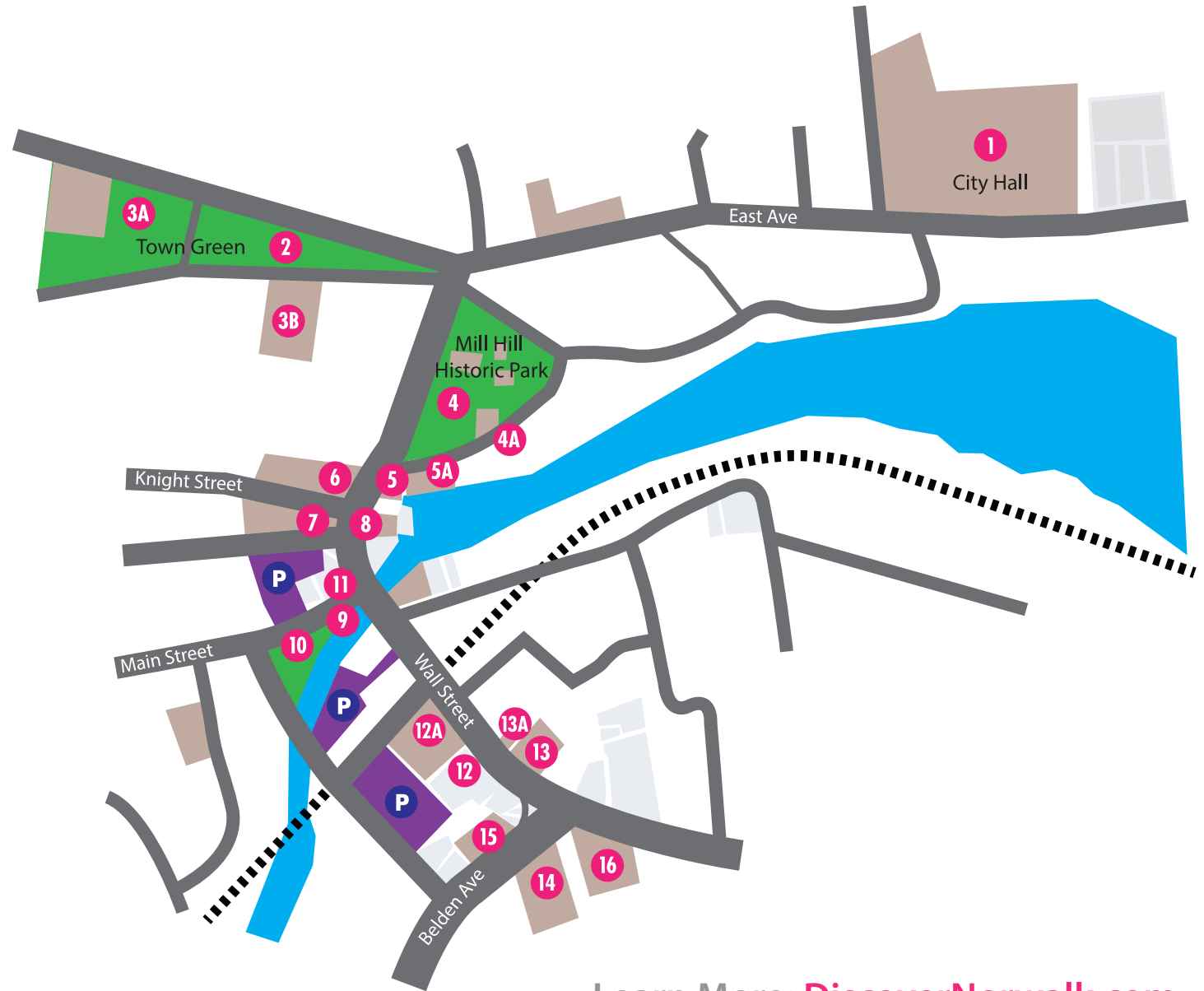


DISCOVER NORWALK

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

City Hall / East Wall Street



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City Hall / East Wall Street

INTRO

Take a stroll through centuries of history in this walking tour of downtown Norwalk. From City Hall, through the Wall Street Historic District and onto the library, you'll see the historic behind today's look of some of Norwalk's oldest buildings. Architecturally, the buildings you will see display various 19th century and 20th century styles.

1) Norwalk's **City Hall** building, opened in 1938 as the Norwalk High School. You can see the original entrance on East Avenue. Upon entering the building from the parking lot, you are welcomed by one of the largest collections of WPA Depression era art in the country. The first canvas you will see, by Norwalk artist Harry Townsend, depicts the purchase of Norwalk from the Indians. Many additional WPA canvases are available for your viewing throughout the building.

From City Hall you can take East Avenue towards the Norwalk Green, or head down to the Norwalk River and walk along the river to catch the Norwalk Lockup. At one time a saw mill and later a pottery stood on the river bank, due to its history as a commercial marina right up to Wall Street.



2) The **Norwalk Green**, since ancient days, has been the major location for important patriotic events including, the beginning or ending of parades. The bandstand on the Green provides a location for speakers to give historical or patriotic addresses and for band concerts. Today its home to a WWI original French Cannon.



3A) St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The present church building was built in 1840. An earlier version was destroyed during the burning of Norwalk on July 11, 1779 by British General William Tryon. Built of stone in the Gothic style, the present church building is modeled after a 13th-century English country church.



4) Several buildings are located at **Mill Hill**. The brick Town House served as the seat of Government until 1913. The red Downtown District School House was built in 1826 and served as a one-room schoolhouse until 1871. The Governor Thomas J. Fitch Law Office c. 1740 recognizes a distinguished Colonial Governor born in Norwalk. Both wood buildings were relocated to Mill Hill in 1971. The third oldest cemetery in Norwalk is located between the Norwalk Green and the Town House.

4C) **The Norwalk Lockup** on Smith Street operated 1862-1942. Typically persons jailed were guilty of drunkenness, breach of the peace or horse stealing. A welfare family—father, mother and three children—lived there in 1942. There were three cells, and the jailer lived in an apartment above the lockup.



5A) **The Norwalk Pottery Plant** aka the Asa Smith Pottery Co. and E. Smith & Sons, the only pottery in the Borough of Norwalk, which stood at the foot of the Norwalk bridge at Smith Street from 1825-1887.



6) **Landmark Square**, a three-story brick commercial and residential building at 2 Knight Street at the head of Wall Street, was built about 1840. It was known as the Quintard Block at the turn of the 20th Century, then was the home of The Hour Publishing Company until the 1970s.