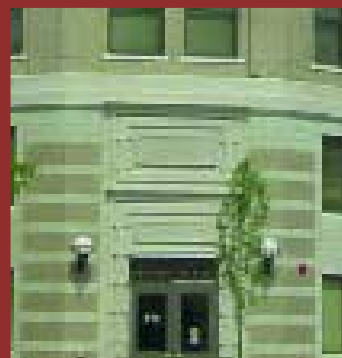
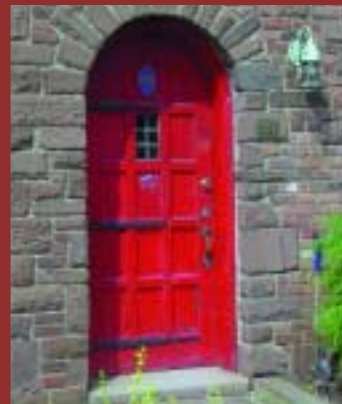


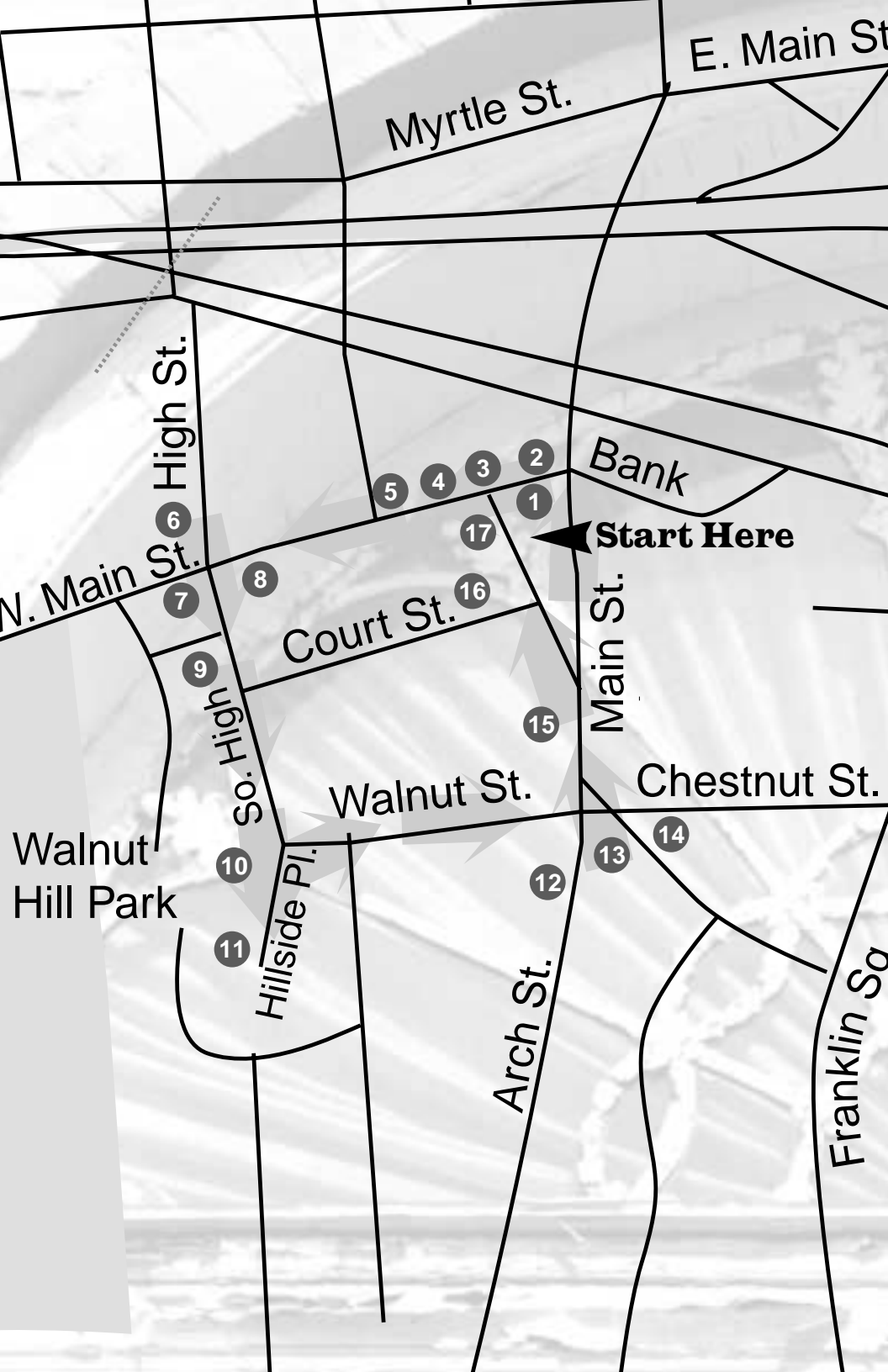


# Downtown New Britain



# Architectural Walking Tour





# 1 Civil War Monument

Central Park



Officially named the “Sailors and Soldiers Monument” this statue was dedicated September 19, 1900 as a lasting monument to those who served in the “War of the Rebellion.”

