

#9: DURGIN BUILDING

- ca 1875

25 North Main Street

This imposing four level building was once the residence of Stephen Durgin, a noted land owner and horse breeder. The building is said to be one of the best constructed and most elaborate in the county in its day. Today, the upper stories are apartments and retail stores are on the lower level. Prominent businesses included Gould's Dime Store until the 1980s and the Granite State News in the 1980s.

#10: DURGIN STABLES

- ca 1875

23 North Main Street

The large barn just south of the Durgin Building and the attached one story building in the back were where Mr. Durgin had a stable, with horses for hire to tourists and boarders. A paddock was located in the vacant area between Wolfeboro Marketplace and Hampshire Pewter. The barn was reconstructed a few years ago and houses retail stores. Just south of the barn was the original carriage shed. The carriage shed became Horn's Garage, which later expanded into a Ford and

Nash dealer. The Horn business operated from 1909 to 1993. The carriage shed was torn down in 1994.

#11: FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- ca 1858

83 North Main Street

The congregation was founded about 1812 and was the second oldest of its denomination in the country. The congregation began in a settlement known as Goose Corner about 1.5 miles north. That settlement included a number of businesses, but was overshadowed by the development of the downtown Wolfeboro area. The congregation chose to relocate to its present location, but not without some dispute. The former location is now totally residential.

#12: DOCKSIDE AREA

On Lake Winnepesaukee behind the Avery Building

This is one of the most picturesque spots on the lake and is a mandatory stop for any visitor. The dock area was originally deeded to David Sewall (later a judge) in 1766. Various owners, including Frank Hobbs in the early 1900s, permitted use free of charge or under license, before the area became town property. The building on the dock was the Boston & Maine Railroad Depot and has been

a restaurant since 1948. The scenic waterfront park was established as Cate Park in 1941 (lower portion) and Town Park in 1967 (upper portion). The Bandstand was added in 1995. The bronze sculpture "Sharing" was added by the Governor Wentworth Arts Council in 2003.



WOLFEBORO DOWNTOWN HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

Developed in cooperation between

Wolfeboro Historical Society
P.O. Box 1066
Wolfeboro, NH 03894
(Visit the Clark Museum complex
on South Main Street)

and

Wolfeboro Area
Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 547, 32 Central Ave.
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

INTRODUCTION - Wolfeboro, the oldest summer resort in America, was named in November 1759, in honor of British General James Wolfe, two months after his victory in the Battle of Quebec, a turning point in the French and Indian War. In 1766, the town was split by lot into 24 parcels, and settlement began a few years later. The 250th anniversary of the naming of the town was held in 2009-2010.

#1: WOLFEBOROUGH RAIL-ROAD STATION - 1872

32 Central Avenue, Depot Square
The Railroad Depot was built in 1872, restored in 1972 & again in 1983. At the height of the railroad era, during the summer months, the Boston and Maine Railroad ran as many as four trains a day from Boston, carrying passengers, mail and merchandise. The tracks ran down Railroad Avenue to Lake Winnepesaukee, ending at what is now known as Dockside, so passengers had an easy connection to the lake's steamships. The Depot presently houses the Wolfeboro Area Chamber of Commerce & the Wolfeboro Nursery School. The Russell Chase Bridge Falls Path, named after a

former prominent citizen, starts at the east end of the Depot, and is a scenic multi-use recreational trail. In a short distance, it reaches the site of the Berry Mill, ca 1895. Trail extensions follow the original railroad track for 6 miles to the Cotton Valley Depot and will eventually reach Sanbornville, 12 miles away.

**#2: BREWSTER MEMORIAL HALL
(WOLFEBORO TOWN HALL)
- 1889**

84-88 South Main Street

The Hall was built in 1889 for the Town of Wolfeboro under the terms of the will of John Brewster, a native son. It has served as the offices of town government since January 1890. The Public Library was in the rear of the building until a new Library was built in 1979. A theater on the second floor could seat 385 people and was used for town meetings, movies, dances and shows for many years.

#3: US POST OFFICE - ca 1937

34 South Main Street

This red brick building was built as part of an aggressive postal construction program during FDR's administration, under the direction of Postmaster General James A. Farley. Many Post Offices in that era featured murals created as part of

the "Federal Artist's Project". Stop in to see the beautiful work of noted artist Andrew Winter, construction photos and original postal fixtures. From the 1870s to the 1930s, the site was an imposing four story hotel.

#4: AVERY BUILDING - ca 1890

15-21 South Main Street

Originally known as the "Peavey Block", after the first owner, the ground floor has had many retail stores, including the Avery Insurance Agency since 1951. The US Post Office was here until 1936. The upper floors have been used as offices and residential apartments. The building was purchased by the Avery family in 1944.

#5: GOODWIN BLDG - ca 1899

5-11 South Main Street

This one story building has housed a variety of retail stores and replaced an earlier structure destroyed by fire. Stop in to see unique early ceilings.

#6: CENTRAL BLOCK - ca 1855

22 South Main Street

This building was originally red brick and built as a shoe factory, making shoes for the Southern trade. Three banks and several retail stores have occupied the ground floor. The upper floors were used as meeting halls for organizations, churches, offices and

apartments. Since 1988, the ground floor has been occupied by the Spencer-Hughes Real Estate Agency.

**#7: BLACK'S PAPER STORE
BUILDING - ca 1853**

8 South Main Street

Tradition indicates this building was originally two, then joined in the middle, later moved back from the street.. The section on the left is the oldest. Commercial hay scales and gas pumps were once located in front of the building. Also known as the Blake Folsom building, after the original owner, a dry goods store was prominent in the mid-1800s. It's been a paper store since 1946.

**#8: WOOL CORNER BLDG
- ca 1866**

2 South Main Street

This was the second building erected on this site, and housed Black's Paper Store for many years until the store moved one door south. Originally known as the Goodwin and Haley Building, the second floor held a shoe factory. At one time, there was a grocery store in the cellar which suffered many damaged goods when the river overflowed.