addition (well worth the time) and to rest before proceeding along Church Street for the conclusion of the tour.*

### **CHURCH STREET**

The Blackinton Mansion (Public Library) introduces Church Street, which has been described as the outstanding collection of Victorian residential architecture in Berkshire County. Most of these homes were built by the city's economic and political leaders between the Civil War and the turn of the century. They demonstrate not only the imagination and skill of their designers and builders, but also the affluence and sophistication of the local families. The street's turn-of-the-century grouping is virtually intact and includes at least one outstanding example of every architectural style of the period. Walking down Church Street one can imagine horse-drawn carriages and ladies with parasols under the spreading elm trees that once lined both sides of this fashionable street.



*To see some of the other outstanding houses, we suggest you cross Church Street from the Library and proceed southward on the west side of the street.*

#### **D-1**

The **Burlingame House** at the corner of Summer Street, one of the oldest on the street, was built about 1830 in Federalist-style. Note the simple outlines, the "fan" window visible on the Summer Street side and

one on the opposite wall as well, and the handsome wrought-iron porch railings. In front of the house, notice the stepping-stone near the curb, for Victorian ladies to alight from their horse-drawn carriages. The hitching post for tying the horses is, unfortunately, now gone. Salmon Burlingame was part owner of a Main Street store, which sold drugs, medicines, paints, oils, and hardware of the best quality, at “prices that defy competition.” Lue Gim Gong, one of a group of Chinese men who had been brought here in 1870 to break a shoe factory strike, lived here with the Burlingame’s and later became a nationally known horticulturist.

#### **D-2**

The house next door, **81 Church Street**, is notable for its elaborately patterned slate roof and lacy wood trim. It was built in 1872 for Dr. Henry J. Millard, who had been a prison doctor in the Civil War.

#### **D-3**

In the next block (third house down, No. 123) is the **Congregational Church Parsonage**, a large white Stick-style house built in 1878. It replaced the previous smaller parsonage on the same site, and is said to have been built at the insistence of a wealthy member of the church who would not hear of her minister living in a smaller house than her own.

#### **D-4**

Across the street, note the pair of brick mansions at **116 and 124 Church Street**. Built together in 1882, they were designed by Troy architect Marcus F. Cummings and constructed by a Boston builder and a Boston mason, causing great interest locally. Typical of their Queen Ann-style are the asymmetrical massing and many towers, bays, and gables. However, they are unusual because their intricate details and texture are achieved by the use of a broad variety of materials. They are “true” Queen Anne houses. The house on the left was occupied briefly by the Robert C. Sprague family.

#### **D-5**

Three doors down, previously painted bright green and red color, is the richly embellished Stick-style **Cady House**, 144 Church Street. It was the home of H. Torrey Cady, prominent shoe manufacturer and the city’s second mayor.

#### **D-6**

The Queen Anne-style house next door at **No. 150** is **Colegrove House**, built in 1888 for Mrs. Frank F. Colegrove. The Colegrove family were early settlers, having come in 1794 when there were less than a dozen

dwellings in the village. Jeremiah Colegrove cleared the stumps out of the road so he could move the Baptist Meeting House. He moved it around 1794 from the site of the present Masonic Temple, where it was originally built, to where the Baptist Church is now. It now stands on North Church, immediately behind the Baptist Church (it has a stucco covering on its original clapboards), and is one of three buildings in the city that can be dated to pre-1830.

**D-7**

On the right-hand side of the street at **No. 149** is the Colonial Revival mansion designed just before the turn of the century for the **William A. Gallup** family by Pittsfield architect H. Neill Wilson. Gallup was a prominent partner in the Arnold Print Works and Beaver Mill, major early industries in North Adams and son-in-law of A. C. Houghton and father-in-law of **George B. Flood**, a prominent North Adams financier who lived in the house after the Gallups.

**D-8**

The house across the street at **No. 156** was the home of **John B. Tyler**, partner in various textile firms, first president of the North Adams Gas Light Co., and prime mover in the building of the first plant for the manufacture of gas. His wife, Harriet, was a daughter of Giles Tinker, the gifted mechanic who is credited with having given the first impetus to cotton manufacture in North Adams by his skillful and ingenious adaptation of machinery for that purpose.

**D-9**

Next-door is a green-trimmed stone and stucco house (**164 Church Street**). Edward S. Wilkinson, third mayor of North Adams, built the house. A son-in-law of A.C. Houghton, he was an industrialist, and bears the dubious distinction of being the only Mayor of North Adams to die in office. This house was well ahead of its time (1895) in terms of design, with elements foreshadowing the style later associated with trail-blazing architect Gustav Stickley. Note especially the decorated stucco panels on the second floor.



