

## Bennington, VT Walks

Three walks are available; a 5K Rated 1A; a 6K Rated 2A; and a 10K Rated 2A.

**START POINT:** Jays Art Shop & Frame Gallery  
115 South St. (Vermont Route 7)  
Bennington, VT 05201  
Website: [jaysartshop.com](http://jaysartshop.com)

The walks begins in front of Jay's Art Shop & Frame Gallery which is open Mon-Sat: 9:00AM – 5:00PM and Sun: 11:00AM – 4:00PM. Jay's is closed on Major Holidays. Before or after your walk you may want to visit the shop to view creative gifts and art supplies.

**DIRECTIONS TO START POINT:** Bennington is in southwestern Vermont at the junction of US Route 7 and Vermont Route 9 and is approximately 40 miles northeast of Albany, NY; 125 miles northeast of Hartford, CT; and 140 miles northwest of Boston, MA.

**From the South:** Take I-87 North (New York Thruway-from NYC) to take exit 23 and take I-787 towards Albany/Troy. Follow I-787 north to exit 9E (Route 7 east to Troy). Follow Route 7 to NY/VT State Line where NY Route 7 becomes VT Route 9. Route 9 continues into downtown Bennington.

**From the North:** Take I-87 South to exit 7E (Route 7 East to Troy). Follow Route 7 through Troy to the NY/VT State Line where NY Route 7 becomes VT Route 9. Route 9 will continue into downtown Bennington.

**From I-90 West:** (New York State Thruway-from Buffalo) Take exit for I-87 North. Use Exit 7E for Route 7 east. Take Route 7 through Troy to the NY/VT State Line where NY Route 7 becomes VT Route 9. Route 9 continues into downtown Bennington.

**Course Description:** Tucked between 2 mountain ranges, the Taconics on the west and the Green Mountains on the east. Bennington is one of Vermont's oldest and most historic towns. The walk follows city sidewalks and a dirt path. Depending on the 5K (10K includes all), route you select, you will see some of the following: The Old First Church burial ground where poet Robert Frost and Soldiers for both sides in the Battle of Bennington are buried, the Bennington Battle Monument, the Bennington Museum, Hemmings Motor News and Museum, "Pottery Row," the former location of the Bennington Pottery industry, and the Walloomsac River Pathway.

The following maps & directions may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

For immediate emergency assistance call **911**.

Event Related Assistance: POC: Louise Remillard, 518-496-1879

E-mail: [benningtonwalk@walkescv.org](mailto:benningtonwalk@walkescv.org)

## Bennington, VT 5K Walk – Rated 1A

**This 5K is rated 1A.** The route includes the old Pottery Row area, the Vermont Veterans' Home and the downtown area.

**Begin:** In front of Jay's, face the street:

1. **LEFT** on South St. Walk to Main St. and **CROSS** Main St. (Note: South St. becomes North St.)
2. **RIGHT** on Main to **CROSS** North St.
3. **LEFT** on North St. Walk to and **CROSS** Pleasant St.
4. **RIGHT** on Pleasant St. **CROSS** School St. and walk to Park St.

*After crossing School St., note the substantial homes of three men who led the Bennington pottery industry. The Norton/Fenton House at 204-208 was built in 1838. At one time a monumental ceramic piece exhibited at the 1853 Crystal Palace Exposition in New York City stood in front, but it is now in the Bennington Museum. The Thatcher House (1885) at the corner of Pleasant and Park is a mixture of stick style, Queen Anne and Tudor Revival.*

5. **LEFT** on Park St. Walk to Gage St. *Note the school playground on the left. (Par for the Course)*

*Originally called Pottery St., This is the entrance to Pottery Row. The pottery industry, established in 1794 in Bennington, moved to this area in 1834 to take advantage of waterpower from the Walloomsac River. The pottery industry was located on the left side of the street just before crossing the river. On the left after crossing the bridge, immediately past the school, is 136 Park, the modest home of William Leake. Like many of the potters, he was an English immigrant. Across the street at 133-135 and 137-139 are double tenements dating to 1855 which were built to house single men working in the potteries. Many of the other homes on this street housed pottery workers as well.*

6. **RIGHT** on Gage to and **CROSS** Maple St.

7. **Immediate LEFT** to **CROSS** Gage St. then **RIGHT** to walk down left side of Gage to Division St.
8. **LEFT** on Division to County St.
9. **LEFT** on County St. to North St.

*Directly across from the intersection with School St. is the Bennington Potters Yard, located in a former feed mill. The current Bennington Potters was founded in 1948.*

10. **RIGHT** on North St. **Continue** to the stone entrance of the Vermont Veterans' Home.

