

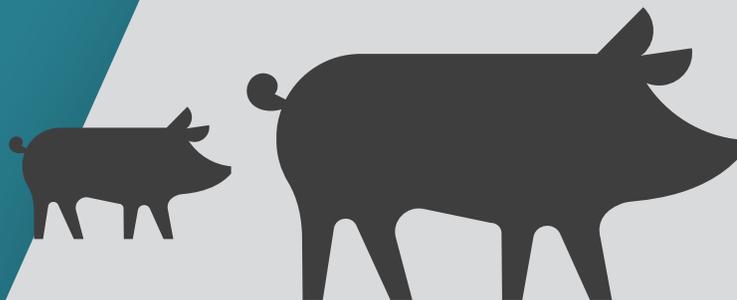
ASHEVILLE URBAN TRAIL

Scavenger Hunt!

DISCOVER A SURPRISE ON EVERY CORNER!



Asheville
DOWNTOWN
TRAILS



Welcome to the Asheville Urban Trail, a three-dimensional walk through time. Your visit will include a Scavenger Hunt with **30 official Urban Trail Stations** and many other stops along the length of the walk.

You can start and end anywhere, but we recommend completing the entire Asheville Urban Trail, even over multiple visits in order to fully appreciate the history and culture of our city. **One practical approach is to walk the trail in two parts: Stations 1 through 15 and**

Stations 16 through 30. Each half of the trail will take from two to four hours, depending on your group size, the amount of time you spend interacting with the history and activities laid out in this workbook, and whether you choose to take detours.

Name _____ Date _____

As you travel along the trail, stop at each station, read the text and complete the activity. **Each station has a bronze plaque which often contains clues or answers to the activities and questions provided in this scavenger hunt. Walking directions will be marked with an arrow symbol ►.**

Pay close attention and you'll find the clues! Have fun and good luck!

The Urban Trail Markers are all engraved in pink granite -- and represent the way the trail is divided into sections to further enrich the stories of Asheville's people, culture and history. Look for them and they will help you understand what's going on in the city when these stories take place.

Urban Trail Markers

	Feather	The Gilded Age (1880 - 1930)
	Horseshoe	The Frontier Period (1784 - 1880)
	Angel	The Times of Thomas Wolfe (1900 - 1938)
	Courthouse	The Era of Civic Pride
	Eagle	The Age of Diversity

The Asheville Urban Trail Stations

- STATION 1:** Walk Into History
- 1a.** Urban Trail Marker
 - 1b.** Angel Statue
 - 1c.** Vance Monument
-
- 2:** Crossroads
- 2a.** Man on a Horse
 - 2b.** The Biltmore Building
-
- 3:** Stepping Out
- 3a.** Coleman Zageir Kiosk
-
- 4:** O. Henry
-
- 5:** Immortal Image
-
- 6:** Bench of Leaves
-
- 7:** Art Deco Masterpiece
- 7a.** Pritchard Park
-
- 8:** Flat Iron Architecture
-
- 9:** Cat Walk
-
- 10:** Grove's Vision

- DETOUR:** Grove Arcade
-
- 11:** Historic Hilltop
-
- 12:** Guastavino's Monument
-
- DETOUR:** Basilica of St. Lawrence
-
- 13:** Appalachian Stage
-
- DETOUR:** Pack Library
-
- 14:** Shopping Daze
- 14a.** Urban Trail Marker
-
- 15:** Marketplace
-
- 16:** Legacy of Design
- 16a.** Masonic Temple
 - 16b.** Urban Trail Marker
-
- 17:** Woodfin House
-
- 18:** Wolfe's Neighborhood

STATION **19:** Dixieland
19a. Old Kentucky Home

DETOUR: Thomas Wolfe Memorial

20: Curtain Calls

21: On the Move

22: Civic Pride

23: Past and Promise

23a. Urban Trail Marker

24: Man and Mountain

25: Time Remembered

DETOUR: WNC Veterans' Memorial

26: Ellington's Dream

27: Monument Corner

27a. The Jackson Building

27b. Urban Trail Marker

28: Brick Artisan

29: The Block

29a. YMI Cultural Center

DETOUR: Triangle Park

30: Hotel District



Directions, Stations and Locations

The Urban Trail officially starts in Pack Square on the brick walk in front of the Asheville Art Museum. Near the corner of Patton and Biltmore Avenues, find the first of 30 bronze Urban Trail Station Plaques: Asheville Urban Trail Station

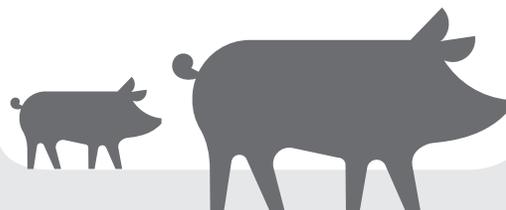
#1: Walk Into History.

1

Walk Into History

Pack Square has been the central hub of the city since before Asheville was Asheville. Once called Morristown, the City of Asheville's first courthouse was built in Pack Square in 1792. By 1800, the village here was made up of 38 European settlers and 13 enslaved African Americans. Lumber baron and philanthropist **George Willis Pack** arrived here in the 1880s. Among many other generous gifts to the people of Asheville, Pack donated the property for the

Asheville Public Library on the square (where the Asheville Art Museum now stands). He also supported local schools, including the Beaumont Street School - the town's first school for African Americans - and he established a "park for the people," surrounding the newly erected Vance Monument (largely paid for by Mr. Pack as well). It's no wonder that this historic location is named Pack Square.



1a

Find the Urban Trail Marker

Find one of many trail markers set into the bricks near “Walk into History.” Five different symbols are used to mark the Asheville Urban Trail, all engraved in pink granite. This one marks the section of the trail representing The Gilded Age of Asheville -- 1880 to 1930.

Which symbol do you see on this part of the trail?

- Feather
- Horseshoe
- Angel
- Courthouse
- Eagle

1b

The Angel Statue



Walk around the bricked area in front of the Asheville Art Museum and locate the statue dedicated to Asheville author **Thomas Wolfe** and his famous book, *Look Homeward, Angel*.

What shape is the angel’s hair?

Look across Pack Square to Vance Monument

1c

Vance Monument

This monument was erected to recognize the former North Carolina Governor Zebulon B. Vance, who served as governor from 1862 to 1865, and again from 1877 to 1879, and as US Senator from 1879 to 1894. The monument was built in a geometric form called an *obelisk*, which has been commonly used in monuments from ancient Egypt to the Washington Monument.

The Vance Monument has a small square-based pyramid on the tippy-top.

Make a sketch of the Vance Monument obelisk in this space to the right:



When you’re ready to move on, cross busy Pack Square (Please use the crosswalk!) to the traffic island where the Vance Monument stands. Here is where you’ll find Asheville Urban Trail **Station 2: Crossroads**.

2

Crossroads

The valley where Asheville is located is crisscrossed by the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers and has been a crossroad for a LONG time. In the 1600s, approximately 30 Native American tribes lived in the area, the Cherokee being the largest of those nations. This spot, now Pack Square, marked the crossing of two Native American trails. Later, European settlers used this crossroads as a stopping place on long treks when they were driving thousands of livestock - like pigs, turkeys and cows - for hundreds of miles. These drovers used mostly the North-South route, called the Buncombe Turnpike, starting in 1827. The Buncombe Turnpike was built in part with slave labor.

How many footprints? Complete the table below by counting and recording the missing footprints.

Type of Footprint	Tallies	Totals
Bare footprints of Native Americans		
Booted footprints of livestock drovers		
Turkey footprints		
Pig footprints		44
Cow double footprints		22

The electric streetcar or “trolley” rails on either side of the footprints represent both the arrival of the steam engine railroad to Asheville in 1880, as well as the arrival of the electric streetcar. The streetcar arrived in Pack Square in 1889, making

it the second electric trolley system in the United States (after Richmond, VA). The rails used on this monument were salvaged from the original Asheville streetcar system.

2a

Man on a Horse

Between the pigs and the Vance monument, there is a stone with a plaque on it with an image of a man on a horse.

Who is the man on the horse? _____

▶ To the north of the Vance Monument, you'll see the shiny Biltmore Building.

2b

The Biltmore Building

This reflective office building was designed by internationally renowned architect I.M. Pei in the year 1980. He designed it to look like something other than a building.

What do you think Mr. Pei intended the Biltmore Building to look like?

Check one:

- A palace
- A cruise ship
- An elephant
- A steam engine

▶ Next, cross BACK over Pack Square and turn right to cross Biltmore Avenue. Once on the other side, follow the Urban Trail markers along Patton Avenue to the west. You will cross one more street - Lexington Avenue - to the corner of Lexington and Patton Avenues. There you'll find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #3: Stepping Out.**

On your left, as you approach Station #3, you can still see the stained-glass sign reading, "The Leader," a department store owned by S. I. Blomberg, one of many Jewish merchants downtown. Beginning in the late 1880s, and for many decades afterwards, families of Jewish immigrants established and operated hundreds of successful businesses in Asheville, greatly influencing the success of the thriving downtown area.