This beautiful monument is the anchor of Central Park. Designed by



Ernest Flagg and built in the Greek Ionic architectural style, the monument stands forty-four feet

in height and is adorned with the statue named “Winged Victory.” The statue symbolizes the reconciliation of both warring parties as expressed by the olive branch. The monument was recently restored by the Pawlak

administration in honor of its 100th anniversary, and the



Winged Victory statue was replaced—the original can be viewed in the rear lobby of City Hall. Architectural detailing of note includes egg & dart moldings, scallop shell flares, fluted Ionic columns, and an ornate frieze with lion head gargoyles.



# 2 Gates Building

272 Main Street

Originally built as the first home of the New Britain National Bank, this building designed by the firm Davis and Brooks in the Beaux Arts style, was built in 1906. After the bank moved up the street in the early 1930s, the Gates Building was used as retail and office space until the late 1980s. The Gates Building received its namesake from Florence Judd Gates, whom



named the building for her father-in-law, a tycoon whose fortune was made in barbed wire. The six-story structure is built of white brick with marble window sills. Significant architectural details on the



building include the intricately detailed cornice with deep-paired brackets, rope trim, egg & dart moldings, and elegant dentillation. Also of note, the copper cap above the entablature complete with scallop shell detailing and an intricate sunburst pattern. The building has just recieved a complete restoration and now

houses the New Britain Board of Education. The building materials used to restore the first two floors of the façade are a close match to the originals which were removed in the 1930s.



# 3 City Hall

27 West Main Street

Built as the Hotel Russwin in 1886, this magnificent structure was designed by architect Joseph Morrill Wells of McKim, Mead, and White. The building, which was



constructed in the Venetian Palazzo style, was converted to City Hall in 1909 and extensive renovations and a large addition were completed in 1992. The five-story structure is built primarily of red brick with a large five-bay arcade of Portland brownstone on the lower two floors. Architectural details of note include the

intricately carved main balcony, made of iron, and resting on a heavily adorned console. Also note the egg & dart detailing and the unique design on the under side of the roof eaves. The large hip style roof is made of red pantiles, reminiscent of many Venetian buildings.

An intricate iron filigree truly accentuates the main

arched entrance of this building.



The City seal contained within the filigree states the City motto in Latin... "Industria Implet Alveare Et Mele Fruitur" translated, 'Industry fills the hive and enjoys the honey'. City Hall is listed

together with the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the National Register of Historic Places.



# 4 New Britain National Bank Building

55 West Main Street

Originally built as the Commercial Trust Company, this seven-story structure has stood on West Main Street since 1927. Commercial Trust, a victim of the Great Depression, was bought out by the New Britain National Bank in the 1930s. Please note the "C/T" logo above the building's front door.

Constructed in the Romanesque Revival style, the structure is constructed of red brick and limestone.

Also known as the Anvil Bank, the architects took great care in incorporating local and financial details

into the architecture. The anvil symbol is clearly seen throughout

the brickwork on the entire building. Look closely at the detailing on the bronze doors such as the Buffalo Nickel, the City of New Britain Beehive, and the Mercury Dime. The extensive use of bronze and marble throughout the building interior, further compliment this building's architectural

ambiance. Two 6' x 9'

bronze chandeliers with twelve matching

wall sconces, Italian

rose marble wainscoting, and pink Tennessee marble can be found throughout. The building was designed to closely match the Venetian Palazzo style of City Hall, the

adjacent structure. The Renaissance style main entry is elegantly offset by the beautiful brass quatrefoils and the gothic two-bay window directly above.



# 5 Burritt Hotel

67 West Main Street (Burritt House)

(Best viewed from Washington Street)



The Burritt Hotel (now Burritt House)

opened to great fanfare on March 5, 1924. The building was constructed with 130 hotel rooms

and now houses elderly residents.

