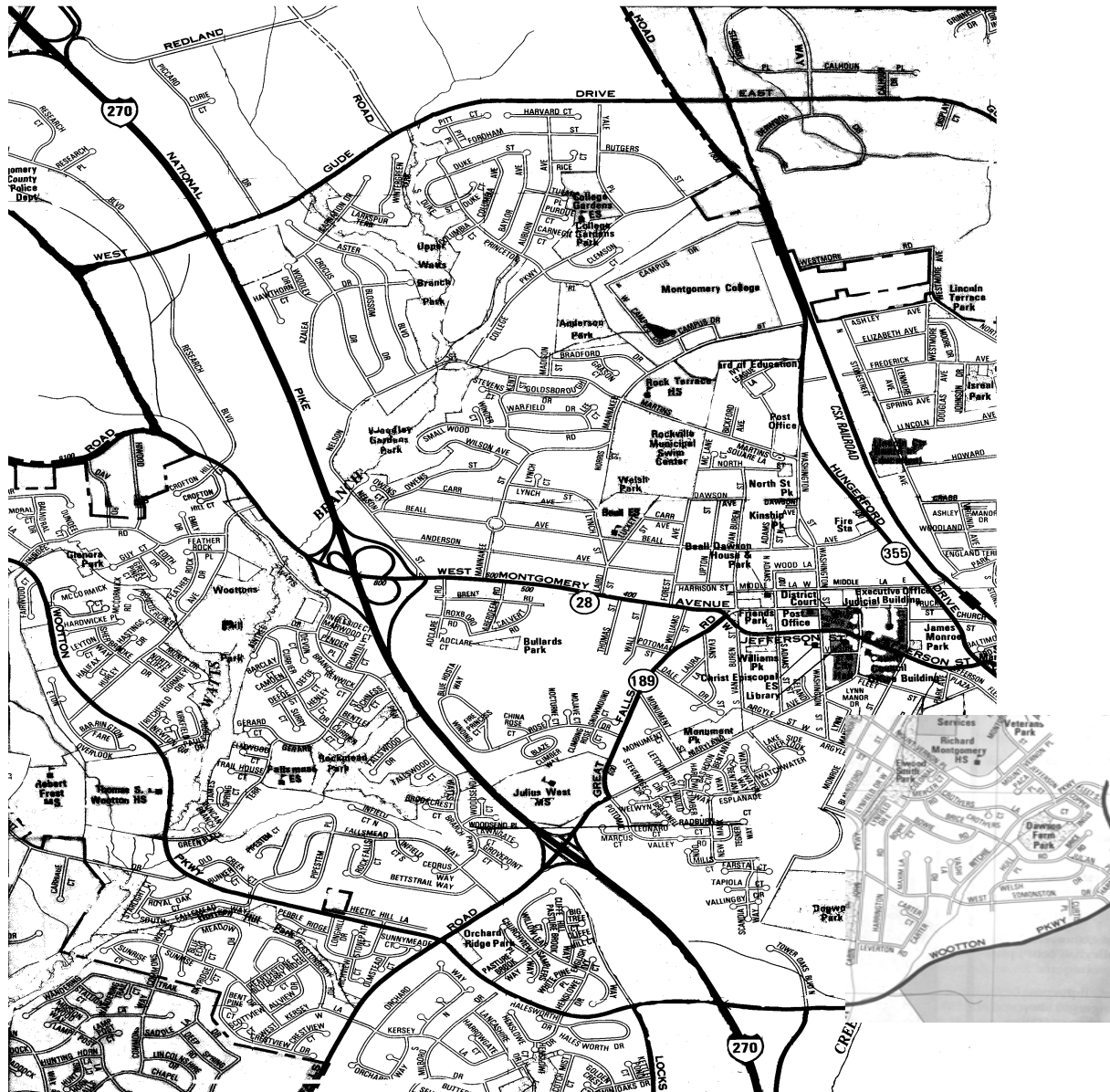


Tour Map



PEERLESS ROCKVILLE TOURS...

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

Bicycle Tour of Historic Rockville

Tour # 2: Courthouse Square, Dawson Farm Park, Wootton's Mill, Woodley Gardens, West End.

(Distance ≈ 10 mile loop)



HISTORIC PRESERVATION LTD

In the historic Red Brick Courthouse
29 Courthouse square, Rockville Town Center



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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.

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 places 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 from Peerless Rockville in the Red Brick Courthouse.

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

Courthouse Square

The area we now know as Courthouse Square been a gathering spot for more than 250 years. The 19th century expansion of Montgomery County spurred the building of the Red Brick Courthouse in 1891. The Red Brick Courthouse once housed the County Commissioners, Circuit Court, Orphan's Court and other County agencies, and was surrounded by homes, hotels, and other businesses that served people conducting business in the county seat.

