



SALISBURY CULTURAL DISTRICT

## *Discovery Trails*

# Art + Culture: Treasures of the Salisbury Cultural District

Whether you've lived in Worcester all your life, are a transplant or plan a visit, you'll discover much to intrigue and delight in the Salisbury Cultural District. Chock full of stunning architecture, cultural hot spots, and recreational activities, this self-guided tour offers plenty of pauses for food, photo ops and shopping.

Spend as much time as you like — a full day or just an hour — getting up close to elegant historic buildings, world-renowned decorative and visual arts and sweeping natural landscapes. Learn the stories behind these cultural gems, then treat your taste buds to some of the best eats in Worcester.

Follow this suggested trail or tailor a walkabout to your own interests using the Discover Central Massachusetts's interactive Visit Widget.

### **A note about parking**

FREE on-street parking is available along Salisbury Street, Tuckerman Street, Grove Street, Wachusett Street and Institute Road. Free parking lots are available across from the Worcester Art Museum on Lancaster Street. Wheelchair accessible parking is available in the Worcester Art Museum's Salisbury Street lot (located in the front of the museum).



**WORCESTER ART MUSEUM (WAM),**  
**55 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609**  
508-799-4406 | [worcesterart.org](http://worcesterart.org)

If you're looking for a fun afternoon with friends or family, or some quiet time alone, check out the Worcester Art Museum. Get ready to experience some of the finest art from around the globe and across five millennia.

You'll find prized Roman mosaics, iconic American and European art, and a restored 12<sup>th</sup>-century Medieval Chapter House at this celebrated museum. Venture inside for one of many fully immersive experiences and exercise your vocal cords — the acoustics are amazing. Explore the museum's galleries in search of arms and armor from the remarkable John Woodman Higgins Armory Collection, among the most distinguished in the Americas.

The first museum in America to acquire paintings by Monet and Gauguin and one of the first to collect photography, WAM still actively commissions and collects art. Its holdings are of national and international significance.

Admission is free the first Sunday of every month and always free for children ages 17 and under.

*Photography courtesy of the Worcester Art Museum.*



**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**73 Lancaster Street, Worcester, MA 01609**  
[trinityworc.org](http://trinityworc.org)

Take a moment to admire Trinity Lutheran Church. Designed by architect Jens Fredrick Larson, this soaring structure was built in stages from 1948-1951.

Larson chose cream-colored brick accented with limestone trim to give the exterior of this lofty church its ageless dignity. The tower, topped by a clock spire reminiscent of the old churches of Sweden, was designed to be in harmony with New England's traditional architecture. "Elm Tree" windows light the nave and bring a unique charm to this cultural district highlight. The Scandinavian influence you see reflects some of the members' heritage. The church seats 800.

A spectacular set of ceiling panels painted by Arthur Covey depict scenes from the Old and New Testaments. Covey was an American artist and noted muralist from Connecticut. He spent a year and a half painting 128 panels for his expansive and breathtaking work of art.

*Photography courtesy of the Salisbury Cultural District.*





## **SALISBURY MANSION**

**40 Highland Street, Worcester, MA 01609**

508-753-8278 | [worcesterhistory.org/museum/salisbury-mansion/](http://worcesterhistory.org/museum/salisbury-mansion/)

You'll step back in time to 1830s Worcester when you enter Salisbury Mansion, the city's only historic house museum. When built in 1772, this Georgian-style building was both residence and store for the young merchant Stephen Salisbury I — the District's namesake.

The mansion is an exhibit "gallery" of the Worcester Historical Museum, sharing the story of Worcester's evolution from county seat to an industrial giant. Be sure to notice the exquisite array of household and decorative furnishings, from early 18<sup>th</sup>-century Queen Anne to 1820s Boston Classical. Look for Stephen Salisbury's standing desk, with its high-end Chippendale style, its serpentine front and bold brasses. There's also an eye-catching heavy Boston Classical sofa with falcon heads embellishing the front legs.

Hear the stories of Worcester and the impact of three generations of Stephen Salisburys, from the first American Revolution to the Blackstone Canal. Behind the city's mid-century industrial prowess and the formation of institutions such as the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester Art Museum and Worcester Polytechnic Institute are remarkable stories of courage, risk and heartwarming generosity.

Visit the website for information on public tours.

