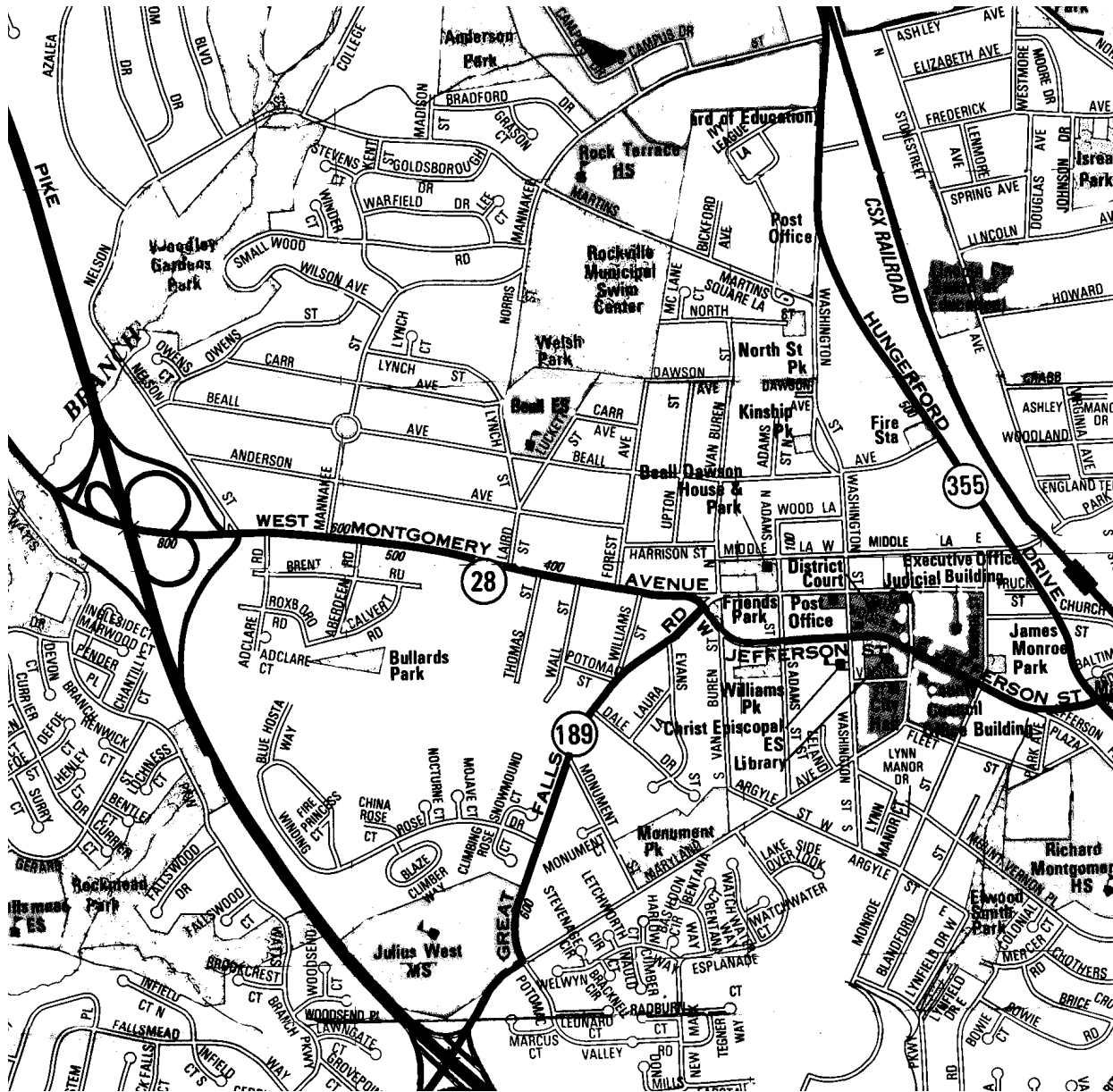


TOUR MAP



PEERLESS ROCKVILLE TOURS...

...exploring & experiencing Rockville's history and places

Bicycle Tour of Historic Rockville

Tour # 1: Rockville Town Center, Haiti-Martins Lane, the West End, & South Washington Street.

(Distance ≈ 4.5 mile loop)



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Peerless Rockville safeguards and promotes Rockville's past by preserving buildings, spaces, objects, and information important to our city's heritage. Peerless Rockville advances its goals through education, example, advocacy, and community involvement.

In the historic Red Brick Courthouse
29 Courthouse Square, in Rockville Town Center.

Welcome to historic Rockville.



Red Brick Courthouse

Designated as the seat of Montgomery County in 1776, known as Rockville by 1803, and incorporated in 1860, Rockville has eleven city-designated historic districts that include almost 200 individual structures. The National Register of Historic Places lists four districts and six individual sites located in Rockville. 183 sites are listed in Rockville's *Historic Buildings Catalog*.

Rockville's historic and distinctive architectural character extends beyond official designation. Peerless Rockville's bike tours include residences, commercial and public buildings, and other places that represent more than 200 years of the city's history. For more detailed information about many of the sites and neighborhoods on this tour, we recommend that you take along one of several guidebooks available at the Peerless Rockville store in the Red Brick Courthouse.