3

Stepping Out

In the 1880s and 1890s, following the arrival of the railroad, Asheville's entertainment industry boomed as wealthy Americans flocked here for the "curative mountain air." The Grand Central Hotel and the Grand Opera House both stood here on Patton Avenue.

On a nearby bench, find some bronze items that someone might have carried for a night out on the town in the late 1880s. Name the items on the bench.



Just past the "Stepping Out" plaque, you will see an information kiosk on the left.

3a

Coleman Zageir Kiosk

Coleman Zageir was a successful Jewish business owner and community leader for over 50 years. His legendary store opened in 1922 and was located on the corner of Patton and Lexington Avenues.

What was the name of Coleman Zageir's store?



Continue a little way west on Patton Avenue and you'll come to Asheville Urban Trail Station #4: **O. Henry**.



4

O. Henry

William Sydney Porter wrote imaginative and compelling short stories using the pen name “O. Henry.” He was also a famous playwright who lived in both New York City and Asheville. Many of his stories were appreciated all around the country, including the one memorialized in the bronze combs and watch fob set into the pavement around the O. Henry plaque. Among other things, O. Henry was known for his surprise story endings, which he called “the snapper.”

What was the name of one of O. Henry’s famous short stories mentioned on the plaque?



Continue a few steps further west on Patton Avenue to the next street corner where Church Street connects to Patton. Find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #5: Immortal Image.**

5

Immortal Image

Look across the street and up to see this superb example of an 1890s stone frieze on the Drhumor building (pronounced “droomer” although many like to call it the “Doctor Humor Building.”)

Can you spy these six things on this side of the stone frieze?

- Shell with sea serpents
- Lion
- Sun with a face
- Angel
- Torch
- Bird



▶ Checking for traffic coming from the left, cross Patton Avenue and go a few steps back east along the sidewalk on the other side to find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #6: Bench of Leaves.**

Bench of Leaves

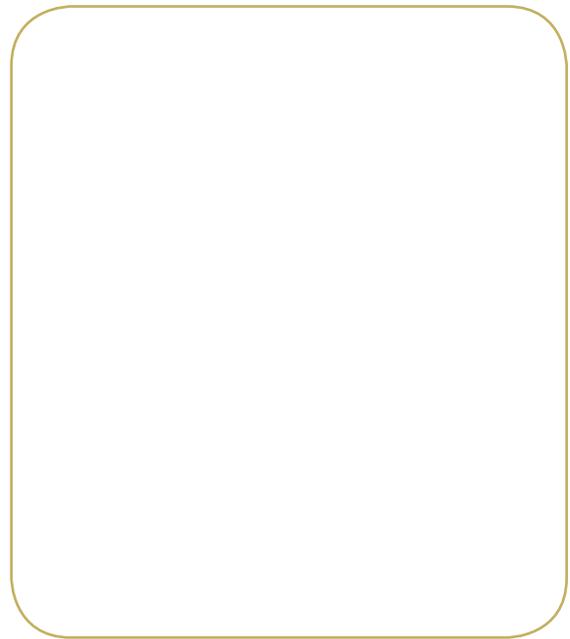
Elizabeth Blackwell studied medicine and taught music in Asheville during the 1800s before she became **America's First Woman Doctor!** Dr. Blackwell was a pioneer in both women's and children's medicine and founded the world's first four-year medical college for women. This artful bench is a monument to Dr. Blackwell's legacy.

The bench is decorated with medicinal plants used by Native Americans and early pioneers. How many can you recognize?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ginkgo | <input type="checkbox"/> Sassafras | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Creeper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oak | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet Gum | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Yam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maple | <input type="checkbox"/> Witch Hazel | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tulip Poplar | <input type="checkbox"/> Slippery Elm | |

The medical symbol welded into the center of the bench, just below the image of Elizabeth Blackwell's face, is called a Caduceus. It looks like snakes twining around a staff.

Make a sketch of the Caduceus. ▶▶



Turn back west on the sidewalk along Patton Avenue and proceed to the corner of Patton and Haywood Street. As you walk, look across Patton to view more of the stone frieze on the Drhumor building. Just a few buildings further on you will find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #7: Art Deco Masterpiece**. Do not cross Patton at this point, but just look across the street.

7

Art Deco Masterpiece:

S&W Cafeteria

Douglas Ellington, a prominent Asheville architect in the 1920s, designed the S&W Cafeteria in an architectural style called Art Deco, which is highly influenced by Egyptian artwork. The cafeteria was an important social gathering spot, especially for women, all the way into the 1970s. Douglas Ellington also designed Asheville’s City Hall, First Baptist Church and Asheville High School.

Sketch three shapes or designs that you see on the front of the S&W Cafeteria building.

1	2	3
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Continue straight to cross Haywood Street, watching for traffic turning off Patton Avenue from the left. Enter the triangle-shaped Pritchard Park.

7a

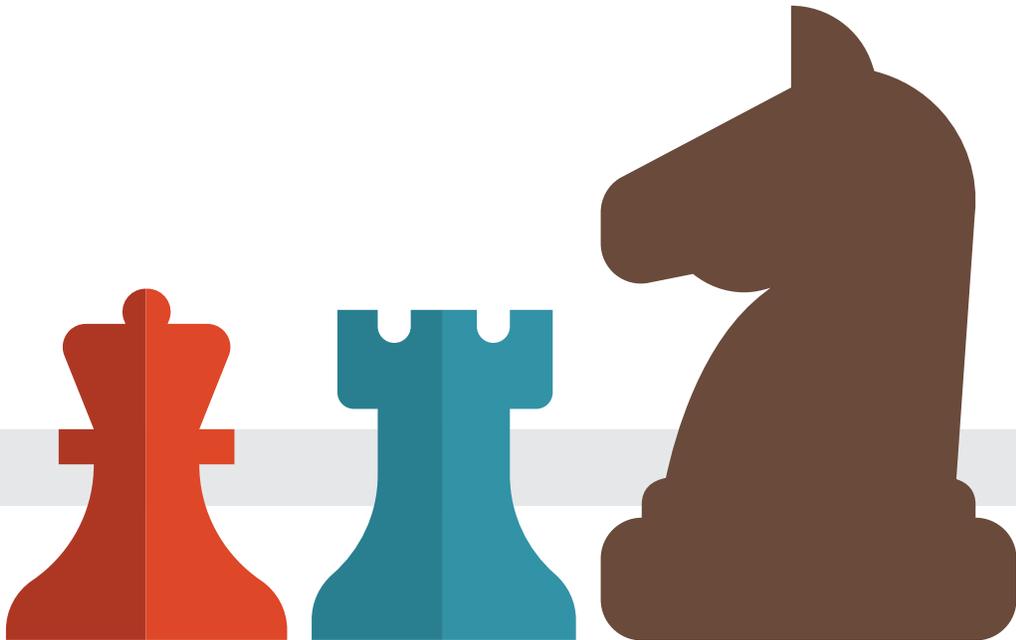
Pritchard Park

This little park is a nice place to rest, eat and play if you have time.
NO CLIMBING ON THE ROCKS, PLEASE!

