



A Walk Around Town is a Walk Back in Time

In the summer of 1840, fur traders Louis Massey and Peter Bouchea founded a settlement at the mouth of the Willow River. At that time, the city became known as Willow River and subsequently Buena Vista. In 1852, the city's first mayor, A.D. Gray, changed the name to Hudson because the St. Croix reminded him of New York's Hudson River. Since then, Hudson has become one of Wisconsin's fastest growing communities. But throughout all the growth, there remains a wonderful connection with the past, which is evident in the downtown buildings as well as in the homes in Hudson's historic district. Take a walk and see it for yourself.

There are other historic homes throughout this part of Hudson. Feel free to explore, but remember to respect the privacy and property of the owners.

1. ARCH OF THE OLD TOLL BRIDGE

First and Walnut Streets

In 1913, the St. Croix Bridge Co. built the first interstate toll bridge across the St. Croix River at Hudson. In 1936, Dr. Boyd T. Williams donated the lighted arch structure at the entrance to the bridge. In 1951, the bridge was abandoned for a new bridge, and the arch went dark. In 1995, through a community effort, the arch was relit to serve as a historical welcome to visitors to Hudson. Although the toll bridge no longer reaches across the river, you can walk along the portion that remains.

2. STAR-TIMES BUILDING

112 Walnut Street

Built in the 1860s, this building is one of the oldest in downtown Hudson. In 1894 it became the home of the Star-Times newspaper, which later became the Star-Observer. The newspaper occupied the building until 1987. It now houses a salon.

3. 431 SECOND STREET

This building was constructed in 1870 as the First National Bank. The Chaska brick structure was built for \$10,000. The bank, the second oldest National bank in Wisconsin, moved to a new location in 1972. The building was refurbished in the 1980s and renamed Riverbank Junction.

4. 430 SECOND STREET

This was the site of the National Savings Bank. Built in 1870, this block was built by Gross, Boyden and Martin. The building now houses a law firm.

5. TULGREN SQUARE BUILDING

502 Second Street

Built in 1855 as the City Hotel, the building has burned down three times (1866, 1872 & 1925) and each time was rebuilt as a hotel. It has also housed restaurants and a barbershop. It currently is known as the Tulgren Square Building, housing a variety of offices and retail spaces.

6. OPERA HOUSE

516 Second Street

The Opera House was built in 1880 and is one of Hudson's architectural gems. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 after its restoration. It is believed to be the only opera house still standing in the Twin City metropolitan area. It now houses a restaurant and offices.

7. HOTEL DIBBO

517 Second Street

Built in 1875, the Hotel Dibbo was formerly the Commercial Hotel. It was a favorite spot during the lumberjack era and with the prizefighting crowd. Hudson was the Midwest center of that sport in the early part of the 20th century. In 2013 it was remodeled and houses a restaurant.

8. W.B. HATCH BUILDING

220 Locust Street

Built in the 1880s, the Hatch building has been a grocery store, a movie theater, a pool hall, an ice cream parlor, an office building, a book store, and Hudson's premier chocolatier. It now houses a retail boutique.

9. LIVING VINE CHURCH

311 Vine Street

The main structure of this early American classic was built in 1866. It houses a Jardine pipe organ, one of only two left in the country. The other is in the Old North Church in Boston.

10. PHILO Q. BOYDEN HOUSE

727 Third Street

When it was built in 1879, this Victorian Gothic house was considered one of Hudson's "mansions." Its owner, Philo Boyden, was a pioneer druggist in Hudson.

11. BETH IMMANUEL SABBATH FELLOWSHIP

828 Third Street

Originally home to the First Presbyterian Church, this structure was erected in 1874 in the Neo-Gothic-Style at a cost of \$10,000. In 2005 the congregation moved to a new location and Beth Immanuel Sabbath Fellowship became the new owners.

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12. LEMUEL NORTH HOUSE

903 Third Street

This fine example of English Tudor architecture was built in 1884 for Lemuel North and was later occupied for many years by his daughter, Anita North, who became Hudson's first millionaire.

13. OLD COURTHOUSE

914 Third Street

Built in 1900, this Romanesque stone structure housed St. Croix County government until 1965. It is currently a private residence.

