

## 15 Taylor Mansion

Sadly, the beautiful home intended to provide so much joy, saw a great deal of grief – the death of the Taylors' older son, a scandalous murder perhaps involving family as well as staff, and the ultimate breakup of the Taylor marriage in 1912. During World War I, the house was used as a convalescent home for Canadian soldiers.

## 16 Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church, reached through the parking lot behind the Paddock Mansion, is a massive greystone edifice erected in 1889 when the congregation moved from its original Court Street site. Trinity Church is considered a particularly high style rendition of the Romanesque style, attributed surely in part to the hiring of New England architect W.P. Wentworth, who was most apt to have been influenced by Richardson's Boston Trinity Church. The Parish house was added in 1912, as a gift from Emma Flower Taylor in memory of her father. In fact, the Flower family financed much of the building on this site.

## 17 Massey House

The Massey House at the rear of the Historical Society was used by the Paddock coachman and his family and is considered the oldest house in the city.

The building is believed to have been built ca. 1802 by Hart Massey; it is also one of the oldest structures in Jefferson County. The house may have stood at the front of the property on the site of the current house. It was moved to its current location ca. 1876 and connected to the icehouse and barn built to serve the Paddock Mansion. It currently serves as the home of the director of the JCHS.

## 18 Victorian Gardens

The Victorian Garden at the rear of the house, designed by James Beckler of the Smithsonian Institute, was developed as a gift of the Watertown Foundation in 1982.

## Additional Walking Tours:

The Clinton Street neighborhood is filled with many historic homes; for more information, the Jefferson County Historical Society offers a tour of this neighborhood.

For more walking pleasure there is also a neighborhood just south of this area, filled with Italianate and Queen Anne style buildings. This area, known unofficially as the Heritage Plaque neighborhood, runs off both sides of Washington Street for Clinton/Sterling Streets to Paddock/Winslow Streets.

While there is no formal guide for this area, there are some things to watch for:

### For Example, Can You Find:

- A stone hitching post in the shape of a tree trunk?
- A roof with metal cresting (like a miniature fence on the roof ridge)?
- Slate sidewalk blocks?
- A brass sidewalk seal?
- At least 10 former carriage houses?
- A mounting block at curbside?
- Three porte-cocheres (an addition to the side of a house used to shelter entry and exit for coach riders)?
- Slate roofs? Spanish tile roofs?
- Weather Vanes (especially on buildings at the rear of properties)?



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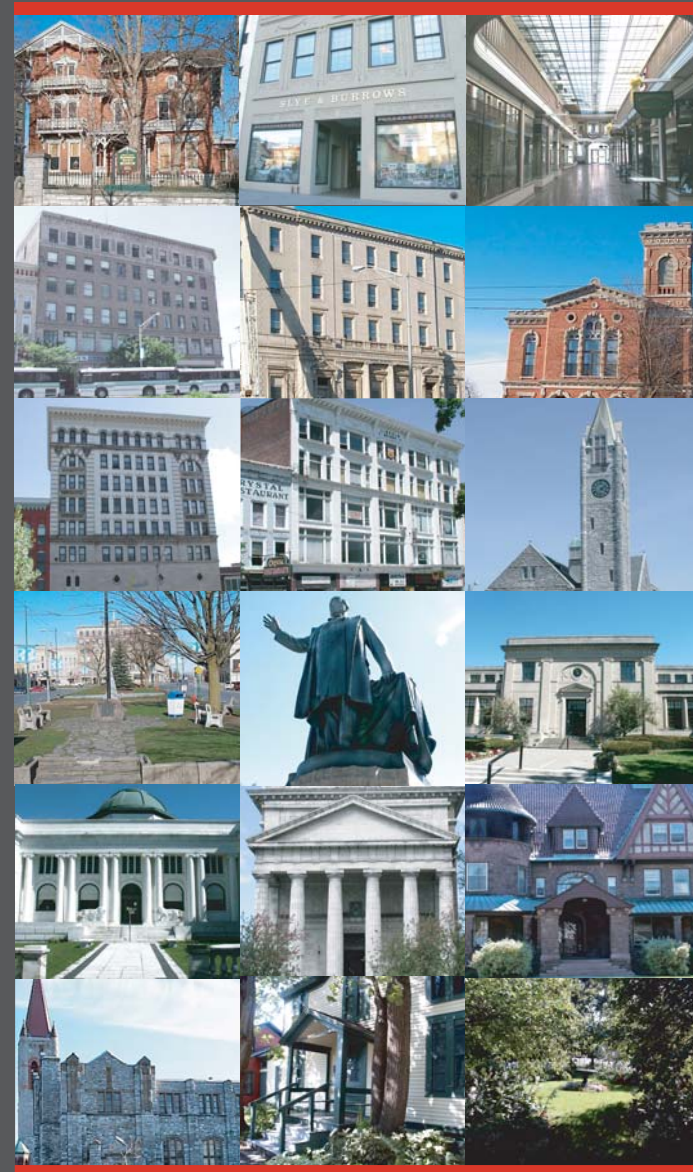


[www.ncsteps.org](http://www.ncsteps.org)

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a walking tour of Historic & Architectural  
**Watertown, New York**



## **1 Paddock Mansion / Jefferson County Historical Society**

Large and Victorian for him, "Swiss Chalet" for her. The Paddocks - Edwin and Olive - built and occupied the house at 228 Washington Street from 1876 to 1922. Paddock, son of Loveland, builder of the Arcade, was a local banker. The house was designed and built by John Hose, also responsible for the construction of the County Court House. Upon Mrs. Paddock's death in 1922, the house was left to the Jefferson County Historical Society and is open to the public. Many of the rooms retain original Paddock furnishings.