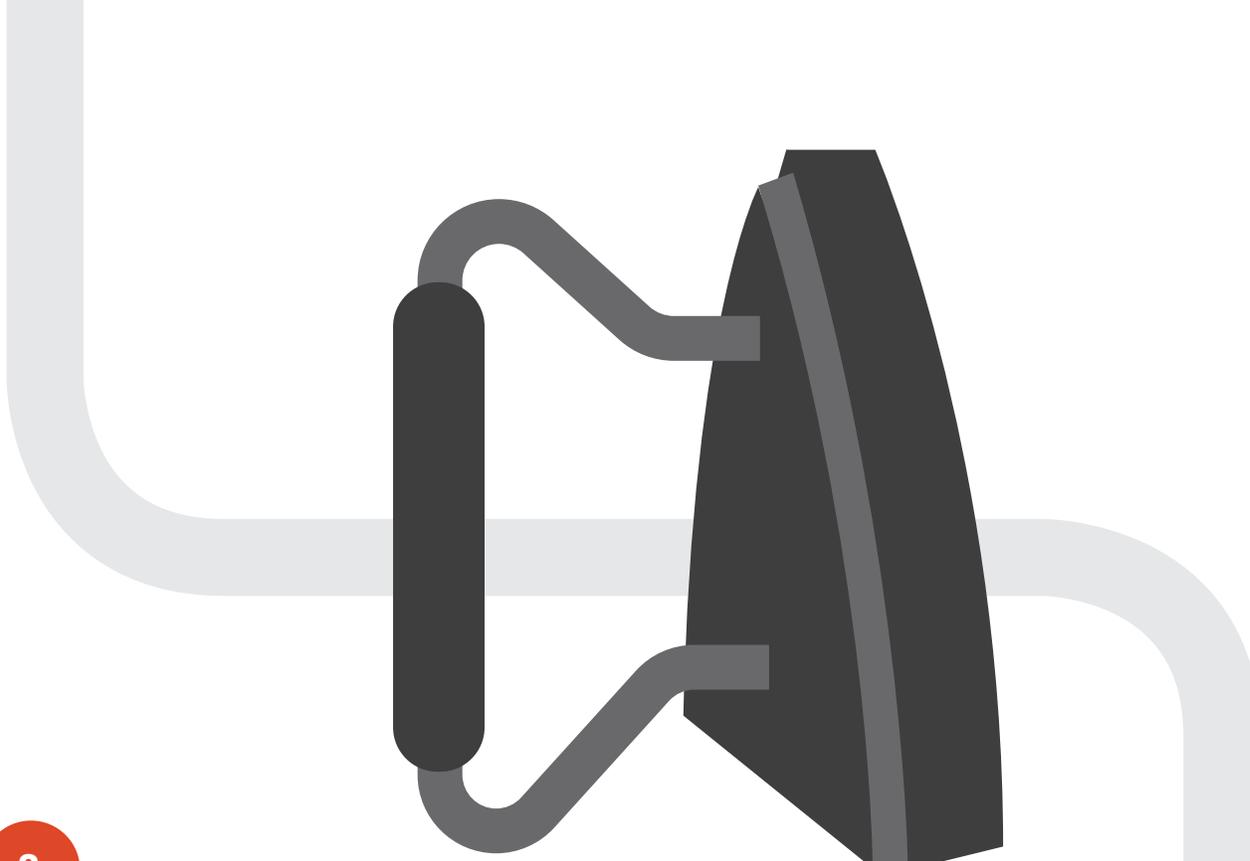
Locate these three things within Pritchard Park.
Check them off as you find them.

- Chess table
- Square-based pyramid
- Large silver sculpture entitled “Deco Gecko”

Drum circle, anyone?



Exit Pritchard Park from its northern point and locate the feather Urban Trail marker on the corner of Haywood and College Streets so you know you're on the right track. Cross College, watching for traffic coming from the right. Walk a little further and turn left on Battery Park Avenue. Proceed to the corner of Battery Park and Wall Street where you will find Asheville Urban Trail Station **#8: Flat Iron Architecture**



8

Flat Iron Architecture

This eight-foot iron sculpture is a giant replica of an iron used by the Asheville Laundry. The Flat Iron Building before you was built to fit the structure into the landscape around it, producing the unusual, almost triangular shape. This design was copied all around the United States, most notably in the larger, more famous Flatiron Building in New York City. The Asheville Flat Iron Building was completed in 1926.

Read the plaque near the iron. How long did it take to build the Flat Iron Building?

▶ Continue past the Flat Iron onto Wall Street, a pleasant walking street with little automobile traffic. Pass the outdoor climbing wall on the right (remember it's for customers only) until you arrive at Asheville Urban Trail **Station #9: Cat Walk**.

Cat Walk

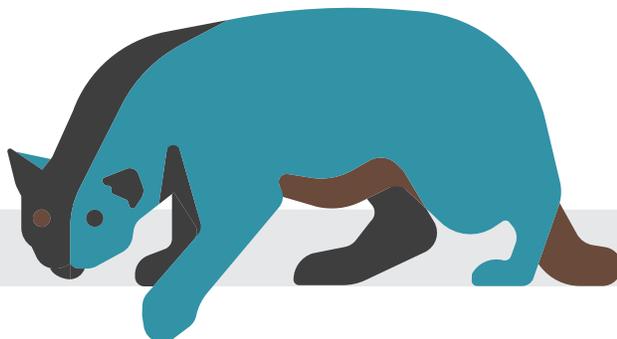
Wall Street used to look quite different, with an alley here between shop buildings and a retaining wall to hold Battery Park Hill, now no longer in existence. “Catwalks” or foot bridges used for making deliveries spanned the alley, formerly known as “Rat Alley,” before Wall Street was paved and the sidewalk put over it.

See if you can spot all the animals in this multi-part sculpture. You’ll need to look up, down, all around and carefully over the railings. Check each animal off as you spot it.

- Cat #1
- Cat #2
- Cat #3
- Rat
- Mouse



Cross Wall Street and proceed up a wide set of steps to the right of the outdoor climbing wall and gym. At the top of the steps go straight to cross Battery Park Avenue, watching for traffic coming from the right. On the other side of the street, on the corner of Battery Park and Page Avenues, you will find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #10: Grove’s Vision.**



Grove's Vision

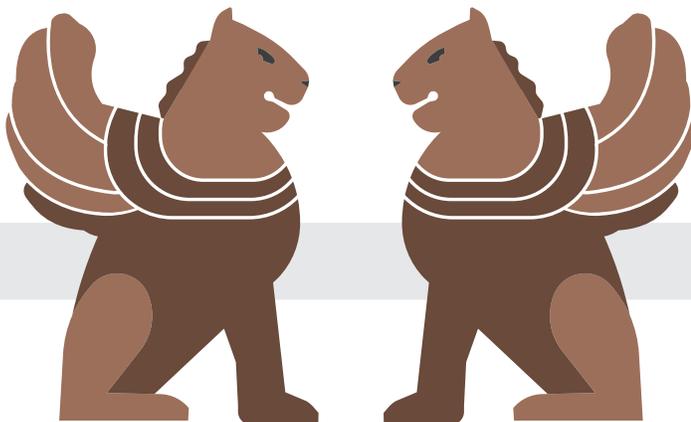
Edwin Wiley Grove might have built the tallest building in Asheville, but he died before the project could be completed. The present Grove Arcade building (across Page Avenue) is the first five floors of what was originally going to be a 19-story skyscraper!

- ▶ Continue north on Page Avenue, walking parallel to the Grove Arcade Building until you reach Asheville Urban Trail [Station #11: Historic Hilltop](#).

RECOMMENDED DETOUR: Grove Arcade

- ▶ Cross Page Avenue and continue a little way on Battery Park Avenue, past several vendor stalls and then enter Grove Arcade through glass double doors on the right. Proceed through the length of the building, noticing the superb architecture above and around you. Exit from the north entrance at the other end. Just outside the doors, see the Grove Arcade Griffins.

Grrrrriffins are grrrrreat.



Grove Arcade Griffins

Edwin Grove conceived the Grove Arcade to be “the most elegant building in America” and even though only the base of the envisioned structure was complete when Grove died in 1927, the elegance he spoke of is clearly evident in this building. For more than a decade the Grove Arcade was a new kind of retail and services center. Prior to World War II the building was purchased by the federal government. All the weather records for the United States were moved there for security (necessitating the bricking in of all the first level windows). In 1995, the government offices moved to a new, larger, and more suitable building. From 1985 to 2002, this beautiful building was saved and restored through the efforts of a large coalition of organizers and funders including

local government, public utilities, donors, foundations, philanthropists, federal and state governments, and nonprofit organizations.

Flanking the north entrance of the Grove Arcade, two griffin statues stand sentinel. They are named for two ‘lions of the community,’ businessman Roger McGuire and Ben Holden, president of Warren Wilson College.

Griffins are mythological creatures first found in artwork from ancient Iran and Egypt dating back to 3000BC. Part lion and part eagle, griffins have come to be known in legend as guardians of priceless treasures. Perhaps Mr. Grove placed these griffins here because he believed the Arcade building was a priceless treasure.

Use the timeline below to find the approximate number of years the legends of griffins have existed on Earth - from 3000BC to 2000AD.

3,000 + 2,000 = _____ years

Find the names of the griffins flanking the north entrance of the Grove Arcade, each named to honor two of the men who helped bring this building back to life.

Griffin #1 _____

Griffin #2 _____



To return to the Urban Trail from the Grove Arcade griffins, turn east on Battle Square (right when leaving the Arcade’s north entrance), cross Page Avenue again and head to the right (south) on Page Avenue for a few yards until you arrive at Asheville Urban Trail **Station #11: Historic Hilltop**.

Historic Hilltop

The current Battery Park Hotel rises just to the north of the Grove Arcade. Count seven stories up on the building and you can imagine how high the hill was that once dominated this spot. The hill was called Battery Porter Hill because during the American Civil War, a “battery” or group of cannons, was placed on the hill and pointed towards Tennessee to keep out invaders. In 1886, soon after the railroad reached Asheville, Colonel Frank Coxe, a local bank president instrumental in bringing the railroads to the city, opened the first Battery Park Hotel on that same hill. A photo of the original hotel is below.



North Carolina Collection,
Pack Memorial Public Library,
Asheville, North Carolina.

This Old Battery Park Hotel was considered to be the grandest hotel in the South with Edison electric lights and luxuries to please the rich and famous guests who stayed there.

