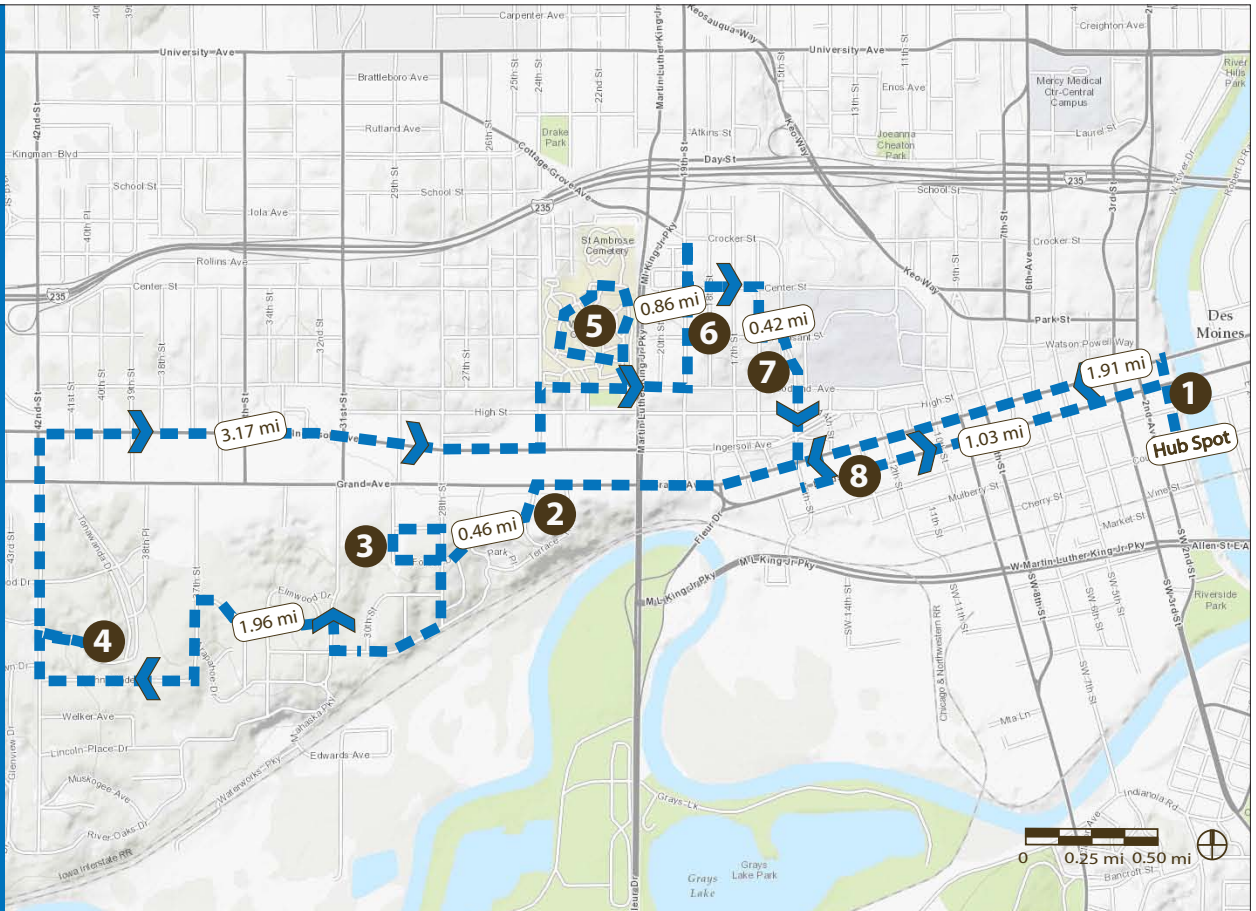




HISTORIC & HILLY NEIGHBORHOODS



Where it all began 9.8 miles

Lube your chain; while this loop is only 9.8 miles, you'll have good reasons to shift gears often. But with gourmet coffee along the way, you'll make it! Riding time: 2–4 hours, depending on stops. Worthy of 3 hours college credit.

From the Hub Spot, head north along **The Principal Riverwalk (1)** to the bike lanes on Grand Avenue. The first mile is pancake-flat, skimming the ancient riverbed left by the last glacier. At the 2400 block, turn onto brick-paved Forest Drive leading to **Terrace Hill (2)**, built in 1868 by tycoon Benjamin B.F. Allen, Des Moines' first "velocipede" bicyclist. After decades in the Hubbell family, it's now the Governor's Mansion (Tues.–Sat. tours; terracehilliowa.org).

Follow Forest Drive west, north on 29th, and east on Ridge Road, looping through the Edwardian splendor of the **Owl's Head Historic District (3)**. Head south on 28th, west on Terrace Drive to Lincoln Place Drive, north one block to St. John's Road, then west under a bridge to spacious 37th Street.

Turn south to John Lynde Road, curving to 42nd Street, and uphill to Tonawanda Drive. Turn east to discover **Salisbury House (4)**, carefully reassembled in the 1920s from a 16th-century English manor (Tues.–Sun. tours; salisburyhouse.org).

Return to 42nd and pedal north to the **Ingersoll Avenue District**, and turn east, taking advantage of bike lanes. Stop

by **Caribou** or **Zanzibar's** for coffee. Turn north on 24th Street and east on Woodland Avenue. There, admire the restored gates at **Woodland Cemetery (5)**. For a side trip, explore its curvilinear brick drives to plots where Des Moines' founding families are buried.

Just past **Gateway Market** (Woodland & MLK Jr. Parkway), climb the hill on 19th Street into **Sherman Hill (6)**, Des Moines' oldest neighborhood. It's filled with lovingly restored Victorian homes worthy of a photo (historicshermanhill.com).

Order a cool drink or a bite to eat atop the hill at **Smokey Row** (19th & Cottage Grove). Then backtrack south to Center Street. Head east on 16th Street, south to Pleasant Street, and east to 15th Street. Coast down the hill, passing four cottages and a home on **Bridal Row**.

Next door is **Hoyt Sherman Place (7)**, built in 1878 by the brother of Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman. It's been restored to include an art gallery and a beautiful auditorium (hoytsherman.org). One block south on High Street is **A-Dong**, a popular Vietnamese restaurant (closed Mondays). Then whiz back to The Principal Riverwalk on Locust Street, stopping at the **Pappajohn Sculpture Park (8)**.

Route Scout John P. Zeller, local historian, photographer, writer, and Italophile