



Become a NorWALKer!

EXPLORE SCENIC ROWAYTON

Enjoy tranquil views of Wilson Cove, Farm Creek, and the Long Island Sound.

Loop 1

This walk begins at Pinkney Park on Rowayton Ave. Head south on Rowayton Ave. until you reach Crockett St. Then turn around and head back up Rowayton Ave. until you reach Pinkney Park.

Loop 2

This walk begins at Pinkney Park on Rowayton Ave. Head south on Rowayton Ave. Turn left onto Crockett St. Turn left on Roton Ave. Follow Roton Ave. across McKinley St. (Route 136) and continue until Wilson Ave. Turn left on Wilson Ave. and follow until the end, bringing you back to Pinkney Park.

Loop 3

This walk begins at Pinkney Park on Rowayton Ave. Head south on Rowayton Ave. Turn left onto Crockett St. Turn left on Roton Ave. Turn right onto Pine Point Rd. Left onto Gull Rd. Right on Ensign Rd. Left on Crescent Beach Rd., which turns into South Beach Dr. Turn right and continue around the bend on South Beach Dr. Continue on to Rocky Point Rd. Left on Parkview Rd. Right on East Beach Dr. Right on Yarmouth Rd. Left on Browne Pl. Right on Westmere Ave. Cross the bridge and turn left on Sammis St. At the end of Sammis St., continue on the footpath and cross the pedestrian bridge. Turn right on Roton Ave. Cross McKinley St. and turn left on Wilson Ave., bringing you back to Pinkney Park.



PROCEED WITH CAUTION WHEN FOLLOWING NORWALKER ROUTES!

The *Healthy for Life Project* is not responsible for any injuries or accidents that may occur while following NorWALKer routes. Consult your doctor before beginning an exercise program. Use pedestrian crosswalks when available, obey all traffic laws, and if no sidewalks exist, walk against traffic. Wear proper footwear and reflective gear, and bring water with you while walking. Have fun!

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START YOUR TOUR IN PINKNEY PARK

THE SHIPYARD—The property now known as Pinkney Park was first referred to in the Norwalk town records on January 20, 1700. “The Shipyards” was a piece of common property, perhaps for the use of any citizen who wished to build and launch a boat. It was not uncommon for a family to build their own vessels, sail the vessels to other ports, and sell the merchandise from their family-owned stores.

SEELEY-DIBBLE-PINKNEY HOUSE—This building is home to the Rowayton Historical Society. The house was built around 1820 and perhaps includes parts the building from the shipyard. A portion of the basement floor is paved with ballast left over from the overseas shipping trade. The house was lived in by four generations of the Seeley-Dibble-Pinkney family for over 140 years before it was purchased by the village of Rowayton in 1971.

BARN—This 19th century barn was brought here from Norfolk, CT and rebuilt to replace the original barn which was destroyed by fire in 1971. Today, the barn houses the Historical Society’s vintage tool collection.

BOATHOUSE—This Victorian boathouse originally stood on the Barclay estate on Rowayton Avenue (#123-135) and was built by the Barclay’s predecessor, George P. Putnam. It was later moved to Jenkins Boatyard at 95 Rowayton Avenue. Today the building houses the Historical Society’s marine and oystering archives.

BELL—The bronze bell, cast in 1867, originally hung at the Baptist Church on Cudlipp Street. Then it was placed in the bell tower at Rowayton School, located on the corner of Rowayton Avenue and Witch Lane, where it summoned children to school for almost 50 years. In 2015, the bell tower was returned to its second home on “Old School Field.”

VISIT THE FOLLOWING HISTORIC LOCATIONS ON YOUR TOUR

METHODIST CHURCH—The Rowayton United Methodist Church was built in 1868. It was a simple, white clapboard frame structure until 1907, when it was remodeled to resemble English country churches. Helen Keller spoke here in 1905 to the Rowayton Flower Club.

FIREHOUSE—This structure was built in 1956. Most of the houses on the east side of Rowayton Avenue down to the Beach Association gates were built with money from the oyster industry. All were owned by oystermen. Watch for *Oystermen’s Row Historic District* signs as you walk.

