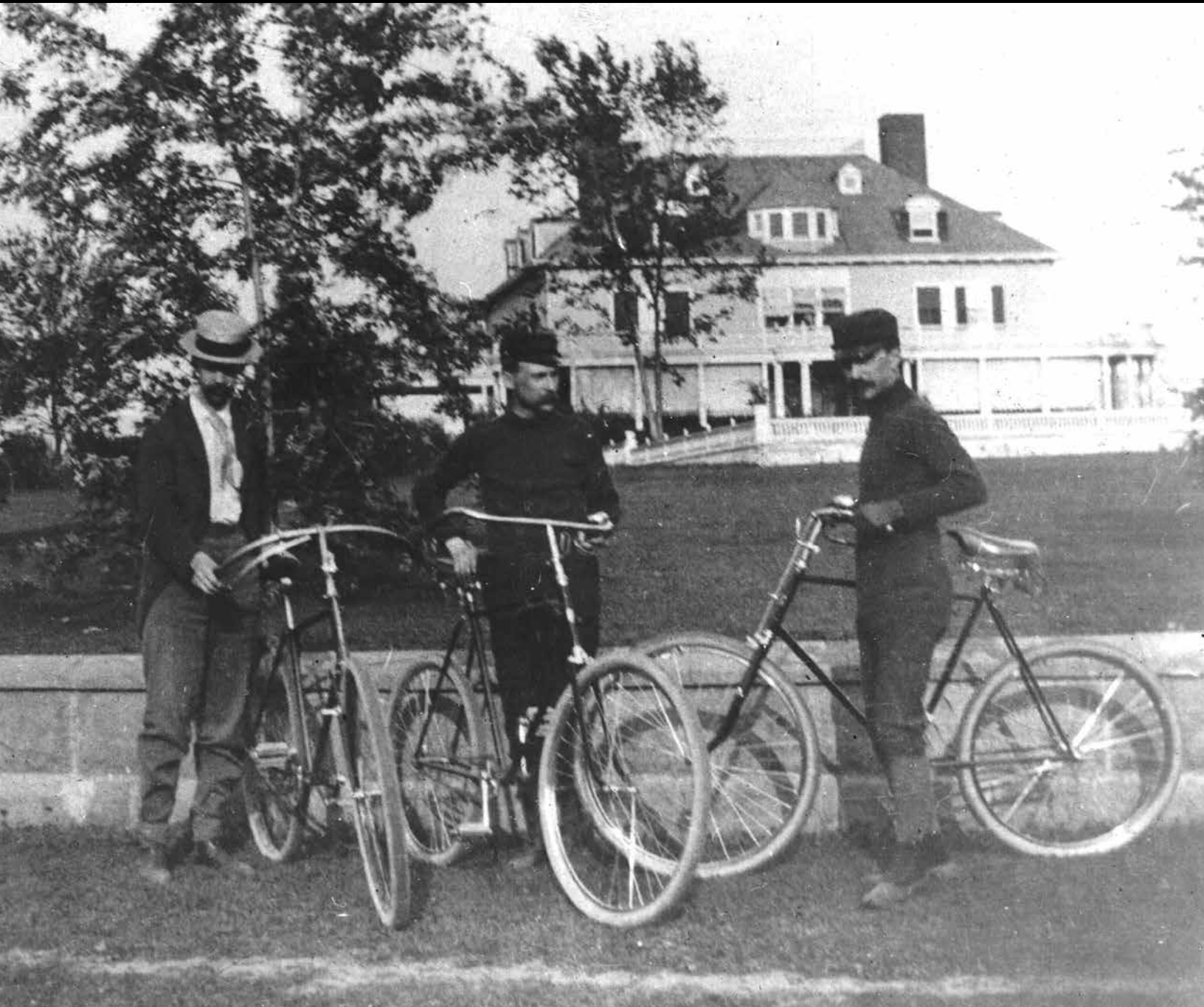


MONTCLAIR HISTORY CENTER

MONTCLAIR WALK AND BIKE TOURS: SIX SELF-GUIDED TOURS



Bicyclists in front of the George Inness House, c. 1890

In 1963, David Alloway and Mary Arny wrote *A Goodly Heritage*, a book that touched upon thousands of years of unrecorded history of our town, going back to the Lenni Lenape, who camped here as they traveled to and from summer homes near the ocean. They wrote about our 300 years of recorded history starting when we were part of the Dutch New Netherlands, then part of Acquackanock, a parcel of 10,000 acres owned by the Dutch, and then **Speertown**, a community so named because of the many families with the surname Speer. They talked about the English settlement of New Worke or Newark as it came to be known, their migration west to the base of First Mountain, which became known as **Cranetown** because of the many families named Crane that lived here. The dividing line between the Dutch and English settlements was Watchung Avenue.

Families moved away from the major centers as populations grew. A town called Bloomfield, which included Montclair, was created from Newark in 1812. Officially, Montclair was called **West Bloomfield**. It was a farming town.

Things started changing when the railroads were built; one in 1857, and another in 1868. Railroads allowed wealthy factory owners and merchants from Newark and New York to raise families here, away from the city smog. They bought the old farms and started building roads and homes. Several excellent private schools opened here. More families arrived.

Citizens became dissatisfied with the confusion between the names Bloomfield and West Bloomfield. Mail was often delivered to the wrong post office. Passengers bought train tickets for the wrong location. A non-binding vote was held early in 1860. Although most folks liked the name Eagleton, a petition signed by the majority of citizens formalized the name **Montclair**. The final split from West Bloomfield came when Bloomfield residents opted not to sponsor the second railroad. In 1868, Montclair became a separate entity.

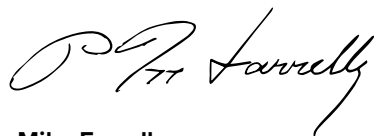
Montclair was a community of “doers.” People built roads, sidewalks, hospitals, gas companies, water companies, and a public library. People built churches, lots of them, and started social services like the fire department and police. The wealthy people who came to Montclair did not wait for a city government to build the infrastructure. They built it themselves. They didn’t always agree on the best course of action, which brings me back to *A Goodly Heritage*.

Mr. Alloway and Ms. Arny summed up their historical study in the following way:

*1963 finds Montclair with 300 years of recorded human history. Founded by the venturesome, it has never become provincial; built by the successful it has never become stuffy; in spite of being one of the wealthiest towns in the world, it has never become ostentatious. We do not think our town is perfect. We are very much aware that it has some tender areas which need attention badly, and we are trying hard to clear them up...When one pores over the written record, one finds that an astonishing number of **families have taken deep root here and stayed for many generations...Cherished friendships are not transitory, but go even from generation to generation.***

We are no longer one of the wealthiest towns in America, but we are a town of people who accomplish things. There are an astounding number of notable people: doctors, lawyers, engineers, scientists, artists, actors, musicians, and professionals. People without credentials and people of every race, creed and culture get things done in this town. We are a town of doers. Just as the newcomers didn’t always agree, we don’t always agree with one another, but we listen to each other and find solutions.

It’s all about the people. Think about them as you follow these tours. Think about the people who lived, worked and accomplished amazing things in these buildings. They are the heart and soul of what makes our town so great.