**D-10**

The last house on the block is the magnificent **A. C. Houghton** mansion, at the corner of Pleasant Street. Designed in 1897 by H. Neill



Wilson of Pittsfield, it is an outstanding example of the Neo-Classical Revival style with its elaborate classical details. The brick addition at the rear was built in the 1920's, not long after the property was acquired by the Freemasons. When the Houghton family lived here, there was a large terraced garden, a perfect setting for elegant garden parties as well as lawn parties to raise funds for the North Adams Hospital, a favorite charity of many people of North Adams' high society. Albert Houghton was, at the turn of the century, the president and principal owner of the Arnold Print Works, then North Adams' largest industrial firm; it was also the largest textile concern in this part of New England. The first mayor of North Adams, he purchased the Blackinton mansion and presented it to the City for use as a public library.

### **CADY HILL**

You may wish to walk or drive through Cady Hill, a pleasant Victorian neighborhood above Church Street which combined middle class homes with those of mill owners and wealthy merchants and public figures. Some of the nouveau riches who wanted to live in an exclusive neighborhood, but didn't want to pay the exorbitant property taxes that Church Street residents suffered, built in this area. Numerous members of the Cady family, original owners of much of this land, built homes on the hill which bears their family name.

A suggested route is shown on the map, beginning at the corner of Church and Pleasant Streets. William G. Cady, brother of H. Torrey built the house at 180 Pleasant Street. Notice the two- and three-toned Victorian color schemes which emphasize the historic decorative qualities of many homes in the neighborhood. Of special interest in this area are:

#### **E-1**

**Vadner House**, 140 Pleasant Street. Samuel Vadner, owner of a carriage manufacturing business, was one of the first to build a home on Cady Hill. His elegant 1874 Second Empire style house with matching carriage barn has been meticulously preserved, and is painted in dramatic Victorian colors.

#### **E-2**

**53 Cherry Street** was built in 1880 for **Congressman George B. Lawrence**. The city's outstanding example of Shingle style architecture,



it has wood shingles as the only surface of the entire exterior, including the roof. In 1885, at age 26, Congressman Lawrence was the youngest judge appointed to the bench in Massachusetts. He was elected to the House to complete the term of Hon. Ashley B. Wright, also of North Adams, and had previously served in the Massachusetts State Senate. He was the son-in-law of Col. John Bracewell, and was related (through him) to James D. Hunter, who was his next-door neighbor for many years. Subsequently this was the home of **James E. Wall**, owner of Wall-Streeter Shoe Company. Note the rounded balcony from which President William McKinley addressed well-wishers during one of his visits to the area.

### **E-3**

**18 Cherry Street** was the home of **Archer Barber**, owner of the Barber Leather Company. This 1906 Craftsman style house is a Gustav Stickley design, exemplifying an important development in American architecture - the new direction blazed by Stickley in emphasizing the natural qualities of handcrafted materials.

## **A Sampling of Other Historic Areas**

This tour is only a sample of the historic neighborhoods of North Adams. If it has whetted your appetite, we suggest you drive through other areas of interest:

The area west of Church Street (**Chestnut and Quincy Streets**), a Victorian residential neighborhood with many intact Stick-style multi-family homes of the period (**Bracewell Avenue and Vicinity**); and **Blackinton Historic District**, an early mill village which contains some of the oldest surviving buildings in North Adams. On Massachusetts Avenue, as you approach Williamstown, you will see on the right (at the corner of Church Hill), the Blackinton Union Church, followed by the original c. 1840 homes of the mill owners. Across the street, just before the mill, is worker housing of the earliest kind, c. 1840 (the row of 3 simple Greek Revival buildings, No. 1422 through 1434 Massachusetts Avenue) and the 1839 company store, which also housed the village library.

The **Freight Yard Historic District**, site of the **Western Gateway Heritage State Park**. Located in a former Boston and Maine freight

yard, the park's six buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This restored railroad yard is the home of:

**Bldg. 1.** This structure was the first freight yard building and was erected between 1876 and 1894. It was originally used for receiving and storing rail freight. Around 1900 Swift and Co. took over the building to store meat for local markets. By 1929 the Welsh and Gray Lumber Company had moved both their office and storage activities to the building. They utilized the structure until the 1950's. Each tenant made small additions to the building or removed sections to suit their own needs.