#101 BRENDANS—The second home of the Library. When the first Library ran out of room around 1904, Josephine Crow, proprietor of a general store at 101 Rowayton Avenue, offered up her ground floor. The Library operated out of this location until 1926 when it moved to 145 Rowayton Avenue.

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#112 GUIDER’S CORNER—Guider’s was a hardware store that supplied the oyster boats and houses. In the shed behind the store, they had a blacksmith shop that formed the oyster dredge frames and tools necessary for the harvesting of oysters.

#123-135 THE BARCLAY ESTATE—This was the site of a large estate that was the summer home of George P. Putnam, the founder of the publishing dynasty. In the 1890s, New York stockbroker Robert Barclay purchased the property that included five acres of waterfront land and a beautiful house. In 1955, the main house was destroyed by fire and its boathouse moved to 95 Rowayton Avenue. The barn remains and is currently used as an office.

#124 W. I. STEVENS HOMESTEAD—In 1880, oyster captain William Isaac Stevens had the first steam-powered oyster boat designed and built in the side yard of his house.

#126 FRANK R. STEVENS, 1894—“Cappy” Stevens was born in 1872 and sailed a number of oyster sloops. His family owned the Stevens Oyster Company, the largest on the river.

#137 JOHN VINCENT HOUSE—On this site stood one of the first homes in Rowayton, originally a Raymond house.

#151 ROWAYTON HOSE COMPANY #1—The Rowayton Hose Company (formed in 1902 and moved to this site in 1905) proved to be a much needed organization. By 1905 it had accumulated enough money to move from Klein’s boathouse to this structure. A belfry stood on the perch in the front of the building. Upstairs there was a meeting hall where socials and benefits were held.

#157 ROWAYTON MARKET—The Market is the longest continuously operational market in CT. In 1753, a deed for the market was transferred from the Town of Norwalk to operators Samuel Richards, Jr. and James Richards. Customers from the Darien and New Canaan area traded for highly desirable items for households and businesses. From 1823-1838, Alfred Seeley, who owned the Seeley-Dibble-Pinkney house, ran the market. After his death, family members operated the store until 1923.

#166 WINTHROP HOUSE—The Winthrop House was built around 1848 by Charles L. Raymond as a summer hotel. Summer hotels in those days were without heat, water, air conditioning, or any of the comforts we know of today. The hotel was replaced with a building in the early 21st century that closely resembles the old hotel.

#168 ELIAS RAYMOND HOUSE—The earliest reference to this house appears in the deed from Paul Raymond to his son Elias in 1811. Architectural evidence indicates that this northerly portion was built in the late 18th century at the time of Elias Raymond’s marriage. The early part of this building was known as a “ship’s chandlery” or a “tavern”.

#182 ELIAS R. PENNOYER HOUSE, 1855—This was the house of Elias Pennoyer, a large land owner in the area. He presumably farmed the

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land and shipped produce to New York City markets.

#184 NICHOLAS VINCENT HOUSE, 1842—This house bears the name of Nicholas Vincent, the New York shipbuilder, but he never lived there. Nicholas built it for his son, John R. Vincent, and his family. John was listed in the Census Records as a ship carpenter, but he also owned a livery stable and saloon in town. Vincent also built the house next door (#186) for his daughter, Catherine, and her husband, John Thomes.

#186 CAPTAIN WILLIAM C. SAMMIS HOUSE, 1842—In February of 1842, 24 year old “Cannon”, as he was known, bought “a dock with a store and buildings situated on Five Mile River (now Rowayton Market) as well as the packet ship, ‘Julia’”. Seven years later, in 1849, Captain Sammis sold the store to the Dibble brothers and began a partnership with Captain Smith Mills. Mills harvested the oysters and Sammis took them to New York City markets, but the railroad drove the coastal shipping trader out of business. In 1866, Sammis bought this house and adjoining land on Rowayton Avenue and became a vegetable farmer. He sent his produce to market on trains to New York City.

Compiled by the Rowayton Historical Society



Healthy4LifeCT

For more information about NorWALKer Routes, call (203) 854-7776 or visit www.healthyforlifeproject.org



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