Mike Farrelly
Township Historian

1 MONTCLAIR TOWN CENTER 1.25 MILES



A walk through an historic downtown

3 SOUTH MOUNTAIN ESTATE DISTRICT 1.2 MILES



A residential architectural treasure trove

5 UPPER MONTCLAIR HISTORIC DISTRICT <1 MILE



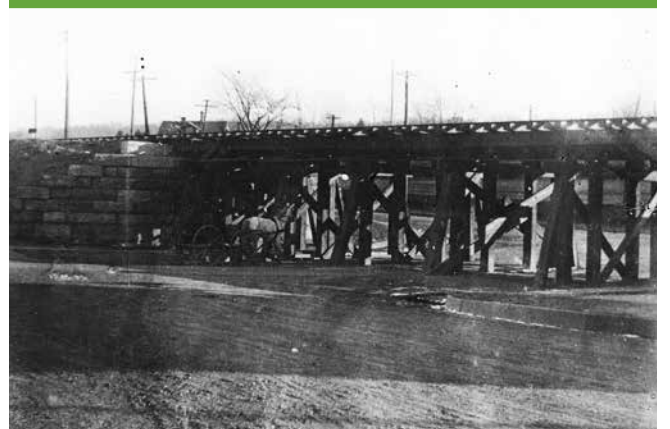
An early 20th century transit-oriented hub

2 PINE STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT 1 MILE



Montclair's Little Italy

4 WATCHUNG PLAZA HISTORIC DISTRICT 1.6 MILES



A railroad business district & suburban community

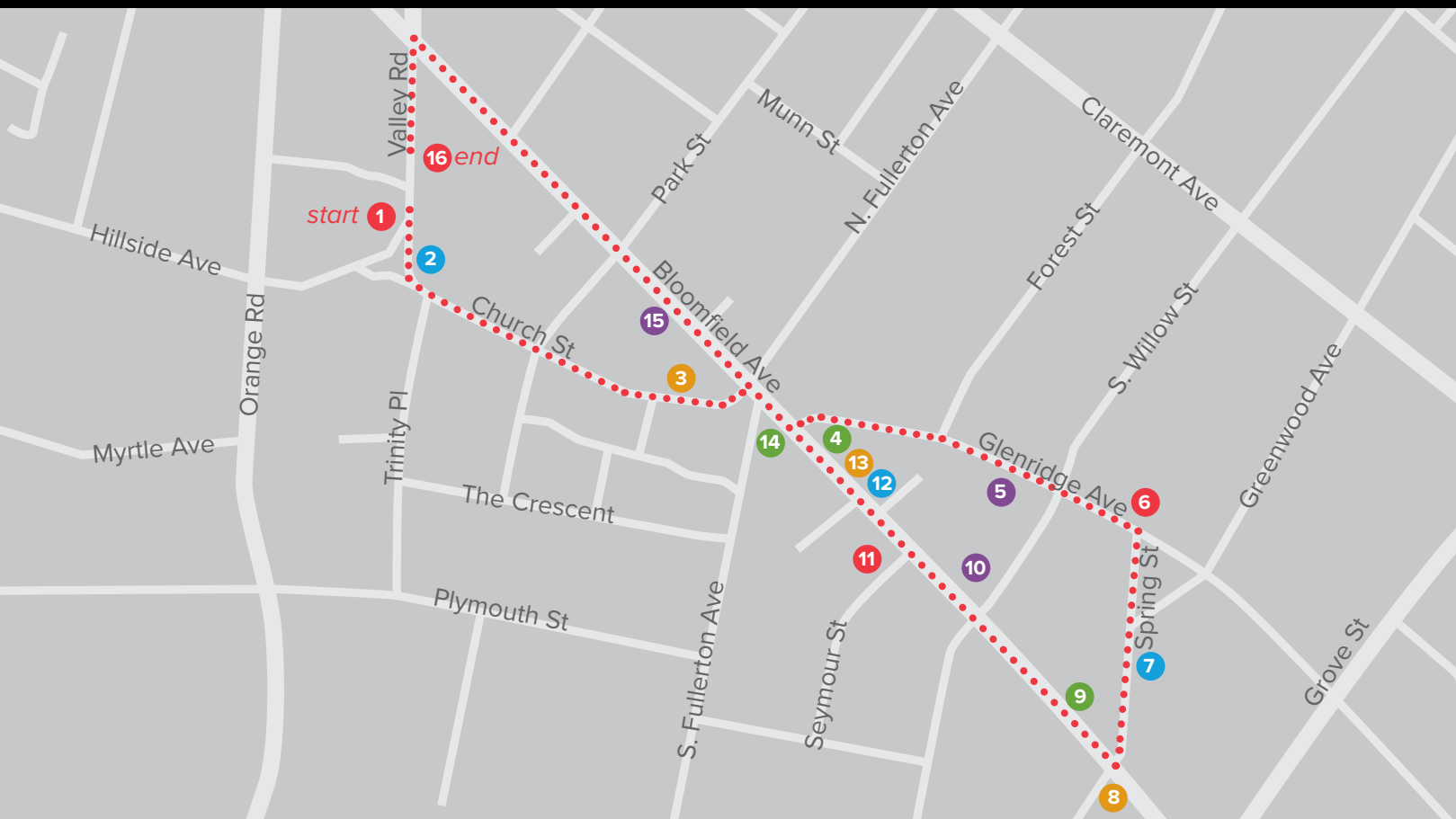
6 MONTCLAIR ART COLONY BIKE TOUR 8 MILES



A tour past the homes of Montclair's early artists

1 MONTCLAIR TOWN CENTER 1.25 MILES

A walk through an historic downtown



The first commercial district in town, Montclair Town Center's earliest commercial building was a sawmill built in 1695, a little east of today's Lackawanna Plaza. Bloomfield Avenue was carved out as the Newark Pompton Turnpike in 1810, connecting Newark to the farmers further west via a smooth, new toll road. By the end of the 1800s, tracks were laid on Bloomfield Avenue, and horse and carriages vied for space on the road with coal-powered trolley cars. Masonry buildings replaced woodframe homes and the commercial district was born.

Begin at the corner of Church Street and Valley Road.

1 THE OLD PRIMARY SCHOOL, 1860 22 Valley Road

Currently housing Montclair's Board of Education, this Italianate style building is the town's oldest school building. After the railroads came to town in 1856 and 1873, the population boomed and more schools were needed. Originally a grammar school, it served as high school from 1866 to 1893 and became an administrative building in 1909. A belfry was removed in 1924.

2 THE FORMER CARNEGIE LIBRARY, 1904 Church Street and Valley Road

Wealthy steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie donated millions to build more than 1,600 free public libraries throughout America, including two in Montclair – this one and the Bellevue Avenue branch. Built by architect John Howard, it is one of the few Prairie style buildings in town. The old Munn Tavern (#16) was relocated from this site to make way for the library.

Head east down Church Street, stop at South Fullerton Avenue.

3 CHURCH STREET

Church Street was named for the old First Presbyterian Church, which stood here until its demolition in 1920. During the Revolutionary War, General Washington's troops camped here as they planned a surprise attack on Staten Island that never happened. The Church Street shopping district was born in the 1920s and 1930s. The Mission-style Hinck building, at the intersection of Bloomfield, Church, and South Fullerton was built in 1921.

Cross Bloomfield Avenue, the cross North Fullerton Avenue.

4 THE FORMER MONTCLAIR SAVINGS BANK, 1924 441 Bloomfield Avenue

Countless children opened their first passbook savings accounts at the Montclair Savings Bank, the first bank in town. This Neoclassic style building is the third structure on the site. The Hooe family, one of the first African American middle class families in Montclair, owned a newsstand here in the late 19th century.

Walk down Glenridge Avenue.

5 GLENRIDGE AVENUE

You're walking along one of the oldest roads in town, aptly known as "Old Road" for years. This road was the main thoroughfare between Newark and the farms and villages in the west until the Newark Pompton Turnpike (Bloomfield Avenue) was built. As you pass 208 Glenridge Avenue, notice the map painted on the side of the building. Find Old Road and trace its route as it meanders along Church Street, over to Claremont Avenue, and into Verona.

6 THE GEYER FAMILY BRANCH OF THE YMCA, 2003 159 Glenridge Avenue

Although this building is new, the site was the original location of Israel Crane's home built in 1796. He was a descendant of Montclair's earliest English settlers and became a prominent businessman. In 1920, the YWCA purchased the home. It became a social center and boarding house for several generations of African American women in Montclair. Although the Crane house was moved to 110 Orange Road in 1965, this site remained a YWCA until 2003, when the YWCA purchased it and built this building.

Turn right on Spring Street towards Bloomfield Avenue.

7 LACKAWANNA STATION, 1913 291 Bloomfield Avenue

The first railroad station on this site was a utilitarian wooden building, the second was more substantial, and then young architect William Botsford designed this Beaux Arts masterpiece. When the building was dedicated on June 28, 1913, a town holiday was declared. Botsford, however, did not attend because he had died on the Titanic. Note the brick structure that looks like a fountain– it's a water trough for horses as they waited for commuters to come off the train. A new train station was built in the 1980s.

8 FORMER MULLEN'S LIVERY, 1884–1885 290-292 Bloomfield Avenue

In days of old, you'd get off the train, head to the livery, and catch the stagecoach or rent a horse and carriage to get where you were going. The low-pitched roof and clipped gable are distinctive features and common in other 19th century liveries. In the mid-20th century, it became the Sterington House, a nightclub that catered to the African American community. Many jazz greats, including Duke Ellington, played here.

Turn right on Bloomfield Avenue, heading west.