14. JOHN C. SPOONER HOUSE

915 Third Street

This house was built in 1870 for John Spooner, attorney, legislator, senator, and for whom the northern Wisconsin town of Spooner is named.

15. OCTAGON HOUSE

1004 Third Street

The Octagon House was built in 1855 by Judge John S. Moffat and his wife. The eight-sided house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. It is maintained as a museum complex by the St. Croix County Historical Society and is open for tours.

16. WILLIAM PHIPPS HOUSE

1005 Third Street

The Phipps house is considered the "grand dame" of Queen Anne houses in Hudson. It was built in 1884 by W.H. Phipps, a lumberman, statesman and local philanthropist.

17. AMOS JEFFERSON HOUSE

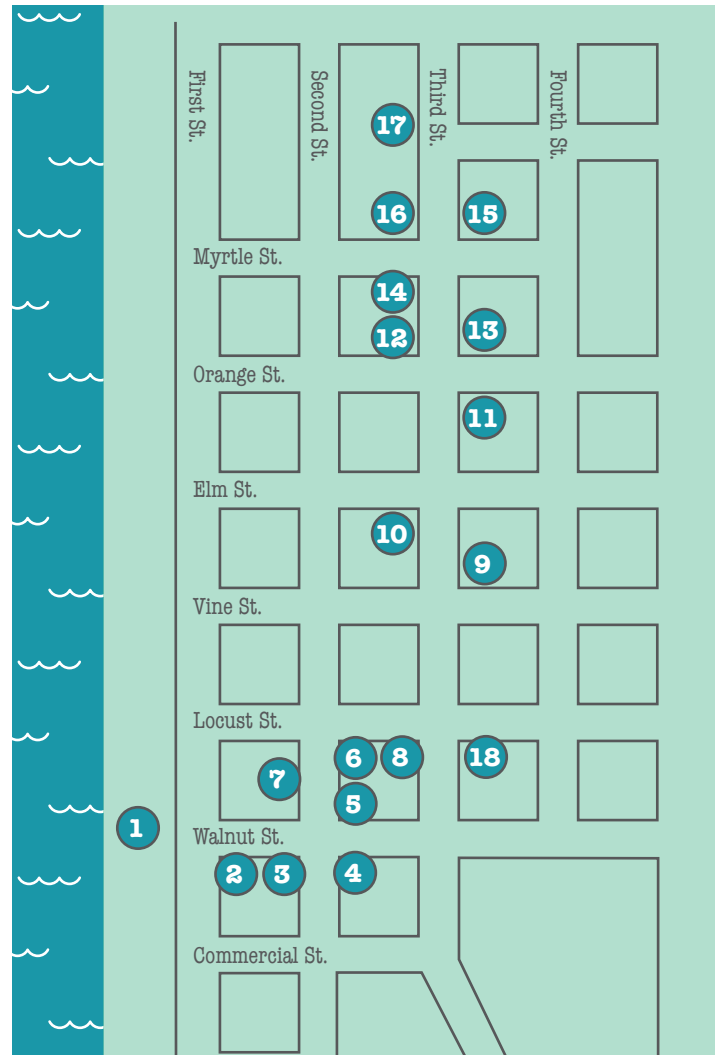
1109 Third Street

This Italianate house was built in 1857. The original house was more than twice its present size, but in the mid-1950s the rear of the house was taken off and moved to another location. The home was the Jefferson-Day House, Hudson's first bed and breakfast inn, and is now a private residence. In 2011, an addition was added in the back.

18. THE ORIGINAL CARNEGIE LIBRARY

304 Locust Street

This structure is listed in both the State and National Register for historic status. The Hudson Public Library was established under state law in 1903 and constructed a building the next year with a Carnegie grant. (The current Library can be found along the river at 700 First Street.)



BOOK A TOUR AT THE OCTAGON HOUSE!

May - October | Friday - Sunday

It's not just a house, it's a museum with gardens, a garden house, a carriage house, and a gift shop. Make sure to explore their events and private tour information at HudsonOctagonHouse.org or call (715) 386-2654.