*Note the Blue Benn diner on the left. Built by the Paterson Vehicle Co. as a "Silk City" diner, it has been in this location since 1949.*

11. **RIGHT** at Vermont Veterans' Home and walk down the driveway to the parking lot.
12. **RIGHT** into the parking lot to the path, immediately on the right. Follow the path through the memorials (Walking with America's Veterans). When finished looking at the memorials, look for the intersection/exit path on the left.
13. **RIGHT** on the intersection path which leads back to North St.
14. **LEFT** on North St. **Continue** until crossing over the Walloomsac River on a small bridge. Immediately after the bridge there will be a path along the river on your left.
15. **LEFT** onto the path. Walk on the path to School St. (No sign, it's the first street encountered.)
16. **LEFT** on School St and cross the bridge. Look for the crosswalk on your right.
17. **RIGHT** crossing School St and continue straight on pathway next to Walloomsac River.
18. **Continue** on the pathway to the end. This is Park St.
19. **RIGHT** on Park St. to Pleasant St.

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## Bennington, VT 5K Walk – Rated 1A

**20. LEFT** on Pleasant St. Look for Valentine St., a one-way street on the right. No sign, it's the first street encountered.

*At the corner of 300 Pleasant is the 1846 home of Julius Norton, grandson of the founder of the Norton potteries.*

**21. Continue** on Pleasant St. to crosswalk just before street curves to the right.

**22. RIGHT** crossing to right side of Pleasant St.

**23. LEFT** to continue on right side of Pleasant St. to Main St/Rt. 9.

**24. CROSS** Main St as Pleasant becomes Union St.

**25. Continue** on Union as it curves right to Valentine St. **CROSS** Valentine St.

*Note the Dollhouse and Toy Museum of Vermont on the corner of Valentine and Union.*

**26. RIGHT** on Valentine St. to Main St/Rt.9.

**27. LEFT** on Main St. **Continue** to the intersection where North and South Streets (Routes 7 and 9) intersect. **CROSS** South St.

*Restaurants and businesses are located on this street and the intersecting side streets.*

**28. LEFT** on South St.

*Directly in front of you is the old Putnam Hotel built in 1871 and operated as a Hotel until 1967. Some of the businesses retain the original cast iron pillars.*

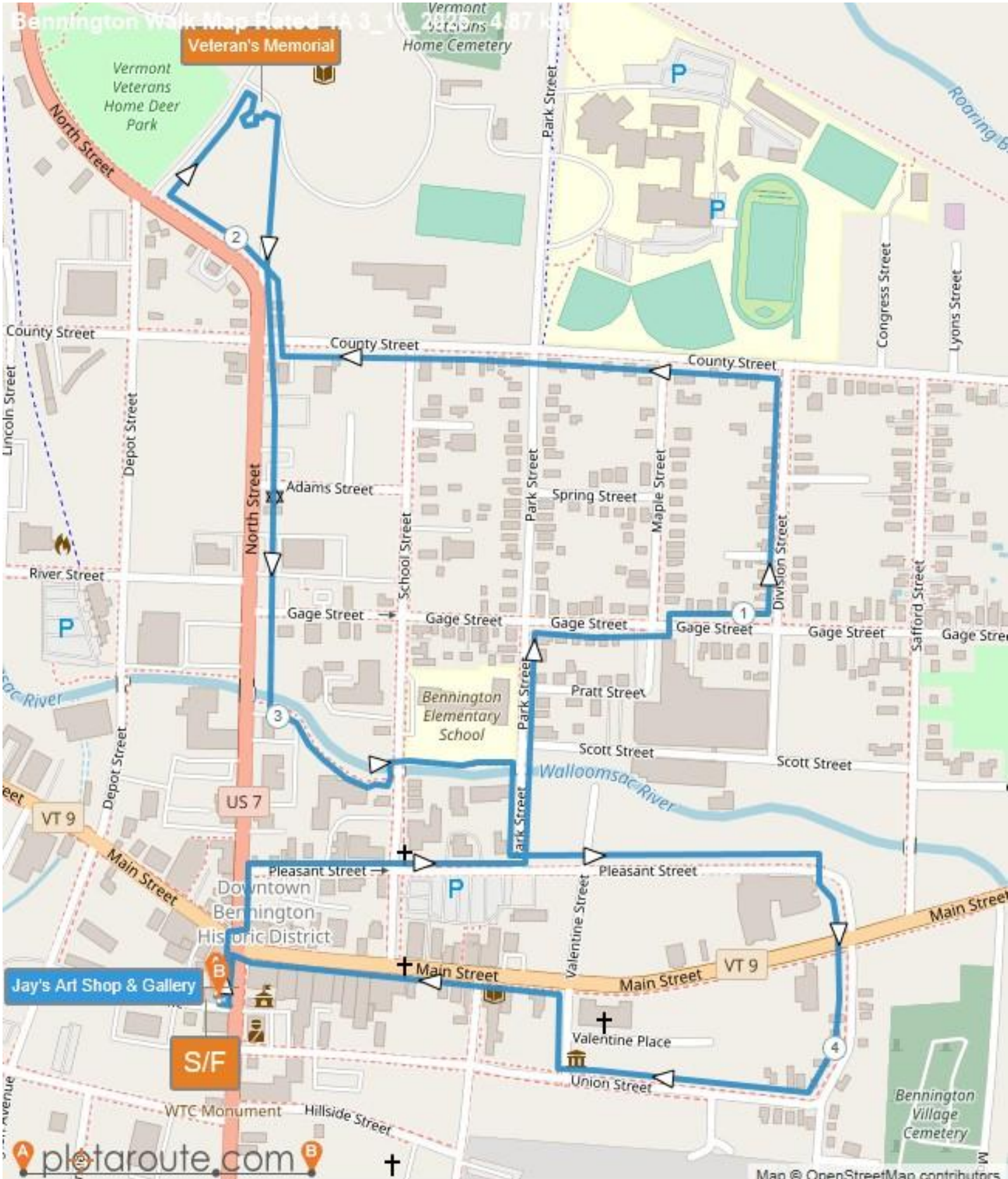
**29. Return** to Jay's Art Shop & Frame Gallery.