9 CRAWFORD BUILDING, 1892 295-301 Bloomfield Avenue

This eclectic Queen Anne and Romanesque building has a rich history. See the People's Bank sign engraved above the first floor? People's Bank was organized, owned, and used by Montclair's African American community when mortgages were withheld from minority populations. In the mid-20th century, it became a restaurant, Casa di Cappuccino. Rumor has it liquor was stored in the bank vault.

10 377 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, 1900

Many businesses have occupied this space over the years. In the 1950s, it was the home of Jerry's Dresses, one of the first African American owned clothing stores.

11 WELLMONT THEATER, 1921 398-408 Bloomfield Avenue

One of three theaters permitted to operate in Montclair in the 1920s, the Wellmont staged live performances, but converted when "talkies" came into vogue. Originally, you'd enter this Georgian Revival style building under a grand marquee on Bloomfield Avenue and could go to a ballroom on the top floor. Thomas Edison was one of its notable patrons.

12 415 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, EARLY 1900S

In 1905, Alice Hooe Foster, the first African American woman to graduate from Montclair High School, and her sister Grace Hooe purchased this building and operated a hair salon at street level. The upper level became known as Hooe Hall, a popular location for social events for Montclair's growing Black population.

13 MADISON BUILDING, 1912 427 Bloomfield Avenue

Edward Madison, owner of Madison Stationers, built this Beaux Arts style building to house his store, offices, and studios for arts-related professionals (his customers!). Designed by architects Van Vleck and Goldsmith, it was the first elevator building in Montclair.

14 THE CRANE BUILDING, 1889 460 Bloomfield Avenue

Built for Seymour Crane, one of the cleverest parts of this Italianate commercial style building no longer exists: a large clock used to top this building, but instead of numbers 1 through 12, the clock spelled out S-E-Y-M-O-U-R-C-R-A-N-E!

15 CLAIRIDGE THEATER, 1922 486 Bloomfield Avenue

The Clairidge was a small, opulent theater with a Wurlitzer organ to accompany silent movies. Like other theaters in town, originally it had segregated spaces for its African American customers.

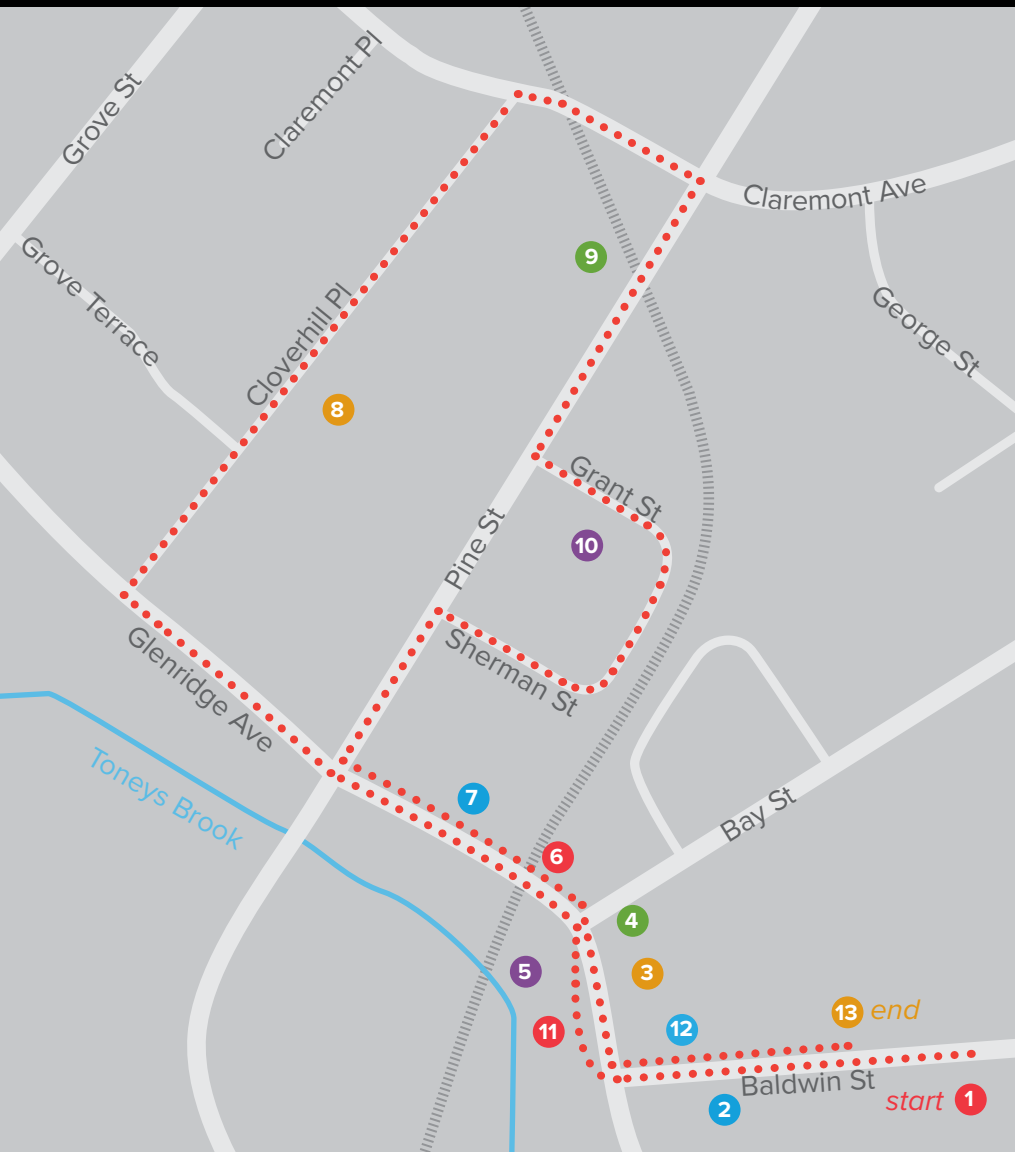
Turn left on Valley Road.

16 MUNN TAVERN, 1802-1808 17 Valley Road

The old Munn Tavern, built in the Dutch Federal style, is tucked behind the former Valley Road Covenant Church building. Moved here in 1899, it served as a tavern, post office, and public library.

2 PINE STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT 1 MILE

Montclair's Little Italy



In 2000, the Pine Street Historic District was listed on the **National Register of Historic Places** because it “has retained its historic integrity and reflects the Italian working class community which developed and resided in this neighborhood in the late 19th and early 20th century.” Italian immigrants brought their way of life to America – one dominated by the church, family, and close social circles. They also brought their Italian craftsmanship and masonry skills. The Pine Street area was also home to African American families moving north during the Great Migration.

Begin in front of the Minnie A. Lucey House

1 MINNIE A. LUCEY HOUSE, 1930 272 Baldwin Street

Originally named the Baldwin Street Community Center, this building housed community and social programs that had begun in the Baldwin Street School in 1915 for the Italian immigrant and African American families that lived in this area. An Italianate villa, it was renamed in 1932 to honor a beloved social worker who helped Italian immigrants assimilate into the American culture. This building, the Baldwin Street School, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church dominated the social, cultural, and religious lives of this community.

Walk east towards Glenridge Avenue

2 FORMER BALDWIN STREET SCHOOL (a.k.a. GEORGE WASHINGTON SCHOOL), 1912–1923 15 Glenridge Avenue

Now a condo building, this Neoclassical structure was one of many schools built in the early 1900s to accommodate the growing population. After the Montclair Board of Education no longer needed the space in 1957, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church operated a school in the building from 1961-1971. This building is located partially in Glen Ridge!

Turn right on Glenridge Avenue.

3 THE FUSCO BUILDING, 1913 29-31 Glenridge Avenue

Look up and see “Fusco” near the roof of this building. The Fusco family, who came to America as part of the large wave of Italian immigrants in the 1890s to 1920, was one of the earlier Italian families to settle in Montclair and a prolific developer of this area. The family also owned a contracting business at 49 Bay Street and several other residential buildings.

4 ST. SEBASTIAN SOCIETY 37 Glenridge Avenue

Affiliated with Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Saint Sebastian Society of Montclair was founded on May 23, 1926 by the Italian immigrants who emigrated from the town of Cerami, Sicily. Even today, the Society hosts a festival here every year to honor their champion St. Sebastian.