## **2 Slye & Burrows (Smith & Percy)**

The striking Art Moderne Smith & Percy building ( 104-6 Washington Street ). This was a very popular style in the 1930s

## **3 Paddock Arcade**

The keystone to the Public Square area is, without a doubt, the 1850 vintage Paddock Arcade. The Arcade is the oldest continuously run pedestrian mall in the country. This building is said to have been inspired by the famed Beauharnais Arcade in Paris. The structure was designed by architect Otis Wheelock, designer of the First Presbyterian Church, Iron Block and several other buildings, no longer standing, including the Woodruff House. Wheelock was a noted designer who was involved in the national drive to set professional standards for engineers and architects. He eventually moved to Chicago where he designed sections of the University.

The 174 foot vaulted gallery with second floor offices open to a balcony railing overlooking the retail first story gives the Arcade its character.

## **4 Woolworth Building**

Arguably the most impressive building in Watertown, the Woolworth Building was built in 1921. Erected by Frank W. Woolworth, it anchors the western end of Public Square. This was the site of his first venture into the five-and-dime business (a counter at the earlier Moore & Smith store).

## **5 Old Post Office (New Court Complex)**

Slightly to the west, is the former Post Office Building, now a part of the Jefferson County Court Complex. The first piece of mail to be stamped at this facility was dated June 27, 1909.

## **6 The Original Jefferson County Courthouse**

At the corner of Arsenal and Sherman Streets, the Jefferson County Court House stands – a red brick, limestone trimmed two-story structure. This building is the last survivor of three nearly identical structures in New York State, designed by a Syracuse architect, Horatio Nelson White.

## **7 Empsall's**

Originally the Rothstock, was built in 1903 and changed to Empsalls in 1907. The building was considered Watertown's first "skyscraper."

## **8 Lincoln Building**

Built in 1855, after the great fire of 1849, was home to the prestigious Lincoln League. The building has been historically used for retail and offices.

## **9 First Baptist Church**

The Richardsonian Romanesque style First Baptist Church dominates the eastern end of the Public Square. Originally built in 1837, but destroyed by fire in 1846. The church was rebuilt in 1846, at a cost of \$6,000, and was used until it was torn down c. 1891. The present church was built in 1891, using native Limestone from outside the city and the marble used was brought in from gouverneur. The completed building, which cost about \$31,000, was dedicated on September 13, 1892.

## **10 Public Square**

At the center of the Public Square lies the island, which was originally the village green. Dating from a gift in the 1805, the park is most noted for the central cast iron fountain, erected in 1869 to mark the incorporation of Watertown as a city. At the western end stands the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, topped by victory, marking the end of the Civil War.

## **11 Flower Statue**

At the beginning of the Washington Street stands the Augustus St. Gaudens Statue of Roswell Pettibone Flower, Governor of New York State at the turn of the century. The Flower family was responsible for many of the high style structures in the city, including the Library and the Taylor mansion on Clinton Street.

## **12 Agriculture Insurance Co.**

This end of the Public Square is also home to a building tied to the history of the Agricultural Insurance Company, a leading local-based insurer for over a century the 1920's Neoclassical structure sits to the north of the Library.

## **13 Flower Memorial Library**

Emma Flower Taylor, daughter of Roswell P. Flower, donated the landmark Public Library named for her father. Emma Flower Taylor had the following dedicatory bronzed inscription placed in the library: "I make this gift in loving memory of my father to perpetuate his name and love of progress and to benefit those who delight in knowledge."

The white marble building in Beaux Arts style was designed by Watertown architect Addison F. Lansing, whose work was influenced by his earlier association with the firm of McKim, Mead and White in New York City.

The interior of this structure is as important as the exterior, with murals and paintings of local themes in addition to allegorical exposition. The artwork was in large part executed by the Lamb Studios of New York City (also responsible for work at Sage, Wellsley, and Cornell). The most significant feature is the three story domed rotunda with allegories of various branches of learning. Group tours, including some of the restricted areas, can be arranged with Library staff, available during operating hours.

## **14 Masonic Temple**

The 1914 structure was built during the heyday of Watertown's Industrial Age. The Masonic Temple commands its view of the Washington Street thoroughfare. Access to the building throughout the 1915 period building was by ramp rather than stairs. The proud Greek Neoclassical portico leads to a mosaic floored entry and huge brass and leather doors.



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..... Long Tour  
1.5 Miles

———— Short Tour  
0.4 Miles



1

**Paddock Mansion /  
Jefferson County  
Historical Society**  
228 Washington Street



7

**Empsall's**  
122-30 Public Square



13

**Flower Memorial  
Library**  
229 Washington Street



2

**Slye & Burrows  
(Smith & Percy)**  
104-6 Washington Street



8

**Lincoln Building**  
95 Public Square



14

**Masonic Temple**  
240 Washington Street



3

**Paddock Arcade**  
Washington St. between  
Arsenal and Stone Street



9

**First Baptist Church**  
207 State Street



15

**Taylor Mansion**  
241 Clinton Street



4

**Woolworth Building**  
Corner of Washinton  
and Arsenal Street



10

**Public Square**  
Roughly Court, Arsenal,  
Washington, Franklin  
and State Sreets



16

**Trinity Episcopal  
Church**  
227 Sherman Street



5

**Old Post Office  
(New Court Complex)**  
Arsenal Street



11

**Flower Statue**  
Center of Washington  
Street, Public Square



17

**Massey House**  
228 Washington Street



6

**The Original Jefferson  
County Courthouse**  
Corner of Arsenal  
and Sherman Streets



12

**Agriculture  
Insurance Co.**  
Next to the Flower  
Memorial Library



18

**Victorian Gardens**  
228 Washington Street

