

# HISTORIC WASHBURN

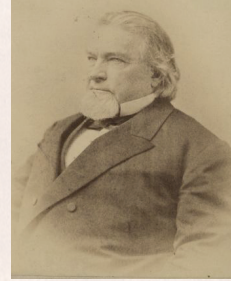
*Welcome to Washburn, Wisconsin!*

The growth of Washburn grew directly out of the needs of the railroad industry. The Port of Washburn was selected as a lake terminus for shipping grain to the eastern markets. Billions of board feet of lumber were shipped out of this port via train and boat.

In 1883, the original 366-acre town site was platted and sale of the first 1,230 lots commenced. The town was named after **Cadwallader C. Washburn**, a Wisconsin governor and co-founder of Minnesota's **Washburn Crosby Milling Company** (General Mills).

A mammoth elevator, the largest on Lake Superior, handled grain brought in from the Great Plains. Three immense sawmills, cutting 600,000 board feet a day, processed timber.

By 1888 Washburn had 4,000 residents. In 1889, all of the wood frame buildings in the principal business block were destroyed in an early morning fire. Those buildings were replaced with structures made of local brownstone, many still stand today.



Gov. Cadwallader C. Washburn

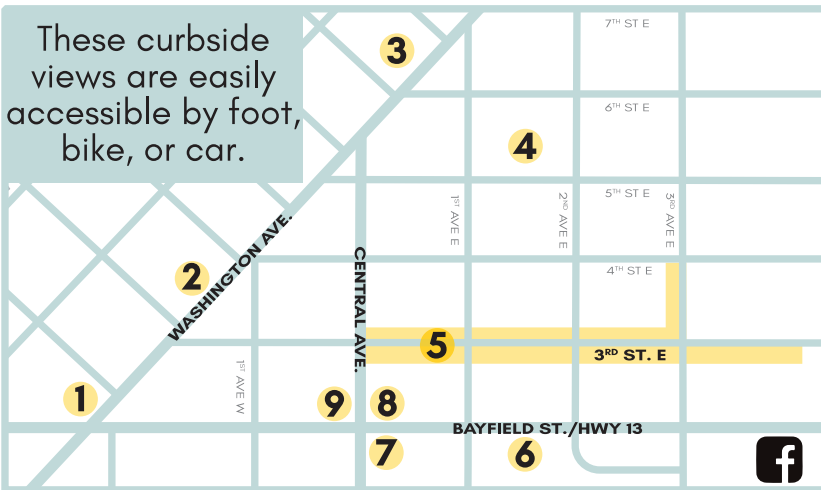


In 1905, the **DuPont Company** built an explosives plant south of town. During World War I Washburn's population soared to 10,000, many employed at the DuPont plant. The Club and many of the homes on Historic 3rd St. East were built to support and house DuPont employees and their families.

Today, a core of historic brownstone commercial buildings, historic residential and over a mile of public access to the Lake Superior shoreline, make Washburn an ideal place to explore.

# WASHBURN HISTORIC BUILDINGS TOUR

These curbside views are easily accessible by foot, bike, or car.



## WASHBURN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

The WHA's mission is to enrich the experience of living in our community by telling the compelling stories and preserving the historic buildings and culture of the Washburn area.

See more Washburn history on our Facebook page and at the kiosk in Wikdal Park. History-based lectures are held throughout the year.

For more information about the WHA visit: [washburnheritage.org](http://washburnheritage.org)

DISCOVER THE FASCINATING AND UNIQUE HISTORY OF WASHBURN THROUGH ITS ARCHITECTURE AND ITS HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

**1****WASHBURN CITY HALL**  
1893; 1920**119 Washington Avenue**

The 1893 brick section of City Hall was originally Washburn's first library. The brownstone used for the 1930's addition was salvaged from the old Northern State Bank Building.

**2****WASHBURN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

1904

**307 Washington Avenue**

The Classical Revival brownstone library is one of many libraries built with funding from Andrew Carnegie. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**3****ST. LOUIS CHURCH**

1902

**217 West 7th Street**

This brownstone building was originally intended to be a tall typical Gothic Revival church design. But lack of funds due to the decline in the lumber industry made the completion of this design impossible.

**4****BAYFIELD COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

1896

**117 East 5th Street**

The grand portico and domed cupola on the brownstone courthouse make this a particularly handsome building. When completed in 1896, for a cost of \$31,000, each office had its own telephone! It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**5****DUPONT HISTORIC DISTRICT****Four blocks of East 3rd Street**

between Central Avenue and East 4th Avenue, have a concentration of homes from the 1880's through the 1930's. Many of the homes were constructed by DuPont for workers at the Barksdale Dynamite Factory, the largest producer of TNT in America in the 1920's.

**6A****6B****6A WASHBURN FAMILY DENTISTRY**  
1889**16 East Bayfield Street**

Originally a Queen Anne style facade, this building housed the Racket Shop which sold notions and was owned by J.H. Cole, who lived upstairs. Other tenants have been attorneys and the Washburn Waterworks.

**6B BAYFIELD COUNTY BANK**  
1889**14 East Bayfield Street**

The first bank in Bayfield County. The original first story storefront featured a centered display window and entrance doors to the bank. Built of brownstone from the Prentice Quarries at Houghton Point.

**7****CHEQUAMEGON BOOKS**  
1888**2 East Bayfield Street**

This large brownstone "union block" building originally housed a pharmacy, general merchandise store and a newspaper. The second floor also housed the Chequamegon Lodge of the International Order of Odd Fellows.

**8****WASHBURN HISTORICAL MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER**

1890

**1 East Bayfield Street**

The impressive brownstone Romanesque Revival building was designed by architects Conover & Porter of Ashland. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Be sure to visit the museum on the second floor.

**9****THE CLUB**  
1918**3 East Bayfield Street**

This Dutch Colonial building served as the social center of Washburn from 1918 to 2008. Renovations by a dedicated group of citizens continue to bring The Club back to life. Today, the community participates in a wide variety of activities.