5 TONEY'S BROOK

A small tributary of the Passaic River, Toney's Brook, perhaps named for Anthony Oliff or Olive (1636-1723), was the site of an early industrial community in Montclair. The first mill on the waterway was built in 1695 just south of here near today's Bloomfield Avenue. By the late 19th century, the modest workers' homes were increasingly occupied by the Italian, Irish, and other immigrant groups, which led to the development of the working class neighborhood in the late 19th and early 20th century. Barely noticeable today, Toney's Brook was once the lifeblood of the community.

6 MONTCLAIR CONNECTION, 2002 The railroad tracks

In 2002, two railroad lines servicing Montclair were joined via a new track and grade crossing on Glenridge Avenue at “the Montclair Connection.” The “Montclair Line” entered Montclair south of Glenridge Avenue and terminated at Bay Street. The “Boonton Line” ran a few blocks north of Glenridge Avenue with stations from Walnut Street to Montclair Heights. To achieve the connection, a number of homes along Glenridge Avenue, Grant and Sherman Streets were demolished.



This photo, taken in 1930, is of Glenridge Avenue looking west. Notice the buildings on the right side of the street – 55 and 57 – discussed below.

7 51 GLENRIDGE AVE, 55 GLENRIDGE AVE, AND 57 GLENRIDGE AVE

Look at the buildings on your left after you cross the railroad tracks. Here you see the three prominent styles of architecture in the neighborhood. In general, you can date other buildings based on these three styles. 51 Glenridge Avenue, built in 1890, is a vernacular building, like a small farmhouse. 55 Glenridge Avenue, built around 1910 by Italian craftsmen, is highly ornamented with limestone keys, and elaborate brickwork. 57 Glenridge Avenue, built around 1927, is much simpler and most of the detail work is in brick patterns, typical of post World War I buildings.

Continue on to Cloverhill Place, then turn right.

8 CLOVERHILL PLACE

Not officially part of the Pine Street Historic District, Cloverhill Place was a transitional street. Surnames in the 1925 phone directory include Romano, Gagliano, Fusco, and Cacciopo mixed in amongst Applegate and Chicester. Minus cars and some vinyl siding, the houses on this street retain the look of the early 20th century.

Turn right on Claremont Avenue, then right on to Pine Street.

Many Italian immigrants came to this country to escape the economic depression gripping Italy following the Italian unification in the 1870s.

9 OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH, 1937 94-98 Pine Street

This Romanesque and Italianate church, reminiscent of churches in Italy, speaks to the immigrants who built it and worshiped here. The second church on this site, it was the last major building completed in the historic district. The first Mass was held in an unfinished wooden church in 1907 just south of this church.

Turn left on to Sherman Street, follow the street around.

10 SHERMAN AND GRANT STREETS

As you walk along these streets, you get a sense of what this community looked and felt like in the early 20th century, with multi-family housing for the increasing Italian immigrant population. If you look across the tracks, you can see where Grant Street continues. Before the Montclair Connection, these two streets were one continuous road.

Turn left on to Pine Street, then left on to Glen Ridge Avenue.

11 THE MATTHEW G. CARTER APARTMENTS 20 Glenridge Avenue

Although not that old, this building honors Matthew Carter, Associate Pastor at Union Baptist Church, housing activist, and first African American mayor of Montclair (1968).

Turn left on Baldwin Street.

12 NICOLO'S BAKERY 2-6 Baldwin Street

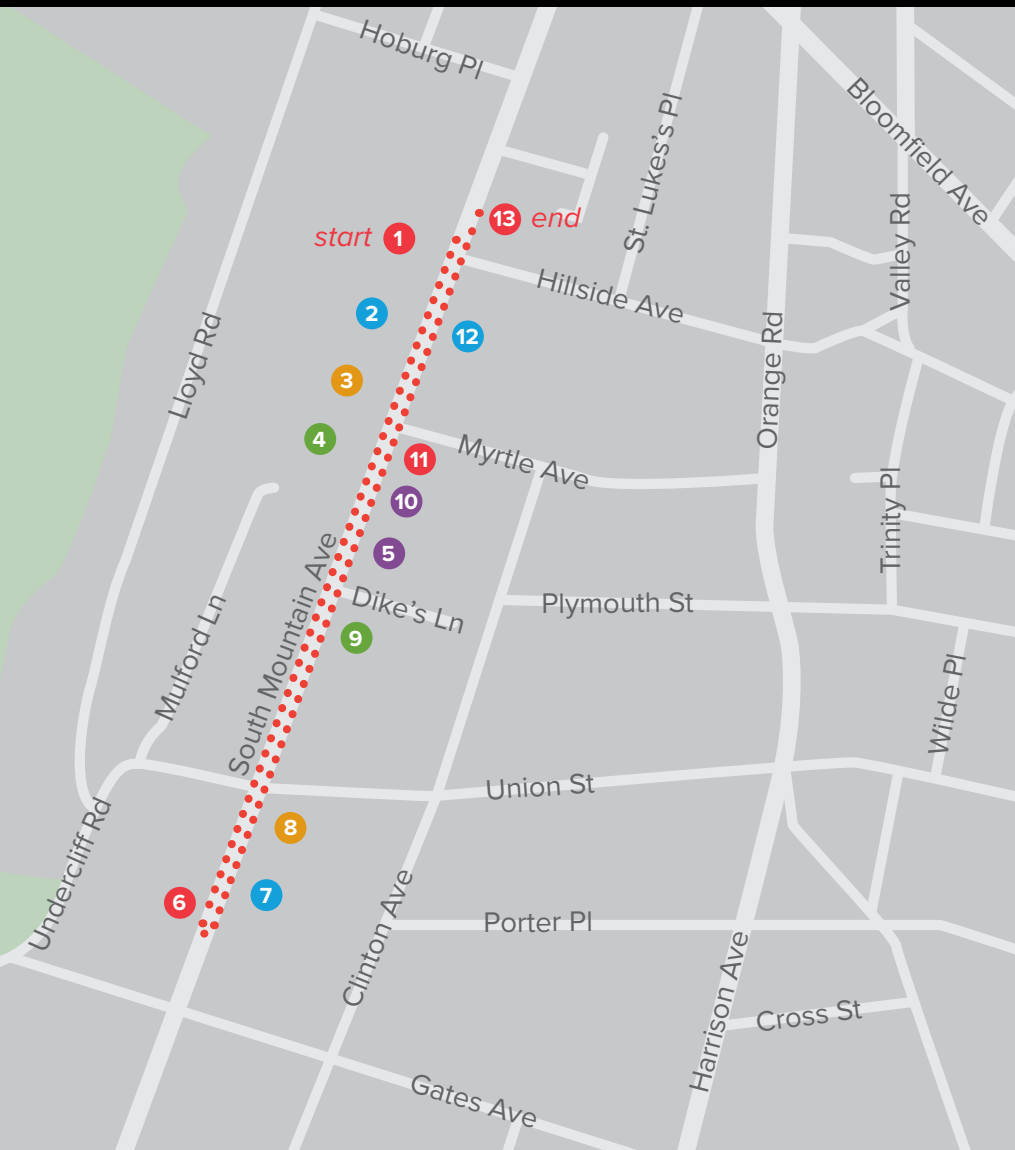
Nicolo's Bakery is reminiscent of the many Italian-style businesses that defined this community as Montclair's “Little Italy” throughout most of the 20th century. Nicolo's was established in 1967.

13 TOWN MARKER Near 18 Baldwin Street

Note the small stone marker (about 3 feet high) near the street. This marker, with ML on one side and BL on the opposite side, marked the boundary between Montclair and Bloomfield, now Glen Ridge. The actual town line seems to have shifted a bit over time.

3 SOUTH MOUNTAIN ESTATE SECTION 1.2 MILES

A residential architectural treasure trove



By the third quarter of the 1800s, when the farms on South Mountain were being divided into individual lots to build homes for families moving to Montclair, architecture was in its heyday with a wide variety of styles: Queen Anne, Second Empire Baroque, Prairie, Gothic, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Stick, Shingle, and more. Many people took elements they liked from each style and mashed them together. A stroll along South Mountain is like walking through a dictionary of residential architectural styles. In this tour, you'll see some of **Montclair's grand homes** and learn more about the people who lived in them.

Begin at the corner of Carriage Way and South Mountain Avenue. You'll be looking at the houses across the street from you.

1 66 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1902–1904

This prominent house was designed by Prairie-style architect George Washington Maher, who first worked for Frank Lloyd Wright. Note its horizontal lines and wide eaves, typical of the Prairie style. It was commissioned for Frederick T. Gates, a Baptist minister, who was an advisor to John D. Rockefeller, and trustee of his Foundation. In 1953, Charles Manual "Sweet Daddy" Grace, an African American religious leader, lived in the mansion, used it as a church and to manufacture beauty products to support the church.