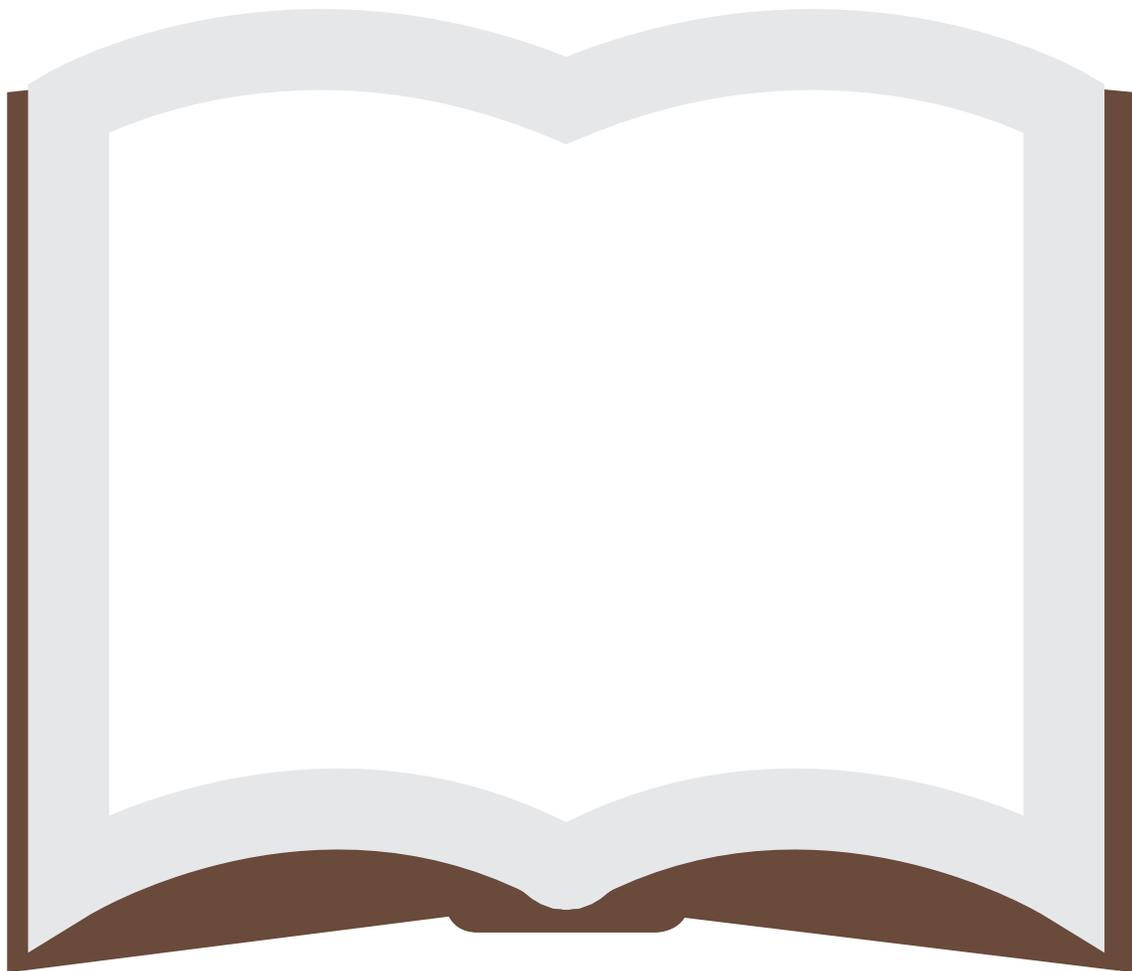
In 1921, Edwin W. Grove used his considerable wealth to buy the whole property, burn

down the original hotel and level the entire hill to make a large flat area for the new Battery Park Hotel you see before you (now used as apartments for senior citizens) and also the ambitious Grove Arcade. The soil from the hill excavation was moved to what is now Coxe Avenue to the south.

Many famous people stayed in both the old and the new Battery Park Hotels: sports heroes, authors, railroad barons, music stars, presidents and many others. This monument replicates the guest books used in those hotels. Signatures from

notable guests of the original hotel are shown on the left page of the bronze book while famous signatures from the new Battery Park Hotel are shown on the right pages. All the names are also engraved on the back of the monument.

In the space below, use the edge of a pencil or other writing implement to make a “charcoal-style” rubbing of one of the signatures from the bronze guest book.



Head north on the sidewalk bordering Page Avenue keeping Battery Park Hotel on your left. Cross over Page Avenue and arrive at the corner of Haywood Street and Page Avenue to find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #12: Guastavino’s Monument.**

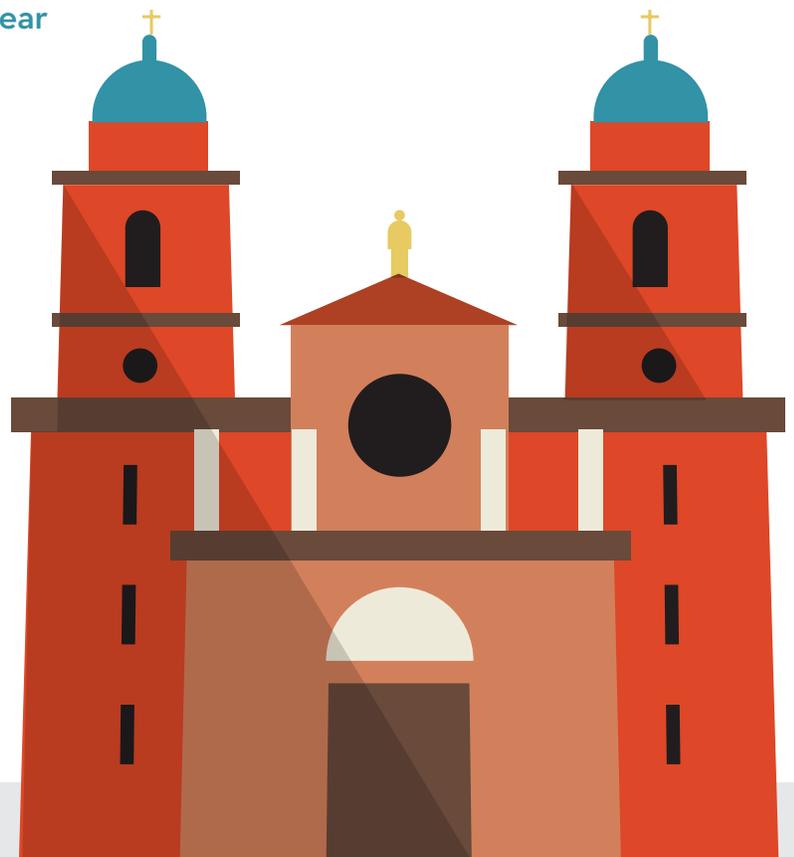
Guastavino's Monument

In 1905, Spanish-born engineer and architect Rafael Guastavino began construction on this masterpiece of a church or Basilica. Guastavino collaborated with architect Richard Sharp Smith to create the design of the Basilica. Guastavino died in 1908 before the huge project was completed, but his son (also named Rafael Guastavino) finished the construction of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in 1909. This structure is remarkable because here Guastavino created the largest freestanding elliptical dome in the country using his invented technique of interlocking terracotta tiles over layers of mortar to create the roof and ceiling of the church - without using any wood or steel!

Calculate how long Guastavino's terracotta dome has remained intact by finding the difference between this year, and the year 1909 when the Basilica of St. Lawrence was completed.

Current
year: _____
- 1909

=



RECOMMENDED DETOUR: Basilica of Saint Lawrence

PLEASE NOTE: On weekdays, mass is held in the Basilica at 12:10 p.m. and confession is on Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Do not take this detour if you arrive at the Basilica during these times, or if you and your group are unable to stay quiet and respectful inside the Basilica.



Carefully cross over Haywood Street and proceed to the left (west) side of the Basilica. Quietly enter the cathedral through the side door.

The Basilica of St. Lawrence is a Catholic Church where many people, including non-Catholics, go for quiet and prayer. Regardless of your beliefs, you can admire the amazing religious artwork in the church. Be sure you look up at the dome of the church and think about how the ceiling stays put!

If you have the time, respect and courage, proceed up one of the aisles towards the small chapel area on the left, where you can find an elaborately carved door. If you open the door, you will see the inside of a crypt with a coffin and empty spaces above and beneath. The remains of Rafael Guastavino's body lie within the coffin. The extra spaces were meant for his wife and son, but before they died, a city ordinance was passed decreeing all dead bodies be buried in the ground for the sake of sanitation – thus the empty spaces.



Watching for traffic coming from four directions, cross Haywood Street to the wide brick area with bronze statues in front of the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium (inside the US Cellular Center) to find the Asheville Urban Trail **Station #13: Appalachian Stage**.

Appalachian Stage

This monument to Appalachian music and dance culture is placed at the site of Asheville's first city auditorium, built in 1902. Musician, collector of Appalachian music, and founder of the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival, Bascom Lamar Lunsford, staged the festival here starting in 1928. It is believed to be America's first folk festival and continues annually every August.