Constructed in the Georgian Colonial style the hotel was made possible with capital raised by the City's Chamber of



Commerce, which at the time saw a great need for a quality hotel. The building is constructed in red brick and concrete. Architectural details of note include the rectangular swag design detail panels



along the front of the building, the huge main pediment on the building's roofline, and the imposing decorative columnade. Also note the embellished dentillation along the roof eaves. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



# 6 New Britain Public Library

20 High Street

This incredible building was designed by the firm Davis and Brooks in 1897 and is built of white brick, limestone, and granite. The main building,



constructed primarily with a sizable bequeath by Cornelius Erwin, a local industrialist, was



dedicated in 1901. The freestanding Benjamin A. Hawley children's wing, was constructed in 1931. In 1976, the two buildings were joined by the present enclosed atrium. The imposing main building has many architectural features of



note including the fluted Ionic columns of the main entrance, arched windows with elegant keystones, egg & dart moldings, rope moldings, and lion head gargoyles. Detailed dentillation and a gorgeous intricate pediment enhance the cornice of the building. Also of architectural



note is the presence of the names of authors throughout the façade, scallop shell moldings, and prominent quill pen carvings.





# 7 Old Post Office

114 West Main Street



The Neo Classical building was designed by architect Frank S. Watmaugh of Worcester, MA and was completed in 1910. Home to the New Britain Post Office for more than seventy years, the structure is built of limestone with copper and bronze lighting fixtures. Interior highlights include terrazzo flooring, fluted plaster ceilings,

marble flooring and wainscoting, skylights, and mahogany trim. Exterior architectural details include



the large, sweeping, granite staircase, fluted Ionic columns, and the hand carved eagle statue symbolic of the federal postal service. Note the prominent keystones, elegantly carved quatrefoils, and exquisite dentillation. Designed to be a symbol of federal power and dominance, the Old

Post Office was in use until the mid 1970s. Today, this building maintains a feeling of prominence and elegance.



# 8 Cadwell House

130 West Main Street

This gracious Victorian building was constructed by New Britain's most famous architect William Cadwell as a wedding gift for his wife. Built of yellow brick, limestone, and Portland brownstone, this building is a prominent anchor at the western



edge of the city's



downtown. Constructed in the year 1891, the structure is the current home of the law firm Camp, Williams, and Richardson. Architectural details of this structure are many and include elegant fluted Ionic columns with floriated capitals, arched window, dentillation, and the massive main turret. The intricate keystones, steeply vaulted slate roof, and granite corner stones, make this building an impressive sight.

Interior elements include hand carved moldings of oak, mahogany, and birds eye maple. Also of note are the main oak staircase, stained glass windows, and a vaulted library ceiling.



# 9 Eastman House

33-35 South High Street



This beautiful English Tudor style building was constructed in 1878 for Mrs. Mary Eastman. In 1935 after being vacant for five years the building was "sided" with the present brick and brownstone materials for Dr. B.C. Peck.

Note the symbol of the American Medical Association in the main gable.



Architectural details include the arched ground level entryway, the second floor bay window, and concrete sills along the roofline.

A local landmark, the building is known for its bright red

doors and window sashes. The heavy brownstone moldings greatly highlight the doorways and window openings of the building.



# 10 Stanley Mansion

1 Hillside Place

This towering Gothic Victorian mansion was

constructed in 1859 for Timothy Wadsworth Stanley and his family. Timothy Stanley was a founding director of Stanley Rule and Level Company in the 1850's.

The house contains more than eighteen rooms and features marble fireplaces,

beautiful moldings, and a solid rosewood grand staircase. The opulent mansion's exterior features

include a bold second floor balcony, steeply pitched dormered slate roofs, a distinctive

pendant in the main gable, and the wide open-aired front porch with delicate gingerbread millwork. The style of the

front porch is English Tudor Gothic; note the delicate quatrefoils in the arched brackets. The house is of brick and post and beam construction, is sided in cedar, and rests upon a solid brownstone foundation.



# 11 State Normal School

27 Hillside Place (Hillside Place Condominiums)



This magnificent building was constructed in the Gothic Victorian style with red brick, white sandstone, and brownstone. The main building was constructed in 1882 at a cost of only \$100,000

and was the second location of Connecticut's first chartered State Normal School (now CCSU). The building's focal point is the 120-foot tall bell tower. The tower acts as the main anchor for the highly vaulted rooflines and gables that emanate out



from the tower sides. Other details include the steeply pitched slate roofs, the delicate iron filigree in the bell tower, the solid brownstone buttresses along the base, and the huge vaulted arched entryways. Also note the soaring freestanding chimneys throughout the varied rooflines. An addition off of the rear was built in 1891 to house a new gymnasium and additional classroom space. The building then

became home to the New Britain Board of Education from 1922-1988. Recently converted to upscale condominiums, the building maintains most of its original interior architectural and schoolhouse splendor such as chalk trays, blackboards, and student desks in the common areas.



