

How To Use The Brochure

This brochure is a self-guided walking tour of 1 of 5 Historic Districts in the City of Marshfield. Inside the brochure you'll find a map of the District and its historic resources. Several properties are featured with photos, architectural information and other interesting facts.

For each tour, we've mapped a recommended starting point and walking route. Distances and estimated tour times are provided. On street parking is available at the starting points. The walking routes will bring you past the most historic sites within the districts.

We encourage you to read the story of each District and reflect back in time as you stroll through Marshfield's Historic Neighborhoods.



Most of the houses in the Districts are private residences and are not open to the public. Please respect the owners' privacy and avoid trespassing on private property. Please view these properties only from the public right-of-way.

Brief History of Marshfield

More than anything else, the city of Marshfield grew out of the marriage of the railroad and lumber industries. Surrounding hardwood forests, patches of pine, and the need to transport logs, frontier labor and goods, provided a commercial incentive for individuals to carve a railroad path through the area. In 1872, Louis Rivers built a double log cabin near the corner of what is now North Chestnut and Depot Streets, determined to capture the potential of an inn business that came with the projected path of the Wisconsin Central Railroad. Rivers purchased the land from John J. Marsh, whom the city is said to be named after.

The fledgling city was jeopardized by a fire that started in the Upham Company lumber yards on June 27, 1887. The blaze spread rapidly, ultimately claiming 250 businesses and homes. It brought devastation and financial ruin to much of the community. When Upham raised his flag the next morning to indicate that the lumber plant would be rebuilt, he set the tone for Marshfield residents' renewed energy and resolve. The community recovered and gained strength after the fire, adding numerous buildings to meet growing

needs. Railroad traffic also increased: The volume in lines and users was second only to Milwaukee, earning Marshfield the nickname of "Hub City." After the turn of the century, some notable shifts took place in the city's economy. Dr. Karl Doege and five other doctors formed a group medical practice, now known as the Marshfield Clinic, in the downtown Thiel building. And, after most of the hardwood stands were cleared, agriculture – notably cheesemaking – became more prominent. However, lumber-related industries still retained a strong presence in Marshfield.



Marshfield's historic buildings, in various architectural forms, remain solid witness to the hard work and commitment of individuals seeking to better their lives in a different time. These buildings give us a glimpse of Marshfield's past, an understanding of location and form, and pleasure in their unique presence in our community.

Walking Tour Brochure Series by the Marshfield Historic Preservation Committee:

- Central Avenue Historic District
- Pleasant Hill Residential Historic District
- Upham House Historic District
- West Fifth Street – West Sixth Street Historic District
- West Park Street Historic District

For more information contact:
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Brief history of the Pleasant Hill District:

The Pleasant Hill Residential District is a large residential neighborhood situated in the heart of downtown Marshfield and is filled with 75 stately homes on wide streets and generous size lots with mature trees. Within the Pleasant Hill District, the Queen Anne style of architecture is well represented. Many of the stately homes are sited on two city lots and required the removal of a smaller house prior to construction.

The neighborhood is one of Marshfield’s earliest neighborhoods. Several of its stately homes were residences of some of Marshfield’s early civic leaders and prominent businessmen who were attracted to the neighborhood for its convenient location to the commercial district, to transportation, and to the clinic. It remains a neighborhood of beautiful houses and gardens.



1. 208 S. Cherry Avenue

The “Wahle/Laird house” is one of the District’s finest and most historically important resources. An excellent example of the Georgian Revival style, the Wahle/Laird house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 in two categories: architecture and social history. The family home was purchased for Helen Conner Laird and her husband the Reverend Melvin R. Laird in 1923 by W. D. Conner, one of Wisconsin’s foremost pioneers in the hardwood lumber industry and a prominent political figure during the progressive era. Rev. Laird served for many years as Secretary of the Board of the Conner Lumber and Land Company. He was elected to the State Senate in 1940 and served until his death in 1946. Helen Conner Laird, mother of four sons, served on the local library and school boards, the State Library Board and as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin. The Lairds’ son Melvin R. Laird served as State Senator, Congressman, and Secretary of Defense.



2. 117 S. Cherry Avenue

This home was built in 1891 for William Noll Jr. of Noll’s Hardware Store. It is Queen Anne style with multiple roofs. Has had some major modification; done in 1938 by Mrs. Lathrop (widow of Dr. Lathrop) but retains good features.