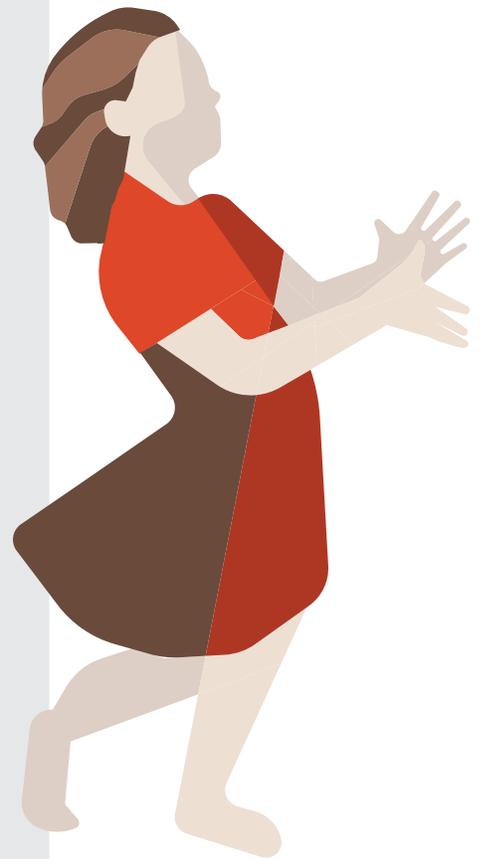
Name three kinds of musical instruments used in the bronze sculpture.

Instrument 1 _____

Instrument 2 _____

Instrument 3 _____

This band rocks.



Head south on Haywood Street and cross the small street named Vanderbilt Place to arrive in front of Pack Memorial Library.

RECOMMENDED DETOUR: Pack Library



Enter Pack Library through three sets of glass doors and through the book detector on the left. Go down a flight of stairs immediately to the left, out a door at the bottom of the stairwell and turn left again, past the children's library section, to a set of dioramas of Asheville's Pack Square during three different time periods.

1860 Pack Square Diorama

How did people travel and haul things in Pack Square in 1860?

1887 Pack Square Diorama

Name three things you could buy at Pack Square in 1887.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

1924 Pack Square Diorama

What TWO forms of transportation can you see in Pack Square in 1924?

1. _____ 2. _____

If you could go back in time to Pack Square during one of the three time periods shown in the dioramas, which year would you choose?

1860 1887 1924



Exit Pack Library the same way you came in - back up the stairs and out the glass doors on your right. Turn left (south) on Haywood Street. Proceed down the sidewalk until you arrive at Asheville Urban Trail **Station #14: Shopping Daze**.

14

Shopping Daze

This monument celebrates Asheville's success in two eras: The Roaring 20s when this was Asheville's main retail and fashionable shopping district, occupied largely by Jewish business owners; and the 1980s when downtown was revitalized after many years of struggling businesses and boarded up shops. The three ladies in this sculpture are named Liz, Betty and Norma Jean, after famous American actresses. The dog's name is Buttons.

14a

Urban Trail Marker

The pink granite Urban Trail Markers change after Shopping Daze, from the feather representing The Gilded Age, to a new symbol representing The Frontier Period (1784-1880). This period highlights the importance of the horse and agriculture before the coming of the railroad.

Which symbol is used on this part of the trail?

- Feather
- Horseshoe
- Angel
- Courthouse
- Eagle



Turn left on Walnut Street. Walk to the bottom of the hill and cross first to the other side of Walnut Street. Then cross Lexington Avenue, continuing east for a few paces on the right side of Walnut Street until you arrive at Asheville Urban Trail **Station #15: Marketplace**.

Marketplace

This area, now called the Lexington Park District, was Asheville's main marketplace, where farmers sold produce and other goods during Asheville's Frontier Period. If you look around, you can see that some of the older buildings have double doors that used to allow horses and carts to fit inside. At one time, natural springs kept Lexington Avenue wet and people brought their horses here to drink. Lexington Avenue was named Water Street until the springs dried up in the 1800s. Nevertheless, this area continued as an open marketplace well into the 1970s.

Count the apples on the top of the basket and then estimate how many apples you think would be in the whole basket if it were real.

Approximately _____ apples



Continue up Walnut Street and then turn left on Broadway to cross Walnut Street again. As you follow the pink granite trail markers, keep an eye out for a crosswalk on your right that has a horseshoe symbol in the center of it. Cross Broadway here, and on the other side of the street, you will find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #16: Legacy of Design.**

Legacy of Design

Richard Sharp Smith was a talented architect who not only supervised the building of the massive Biltmore House, but along with his partner Albert Heath Carrier, designed buildings and residences throughout downtown and Buncombe County including the YMI Building (Station #29a), Biltmore Village, and the Vance Monument. The bench at this station was also designed by Smith, who envisioned such sturdy and elegant benches scattered across Asheville's downtown area.



The historic Buncombe Turnpike passed by this station. Following foot paths and trade routes originally used by Native Americans, the Buncombe Turnpike, a plank road, was constructed beginning in 1800. It reached Asheville in 1827. The road extended from eastern Tennessee to South Carolina and Georgia and made passage of stagecoaches, movement of merchandise, and the driving of livestock much easier. For years, hundreds of thousands of cows, turkeys, geese, mules, and horses passed through Asheville. During the fall and winter, as many as 175,000 hogs alone passed through Buncombe County down to Augusta and Charleston. The demand for food, lodging and supplies for drovers and animals sparked Asheville's first "boom."

Read the bronze plaque: What year did Richard Sharp Smith come to Asheville to work on the Biltmore House? _____



Go north (left) on Broadway and stop in front of the Masonic Temple at the corner of Broadway and Woodfin Street.

16a

Masonic Temple

The *Freemasons* are a non-religious fraternal order (men only), started by stone masons and cathedral builders in England during the early Middle Ages. You can see the symbol of the freemasons, with its square and compass tools embedded on the Masonic Temple steps and also in the sidewalk in front. This building, called the Mount Herman Masonic Lodge, is one of thousands of Freemason lodges all over the world. In 1918, members of the Mount Herman Masonic Lodge turned over the entire building to be used as a hospital for Buncombe County's African American population during the terrible Spanish influenza epidemic that was sweeping through the country.

At the northwest corner of the Masonic Temple, find the “Centennial Stone” to find out when Richard Sharp Smith designed this building. What year?

16b

Urban Trail Marker

The Asheville Urban Trail Markers change in front of the Masonic Temple, from the horseshoe representing The Frontier Period to a new symbol representing The Times of Thomas Wolfe (1900-1938).

Which symbol is used on this part of the trail?

- Feather
- Horseshoe
- Angel
- Courthouse
- Eagle

Go just around the corner on Woodfin Street to find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #17: Woodfin House.**

Woodfin House

This monument depicts a large building that previously stood across what is now Woodfin Street. The Woodfin House was built by lawyer and experimental farmer, Nicholas Woodfin. After serving as Mr. Woodfin's home, the Asheville School for Girls, and Asheville High School, the building was expanded and used as Asheville's YMCA for almost fifty years.

According to the plaque, the Woodfin House was built in 1840 and razed (burned down) in 1970. How many years did the Woodfin House stand?

(work space)



Continue east on Woodfin Street, cross Market Street, and arrive at Asheville Urban Trail **Station #18: Wolfe's Neighborhood.**

Wolfe's Neighborhood

Asheville's most famous author, Thomas Wolfe, roamed these streets as a boy gathering impressions of his neighbors and absorbing the sights and sounds that he later wove into his writings. His most well-known novel, *Look Homeward, Angel*, depicts Wolfe's hometown of Asheville. The diorama shows Wolfe's neighborhood in today's context using a concave map of that time period. The neighborhood was destroyed during "urban renewal" and replaced with the interstate.

