

Iowa City Walking Tour

View Map: <https://www.midwestarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/ICWT>

Stop	Name	Description
1	Graduate Hotel	2025 Plains-Midwest Archaeology Conference
2	Tornado path	2006 a large tornado tore through town, decimated this block
3	Voxman School of Music	Artifact display 1st floor. 2013 excavations included stone foundation with trade beads, cistern full of lamp glass.
4	Lost Business District	Now the Old Capitol Town Center Mall, a large 19th c shopping and hotel district demolished in the 1970s. Burkley Hotel was famous haunt of writers. In the 1830s 500 Indians reportedly camped about here, scene of a duel.
5	Pedestrian Mall	This historic intersection was gutted by urban renewal
6	Donnelly's Tavern	119 S Dubuque, famed hangout for writers 1960s-70s. Nonextant.
7	Franklin Printing house	1856, remnant of antebellum downtown, housed 19th c newspaper offices
8	Davis Drug Store	1859-1911 M.W. Davis had extensive artifacts and natural history displays at his drug store, the first museum in Iowa. Davis was a founder of SHSI and led the first systematic archaeology in Iowa. Store burned 1912, replaced by historic Jefferson Hotel.
9	21 S Dubuque	Excavations in the basement in 1911 found a pot of gold and a human skull, building dates to 1874-1876
10	Prairie Lights	One of the last independent new book sellers
11	Hero George Andrews	In 1873 George Andrews, an African American volunteer fire fighter, killed on duty when the Market Hall burned. "He was the bravest fireman in the city."
12	Ten Eyck Cabin	1839 first US residence in Iowa City. Gov. Lucas stayed here. Nonextant. Spot where 1907 postcard made
13	Biology Bridge	Built 2000, designed to evoke covered bridges and railroad truss bridges
14	Bioscience Library	One of many Proudfoot buildings (1902), was designed around a human cadaver dissection theater.
15	Philips Hall	Former scene of a large collection of Quanset Huts in the 1940s and 1950s, where returning GIs lived while attending UI. Philips Hall's 1965 facade might have been designed to resemble a punch card
16	Klondike Bill	Famous photo taken here of beloved transient man with dog-pulled wagon, Dec. 1, 1911
17	Old Capitol Museum	Displays of the 1840s capitol, early University. Built by John Rague, who built the Illinois Old capital and UW-Madison Bascom Hill buildings
18	Iowa Hall	Museum of Natural History includes extensive artifacts from around state. Part of MacBride Hall, which also houses Anthropology
19	Hubbard Park	Sign. Excavation of a working-class neighborhood in 2014 included some Woodland material and Indian trade goods.
20	Memorial Union	Excavation in 2011 led to the documentation of buried features we saw in the 1990s.
21	Halsey Hall	Built as a women's gym in 1915, reminder of Iowa being first western college to admit women in 1855. Exterior used in old TV series Coach.
22	Calvin Hall	Finkbine, the same architect of the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines, built this in 1885 next to the Old Capitol. Moved here in 1905.
23	Slavery in Iowa	in 1841 at Chauncey Swan Hotel only recorded sale of enslaved in Iowa, nonextant, location now Gilmore Hall.
24	Park House Hotel	1852 hotel, became St. Agatha's Female Seminary in 1862 -1909. preserved and restored after a long fight.
25	St. Mary's Church	1841 church one of oldest buildings in city, founded by Indian Missionary Sam Mazzuchelli and Mathias Loras
26	Beer Cave	Extant large 19th c beer cave made news when revealed in 2019.
27	Grace and Rubie Co's Restaurant	209 N Linn, a restaurant 1976-8 that only allowed women; subject of T. C. Boyle's 1977 story "Woman's Restaurant."

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28	Hamburg Inn 2	Restaurant visited by many presidents, writers such as Allan Gurganus, John Cheever, John Irving
29	Tennessee Williams II	Williams also lived here as a student. Demolished ca. 2012.
30	Haunted Bookshop	1847 house, now large used book store
31	Fox Head	Ancient dive bar frequented by writers associated with the Iowa Writers Workshop such as Vonnegut. A saloon here 1892, but also a feed shop in 1899. Ruined by fire ca. 1905, rebuilt as bottling works. Foxhead since 1934.
32	Nicking House	Built 1854, very rare sandstone house.
33	John's Groceries	1841 storefront. Dirty John's grocery store has been here since 1948, previously it was a hose house (fire station), offices, a saloon. cigar factory
34	Artifacts Antiques	Large, well-curated antique store
35	Bostick House	1851, early town hall and Civil War recruiting center
36	Old Hospital	Surviving remnant of original UIHC
37	State Historical Society library	Understaffed, excellent library, where digital newspaper scanning began
38	Iowa Avenue	Planned as a promenade spanning from Capitol to governor's mansion, capital moved to DM before governor's mansion built
39	Eastlawn Arch	Architectural remnant of the former home of the OSA
40	Davis Hotel	Boerner-Fry 1899 pharmaceutical and perfume factory, hotel 1922-1972
41	Farmer's Market	Saturday morning
42	Elk Lodge	Exposed foundations of the Elk Hall demolished 3 years ago show a series of walls- from mid 19th-c stone to concrete block.
43	Press-Citizen building	1937 Art Deco beauty, note the bas relief over entrance
44	Post Office Point	In 1916 Charles Keyes, the founder of Iowa archaeology, recorded his only site in Iowa City, a Snyders point found while the old Post Office was under construction
45	Englert Theatre	1912 theater
46	Commercial College	built 1880-1883, a private school offering training in office work; old city hall was to east
100	Original Depot 1856	Between 1856 and 1860 anyone who wanted to travel to the West had to disembark here. Nonextant.
101	Close Mansion	1874
102	Iowa OSA	1959 A&P grocery building home of OSA since 1998
103	Purinton Paver house	Only house I know of anywhere made of paving brick, 1920. A holdout lot amid huge apartment blocks, the apartments ot west demolished pre-Civil War brick cottages.
104	1898 Depot	Passenger depot. Extant.
105	1860 Railroad Bridge	Between January 1856 and August 1860 Iowa City was the farthest west anyone could travel by rail, making it the US frontier. Wagon trains and the Mormon Trek began from the Iowa City area for this reason. The current bridge dates to 1901.
106	County Courthouse	1901.
107	Iowa House	Literary rental house, John Cheever, Raymond Carver, Tennessee Williams, and Henry Coulette lived here. 421 S Capitol, non-extant.
108	Stanley Museum of Art	Artifacts from around the world, strong African collection
109	Hydro Lab and Power House	
110	Iowa Field	
111	Wooden Capitol/ Kenney's Tavern	125 S Clinton, 1940s-1960s counterculture, writers, and Black students, Philip Roth wrote about in Esquire 1962. In 1841 Walter Butler built a large wooden inn to be used as temporary state capitol, moved 1856.
112	Tennessee Williams I	Williams lived here ca. 1937-1939, demolished by the UI in 2019
113	Flannery O'Connor	Flannery O'Connor and later Gail Godwin lived in Bowman House

Stop	Name	Description
114	Pagliai's Pizza	Local favorite
115	New Pioneer Cooperative	Founded 1971, grocery