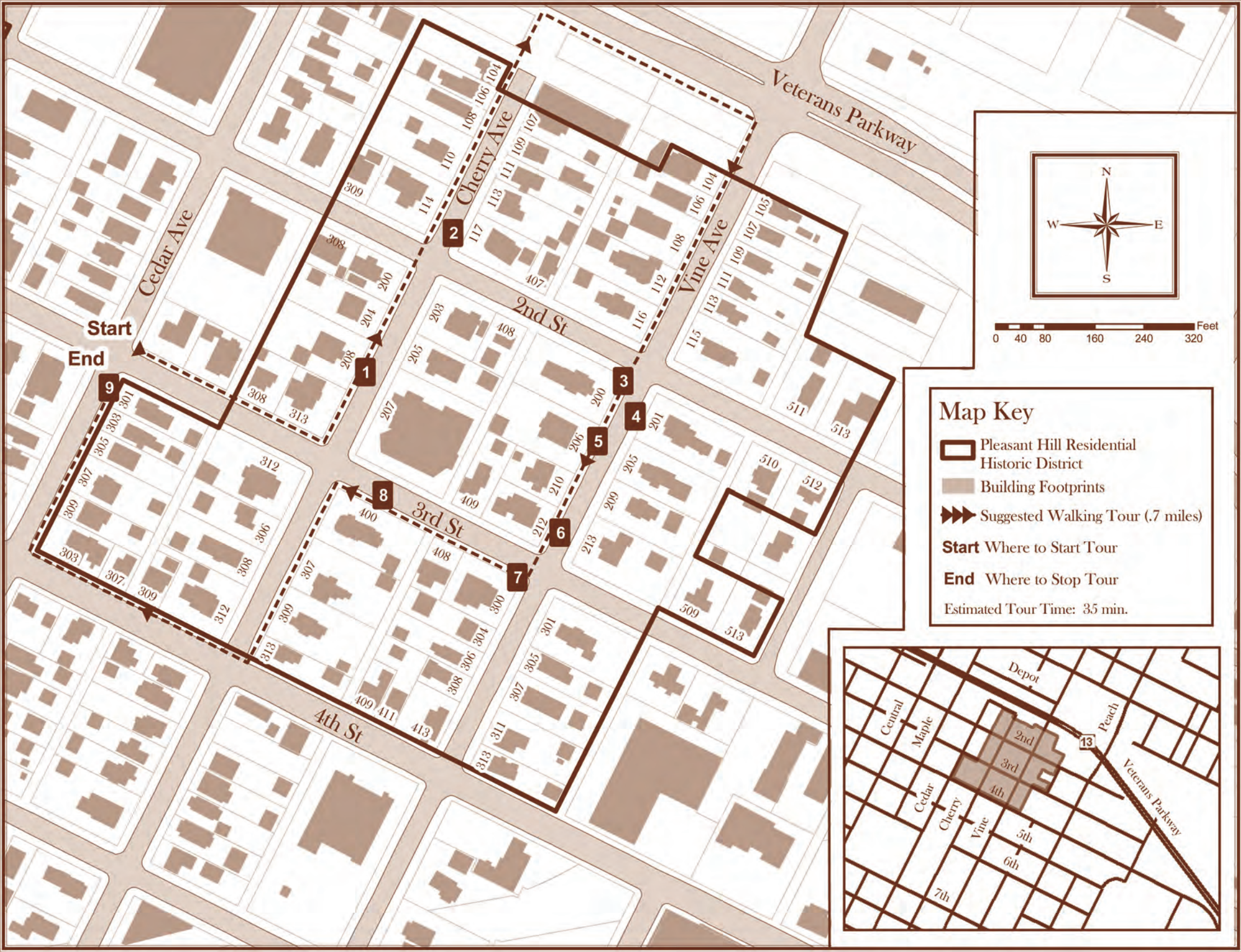
3. 200 S. Vine Avenue

This Queen Anne style house was built in 1898 by Hans Bille for William Sexton, a druggist. Originally, this home featured a wrap around porch and 5 more rooms on the rear side of the house. It underwent extensive remodeling in 1926 when it was the home of Dr. James Vedder.



4. 201 S. Vine Avenue

This Queen Anne style home was built in 1897 by Hans Bille for Eli Winch, a state legislator, and owner of the Marshfield Stave Factory. The house features a projecting bay on the front façade. Converted into two apartments in the 1940’s, it has since been restored by the current owner, Shirley Mook.



5. 206 S. Vine Avenue

This 1908 period Georgian Colonial home was built for I.P. Tiffault, co-owner of the Tiffault and Kamps Department Store. It has a hipped roof with dormers and pedimented wall dormers. The first story porch is supported by four heavy square piers connected by several balustrades. Originally, there was a ballroom on the third floor. Mr. Adler was the contractor.



6. 212 S. Vine Avenue

This house, built in c. 1911, was the home of Dr. William Hipke, one of the founders of the Marshfield Clinic. It is a late Queen Anne style with a gabled roof with returns and a large arch, which extends from one return to the other. The full front façade, although modified, retains its original overall design.



7. 300 S. Vine Avenue

Imagine this Colonial Revival style home at twice its current size, with a massive façade featuring two story Ionic columns. This home was devastated by a major fire that destroyed half the building several years after it was built. It was built for Attorney Edger M. Deming. It was built in 1903 by contractor Hans Bille and remodeled in 1919.



8. 400 E. 3rd Street

Built in 1898 by lawyer F.A. Cady in Queen Anne style. It still retains many elements: decorative shingles, wrap-around porch, and roof brackets. It is owned by Mark and Kathy Hennick.



9. 301 S. Cedar Avenue

Built in 1898 in the Queen Anne style and remodeled in 1904. The once narrow clapboard has been replaced by Cedar shingles. The two-story house has a projecting bay and a gabled dormer on the hipped roof. The dormer has a small recessed window with curved walls done in fish scale shingles. This feature is still present. The original front façade full porch has been removed and replaced by a small gabled entrance with an arched doorway. P.J. Krause was the original owner; he was a partner of Isadore P. Tiffault in the general merchandise business. Current owners are Donald and Vicki Schnitzler.