Read the plaque to find out what year Thomas Wolfe was born on Woodfin Street. Wolfe was born in the year:

If Thomas Wolfe died in 1938, how old was he when he died? Thomas Wolfe's age at death:

(work space)

Look at the bronze buildings shown in this diorama of Thomas Wolfe's childhood neighborhood during the early 1900s. Name one of the buildings:



Continue east on Woodfin Street to the end of the block. Turn right at a cement sign reading "Thomas Wolfe Place." The sidewalk here goes up a hill and turns to brick. Proceed up this brick walkway until you come to a yellow Queen Anne style house on the right, with a sign reading "Thomas Wolfe Memorial." On the left, you'll find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #19: Dixieland.**

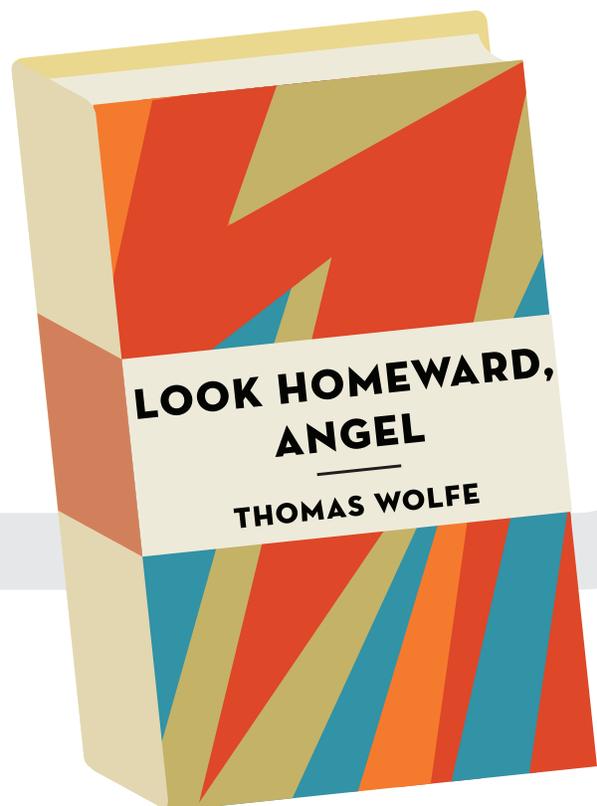
Dixieland

The yellow Queen Anne style house across the brick walkway is the restored boarding house that Thomas Wolfe's mother, Julia Wolfe, operated during the early 1900s. The youngest of nine children, Thomas Wolfe lived both at the family home on Woodfin Street and at the boardinghouse called "Old Kentucky Home" until the age of 24 when he left home on a journey to become a famous author and published his book *Look Homeward, Angel*. Thomas Wolfe was a big man with size 13 shoes. Try them on yourself to see how big he was.

Read the plaque to find the following information:

What year was *Look Homeward, Angel* published?

In his book *Look Homeward, Angel*, what did Thomas Wolfe call his mother's boarding house?





19a

Old Kentucky Home

Julia Wolfe’s boarding house is now a museum, restored to replicate the way it was when Thomas Wolfe lived there. You can make a reservation to take a paid tour of the house to get a real sense of what life was like in Asheville in the early 1900s.

On the front porch of the Old Kentucky Home boardinghouse you will find twelve rocking chairs, each dedicated to an accomplished North Carolina author. One of those is Wilma Dykeman, author of *The French Broad* (1955), recognized as the person most responsible for protecting the health of that river. In her book she wrote, “just as the river belongs to no one, it belongs to everyone, and everyone is held accountable for its health and condition.”

Name one of the other North Carolina authors commemorated on the rocking chairs:

RECOMMENDED DETOUR: Thomas Wolfe Memorial



Follow the brick walk off to the right (on the left side of the yellow house). You will pass a small white playhouse on the left. (You can peek in and see some of the toys that Thomas and his brothers and sisters might have played with as children.) Continue a few paces further to the Thomas Wolfe Memorial building and enter through the glass doors.

Inside the Memorial Building, there are artifacts and information panels about Thomas Wolfe's life. The employees of the Thomas Wolfe Memorial prefer large groups have a reservation to let them know you're coming. If you don't have a reservation, check in at the desk to see if you can take the self-guided tour of the memorial. During the self-guided tour, **be sure you keep your hands to yourself!**

As you walk through the memorial, see if you can find the answers to these questions:

1. What did Thomas Wolfe do for a living?

2. On the panel titled "The Old Kentucky Home," what did Tom's mother purchase in 1906?

3. Thomas Wolfe's father, William Oliver Wolfe, worked in "The Monument Shop." Can you name any of his tools?

4. What was the first of Thomas Wolfe's novels titled?

5. How tall was Thomas Wolfe? _____



From the front of the yellow "Old Kentucky Home," outside the Thomas Wolfe Memorial, proceed south up the hill on the brick walk. You will come to the Asheville Community Theatre (ACT) building on your right. Turn right on Walnut Street to the front of ACT to find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #20: Curtain Calls.**

Curtain Calls

Asheville has almost always had a rich tradition of live theatre. The Asheville Community Theatre (ACT), as well as several other venues in the city, promote the theatre arts as a vibrant part of our culture. The metal figures along the wall of ACT represent different emotions that might be shown through acting.

Read the plaque to find out what year the playhouse opened:

▶ Continue west on Walnut Street until you arrive at the corner of Walnut and Market Streets. You'll find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #21: On the Move.**



On the Move

This monument celebrates the history of transportation in Asheville, from walking to more modern ways of getting from one place to another. Market street was paved with brick in 1912 for “horseless carriages.” This is the only street in Asheville that still has brick paving from that era.

Read the plaque and see if you can guess what horseless carriages are?

If you spin this sculpture, it will keep spinning for a VERY long time. Listen to hear the sounds of different ways to travel in Asheville over the years. Write down some of the different kinds of transportation you can SEE and HEAR on the spinning sculpture. You can stop the wheel to make it easier to see the images.

A Jewish businessman, Harry Blomberg, who as a child was accused by his father of “having wheels in his head,” opened a gas station on this corner in 1923, the start of a long career supporting the growing automobile industry in Asheville. Mr. Blomberg is also credited with

purchasing Julia Wolfe’s boarding house, “Old Kentucky Home,” to save the building from demolition. He then resold it to the Wolfe family, thus paving the way for the Thomas Wolfe Memorial to be operated as a state cultural resource.

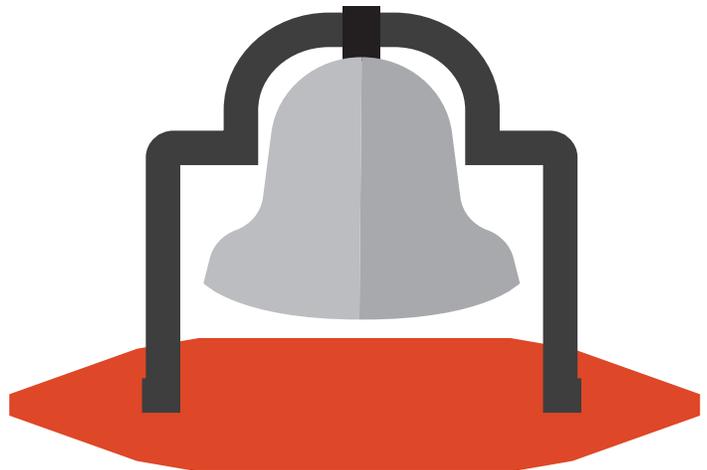


Cross Walnut Street on the crosswalk to head south on Market Street, paved in brick. Follow the Urban Trail Markers one block on Market Street until you arrive at Asheville Urban Trail **Station #22: Civic Pride.**

Civic Pride

An enormous City Hall housing Asheville's government, police department and fire department once stood on the east end of the square before you, facing the Vance Monument. The bell of this Civic Pride monument was cast in the same foundry and in the same year as the bell that once hung in the octagonal belfry of Asheville's City Hall on the square from 1892 until 1926. (The actual bell hangs inside the current City Building across the green.) The bell was rung for big celebrations such as the end of World War I. It was also rung to warn residents of some sort of emergency, such as a fire in the area.

A foundry is a factory that produces metal castings, where metals, like iron, are melted and then poured into molds. They harden once cooled. Steel casting, the process used to forge this bell, has been an important technology in the US and around the world since the 1800s.



