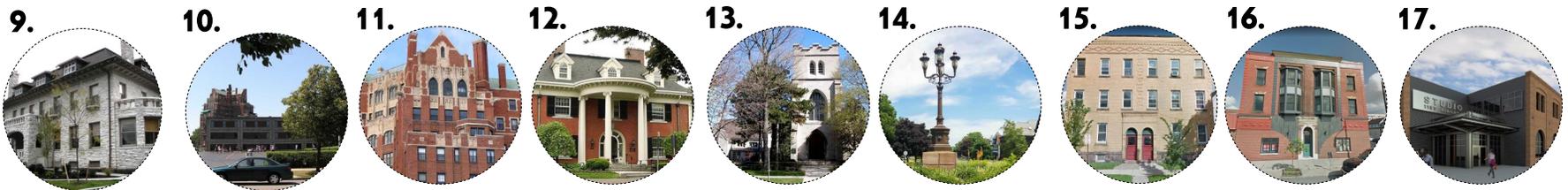
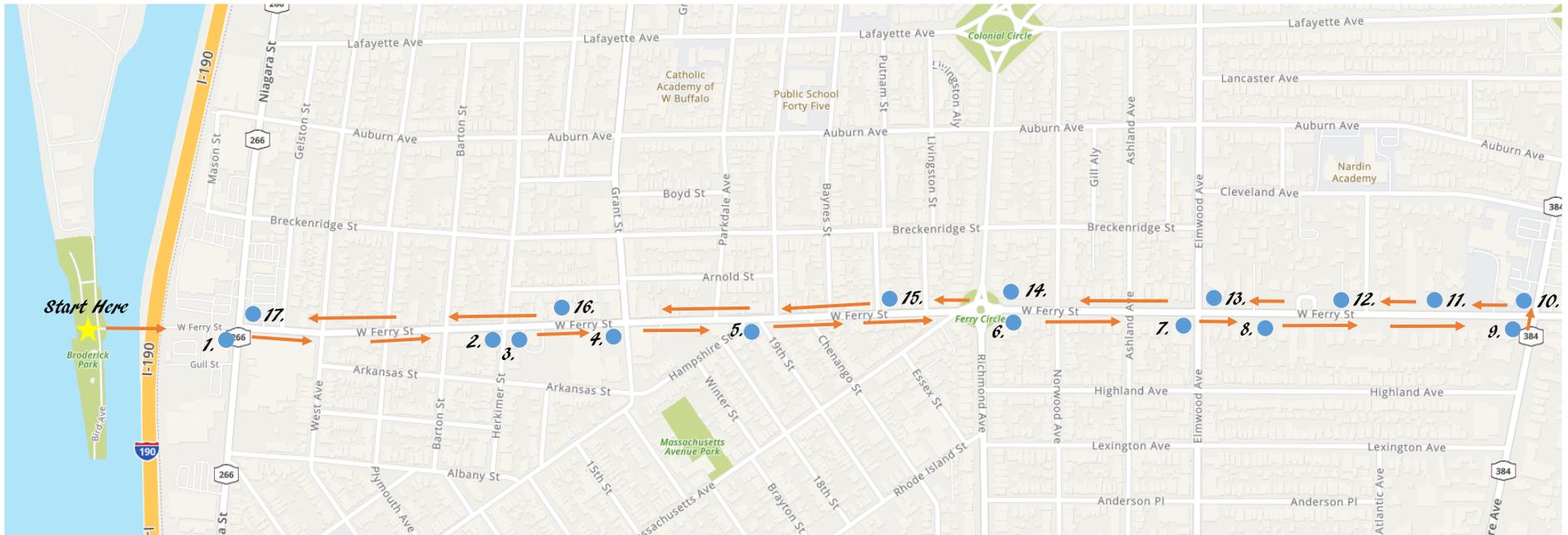


Ferry Street Walking Route

Niagara Street—Delaware Avenue | 3.4 miles | 7,200 steps



Developed By



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Starting Location - Broderick Park (1170 Niagara St.)

- Broderick Park and the surrounding area was part of the town of Black Rock until Buffalo annexed it in 1853.
- The Black Rock Ferry, historically docked at Broderick Park, is recognized as a significant site in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.
- The Black Rock Ferry was in operation in 1825 through the mid-20th century.
- The park has been improved in recent years through federal and state grants, including the Lillion Batchelor Contemplative Garden.
- Batchelor founded Buffalo Quarters Historical Society in 1995 to increase awareness of Buffalo's role in the Underground Railroad movement.