2 72 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1859

One of the earlier houses on South Mountain, this home was built by Henry and Anna Gates Nason. It resembles an old farmhouse "dressed up" with Carpenter Gothic details, such as a steeply pitched roofs, pointed windows that extend into gables, and tall,

slim chimneys. Nason built several houses around Montclair, including the homes on Gates Avenue, named for his wife's family.

3 74 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1911

This Tudor-style home, with tall, pitched gables and stucco, was built for Louis and Louisa Benziger, vice president of Benziger Brothers, manufacturer of religious articles. Years later, their children started Benziger Family Vineyards, a well-known Sonoma winery. When the Benzigers moved out, Walter and Anna Teter moved in. Teter is known for developing Teterboro Airport and Teterboro.

4 DAYBREAK, 88 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1914

Built for Kate A. Bennett, Daybreak is a Colonial Revival home with an accentuated front door and symmetrical layout. Bennett built the home to be near to her daughter and son-in-law who lived at a now-demolished home at 100 South Mountain. In 1926, Bennett sold this home to move to an even larger home at 166 Upper Mountain Avenue.

5 DIKE'S LANE (ON YOUR LEFT)

There are several small lanes like this in Montclair. When these roads were laid out, many people were still getting around by horse and carriage or by foot. If the streets were long, as South Mountain Avenue was, these lanes allowed people to cut through to get to a nearby road more quickly. *Wander down Dike's Lane.* On your left, behind the tall fence, is a carriage house that served as a studio for landscape artist Thomas R. Manley from 1925 to 1935.

Return to South Mountain Avenue.

6 148-164 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1925–1928

These homes, built within a three-year period, show how one style can be modified to create different looks. Find the Tudor hallmarks: steep, pitched gable roofs, masonry chimneys, elaborate doorways, unique groupings of windows, exposed half-timbers.

If you'd like to continue along South Mountain Avenue, turning around at Stonebridge Road, you'll see some beautiful older homes. It will add about another mile to your walk. If not, cross South Mountain Avenue at Gates Avenue and head back the way you came. You'll be looking at houses across the street.



Sledding down Hillside Avenue, starting at South Mountain Avenue, c.1890.

7 147 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1902

Dudley Van Antwerp, another noted architect who designed hundreds of homes in Montclair, built this home for Robert and Charlotte Drysdale. Although Drysdale called himself a "bookkeeper," he was a senior partner in an investment firm.

8 143 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1900

A. F. Norris, a Montclair architect noted for Colonial Revival homes like this one, designed this home for Frederick Lovejoy and his wife Katherine.

Cross Union Street and continue along South Mountain Avenue.

9 111 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1884

After the Civil War ended in 1871, Captain John Howard married Susan Merriam, whose father, George Merriam, published *Webster's Dictionary*. They were the first owners of this house. David and Mary Wesson owned this home later. Wesson became a household name when he invented Wesson Oil.



Little Bertha Benedict poses where the Montclair Art Museum now stands, c. 1895.

10 99 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1935

Built later than many homes on this street, this house would be equally at home in the French countryside. The tall roof that comes down to the window on the second floor and the stucco exterior are characteristics of French Country style. Although built for Charlotte Weeks, Frank and Irene Becket were its first true residents.

11 95 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1878

This Second Empire home was built for Charlotte's parents, John and Imogene Weeks. Notice the Mansard roof, named after French architect Francois Mansart, which is typical of the Second Empire style popular during the reign of Napoleon III. Other hallmarks of this style are decorative brackets on the eaves, one or two story bay windows, and tall chimneys. Most Second Empire Homes were built in the 1860s and 1870s. Because many Montclair homes were built in these decades, when new railroads came through, you'll find an abundance of Second Empire homes in town.

12 71 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1880

This home has many of the hallmarks associated with the Stick style, prevalent between 1860 and 1890, including windows built into "stick work," hipped roofs, and lots of porches and verandas. Charles and Anne Knapp first owned this home.

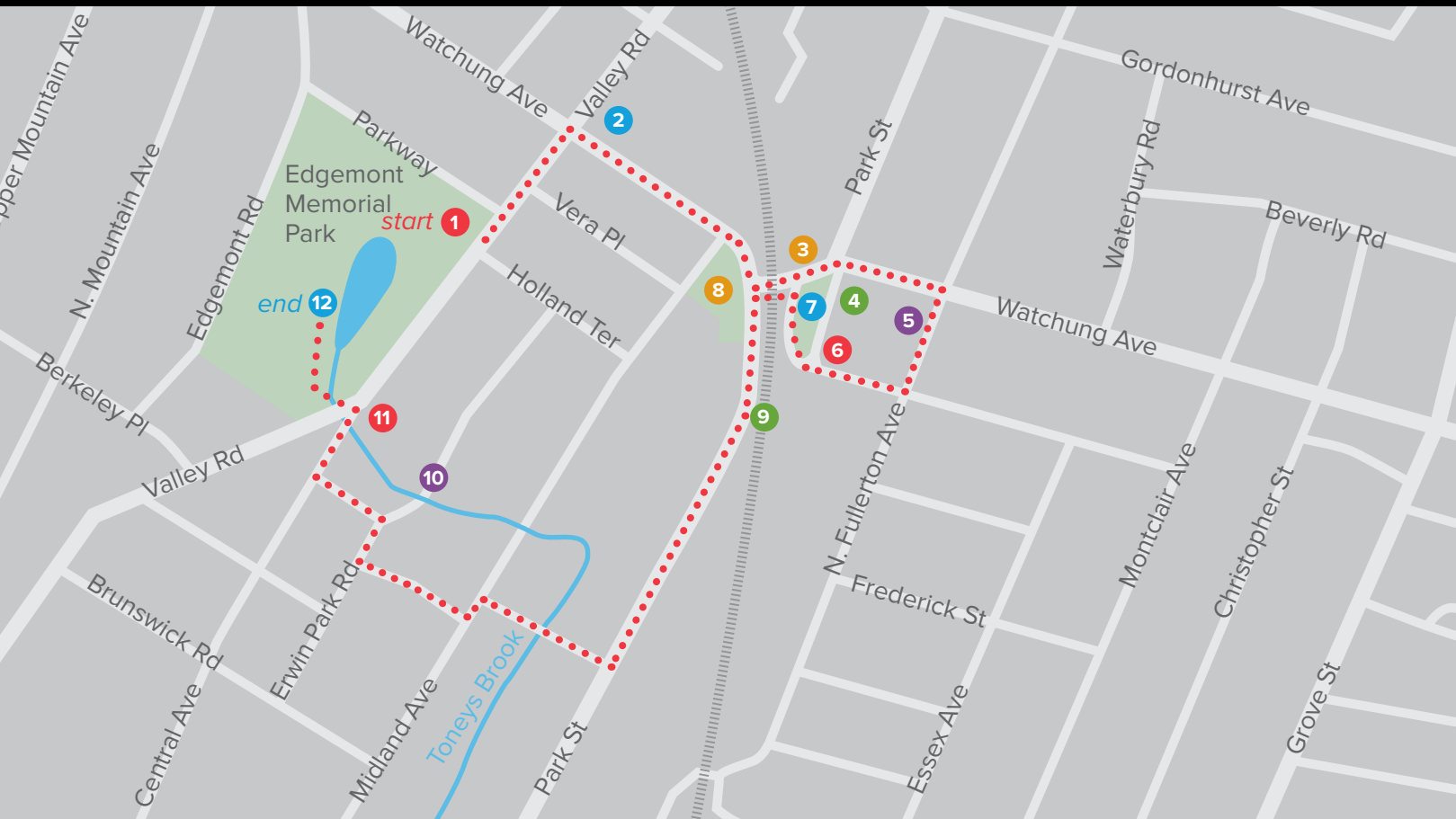
St. Luke's church building on St Luke's Place was in use as a church for less than 20 years, 1870-1899.

13 FORMER ST. LUKE'S RECTORY, 1870s 55 South Mountain Avenue

This home was originally the parsonage for St. Luke's Episcopal Church, located on St. Luke's Place, until a wealthy parishioner gave the congregation land and money to build a new church next to his house on South Fullerton Avenue. The Reverend James E. Maxwell was the first rector to live here.