*Photography courtesy of the Salisbury Cultural District.*



## HIGHLAND STREET COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Hungry? Thirsty? Craving something sweet?

Stop for a meal at the Sole Proprietor, The Boynton Restaurant and Spirits, Thai Time or one of the many other restaurants lining the street. For lighter fare, visit The Bean Counter Bakery Café, home to delicious coffee, pastries and breakfast sandwiches.

*Photography courtesy of the Salisbury Cultural District.*





## **WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (WPI)**

**100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609**

508-831-5000 | [wpi.edu](http://wpi.edu)

Originally founded to educate a workforce for the city's industrial enterprises, Worcester Polytechnic Institute is now one of the nation's leading private technical arts and applied sciences universities. If entering the campus from West Street at Institute Road, you'll see WPI's performing arts center — Alden Memorial — on your left. Seasonal student concerts are held at the Hall and are open to the public. Visit the website for information.

To your right is a staircase leading up to Boynton Hall, constructed in 1868 as WPI's first building and named after John Boynton, a prosperous tin ware manufacturer and one of the school's founders. The granite building was designed by noted Worcester architect Stephen Earle. Its dramatic clock tower has become a symbol of WPI's commitment to classroom theory and learning as part of the Two Towers philosophy of balancing theory and practice.



*Photography courtesy of the Salisbury Cultural District.*



## **INSTITUTE PARK**

**Access the park from Salisbury or Grove streets; from Humboldt or Park avenues  
508-754-1234 | [worcesterna.gov/city-parks/institute-park](http://worcesterna.gov/city-parks/institute-park) | [institutepark.org](http://institutepark.org)**

Anchoring the Salisbury Cultural District is InSTITUTE Park — a lush, natural gem and home to many species of birds, including swans, mallard ducks, mergansers and kingfishers. Relax, picnic, walk the perimeter of Salisbury Pond using the new boardwalk or enjoy one of the many annual cultural celebrations such as Pride, Juneteenth or the Caribbean Festival. The Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra’s free summer concert series, founded in 1951, is held annually at The Levenson Concert Stage. You might catch a community soccer, lacrosse, or football game at O’Connell Field.

Salisbury Pond was created when Stephen Salisbury II dammed the brook to power the first Washburn mill and to feed the Blackstone River valley and canal. The canal brought power to mills and served as a vital transportation route to deliver materials and goods in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1887, Stephen Salisbury III donated these 18 acres to be used by Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Worcester’s residents.

*Photography courtesy of the Salisbury Cultural District.*



**AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY**  
**185 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609**  
508-755-5221 | [americanantiquarian.org](http://americanantiquarian.org)

Across from Institute Park you'll see the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) and its gently curved brick building, one of only two national historic landmarks in Worcester. AAS is home to over 4 million books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, music, graphic arts and other materials related to American history and culture before the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Researchers of early American history know this destination well.

You're likely to notice the palladium dome. It was modeled after Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Isaiah Thomas, successful printer and publisher, founded this independent research library in 1812. One of Worcester's trailblazers, he played a key role in the startup of the Revolutionary War.

Among AAS's treasures is the first book ever published in British North America. "The Whole Book of Bay Psalms" was published in Cambridge, Mass., in 1640, on the only printing press in North America.

Check the website for weekly tours and programming.

*Photography courtesy of the Salisbury Cultural District.*



**WORCESTER CENTER FOR CRAFTS**  
**25 Sagamore Road, Worcester, MA 01605**  
508-753-8183 | [worcestercraftcenter.org](http://worcestercraftcenter.org)

If you love to shop at one-of-a-kind stores, check out The Gallery Store at the Worcester Center for Crafts, a fabulous curated collection of crafts made by artists across the country. You can shop in person or online for ceramics, jewelry, fibers, home goods, glassware and more.

There's more to the Center for Crafts than gifts, however. The center was founded in 1856 as a place to teach immigrants skills to create marketable crafts. The nonprofit, community-based organization continues to provide quality craft education. It also helps artists promote and market their work. The Krikorian Gallery, onsite, is home to changing exhibitions that feature cutting-edge work including art by faculty and students.

Courses and workshops for adults and younger artists of all skill levels cover a wide range of crafts including metalwork, ceramics, glass and photography. You can even sign up for a trial workshop before committing.