Stop 4 - Corner of W. Ferry and Grant Streets - Grant Street

- Neighborhoods surrounding the Grant-Ferry Street section of the West Side have experienced a population increase in foreign-born residents over the past two decades due to refugee resettlement.
- According to 2015 data, Erie County, receives "slightly over one-third of the total refugee flow into state" (<https://tinyurl.com/ya9g3nnj>).
- The largest refugee populations in Buffalo (between 2002-2014) are from the following countries: Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), Somalia, Bhutan, and Iraq.

Stop 1 - Rich Products (1 Robert Rich Way)

- Founded in 1945 with the invention of the first non-dairy whipped topping. Today, Rich Products is a successful global food products company.
- The complex was once the site of the E.R. Thomas Motor Company, the manufacturer of the Thomas Flyer Automobile. You can still see one of the E.R. Thomas brick building south of Rich's main building along Niagara Street.
- Niagara St. has always been a bustling thoroughfare. It transitioned from a popular residential area to a highly industrial one in the 1880s and 1890s.

Stop 5 - Corner of 19th & W. Ferry Streets—Black Rock

- This portion of the West Side of Buffalo was initially part of the Village of Black Rock, founded in 1813, annexed by the City of Buffalo in 1854.
- Note: The street pattern changes on the westside of Richmond Avenue. Rather than running North - South, the streets are rotated.
- 19th Street intersects with Ferry diagonally as do many of the streets in what was once the "Upper Rock" area of the Village of Black Rock.

Stop 2 - La Gourmet Empanadas (219 W. Ferry St.)

- Built in 1908 as the Mizpah Lodge #518 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.
- Designed by local architect Thomas W. Harris. Harris also designed a couple of Buffalo firehouses (Engine #15 and #34) still standing today.
- In 1974, the 2nd & 3rd floors were removed along with classical elements like the building's pediment and window arrangements at the front entrance.
- The building needed extensive rehabilitation and was eventually renovated into a new restaurant and banquet space 2014 when it became the home of "La Gourmet Empanadas." Now closed.

Stop 6— Richmond Avenue Church (525 W. Ferry St.)

- Former Richmond Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in 1885.
- The cornerstone for this church building was laid in 1897 and completed a year later.
- Designed by Metzger & Greenfield in the Richardsonian Romanesque style and made of Medina Sandstone.
- Renovations are in-progress, transforming the church into The Rosanna Elizabeth Visual & Performing Arts Campus.
- Estimated costs for the project are over \$10M.

Stop 3 - Jericho Road (233 W. Ferry St.)

- Jericho Road Community Health Center opened as a family health practice in 1997 and set out to serve all populations regardless of their ability to pay.
- The organization has expanded establishing Jericho Road Ministries, merging with Hope Refugee Services, opening two other health centers, and acquiring Vive La Casa.
- Jericho Road has opened global health centers in Kono District and Port Loko District of Sierra Leone and in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Stop 7— Parish Commons (656 Elmwood Ave.)

- The former English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, established ca. 1895.
- The church building, designed by George C. Gould, was dedicated in 1913.
- The church closed in 1973 and was fully renovated in 2012.
- Parish Commons is now home to a wide variety of medical services through Medical Care of WNY and a yoga studio, and residential rental units.



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Stop 8— 671 W. Ferry St.

- Beautiful example of Queen Anne Style architecture with a large front porch, a mix of building materials, and tower. A common style in the Elmwood District.
- Elmwood Historic District developed between 1867-1941.
- The expansion of the streetcar line along Elmwood allowed for a rapid increase in residential development for the growing middle and upper-middle class. The streetcar line was removed in 1941.
- There are examples of custom-designed homes, but it was more common throughout the Elmwood District to have developers, and builders build speculatively (“on spec”) using popular architectural styles or details of the time.

Stop 12 - Ronald McDonald House (780 W. Ferry St.)

- 1895 Neoclassical Revival style home designed by James Johnson of the prominent local firm, Esenwein & Johnson.
- Built for Dr. Alexander Main Curtiss and remained a single-family home until 1940 when it transitioned into a boarding house and, decades later, upscale apartments.
- Became the Ronald McDonald House in 1983 and serves families with a child dealing with a serious illness and seeking treatment in Buffalo.
- The building has 14 guestrooms as well as meal and transportation services.

Stop 9 - Conners Mansion (1140 Delaware Ave.)