Start at the 1891 Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square.

Rockville Town Center

The area we now know as Town Center has been a gathering spot for more than 250 years. The centerpiece of Courthouse Square, the 1891 Red Brick Courthouse, was once slated for demolition, and now stands as a symbol of historic preservation in Rockville and Montgomery County. The County's growth can be measured in "architectural time" by the Romanesque Red Brick Courthouse, the classical 1931 Grey Courthouse (and its 1960 addition), and the modern 1982 Judicial Center. Note the 1931 Art Deco building (#4 Courthouse Square) and the 1939 Post Office on the corner of W. Montgomery and S. Washington Streets.

Go one block north on Maryland Ave. Turn left at Middle Lane.

The Lane

In the large square today bounded by N. Washington St., Middle Lane, Hungerford Drive and Beall Ave., a substantial community thrived for almost two centuries. Containing residences, shops, churches, schools, play areas, streets and alleys, "The Lane" was the center for Rockville's black population from the beginnings of the town. By the early 1960s, the neighborhood had been replaced by shopping centers, other businesses, and other opportunities elsewhere for its residents.

Continue west on Middle Lane, go west to North Adams St. Ride along North Adams St. and Wood Lane (one block north from Middle Ln.) and back to Middle Lane.

Early Rockville Buildings

Note the variety of architectural styles represented along N. Adams St. and Wood Lane. The original sections of #5, #101, and #106 N. Adams St. date back to the 1790s. #105 was built in 1846 when Greek Revival was popular. Original materials from an 1858 church on Wood Lane were used to construct the neo-gothic 1892 Jerusalem Church on the same site. The federal-style Beall-Dawson House (103 W. Montgomery Ave.), built in 1815, is the current home of the Montgomery County Historical Society.

Continue west one block on Middle Lane. Turn right on North Van Buren St. Ride 3 blocks north, turn left onto North Street.

Haiti-Martins Lane

This residential settlement dates to the 1830s. Former slaves of the Beall family built homes in what was a rural, segregated community without sewer, water, or paved roads until well into the 20th century. Annexed by the City in 1949, the Haiti-Martins Lane neighborhood is still home to many descendants of the original residents.

Continue west on North St. to the Rockville Municipal Swim Center. Turn left at the parking lot and follow paths south through trees to Forest Ave. Ride south along Forest Ave. to Anderson Ave. Turn around on Forest Ave. and ride back to Beall Ave.

West End Park

The opening of rail service in 1873 transformed Rockville into a bustling summer resort and commuter town. Washingtonians built cottages and permanent residences during a building boom from 1880-1900. Henry Copp purchased the West farm and sold lots in West End Park. Copp promoted the town and West End Park in his 1890 real estate brochure, "How to get Health, Wealth and Comfort in Peerless Rockville." #100, #108, and #112 Forest Ave. were built shortly after lots became available in 1889.

Turn left (west) onto Beall Ave. Ride 3 blocks to Manatee Circle. Ride 3/4 around the traffic circle and south on Manatee St. Turn left onto Anderson Ave. Turn right at Laird St. Cross W. Montgomery Ave. (Rt. 28) at traffic signal and turn left (east) This is a high automobile traffic area...please be alert.

West Montgomery Avenue Historic District

As you ride east along W. Montgomery Ave. be sure to explore the side streets (Thomas, Wall, Potomac, & Williams). There is an architectural cohesiveness to these areas. The style is primarily Victorian. Compare roof lines, dormers, location of gables, towers, types of windows, carving on porches, kinds of bays, shingle shapes, and other details.

Follow W. Montgomery Ave/Rt. 28 east to Great Fall Rd., where Rt. 28 becomes W. Jefferson St. Continue east on W. Jefferson St. and turn right on S. Adams St. to #103.

Rockville Academy

Built in 1890, this Queen Anne structure has been used as a private and public school, public library, nursery school, counseling center, and private offices. Preservation of the building and its 2 acres of freed lawn is the product of private and public efforts.

Residential Areas

The eclectic neighborhood along S. Adams and S. Van Buren Streets reflects an architectural blend developed over a period of more than 160 years. Post World War II ramblers and split levels and an early example of renowned modernist Chloethiel Woodard Smith's architecture (#135 S. Van Buren) mix comfortably with the earlier colonial revival, Arts & Crafts-inspired, and Victorian homes

Continue south along S. Adams St. Turn right onto Maryland Ave. Turn right onto Argyle St. Turn right onto S. Van Buren St. Turn right on W. Jefferson St. Ride 2 blocks and turn right onto S. Washington St.

South Washington Street Historic District

One of the original streets laid out in an 1803 survey of Rockville, the street's proximity to the Courthouse encouraged early development. One hundred years ago, cyclists and pedestrians enjoyed the same pleasant streetscape... much of the historic character remains.

Turn left onto Vinson St. Turn left onto Maryland Ave. Ride on Maryland Ave. for 2 blocks back to the Red Brick Courthouse.