

## Walking Directions

### 1. The Saint Francis De Sales Church

From Route 7 head west on Main St. until you come to Benmont Ave. The church is on the right hand side of the road. Turn right on Benmont Ave. after the church. Make an immediate right into the church's back parking lot. **Parking is Available Here.**

### 2. The Putnam Hotel

Head east on Main St. until Four Corners intersection of U.S. Route 7 (South St.) and Vermont Route 9 (Main St.). The Putnam Hotel will be on the southwest corner (on your right).

### 3. The Bennington County Courthouse

From the Putnam Hotel, head south on U.S. Route 7 (South St.). The Bennington County Courthouse is approximately 250ft south of the Putnam Hotel on the right side of the road.

### 4. The Old Blacksmith's Shop

On South Street, next door to the Bennington County Courthouse is the Old Blacksmith's Shop.

### 5. The Bennington Police Department

From the Old Blacksmith's shop U.S. Route 7 (South St.) and head north. The Bennington Police station is on the right.

### 6. The Old Stone Mill

Keep heading North on U.S. Route 7 (South St.) past VT Route 9 (Main St. – Four Corners) Continue north for approximately 1500 feet, the Old Stone Mill is on the East (right) side of U.S. Route 7 (North St.) after the Bank of Bennington. Bordering the Mill is Bennington's River Walkway. At this entrance to the walkway there is a sign with some history regarding the water-powered industry and history in Bennington.

### 7. Earl's Service Station

Continue North on U.S. Route 7 (North St.) Earl's Service Station is at the corner of U.S. Route 7 (North St.) and County St.

### 8. The Bennington Potters Yard

Head East (right) on County St. approximately 750 feet and cross County St. (to the North side.) The Bennington Potters campus of buildings hold the historic pottery manufacturing facilities as well as a showcase of work and gift shop.

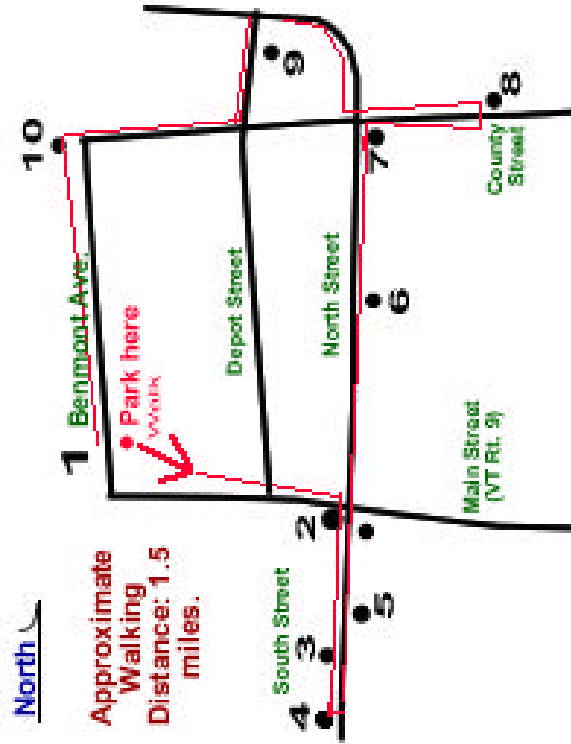
### 9. The Blue Benn Diner

From Bennington Potters, return west on County St. At the intersection of County and U.S. Route 7 (North St.) turn right (North) and follow Route 7 around the corner after about 750ft The Blue Benn Diner is on the left. (Continue a bit further out Route 7 for the Veteran's Home Deer Park! A nice treat for the kids.)

### 10. The Holden-Leonard Mill

From the Blue Benn Diner, continue west on Route 7 about 250ft to Depot St. Head South (left) on Depot St. and walk one block to County St. Turn right on to County St. and head west until the end of County St. The Holden-Leonard Mill is in front of you on the West side of Benmont Ave.

From the Holden-Leonard Mill, continue south on Benmont



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## Downtown Bennington



## Walking Tour



### Saint Francis De Sales Church

This new building for the Saint Francis De Sales church was built in the 1890's. The church originally had a high steeple extending from the top of the bell tower that acted as a landmark for Bennington. This steeple was removed in the 1920's because it swayed alarmingly in the wind. The original Saint Francis De Sales church built in 1855 is now the church gallery section of the Bennington Museum.

### The Putnam House (Hotel)

The Putnam House was built in 1873 by Henry W. Putnam. It contained offices of railway companies and was a gentlemen's club. In 1889, during Prohibition the Putnam house was closed after a police raid found illegal alcohol. The Hotel has been used for many different purposes throughout the years, including dorm rooms for Southern Vermont College students.



### The Old Blacksmith's Shop

Built in 1833 as a Blacksmith's shop this building has been a Girls club quarters, The Chamber of Commerce and the Bennington Police station until recently when the Police moved across the street in to the building which prior to that been used for the Federal building.



### The Police Station

This building, prior to serving Bennington as a Police station, was the Federal Building. In 1916, this building was constructed as the office which had relocated from the building that is now the Chittenden Bank.

### The Old Stone Mill

Discover information about this building and other mills around Bennington along the River Walkway to the north of this site.



### Earl's Service Station

Built in 1958 by Earl Alderman, Earl's is still owned and operated by the Aldermans.



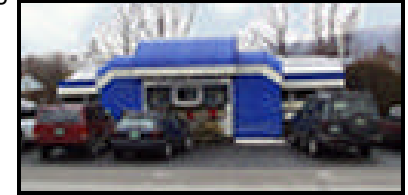
### The Bennington Potters Yard

Much of Bennington's history includes the Potteries. Capt John Norton, a Revolutionary war veteran built the first kiln in Bennington in 1793. From there he built a flourishing business Norton's pottery along with a few others became an important part of Bennington's economy for many years. The Potter's Yard barn you see here is the former H.W. Myers and Son mill



### The Blue Benn Diner

Considered one of Vermont's famous old fashioned diners. Still operating out of an original "Diner Car" on U.S. Route 7. Stop in! It's great!



### The Henry Bradford Mill

The "Big Mill" built in 1865 was originally constructed to make paisley shawls. When the paisley shawl industry folded, the mill was converted for knitted stockings as well as wool and cotton underwear. Different kinds of machinery were made here including Olin Scott's famous gunpowder machinery.

In 1900 it was again converted to make knitting needles and machinery for the knitting industry. In the 1930's when the Depression hit the mill was shut down.

The "Big Mill" now serves many different small businesses. Mace International has their headquarters and manufacturing facilities. There are many offices, a health and fitness club, a snowboard/bicycle shop and many other businesses housed in this former mill.



### The Bennington County Courthouse

The Southshire courthouse was built in 1936 as a replica of the original Southshire courthouse in Old Bennington that burned in 1869.