4 WATCHUNG PLAZA HISTORIC DISTRICT 1.6 MILES

A railroad business district and suburban community



In the early days of Montclair's settlement, Watchung Avenue divided the Dutch farmlands of Speertown in the north end of today's Montclair from the English farmlands of Cranetown. All that changed when the railroad came through in the late 1800s. Developers bought the farms and created business districts and housing around the new stations. This walk, which begins at Edgemont Park, takes you through a **turn-of-the-century business district and commuter suburb**, developed between 1900 and 1930.

Park near the boat house at Edgemont Memorial Park.

1 EDGEMONT MEMORIAL PARK

Today it's a haven for Montclair residents, but in 1896, it was the site of the Montclair Golf Club. When the Club moved to its present site in Verona in 1898, the Erwin Park Golf Club moved in, catering to the growing community that surrounded it. Montclair residents still enjoy skating on the pond, fed by Toney's Brook.

Leave the Park and turn left on to Valley Road. Cross Watchung Avenue, then Valley Road.

2 76 WATCHUNG AVENUE, 1778

You're looking at one of the older homes in Montclair. Note the original stone foundation that may date back to 1778, built by Revolutionary War veteran and wife, Captain Abraham and Fytje Van Gieson. It was remodeled in 1905, then again in 1930.

Continue walking down Watchung Avenue.

3 118 WATCHUNG AVENUE, 1906

After you cross under the railroad bridge, look to your left. This dead-end street connected Watchung Avenue until an overall

improvement project lowered the road and raised the tracks on a steel girder bridge. William and Harry Bennett opened the first business in the area in this building in 1906. Trendsetters, they opened an "auto garage" when most Montclair residents were still using horses and carriages. Six years later, the adjacent two-story building (250-254 Park Street) was built. Its earliest tenants were a barber, grocer, shoemaker, and a confectionary and fruit store – typical neighborhood stores.

Cross Park Street. Continue walking down Watchung Avenue.

4 43 - 51 WATCHUNG PLAZA, 1918

Look across the street at the building on the corner. Clifford Wendehack, a Montclair resident, designed this Tudor-style commercial building. A well-known architect, he primarily designed clubhouses and private homes. His foray into a commercial building came after residents complained about the original design for a building in this location. Wendehack's design became a theme for other buildings, such as 39-41 Watchung Plaza.

"A new block of stores has been erected just east of the station. The original plans for the buildings were about as homely as could be imagined. One of the members of the [Watchung Improvement] association, an architect volunteered at his own expense to redraw these plans along more sightly and artistic lines." – Montclair Times, 1918

Turn right on North Fullerton Avenue, crossing Watchung Avenue. Stop at the entrance to the parking lot.

5 119 WATCHUNG AVENUE, 1923

Look back through the parking lot towards Watchung Avenue. From this angle, the original frame house that stood on this site is visible. By 1923, Richard Mockler had purchased the house, added the one-story storefront, and opened a hardware store.

Turn right again on Fairfield Avenue, then right on Watchung Plaza.

6 17 WATCHUNG PLAZA, 1924-1925

Originally, the doors on the neo-Classical Montclair National Bank building were bronze. Many banks were built in classic styles like this to convey a sense of stability and security.

7 33 WATCHUNG PLAZA, 1926

Designed by Arthur E. Ramhurst, another Montclair architect associated with the development of this district, this building is a great example of the Tudor Revival style common in this neighborhood and Upper Montclair, evoking a bucolic English village.

Turn left on to Watchung Avenue.

8 WATCHUNG PARK AND WATCHUNG PLAZA

The open spaces on either side of the train tracks were set aside as parks in 1920, creating a pleasant approach to the station. A flagpole at the north end of the park is dedicated to Montclair residents who died in World War I, shortly before this park was created.

A plaque at the southern end is dedicated to the four people killed in a 1995 shooting at the U.S. Post Office, then located on Fairfield St.

Go under the railroad bridge, then turn left on Park Street.

9 TRAIN STATION, 1903-1904

In 1896, Erie Railroad leased the Montclair Railroad, then known as the New York and Greenwood Lake Railroad. The original Watchung Station, which had been located on the east side of the tracks, was replaced with this station.

Continue along Park Street about ¼ mile, crossing the street when possible and enjoying the many styles of homes along the way. You will see a small walkway called "Mid Park Lane." Turn right on the walkway. You'll cross over Toney's Brook.

10 ERWIN PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

You are now in the Erwin Park Historic District, a neighborhood of 50 homes built between 1897 and 1927. As you wander through this neighborhood, note the wide variety of architectural styles – Colonial Revival, Craftsman Bungalow, American Foursquare – set on large properties on winding streets. Walking distance to the station, it was designed to attract prosperous homeowners.

Make a left on to Midland Avenue, then quick right on to Erwin Park. Follow the map through this neighborhood. When you reach Central Avenue, which merges into Valley Road, turn right.



Erwin Park, 1901, at the beginning of its transformation into suburban housing.

11 HARRISON HOUSE, 249 VALLEY ROAD

The old Harrison farm encompassed today's Edgemont Memorial Park and the Erwin Park neighborhood. The Italianate front "wing" was added in 1885; the original 1840 structure is still visible at the rear of the house.

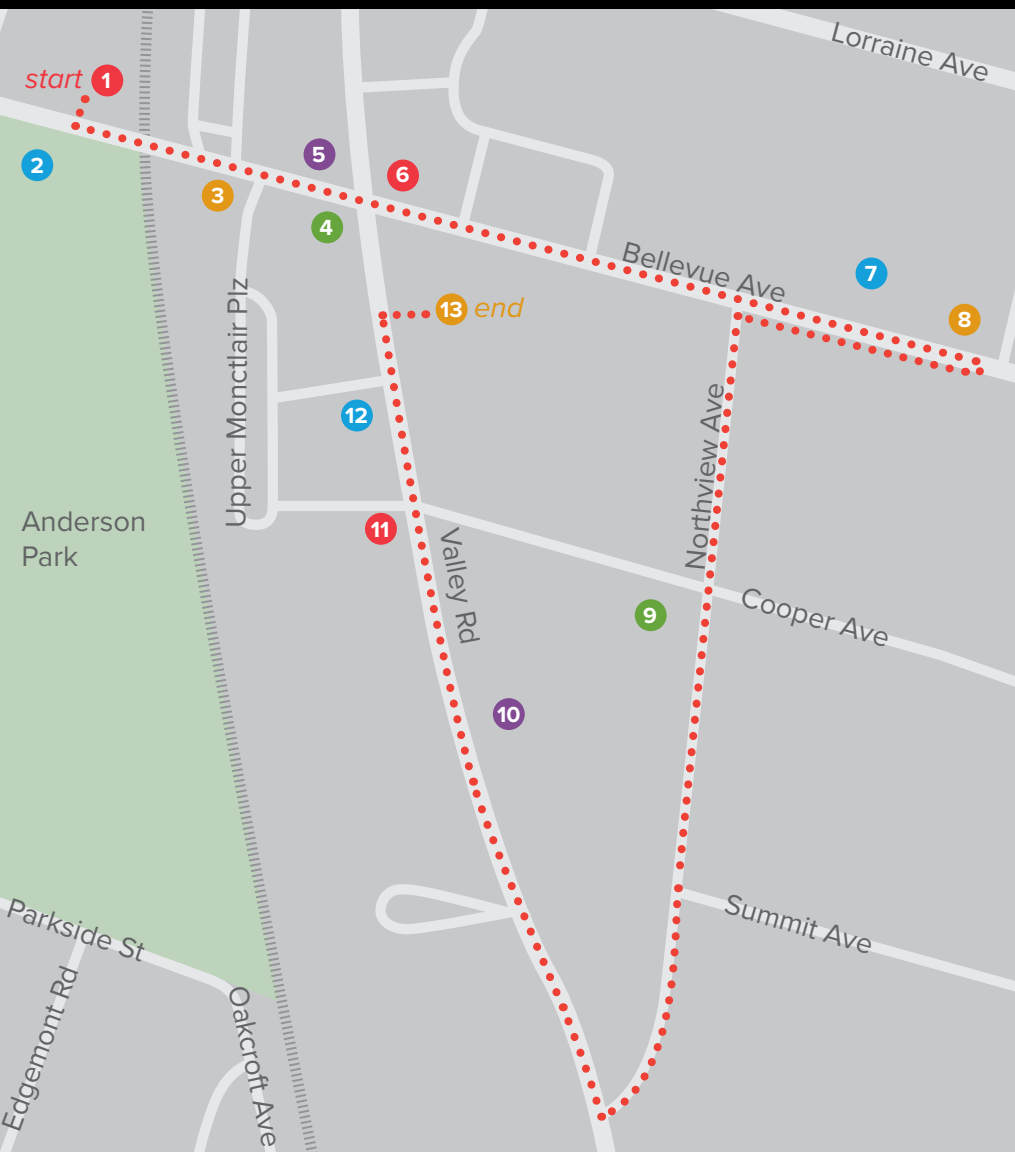
Go back to the crosswalk, cross the street and head into Edgemont Memorial Park. Walk along the west side of the pond. Edgemont Elementary School will be across the park on your left.