- This private residence was constructed ca. 1908 and home to William “Fingy” Conners.
- Conners was an infamous Old First Ward Saloon Boss and later a successful businessman and the one-time owner of The Buffalo Courier newspaper.
- Another notable owner of 1140 Delaware was Gilda’s Club WNY, an affiliate of Hospice Buffalo, which opened in 2004.
- Canisius High School purchased the historic mansion in 2017 and has turned it into the school’s fine arts building.

Stop 13 - Queen Anne’s Gate

- Gate marks the entrance to historic John J. Albright Estate. All that remains is the gate and brick wall seen throughout parts of the block.
- Albright bought land between Elmwood, Delaware, Cleveland, and W. Ferry between 1885-1906. The grounds were sold off in the 1920s when Tudor Pl. and St. Catherine’s Ct. was laid out.
- Albright is best known for donating funds for the construction of the Albright Art Gallery, South Park Botanical Gardens, and helping to bring Lackawanna Steel to Buffalo.

Stop 10 - Site of the Milburn House (NW Corner of W. Ferry St. & Delaware Ave.)

- At the parking lot near the West Ferry St. corner, stood the home of John Milburn, prominent Buffalo lawyer and the President of the Pan American Exposition.
- The home had historical significance as the site of President McKinley’s death on September 14, 1901.
- On September 6, President McKinley was shot by anarchist Leon Czolgosz, while greeting visitors at the Pan American Expo’s Temple of Music.
- Demolished by Canisius HS in 1957.

Stop 14 - Unitarian Universalist Church (646 W. Ferry St.)

- 1906 English Gothic style church designed by Edward Kent.
- Edward Austin Kent was an American Architect from Buffalo, notably the only Buffalonian to perish on the Titanic.
- This corner lot was purchased (c.1904) from John J. Albright, a prominent businessman and philanthropist, who owned the majority of the land from Elmwood to Delaware and West Ferry to Cleveland Avenue.
- The Unitarian and the Universalist faiths organized in Buffalo c.1931 and merged to become the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo in 1953.

Stop 11 - 800 W. Ferry St.

- 1929 Art Deco style (with Gothic Revival ornamentation) luxury residential high rise designed by prominent local firm Bley & Lyman.
- Originally owned by Darwin R. Martin, son of Darwin D. Martin (Martin House).
- Designed to incorporate 21 duplex rental units but due to the Great Depression, the duplexes were subdivided into smaller apartment units (1940). First floor remains unchanged.
- In 1980, 800 W. Ferry transitioned into condominiums.

Stop 15 - Ferry Street Circle

- An integral part of the Olmsted Park and Parkway System, traffic circles like Ferry Street create a ribbon of green through West Side neighborhoods.
- The Ferry Street Circle was restored to its original design in 2002. Note the circle’s distinctive five-branch lamp, which mirrors the light at Symphony Circle.
- Managed and maintained by the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy.



The Ferry Street Health & Wellness Project

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Stop 16 - The Charlotte Apartment Building (466 W. Ferry St.)

- Late 19th century apartment building with a high level of symmetry.
- While there isn't elaborate ornamentation, note the brickwork throughout the façade around the doors and windows and particularly at the top of the building with a series of raised brick patterns.
- Note the Quoins [Decorative stone or brick feature used to accentuate a building's corner] can be seen at the corners of each side and down the middle of the West Ferry Street façade, adding to the building's symmetry.

Stop 17 - The Eleanor Apartments (268 West Ferry St.)

- The Eleanor is part of Dibble True Value Hardware on the first floor with apartments above.
- In 2017, the three-story brick building was renovated by removing metal siding on the W. Ferry façade.
- Vertical green tiles were added on the first floor and the reconstructed cornice to create a cohesive design pattern and cover-up damage brick. Bright terra colored ornamentation was added for similar reasons.
- Although not historically restored, the reinterpretation highlights redevelopment efforts along W. Ferry Street.
- PUSH Buffalo was the developer team, and funding came from the Buffalo Billion, Main Streets Initiative.

Stop 18 - NW Corner of W. Ferry & Niagara Streets— Across the Street from Future Media Studio Complex

- The former Rich Products manufacturing facility on the SW corner (3.7-acre parcel) will be a film and television production studio.
- In 2018, Rich Products demolished its 170,000 sqft. facility to make way for future development.
- As of June 2020, it was stated that the first phase of construction would begin Fall 2020 and be completed by late 2021.
- Great Point Capital Management and Rich Industries are partnering to bring the \$50M project to fruition.