Go 2 blocks south on Maryland Ave. Turn right onto Vinson Street.

Public Buildings / B.R. Stone

The stone located in front of the library marked the southeast corner of Rockville's 1803 boundaries. Across the streets, the 1952 County Office Building and 1960s Rockville City Hall, with their later additions, reveal the County's and City's rapid growth after World War II.

From Vinson Street, turn right onto Maryland Ave. At traffic signal, turn left onto Fleet St.

Early 20th Century Buildings

Included in the *Rockville Historic Buildings Catalog* are a Colonial Revival house (#107) designed in 1904 by notable local architect Thomas C. Groomes, and 3 houses built between 1926 and 1936 (#101, #103, and #105). While converted to government use, the residential scale and character provides a glimpse of an early 20th century Rockville streetscape..

Go east on Fleet St. Cross Monroe Street, turn right into parking lot at 401 Fleet Street.

Park Street School / Spates Bungalow

The Park Street School (built in 1934-35, now home to County offices) remains as Rockville's oldest Georgian style public building, and is among the oldest school buildings in the County still in use. The California Arts & Crafts-style Spates Bungalow (across Fleet St. at #115 Park Ave.) was built in 1923 as part of an early 20th century subdivision known as "The Park."

Find the bike path to the west of 401 Fleet St. and ride south. Turn left on Mt. Vernon Place. Turn right on Jefferson St. Cross Ritchie Pkwy., and turn right onto Copperstone Ct.

Dawson Farm Houses

The 1874 Gothic-style farmhouse (#1080) and the 1913 Prairie-style house (#1070) are associated with a prominent Rockville family that operated a farm here known as "Rocky Glen."

Enter into Dawson Farm Park using the path located between #1080 and #1070 Copperstone Ct.. Follow path clockwise around the park to Ritchie Pkwy..

Dawson Farm Park

Union and Confederate troops camped and skirmished here during the Civil War. Note the remaining foundation from the barn as you ride through the park. Today, the former 500 acre Dawson Farm includes schools, parks, and the Hungerford-Stoneridge neighborhood.

Turn left onto Ritchie Pkwy. Turn right onto Edmonston Dr. Turn left onto Cabin John Pkwy. Turn right onto Wootton Pkwy. Turn right at Falls Rd. Turn left at Fallsmead Way. Turn right onto Watts Branch Pkwy. Turn left onto Aintree Dr.. Turn left on Currier Dr. Turn right on Camden Ct. to #8.

Miller's House

The original log section of the house dates to the early 1800s, and served as the miller's house for nearby Wootton's Mill, which was located a few hundred feet to the northwest. In the early 1900s, the miller's house and 12 acres of mill property became the summer retreat and studio of nationally renowned anthropologist, archaeologist, and artist William Henry Holmes.

Return to Aintree Dr. and turn left to enter into Wootton's Mill Park. Ride down driveway to bridge.

Wootton's Mill / Benson—Veirs House

A water-powered grist mill once stood along Watts Branch, operating for nearly 100 years until improved transportation and changing technology put it out of business by 1904. On the rise across Watts Branch from the mill site is the Benson-Veirs House, built in 1878

Cross bridge and turn right onto intersecting path. Follow path across bridge and turn left onto path leading to Hurley Blvd. Turn right on Hurley Blvd. Turn left on Feather Rock Dr. to #411.

Hurley-Carter House

This 2-story farm house originally sat in the midst of 229 acres of dairy farmland, remaining in the same family for 3 generations until 1977, when the land was sold for the Watts Branch Meadows subdivision.

From 411 Feather Rock Drive, turn right on Feather Rock Place. Turn left onto Hurley Dr. Turn left onto West Montgomery Ave/Rt. 28. Turn right onto Research Blvd. Turn right onto Gude Dr. After crossing bridge over I-270, turn right onto bike path at the Rockville Senior Center, and follow the path to Carnation Dr.

Woodley Gardens

Nestled in the upper Watts Branch watershed and this 1960s neighborhood and adjacent city park are several archeological sites and rare natural resources that have been protected in large part by citizen activism.

Turn right on Crocus Dr. Turn right on Azalea Dr. Turn right on Nelson St. Follow the bike path and signs to Anderson Ave. and turn left.

West End

The West End contains the largest concentration of historic structures in Rockville. As you ride toward Town Center, notice the rhythmic (and sometimes abrupt) changes in architectural styles, lot sizes, natural landscapes and topography that is best experienced by riding a bicycle. Peerless Rockville Bike Tour Loop #1 provides a closer look at this historic and architecturally distinctive neighborhood.

From Andersen Ave. follow bike route signs back to Town Center. Turn right onto Forest Ave. Turn left onto Harrison St. Turn right onto N. Van Buren St. Turn left onto Middle Lane. Turn right onto Maryland Ave and ride one block to the Red Brick Courthouse.