**Bldg. 2.** This building started life as a 34-foot long structure in the 1880's. It grew to 98 feet in length by 1908. First occupied by freight delivery companies, the building later housed a woodworking shop. It finally became a storehouse for food arriving in North Adams by rail. From building two, produce was delivered by horse-drawn teams and motor trucks to local grocery stores. The delivery wagons and light trucks were garaged in a portion of the building.

**Bldg. 3.** This building was built about 1880, replacing a lumber shed on the site. In the late 1880's a wing was added to expand its storage capacity. At one time there was a platform scale for use by shippers and a manure vault because of the many workhorses used in the freight yard. Each morning the courtyard in front of the building was filled with activity as food and other products were loaded for delivery to customers. As with the other buildings, small additions were put up, taken down, windows opened and boarded up, and the interior cut up in dozens of ways to suit the needs of a busy market center.

**The Visitors' Center - Bldg. 4.** The largest of the freight yard structures; Building No.4 is 41 feet wide by 269 feet long. It was built by the Fitchburg Railroad in 1894 as its main North Adams freight station and now houses the Park's Visitors' Center. Spur tracks ran the length of the building on both sides to allow rapid unloading of cargo. Finished goods from nearby plants were carted to the shed, weighed, way billed, marked, sorted for their destinations and loaded onto boxcars.

The Shipper's Office at the southern end of the building had a comfortable interior including a potbelly stove. It was the main center of

operations, the place to go to complain about a damaged truck, or to ship a crate of apples.

The saga of one of history's greatest engineering feats - the nearly five-mile long Hoosac Tunnel - is told at Western Gateway Heritage State Park. Relive the railroad tunnel experience through the sounds of dripping water, pick-axes against stone, an explosion and ghost stories. Imaginative exhibits are designed to reveal the impact that the railroad industry and the Hoosac Tunnel project had on both northern Berkshire County and America. A 30-minute documentary film provides a history of the Hoosac Tunnel

**The North Adams Museum of History and Science - Bldg. 5A.** This building was constructed in the 1880's as a "coal pocket". Its massive frame could hold thousands of tons of coal. Wagons were backed into the lower bays of the building and filled with coal sent down a chute from the upper level. The coal was then delivered to local homes and businesses. Until the conversion to oil heat in the 1940's coal was the basic heating fuel for North Adams. With the decline of coal consumption in the 1950's the pocket was abandoned and the building unused.

**Bldg. 5B & 5C.** These building were for general storage.

**Bldg. 6.** This building was built in the 1880's by the Fitchburg Railroad for rental to hay and grain dealers.

Before the arrival of the automobile in the early 1900's, North Adams residents relied on the horse for transportation. In a way this building was a "gas station" for horses. Grain was conveyed by belt to the upper part of the building, stored until milled, then bagged and sold as animal feed. Some of the grain milling equipment is still located in the building. The wings of the building were used to store hay and bags of feed. Hay and grain were often purchased in the Midwest or Canada and brought in by rail to serve local needs.

A cast iron crane or derrick on a concrete base is located on the east side of Building 6 where once there was a double track siding. It no doubt facilitated the loading and unloading of freight such as hay and grain into



and out of Building 6. Manufactured by the Putnam Machine Co. of Fitchburg, MA, the crane has a 20-ton capacity.

**Other**

Visible from the pedestrian bridge is the so-called “Little Tunnel.” Nicknamed “Hoosac’s Baby Brother,” it is, in fact, the Hoosac Tunnel’s *big* brother, as it predates the Hoosac Tunnel by about 20 years! It was excavated to put a rail line into North Adams from Troy as a part of the Hoosac Tunnel project, and gave North Adams access to the western markets long before the Hoosac Tunnel was completed.

The City of North Adams is located in a valley created by the confluence of the north and south branches of the Hoosic River. This unique location has produced a building arrangement not often encountered in New England mill towns. The center of the City with its mills, commercial buildings and early residential neighborhoods occupies the valley floor while the surrounding hills are terraced with late nineteenth century housing.

We hope your tour of the center of North Adams has been enjoyable and informative.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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*by*

*Lorraine B. Maloney*

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We hope you have enjoyed your  
***Walk Through History in North Adams, Massachusetts.***  
We invite you to come again and bring your family and friends!

For Tourist Information contact:  
Mayor's Office of Tourism and Cultural Development  
(413) 664-6180

For Western Gateway Heritage State Park Museum Information contact:  
Visitors' Center (Hoosac Tunnel Museum) (413) 663-6312  
North Adams Museum of History & Science (413) 664-4700  
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