

## West Haverhill Tour (Map of tour is on the last page)

An unusual range of Haverhill historic sites is covered in this tour which starts at centrally located G.A.R. Park, fully described in the East Haverhill Tour.

1. Site of the home of Harriet Newell, one of the first two woman American missionaries. Later the second building of the Haverhill High School stood here from 1874 until 1959, when it burned.
2. "The Whittier Building" was named in 1882 for the poet, who was a member of the first class when the Bulfinch-style building was opened in 1827 as the Haverhill Academy. It served as the Haverhill High School from 1841 to 1874, and later as an elementary school, the Trade School and the School Administration Building. After a fire in 1962, the building was restored to its original 1827 appearance and now houses the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce and the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. The lampposts are from the old Public Library building of 1875.
3. Emerson Street was named for Hannah Duston's father, who owned land in the area. Henry David Thoreau laid out several nearby streets and gave them such names as Orchard, Walnut and Locust.
4. The church where a few Haverhill residents gathered signatures for a petition to dissolve the Union. Haverhill made Congressional history when the petition was sent to John Quincy Adams, who presented it to Congress, stirring a controversy which ultimately guaranteed the right of Americans to have their grievances heard. The original petition is now in the Buttonwoods museum. (A7)
5. Where the bridge crosses Little River at Pentucket Falls, the first textile mill was erected in 1804. Present buildings recall the day when E.J.M. Hale was the single largest manufacturer in the United States.
6. The Statue of Lafayette was donated to the city in 1932 by an association from the French community.
7. Somewhere in the immediate area of Eudora Street stood the house of Hannah Duston when she was taken by the Indians in 1697 and the house burned. When the attack came, Thomas Duston took seven of their children to a garrison house a mile away, holding off the Indians with his rifle.
8. The small brick garrison house which Thomas Duston was building at the time of the attack, and to which Hannah returned. This was the only garrison house in Haverhill constructed of local bricks, as Thomas made his own, using clay pits just across Little River. The house dates from the year of the attack – 1697 – and was restored after a fire in 1938.

9. Long Hill, where settlers overtook retreating Indians from the raid of 1708 and fought a long, hot battle, routing the Indians, and killing some thirty Indians and French.

10. The large boulder was erected in 1905 on the site of the house of Jonathan Duston, where Hannah spent the last four years of her life after her husband died in 1732.

11. The second West Parish cemetery, with many well-preserved gravestones; a good place for “rubblings” of early stones.

12. The first West Parish cemetery, with more possibilities for 18<sup>th</sup> century “rubblings”.

13. A millstone which marks the place where Hannah Duston, her nurse Mary Nuff, and a Worcester boy, Samuel Leonardson, landed their canoe after escaping Indian captivity. They brought with them a hatchet and a scalping knife which are now at the Buttonwoods museum. (A7)

14. “Shoe Town”, rebuilt after it had been completely leveled by fire in 1882. These factories helped Haverhill become “Queen Shoe City of the world.” In 1976 the Washington Street Shoe District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its architectural and historical significance.

15. Washington Square, named for the first President, who walked through here November 4, 1789, and commented that this was the pleasantest village he had passed through in his travels. The Hotel Whittier is on a corner which has been a hotel site since 1650 – possibly the oldest site which still has a public hotel. Diagonally across Essex Street from the hotel, Louis B. Mayer began his career as a movie mogul when he managed the theater located there.

16. Merrimack Street, the city’s retail district, was laid out in 1744 for private homes. In the 1800’s brick factories were built for the early shoe industry and the old houses were gradually torn down or moved. The factories slowly moved westward along Washington and Essex Streets and retail stores took their place. R.H. Macy opened a store here, but having no success, moved to New York and started the world-famous store which still bears his name. A shipyard was located across from the Masonic Temple; and Nathan Webster’s hat store, where the originators of the Haverhill Petition (C4) first met, was near White’s Corner. (A2)