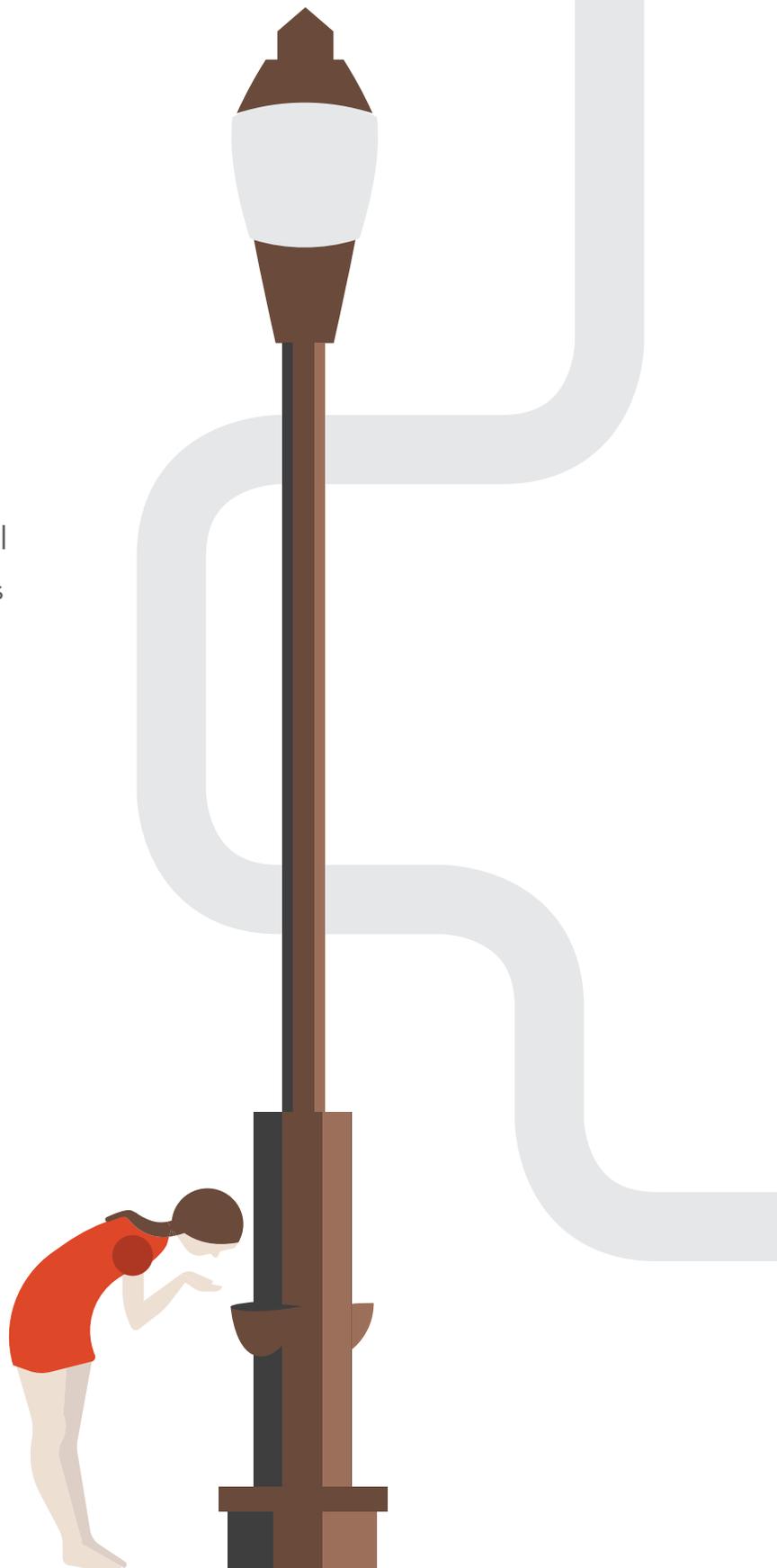
Look at the side of the bell to find the name of the foundry that forged both this bell and the one that used to hang in City Hall's bell tower:

▶ From this station, you get a splendid view of the Jackson Building with its gargoyles sticking out on each corner of the roofline. (See Station 27: Monument Corner for more on the Jackson Building.) Cross Market Street, turn left on the corner and immediately cross College Street. Go just a short distance towards the Jackson Building to find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #23: Past and Promise.**

Past and Promise

In the late 1800s, horsehead drinking fountains like the ones on this monument were affixed to lamp posts in this public square, providing water for both horses and humans. The fountains were fed from a reservoir on Beaucatcher Mountain. The bronze girl artwork, titled “Childhood,” represents the promise of Asheville’s future.

Read the plaque. How did the street lamps provide light BEFORE electricity came to Asheville in the 1880s?



23a

Urban Trail Marker

On this corner, you will find a new Urban Trail Marker representing the Era of Civic Pride. Public Square, now known as Pack Square, has been the hub of Asheville's government since 1793 when a one-room log "county" building was erected here. Look to the east end of the square to see the present City Building and County Courthouse.

Even before women gained the right to vote in the U.S., Lillian Exum Clement graduated from Asheville Business College, worked for the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, and became the first female attorney in North Carolina to practice law without male partners in 1917. She went on to become the first female legislator in NC and in the southeast U.S., when she was elected to the State House in 1920.

Which symbol is used on this part of the trail?

- Feather
- Horseshoe
- Angel
- Courthouse
- Eagle



Cross Market Street heading towards the City Building. Once on the other side of Market, turn left, pass a kiosk titled "Asheville from 1797 - Until the Great Depression" and then turn right at the corner of Market and College Streets. Proceed past the Pack Square Pavilion (which has public restrooms) to the corner of College and Spruce Streets to find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #24: Man and Mountain.**

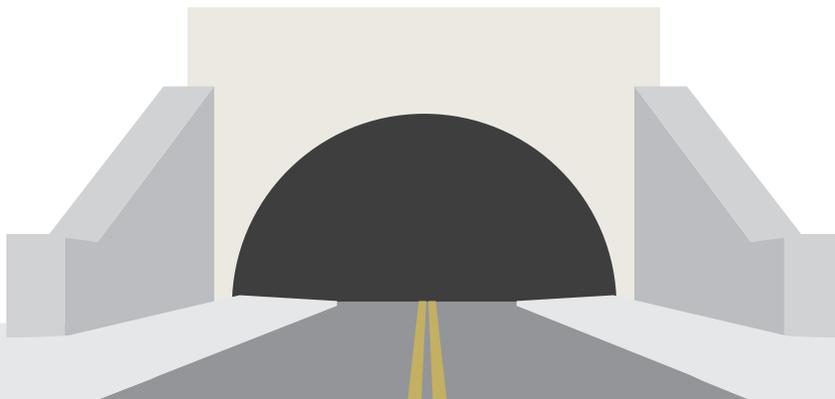
Man and Mountain

In 1926, long before Interstate Highways 40 and 240 came through Asheville, a tunnel was cut through Beaucatcher Mountain to the east, providing much easier access to the city from that direction, and opening up businesses along what is now Tunnel Road. One of the stories about how Beaucatcher Mountain got its name recalls there was a girls' school on one side of the mountain and a boys' school on the other. Girls would meet boys on top of the mountain in an effort to "catch a beau" (pronounced "bo") - another word for boyfriend.

Is this statement true or false? "You can see the tunnel that was cut through Beaucatcher Mountain from here." Circle one:

True

False



Cross to the other side of Spruce Street. On the corner of Spruce and College Street, near the edge of the grassy green, find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #25: Time Remembered.**

Time Remembered

In 1997, a time capsule was buried here to mark 200 years of Asheville’s history. This city, once called Morristown, was founded as Asheville in 1797, named for North Carolina Governor Samuel Ashe. We won’t know what was buried inside the time capsule until it is opened in 2047.

Use your imagination to guess one thing that might be buried inside the time capsule:



Turn right on Spruce Street and walk just a few steps to find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #26: Ellington’s Dream** OR take this detour:

RECOMMENDED DETOUR: WNC Veterans’ Memorial

Continue down the sidewalk along College Street towards the County Courthouse and the WNC Veterans’ Memorial will be on your right.

The monument honors veterans from our region who have served in any of the six branches of the United States Armed Forces. A veteran is someone who has served in the military.

Write the name of one branch of the US Armed Forces and do your best to draw a sketch of the matching seal in the space. ▶▶



From the Veterans’ Memorial, angle back west along a paved walkway through Roger McGuire Green, a part of Pack Square Park. You will pass a plaque describing the Shindig on the Green events held here during the summer. When you reach Spruce Street again, find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #26: Ellington’s Dream**, on your right.

Ellington's Dream

Architect Douglas Ellington designed many beautiful buildings in Asheville, including the First Baptist Church just to the northeast of this spot, Asheville High School, and the S&W Cafeteria (See Station #7: Art Deco Masterpiece). In 1926, Ellington created spectacular designs for both the Buncombe County Courthouse and the Asheville City Building, incorporating an Art Deco style, multi-tiered roofs and feathers to honor the Native Americans of the area. However, only one of these two building designs was accepted resulting in a more traditional "Federalist" style for the county courthouse.

This stone sculpture depicts both of Ellington's 1926 building designs. Compare the monument to the two real buildings in front of you to determine which one was built according to Ellington's design.

Circle the name of the building that matches Ellington's design:

Buncombe County Courthouse

Asheville City Building



Head south down the hill on Spruce Street. Turn right onto Court Plaza using the crosswalk to cross Spruce Street. Pass the Asheville Municipal Building on your left, which houses the Asheville Police and Fire Departments. Cross Market Street to find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #27: Monument Corner**.

Monument Corner

William Oliver Wolfe, father of Asheville author Thomas Wolfe, ran his business here, which Thomas wrote about in his book *Look Homeward, Angel*. On the porch outside the shop stood a marble angel, which inspired the name of Tom's book. William Wolfe was considered to be a highly skilled craftsman.

Read the plaque.

What kind of shop did Thomas Wolfe's father own?

What kind of animal is carved onto the side of the tombstone?



Look up to view the Jackson Building

27a

The Jackson Building

Above you looms the Jackson Building, Asheville's first skyscraper, built in 1924 on the site where W.O. Wolfe's shop used to be. In 1929, the stock market crashed bringing on America's Great Depression. A year later, Pack Square's Central Bank & Trust Co. collapsed and closed leaving Asheville with the greatest per capita financial debt in the whole country. Notably, Asheville was the only municipality to repay all their debt. In part because Asheville was too poor to conduct downtown urban renewal, much of the city's architecture, such as that seen in the Jackson Building, stayed as it was. Now we still have this beautiful old skyscraper and many other examples of fine architecture from various periods.