12 WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL

Artist Charles Keck designed the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the island as a tribute to the 71 Montclair men who died in World War I. A bronze figure of Liberty stands on a globe held by eagles. At the base of the obelisk, you'll find a soldier and a sailor. Columbia, goddess of Liberty and the personification of America, stands behind and above them, wearing a helmet and holding a shield. Military division insignia are etched around the base.

5 UPPER MONTCLAIR HISTORIC DISTRICT < 1 MILE

An early 20th century transit-oriented business and residential hub



Boasting both a train station and the Valley Road trolley, the **Upper Montclair Business District** was a convenient place to go shopping, see a movie, picnic in the park, meet with like-minded friends at a club, and even go to church. However, for some Montclair residents, particularly people of color, Upper Montclair was off-limits in the early to mid-20th century. Like the Watchung Avenue Business District, this business district is bordered by commuter suburbs that developed along the rail lines.

Start on Bellevue Avenue near Anderson Park and the train station, walk towards Valley Road.

1 UPPER MONTCLAIR TRAIN STATION, 1896 275 Bellevue Avenue

This station was one of five Montclair stations on the Greenwood Lake line of the Erie Railroad. Service was first introduced here in 1873. This building replaced a small station. Destroyed by fire in 2006 and rebuilt in 2010, it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

2 ANDERSON PARK, 1905

In 1903, Charles Anderson donated this land for a park. John Charles Olmsted, of the Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architecture firm responsible for Central Park's landscape, designed this park and many others in Essex County. Like all Olmsted parks, winding walkways smoothly transition people through a variety of landscapes, all of which seem to be natural and organic to the setting.

3 BELLEVUE THEATER, 1920s 260-264 Bellevue Avenue

If you attended the Bellevue's first show, you saw "Orphans of the Storm," a silent movie accompanied by an organ. Designed by John H. Phillips in the Tudor Revival style, the theater replaced the Trunk Building, so named for its rounded third floor. It is one of several buildings developed by the Anderson family in this area.

The Trunk Building was razed to make room for the Bellevue Theater.



4 242 BELLEVUE AVENUE, 1918

When F. A. Nelson, an architect, designed this building, his Picturesque Tudor Revival style set the tone for the business district. It was originally a post office.

5 600 VALLEY ROAD, 1914

The brick, Neoclassical style First National Bank building replaced an older woodframe building on this corner that served as Park Pharmacy. The Howard clock was erected between 1915 and 1918.

Cross Valley Road and continue on Bellevue Avenue.



Murphy & Pearcer Grocers was most likely on the southwest corner of Valley Road and Bellevue Avenue, c. 1890, near 4.

6 597 VALLEY ROAD, 1890-1906

Formerly the site of J. H. Laubenheimer's Pharmacy, the earliest pictures of this building featured outdoor wooden counters where people could enjoy ice cream. It remained a pharmacy until the mid-1950s.

7 ST. CASSIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1995 187 Bellevue Avenue

The church building is new, but the congregation was first formed in 1895 as a place for the Irish Catholic "help" working in Upper Montclair homes to worship, so they wouldn't have to trek all the way to Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church near Bloomfield Avenue. The original shingle-style church built in 1900, which fronted Norwood Avenue, was called "St. Cassian in the Wilderness;" the present church is on the site of the parish's former rectory. Both structures were demolished in 1992.

8 BELLEVUE BRANCH LIBRARY, 1914 185 Bellevue Avenue

"He that loveth a book will never want for a faithful friend." A quote from an English theologian and mathematician graces the entrance to this Neo-Classical library. This library building was made possible through funds from steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who donated millions to communities for libraries.

Cross Bellevue Avenue at Norwood Avenue. Walk back towards Valley Road and turn left on Northview Avenue.

9 WOMAN'S CLUB OF UPPER MONTCLAIR, 1914 200 Cooper Avenue

By 1900, when the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair was founded, there were already countless clubs, societies, and leagues people could join to further their passions in sports, literature, drama, music, philanthropy, and more. The Woman's Club focused on personal and civic betterment and invited speakers like Margaret Sanger (1926) and Eleanor Roosevelt (1931). The building has Colonial Revival exterior and Tudor Revival interior.

Turn right on Valley Road.

10 HISTORIC MARKER, 1938 551 Valley Road

In October 1780, the Marquis de Lafayette stayed in Montclair with American troops, planning a surprise attack on the British in Staten Island, which ultimately never took place. It is said that Washington stayed at William and Mercy Crane's home on Valley Road and Claremont Avenue; Lafayette stayed in a log cabin on this site. Both houses have been razed. Only these historic markers tell us about the history that happened here.

11 BOND'S, 1934-1973 570 Valley Road

Bond's, purveyors of ice cream and frozen food, was the home of the Awful Awful milkshake and a beloved hangout. When Bond's closed, the owners sold the trademark to Newport Creamery, a Rhode Island based chain, where you can still indulge in an Awful Awful today.

12 FIRE STATION, 1902 588 Valley Road

Architect E. R. North designed this Queen Anne style firehouse of rusticated brownstone, originally known as Cliffside Hose No. 4. This area was known as Cliffside in the mid to late 1800s. North, formerly of the famed Mead, McKim, and White firm, also developed the Erwin Park neighborhood. Horses were used to pull the trucks until 1918.

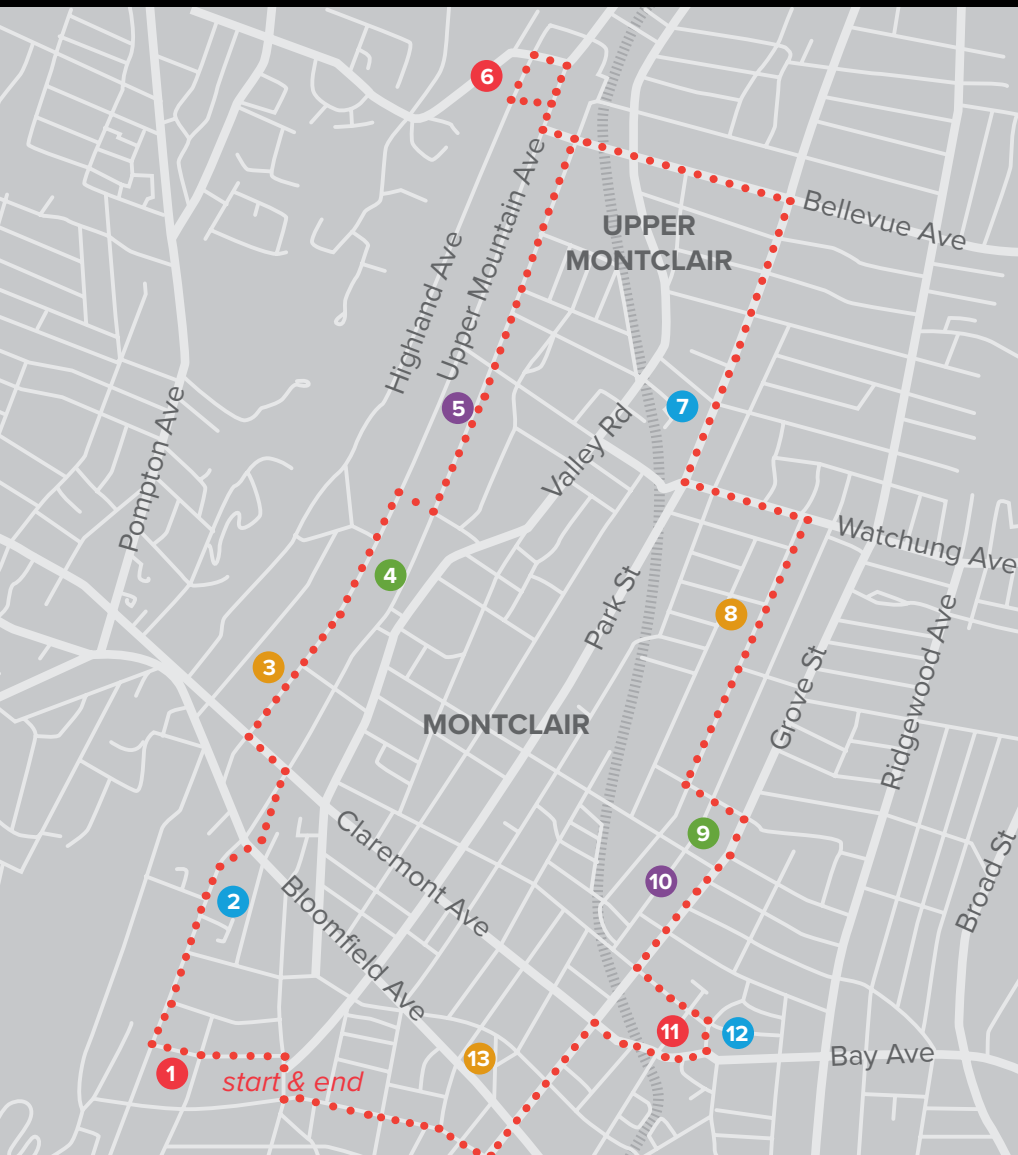
"Cliffside Hose Company No. 4 was organized February 7, 1888...its first apparatus was the old Rumsey pump and reel." – Henry B. Whittemore, 1894

