

In celebration of New Jersey's 350th Anniversary, Downtown Westfield Corporation, in partnership with the Westfield Historical Society, has sponsored a self-guided historic walking tour as part of Destination Westfield. (Match code to map.)

1

Train Station & Underpass (1892) **N1: 301 North Avenue West**

The railroad first came to Westfield in 1837. The train station still stands at its original location although the buildings were replaced in 1918. Westfield is unique in that the town, not the railroad, has owned the station buildings and parking lots since the bankruptcy of Central Railroad of New Jersey in the 1950s.

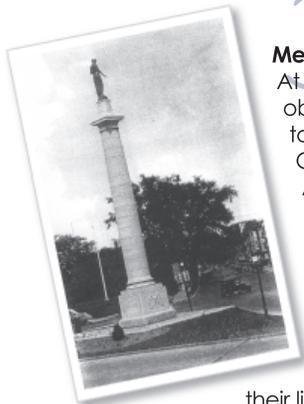
In 1995, NJ Transit converted the century-old station area into high platforms to speed operations and increase public safety. Facings on the platforms replicate the building stonework and the platform roofs emulate the standing seams on the buildings. Historic tiles in the underpass depicting early life in Westfield were fabricated and installed by local native and artist Stacey Farley. In 2013, NJ Transit completed additional capital improvements at the station. Westfield's easy commute is often a significant reason why many people relocate to the area and its station boasts one of the highest amounts of riders along the Raritan Valley line. Direct rail service into New York is being planned as new equipment allows for service to operate via diesel engines as well as electricity through the Hudson tunnel.



2

The Westfield Firehouse (1911) M1: 405 North Ave West

Originally, the Westfield firehouse was located in the mid-block of E. Broad Street until the current structure was built near the north side of the train station. Built in the Spanish architectural style, the Westfield Firehouse is one of several Westfield structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The distinctive copper cupola was restored in 2013.



3

Memorial Plaza (1923) M1: North Avenue & East Broad Street

At the center of this plaza, in 1923, the town erected a granite obelisk topped by a bronze monument of the goddess Clio to honor the 18 Westfield men who died in World War I. On the southwest side, memorials commemorate Spanish American war victims, World War II victims, Korean War victims and a Vietnam War Memorial is under construction. The plaza also honors Martin Luther King. Across the street, located in the southeast region of the plaza, a memorial park was created in 2002 to commemorate the lives of all the victims of the September 11th attacks. The main glass spire lists all the names of those lost. There are twelve granite pillars, each dedicated to the twelve Westfield residents who lost their lives. In 2003, a second phase of the 9-11 park was dedicated with a Walk for Dads walkway and monument by Westfield elementary schoolchildren.

4

First United Methodist Church (1911) D2: 1 East Broad Street

The first Methodist services were held in Westfield in 1849 under a tree in the Reverend's front yard, until the church was built over a hundred years ago. In the 1880s, a town clock was purchased with a combination of Town, church and resident funds, and installed in the first church. It was then moved to the present gothic structure.

5

Bank Square A1-2: 57 Elm Street

Bank Square is generally considered the center of Westfield, so called because at one time there were two bank buildings located on either corner. Urban Outfitters is in the building originally built for Westfield Trust Company and designed by renowned architects Delano and Aldrich in 1921. The building was magnificently restored and the bank vault is now used as a display area for the store. A restored clock hangs over the sidewalk of the building on the opposite corner which once was the site of several different banks.

6

Arcanum Hall (1892) **F2: 201 East Broad Street**

This landmark building was built for the Fireside Council No. 715 of Royal Arcanum where important town and club meetings were often held. The building has retail on the bottom floor and is occupied by residential and professional tenants on the upper floors.



7

First Baptist Church (1923) **F1: 170 Elm Street**

The present church was constructed in 1923 in a gothic style as depicted in the gargoyles. A parsonage formerly stood at the far corner of the property.

8

Westfield Hotel site (1867) E3

Today the site of the original Westfield hotel is home to The Gap, The Farmhouse Store, and Staples. Built by John Marsh in 1867, it was Westfield Hotel and a common stop in the New York to Philadelphia stagecoach route of colonial days. During the 20th century, John Franks, a high-class haberdashery for men, occupied the space. The blue florets imbedded in the façade remain from the original structure.