# 12 Vega Block

61 Arch Street

This building was yet another design of Cadwell. Constructed in 1897, the building housed the Vega Benefit Society, the welfare agencies for Swedish immigrants to New Britain. Here, new immigrants to New Britain could make connections to find a home, obtain food, meet family, and make new friends. The building is



constructed of yellow brick and terra cotta and is three floors in height. The granite lintels and window sills add an element of dimension to the building. Stained glass windows adorn the area above the third floor windows, as does an intricate egg & dart molding under the window sills. Architectural details include the capped Ionic pilasters on the corners of the building, very shallow corbelling on the building's cornice,



and the prominent bowed-out central pavilion.

Note the steamship present in the building's roundel as well as the beautiful flare of this roundel as it climbs above the building's roofline.



# 13 South Church

90 Main Street

Designed by George F. Meacham, this magnificent structure was constructed in 1865 of Portland brownstone. Built in the New England Gothic style, the church has existed "in the heart of the city, for the heart of the city" for more than 161 years.



The attached brownstone parish house was completed and dedicated in 1899. The design is typical of the old New England ecclesiastical architecture and is relatively simple in form. The steeply gabled roof is supported by fortress like buttresses. The main tower rises more than 170 feet above Main Street and is also heavily buttressed. The main entrance to the building is adorned with attached columns with



elegant floriated capitals. The interior of the building is elegant and is largely decorated with intricate stained glass patterns. South Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

# 14 Trinity Methodist Church

69 Main Street

The present structure was constructed in 1891 in the Romanesque Revival style; this edifice was designed by A. P. Cutting of Worcester, Massachusetts. The parish of Trinity Methodist has existed in the area known as New Britain since the year 1815. The building is constructed of gray, rough-cut granite and stands



more than 70 feet in height.

The design of the tower was heavily influenced by Saint Benoit's in France as well as Trinity Church on

Copley Square in Boston. Features of the tower include arched windows, turreted corners, and a massive arched entryway in the base. Architectural features include ample stained glass windows, and an



intricate checkerboard design under the building's eaves, accomplished by the use of varying colored stone.





# 15 Andrews Building

136 Main Street

This prominent building was constructed in 1903 and was also designed by Cadwell. The structure was designed in the Beaux Arts style and



was constructed of yellow brick, marble, limestone, and terra cotta. Built as the home of the John Andrews Furniture Store, the ample window space on all levels was extensively used for store displays. The Andrews Furniture Company was considered one of the finest purveyors of furniture in all

of New England. Please note the stained glass windows present in the arches at the top of this five-story building. Other architectural details



include the heavily adorned cornice, with intricate keystones,

medallions, and intricate dentillation.

Also of interest is the small

cornice under the third floor windows, and the date and name of the company, set into the pediment of the building.



# 16 Platt Mansion

25 Court Street



This Victorian structure was the primary residence of Frederick G. Platt, who was once president of New Britain Machine and New Britain Lumber & Coal. Designed in the Gothic Revival style, and built in 1886, this building is

constructed of red brick, terra cotta, and Portland brownstone. The most significant feature is the four-story main tower, with a buttressed base, arched entryway, and four-sided flared, hip style roof. Architectural details of note include the lovely terra cotta panels, brick arches, belt course, stringcourse, and the repetitive inset of tile. Also note the intricate medallions and



brackets that help support the roofline in the building's vaulted gables. These gables and varied roofline of different heights are a perfect example of Gothic Victorian architecture. The Platt Mansion was lovingly restored in 1987 and won the Hartford Architectural Conservancy award for that year.

# 17 Judd's Block

236-246 Main Street (Central Park Place)

D.C. Judd, a local grocer in New Britain, originally constructed this beautiful pair of buildings in 1888. The pair now houses residential condominiums and retail storefronts. Both buildings were constructed in the Victorian Commercial style. The building on the right originally was five



height and was reduced to four stories after acquiring significant fire damage from an adjacent building that burned in the 1940s. Note the incredibly detailed terra cotta panels throughout the façade, the marble windowsills, and the pressed copper window bays, as well as the huge brackets supporting the roof eaves and



the fourth floor balcony and arched windows. Intricate basket-weave brickwork designs bring the different architectural elements together underneath the building cornice.

# **Downtown New Britain**

## **Architectural Walking Tour**

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For more information  
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