13 ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1878 583 Valley Road

Built as Cliffside Chapel in 1878 on land donated by the Presbyterian Church, this church was an independent, non-denominational "Christian Union" until 1888 when it became an Episcopal church. In 1919, a Memorial Bell Tower replaced the original steeple to honor seven congregants who died in World War I. If the church is open during your walk, peak inside and look at the beautiful stained glass windows.

6 MONTCLAIR ART COLONY 8 MILES

A tour past the homes of Montclair's early artists



By the late 1800s, a “colony” of artists had flocked to Montclair, taking advantage of the beautiful and inspiring landscape that was within an easy commute to New York. The most famous artist was George Inness, Sr., but he was soon joined by other painters, sculptors, stained glass artists, and engravers. This **eight-mile bike ride** takes you past many of their homes and studios.

Begin at the Montclair History Center's parking lot (108 Orange Road). Make a left out of the parking lot, then turn left on Plymouth Street. When you reach Clinton Avenue, you'll see a small path next to 22 Clinton Avenue. Ride up the path.

1 THOMAS MANLEY'S DIKE'S LANE STUDIO 22 Clinton Avenue

A landscape painter who moved to Montclair in 1893, Manley lived on Mount Hebron Road. His studio was in the carriage house behind this home, just barely visible on Dike's Lane.

Turn right on South Mountain Avenue.

2 THOMAS BALL AND WILLIAM COUPER 29 South Mountain Avenue

Thomas Ball was a realist sculptor who moved to Montclair when he was 78 years old (1897). He was a mentor to many, including sculptor William Couper, who married Ball's daughter Eliza.

Turn left on Claremont Avenue, then right on Upper Mountain Avenue.

3 MANFRED TRAUTSCHOLD 60 Upper Mountain Avenue

Born in Germany in 1854, Trautschold painted realistic paintings of people in a multitude of settings. He lived in this home from 1897 to 1904.

4 THOMAS BALL AND WILLIAM COUPER 105 Upper Mountain Avenue

William Couper, a sculptor, moved to Montclair in 1897, attracted by its beauty, schools, and accessibility to New York. One of the founders of the Montclair Art Museum, Couper was renowned as a leading American sculptor. Couper, his wife, and father-in-law Thomas Ball moved to this Italianate house in 1908.

Turn right on Berkeley Place, then left on North Mountain Avenue.



208 North Mountain Avenue, known as “The Cedars,” c. 1895.

5 HARRY FENN 208 North Mountain Avenue

This home of Harry Fenn was originally located at 177 Upper Mountain Avenue until it was moved here in 1925. Fenn worked as a successful engraver and illustrator. He was commissioned to illustrate *Picturesque America*, *Picturesque Europe*, and *Picturesque Palestine, Sinai and Egypt*, which took him far from Montclair.

Turn left on Bellevue Avenue, right on Upper Mountain Avenue, and left on Ingleside Road. Make a right on Highland Avenue.

6 EMILIE AND WALTER GREENOUGH 340 Highland Avenue

Emilie and Walter met while working together as artists in the John La Farge stained glass studio. She was recognized for her skill in painting flesh tones. They married in 1885 and moved to Montclair in 1890 to be part of the Montclair Art Colony. They often entertained other Montclair artists in their home with pageants, poetry readings, plays, and concerts. Emilie is best known for her work painting stained glass, but also dabbled in oil, watercolor, pastels, and etchings. Walter was a gifted stained glass designer, earning high praise for his designs.

Turn right on Mountain Terrace, right on Upper Mountain Avenue, left on Bellevue Avenue, and right on Park Street.

7 HARRY FENN 284 Park Street

This Tudor-style home belonged to Harry Fenn from 1907 to 1911. (See #5 for more information on Fenn.)

Turn left on Watchung Avenue, then right on Montclair Avenue.

8 FREDERICK JUDD WAUGH 110 Montclair Avenue

Waugh is famous for his paintings of the ocean. He moved to Montclair in 1907, spending winters here and summers on the coast of Maine. He helped establish the Montclair Art Museum. He lived in this home from 1912 to 1914.

Turn left on Columbus Road, then right on Grove Street.

9 JONATHAN SCOTT HARTLEY 159 Grove Street (demolished)

Originally earning a living as a stonecutter, Hartley studied art in Europe and transformed himself into a well-known sculptor. He was married to two of Inness's daughters, first Rosa, who died in childbirth, then Helen. He lived in a house on this site from 1885 to 1910. His house and the Inness home at 151 (#10) were both demolished.

10 GEORGE INNESS 151 Grove Street (demolished)

Born in Newark in 1825, the elder George Inness moved to a home on this site in 1885. A famous landscape artist, he often painted scenes of bucolic Montclair or as he called them, “civilized landscapes.” He was the anchor that drew many artists to the burgeoning artist colony. His work is displayed at the Montclair Art Museum.



“Breaking through the Clouds” Montclair History Center Collection

Turn left on Walnut Street, then right on Walnut Crescent.

11 LAWRENCE CARMICHAEL EARLE 28 Walnut Crescent

Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he and his wife Nellie moved to be part of the Montclair Art Colony in 1889. He lived here until 1903. Earle was a prolific painter. You may be familiar his painting, the Dutch Boy Painter, which is still the Dutch Boy paint company's logo. A local Irish boy, Michael Brady (192 Forest Street), served as Earle's model. As he sat for the portrait, he decided he wanted to be an artist. He became a political cartoonist for the *Brooklyn Eagle*.

12 GEORGE INNESS, JR. Walnut Crescent (now 311 Bay Avenue) (demolished)

The son of landscape painter by the same name, George Inness, Jr. was also a landscape painter although less well known than his father. He often included animals in his paintings to differentiate his work from his father's. Inness, Jr. married Julia Goodrich Smith, daughter of wealthy publisher Roswell Smith, who built Roswell Manor, a 31-room Colonial Revival house that occupied the land fronting Bay Street, across from what is today Mountainside Hospital.

Turn right on Claremont Avenue to North Willow Street. Turn left. Stop at corner of North Willow and Bloomfield Avenue.

13 DON MILLER 363 Bloomfield Avenue

Although not part of the Art Colony, Jamaican born artist Don Miller had a studio here. His most famous work, a 56-foot long mural portraying the Civil Rights Movement and the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is now in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, DC. A copy hangs in the Montclair Public Library. Because the mural was so large, he had to rent space at 180 Bloomfield Avenue to accommodate it.

Continue on Willow Street across Bloomfield. Turn right on Union Street, then right on Orange Road.

Walk with Us!

The Montclair History Center leads guided walking tours, bus tours, cemetery tours, and food and history walking tours throughout Montclair. For information about dates and times, go to www.montclairhistory.org or call 973-744-1796. Also, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!



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ABOUT THE MONTCLAIR HISTORY CENTER

The Montclair History Center is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving, sharing, and educating others about the history of Montclair.

MONTCLAIR HISTORY CENTER

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