27b

Urban Trail Marker

A new Urban Trail symbol can be found on Monument Corner representing The Age of Diversity. Since early days, Asheville's population and culture was and is a blend of African American, Appalachian, Native American and many other ethnicities and backgrounds. This part of the trail celebrates that diversity.

Which symbol is used on this part of the trail?

- Feather
- Horseshoe
- Angel
- Courthouse
- Eagle



Head down the hill on Market Street (to the left of the Jackson Building) until you arrive at Asheville Urban Trail **Station #28: Brick Artisan.**

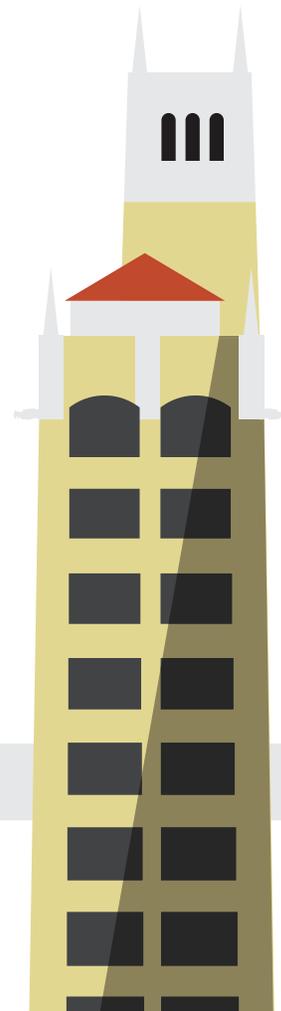
Brick Artisan

James Vester Miller was the one of the first African American contractors in Asheville. The child of a former slave, James used to skip school to hang around construction sites where he learned to be a master brick mason and artisan. In the booming 1920s, James Miller was responsible for the brickwork on many downtown buildings, including the red brick building across the street, now the Municipal Building, which served at one time as Asheville City Market. Unlike other markets around the country, which were segregated at the time, this farmer's market was unique in that both Black and White merchants traded in the same place.

Read the plaque. What year was the City Market Building built? _____

A cornucopia is a symbol of abundance, shown as a large, hollow goat's horn overflowing with produce. You can see the cornucopia that once adorned the entrance to Asheville's City Market on the Municipal Building a few paces down the street.

▶ Continue down Market Street a little further to Asheville Urban Trail **Station #29: The Block.**



The Block

This area, marked by the intersection of Eagle and Market Streets and known as “The Block,” served as the center of Asheville’s African American community starting in the late 1800s and eventually supported hundreds of Black-owned businesses. This was also the site of the first library and kindergarten for African American residents of Asheville. It is still an important focus of Black culture in our city today. The street just a little further past this station is Eagle Street and it bustled with law offices, printing shops, stores, factories and hotels – largely established by hard-working Black business owners.

The bronze mural on the wall depicts memories of local residents who grew up near this area and frequented The Block. Try to spot all eight memories from The Block as depicted on the mural.

Check them off as you find them.

- “ABC”
- mountains
- “123”
- music notes
- book
- bowtie
- church
- paint and brushes



Go just a little further south on Market Street to the intersection of Market and Eagle Streets. Across the intersection you can see an attractive building with a glassed-in street front. This building is the YMI Cultural Center.

YMI Cultural Center

Asheville's YMI, or "Young Men's Institute," is one of America's oldest African American cultural institutions. In 1892, the YMI was founded by two Black men - a well-educated world traveler named Dr. Edward S. Stephens and Mr. Isaac Dickson, once a slave and then a janitor, but undoubtedly a pillar of his community and a champion of education. When George Vanderbilt was approached by Stephens and Dickson about creating a place for young Black men to live and thrive, the millionaire agreed to help. Architect Richard Sharp Smith designed the YMI. About 15 years later, a group of leaders in the African American community raised the money to purchase the building from Vanderbilt. At the time the YMI was built, the 250-room Biltmore House - the largest home in America - and the massive Biltmore Estate, were under construction, providing work for hundreds of Black and White residents of Asheville. The Young Men's Institute was modeled after the YMCA or "Young Men's Christian Association," a White Christian organization at that time. Today, both the YMI and the YMCA serve men and women of all ages, races and religions.

The YMI has provided many wonderful opportunities to the community over the years. On the list below, check off all of the services that are important to YOU in your life.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> school | <input type="checkbox"/> drug store | <input type="checkbox"/> kitchen/cafeteria |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public library | <input type="checkbox"/> swimming pool | <input type="checkbox"/> music hall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gymnasium | <input type="checkbox"/> bath facility | <input type="checkbox"/> stage performances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> doctor's office | <input type="checkbox"/> bedroom | <input type="checkbox"/> art gallery |



From the intersection of Market and Eagle Streets, you can turn right and go to the end of Eagle Street to find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #30: Hotel District** OR take the detour to Triangle Park.

RECOMMENDED DETOUR: Triangle Park



Cross the intersection of Market and Eagle Streets. Continue south on Market Street, passing the YMI building on your left. Down the hill, you will see a small, triangular park on the right with murals painted on the back two walls of the triangle. Go into that park.

Start on the far left side of the murals to follow this artistic tour of African American history in Asheville, viewing the scenes from left to right. Infused through the murals find the words of the celebrated poet Langston Hughes and the legendary hero for social justice, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

1. One of the first murals shows what the Eagle and Market streets area looked like in 1891. Isaac Dickson and his wife Cordelia Reed moved here with a vision to build a safe and supportive community for African American citizens. Called Dickson town, this was Asheville's first independent African American neighborhood, largely composed of former slave quarters bought by Isaac Dickson.
2. A mural shows how the coming of the steam train impacted the African American community in the 1880s. Because of a clause written into the 13th Amendment (abolishing slavery), the State of North Carolina used over 3,500 Black prisoners (and others) as free labor to build the railroad over Old Fort Mountain to Asheville, and from Asheville to Murphy, North Carolina. At the time, Black males in particular were routinely arrested for minor crimes in order to swell this workforce.
3. This mural shows the YMI Jazz Orchestra in the year 1918. This talented band was organized by Isaac Dickson through one of several vibrant YMI programs for African American youth.

Judging from the mural, how many musicians were in the YMI Orchestra?

Name one instrument in the Orchestra.

4. Built in 1923 during segregation, Stephens-Lee High School was the only secondary school for African Americans in Western North Carolina. Called “The Castle on the Hill,” Stephens-Lee provided superb education, attracting teachers with masters’ degrees from around the country. Isaac Dickson was a member of Asheville’s first School Board. **What animal is Isaac Dickson standing beside in the mural?**

5. This mural shows the Stephens-Lee Marching Band. This band was so good, it was placed last in Asheville parades (behind Santa Claus, it is said), so people would stick around to listen and dance behind the band as they marched and played.
6. The next two murals show Valley Street (or “The Vine” because it connected several African American neighborhoods together) and Velvet Street, an area of many residences for Black families. Much of this area was removed or disrupted to make way for urban development in the 1960s.
7. This is a mural of the bustling intersection of Market and Eagle Streets in the early 1920s when The Block was thriving and into the 1950s when integration was introduced in the United States. The next mural shows the music and nightlife scene on The Block during the 1960s and 1970s, featuring world-renowned singer, songwriter, pianist, arranger and civil rights activist Nina Simone, who attended the Allen High School for Girls in Asheville.
8. Other murals commemorate Black historical figures from this area and beyond, including star athletes Mary Ann Gilchrist, Bennie Lake, Henry Logan and “Mean” Joe Green. One mural depicts “Just Folks” Ceretha (Bubbles) Griffin and Curtis James – the people who envisioned and created these murals in collaboration with artist Molly Must, so future generations understand and share in this often forgotten African American heritage.



Return to the intersection of Market and Eagle Streets. Proceed west to the corner of Eagle and Biltmore Avenue where you will find Asheville Urban Trail **Station #30: Hotel District.**

Hotel District

Although it was first a stagecoach stop on the Buncombe Turnpike early in the 1800s, the Eagle Hotel was Asheville's first "grand hostelry" covering an entire city block. As the railroad approached Asheville, other hotels opened on Eagle Street and Main Street (now Biltmore and Broadway Avenues), including The Swannanoa Hotel and The Savoy Hotel.

Look up! What kind of bird do you suppose is mounted at the top of the pole above you?

THE END



Turn right on Biltmore Avenue and head up the hill to Pack Square and Asheville Urban Trail **Station #1: Walk into History**, where you can find more information about the beginning of this scavenger hunt.

We would like to thank the following organizations for their support.



For potential fieldwork destinations plus other teacher web resources related to the Asheville Urban Trail and Asheville history: exploreasheville.com/urban-trail/teacher-resources/

Developed and written by Eben Heasley

The Map

- STATIONS
- ◆ DETOURS