9

The Rialto Theatre (1922) H1: 250 East Broad Street

The Rialto movie house opened on September 6, 1922 with 1,000 people paying 20 cents for a matinee or 30 cents in the evening and on holidays. The first major film shown at the Rialto was *Ben Hur* in 1927, which was the exclusive area showing of the epic film. Shortly

after, the theater closed briefly to convert to 'talkies' from silent movies. After suffering a fire in 1931 due to faulty wiring in the organ, it was reopened as a

fireproof ultramodern amusement center. In the early 1960's, the theatre was renovated for wide-screen stereophonic sound and one of the first films to be shown was *Gone with The Wind*, which played for approximately six months. Reflecting the changes in the movie industry during the 1970's, it was converted to a triplex. In 1996, there was a threat to convert the theater to retail. A strong movement by Westfield residents and the Westfield Main Street organization (subsequently Downtown Westfield Corporation) persuaded the developer otherwise through a 'Save the Rialto' campaign. This campaign became a model in working with national retailers for The National Trust for Historic Preservation Main Street program in downtown revitalization. The Rialto was again renovated in 2009 and after celebrating its 85th anniversary in 2012, is now a state-of-the-art digital entertainment venue offering movies and live broadcasts.

10

Carnegie Library (1905) H1: 266 East Broad Street

Westfield's first free public library was gifted by Andrew Carnegie who funded thousands of libraries around the country. This library was located where the Felice building is now found. The Town of Westfield provided the land and half of the cash to support the library. The building still contains the original fixtures and windows, although modified with two additional stores in the front.



11

First Congregational Church (1882) I3: 125 Elmer Street

On June 7, 1880, the First Congregational Church began holding services at Lyceum Hall in Westfield. After fundraising efforts, the cornerstone of the original Queen Anne-style church was laid on January 18, 1882, at the church's current location, 125 Elmer Street. The church was later reconstructed in the Colonial meetinghouse style and dedicated as the First Congregational Church of Westfield on March 4, 1951.

12

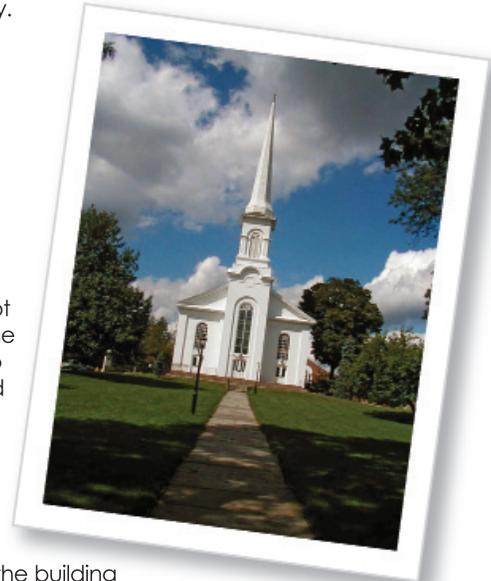
Downer's well cap (1783) E2-3: Corner of East Broad and Mountain Avenue

A commemorative plaque located on the corner of Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street marks the location where Samuel Downer Jr., one of the first merchants, postmasters and Revolutionary war veterans, opened Westfield's first general store and lived from 1760 to 1848. This store served as a communication center for the town. An architectural dig was conducted on the property in 1984 by Westfield citizens and marked with a Downer well cap by the Westfield Historical Society.

13

The Presbyterian Church (1727) 140 Mountain Avenue

This was the second sanctuary church building on or near this site in 1861. The British used this site to slaughter pigs and quarter soldiers during the Battle of Westfield in July 1777. Even when offering four Sunday services, the church could not accommodate the congregation, and the church was cut in half in the mid 1960's to be expanded. The steeple end, foyer and one of the four windowed areas were moved over 30 feet toward E. Broad Street. Workmen set the steeple on fire in 1995 but the delivery of a new Westfield Fire Department ladder truck the week before saved the steeple. In 2013, extensive restoration work took place on the building and Westminster Hall, which dates back to 1853.



14

Burial grounds of the Presbyterian Church (1730) F

These historic burial grounds include the remains of over 70 soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. Some burials of cremains still occur today. The grounds and over 100 headstones dating back to 1730 have been restored since 2009. The grounds are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and are some of the finest surviving 18th century burial grounds in New Jersey.

15

The Miller-Cory House (1740) 614 Mountain Avenue

Built in 1740 and owned for generations privately by the Miller and Cory families, the Miller-Cory House is maintained in its colonial condition. Programs are conducted weekly during the spring and summer, drawing school groups from across northern New Jersey. Acquiring this house and property when it came up for sale in 1969 was the impetus for founding of the Westfield Historical Society, which has owned it since. It is maintained and operated by the Miller-Cory House volunteers.



16

Reeve History & Cultural Resource Center (1870) 314 Mountain Avenue

The house and 1.62-acre property were deeded to the town of Westfield in 1986 by the Reeve Family. In 2005, the Westfield Historical Society successfully obtained a National Register of Historic Places Nomination. The Westfield Historical Society pursued a 99-year lease of the house and land. Following the Westfield Historical Society's successful acquisition and extensive restoration work with generous community donations, the Reeve History & Cultural Resource Center is home to the Westfield Historical Society. Future plans include a state-of-the-art archival building upon completion of a capital fundraising campaign.



Westfield, New Jersey