*Photography courtesy of the Salisbury Cultural District.*



## **WASHBURN & MOEN NORTHWORKS** **100 Grove St., Worcester MA**

While walking south on Grove Street you can't miss the impressive 500-foot-long façade of the beautifully restored mill complex known as Northworks, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is architecture at its most elegant and functional, repurposed for today's needs.

Over 150 years ago, Washburn & Moen manufacturers made telegraph wire, piano wire, wire for hoop skirts and barbed wire. By the late 1870s, the company employed more than 3,000 workers at its two locations, the North- and Southworks, making it Worcester's largest employer.

Today Northworks is home to numerous offices, businesses and restaurants, including the Fix Burger Bar and Lucky's Café Worcester. While ordering Greek eggs benedict for breakfast at Lucky's or dipping your fries in ketchup at The Fix, consider that 160 years ago, an impressive wire-making operation flourished on this very spot.

*Photography courtesy of the Salisbury Cultural District.*



**VETERANS INC. (Formerly National Guard Armory)**  
**Located at the corner of Salisbury and Grove streets in Wheaton Square.**  
508-791-1213 | [veteransinc.org](http://veteransinc.org)

Veterans Inc., formerly the National Guard Armory, is located at the corner of Salisbury and Grove streets. The structure is a notable addition to Worcester's array of exceptional architecture. The headquarters of Veterans, Inc., since the early 1990s, the organization provides important services to veterans in need.

Construction of this Romanesque-style structure, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was completed in 1890 on land purchased from Stephen Salisbury III for \$23,000. Architects Fuller and Delano designed the building, which is similar to other armories of that period that were once used to house arms and train militia. You can see several turrets and tall narrow windows.

Veterans, Inc., took ownership in 2014 when the National Guard Museum and Archives moved to Concord. Until World War I, the location of the Armory had been called Armory Square. It was renamed Wheaton Square in tribute to Homer Wheaton, a reporter at the Worcester Evening Gazette, killed in that war.

*Photography courtesy of the Salisbury Cultural District.*



**TUCKERMAN HALL**  
**10 Tuckerman Street, Worcester MA 01609**  
508-754-1234 | [www.tuckermanhall.org](http://www.tuckermanhall.org)

Stop to admire another of the Salisbury Cultural District's architectural and cultural jewels. The grand neoclassical structure was designed by Josephine Wright Chapman, one of America's first female architects.

Completed in 1902, this structure was originally the headquarters of the Worcester Woman's Club, which focused on women's rights, and later, on health and education programs in support of the Worcester community. Stephen Salisbury III donated the site and, in tribute, the Woman's Club named its principal auditorium Tuckerman Hall in honor of his grandmother, Elizabeth Tuckerman Salisbury.

Eventually the entire building became known as Tuckerman Hall, which sponsored a robust speaking program for many years. Among those who spoke were Woodrow Wilson and John F. Kennedy. In 1976, the Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra took up residence in the hall, and acquired ownership in 1981.

Today, Tuckerman Hall hosts concerts, festivals, weddings and celebrations, business conferences and much more, in addition to the Symphony Orchestra performances.

*Photography courtesy of the Salisbury Cultural District.*

# Side Trips

Here are two more cultural treasures near the Salisbury Cultural District that are sure to delight.



**THE SPRINKLER FACTORY**  
38 Harlow Street, Worcester, MA 01609  
[sprinklerfactory.com](http://sprinklerfactory.com)

Hop in the car and take a short side trip to the Sprinkler Factory, home to independent artist studios and a variety of creative businesses. The Rockwood Sprinkler Company complex offers an airy, spacious art gallery and performance space, and hosts a variety of special exhibitions and public programs.

*Photography courtesy of the Sprinkler Factory.*



**ELM PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL MURALS**  
23 North Ashland Street, Worcester, MA 01609  
[powwowworcester.com](http://powwowworcester.com)

For an amazing photo op, visit nearby Elm Park Community School. Take selfies with friends and family against a vibrant backdrop of exterior murals painted by regional and international artists as part of previous POW! WOW! Worcester Festivals. Since 2016, this international arts festival has produced over 100 curated murals throughout Worcester. It now maintains the largest collection of public murals in New England.

*Photography courtesy of POW! WOW! Worcester. Artist: 123Klan.  
Photographer: Halopigg.*