*Note: #13 South St, built in 1865, is considered the most architecturally outstanding building in the downtown Historic District.*

<b>SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>	
Par for the Course	Walking with America's Veterans

**AFTER YOUR EVENT:** Be sure to log back into the OSB system to 'finish/complete' your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the date of the event, the distance, and the selection of applicable Special Programs that person is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying-for-credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.) Also note that an event registration expires after 30 days, but if your registrations lapses, you may re-register without cost.

# Bennington, VT 5K Map



## Bennington, VT 6K Walk – Rated 2A

**This 6K is rated 2A.** There is a steady uphill climb at the beginning and a lesser uphill climb approaching the monument. The route includes the Hemmings Motor News Corporate Offices, The Bennington Museum, Old Bennington and the Bennington Monument.

**Begin:** In front of Jay's, face the street:

1. **LEFT** on South St to Main St. **CROSS** Main St/Route 9.
2. **LEFT** on Main St. Continue uphill to Catamount St.

*You will pass St. Francis DeSales church, built in the 1890's. The original parish church, built in 1855, is now part of the Bennington Museum.*

*Hemmings Motor News is located at 222 Main St. Located in and outside an old-fashioned Sunoco Station, there are car-related items of interest.*

*As you proceed up the hill you will see the Bennington Museum on your left. The museum houses a collection of Grandma Moses paintings and Bennington pottery as well as furniture and military artifacts.*

3. **RIGHT** on Catamount St. to end at Bank St.
4. **LEFT** on Bank St. and walk to the end at Monument Ave.

5. **RIGHT** onto Monument Ave. Continue to the road, Monument Circle, in front of the Bennington Battle Monument.

*You are now in Old Bennington, the original site of the town.*

*The Bennington Battle Monument: while it is the most impressive and the tallest in the state commemorating the battle, it does not mark the site. The actual battle took place in Walloomsac, NY, a few miles to the northwest. However, British forces were defeated there were attempting to capture the supplies located here. Militia from VT, NH and MA under General John Stark defeated the British forces thus denying General Burgoyne vitally needed supplies. The lack of supplies, coupled with the loss of troops, were factors which contributed to his later defeat at the Battle of Saratoga, the turning point of the American Revolution. (Anniversary Hurrah!)*

6. **RIGHT** on Monument Circle to walk around the monument counterclockwise. You will return to Monument Ave after completing a full circle.

*The monument is open from mid-April to the end of October. The elevator runs to the top, tickets may be purchased at the small shop nearby. (Restrooms are located next to the shop & are open when the Monument is open.)*

7. **RIGHT** on Monument Ave.; use the sidewalk on the left. **CROSS** Main St. and continue to the cemetery entrance.

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## Bennington, VT 6K Walk – Rated 2A

8. **LEFT** to enter the cemetery and note the following:

*Read the historical information on the signboards. Follow the path down through the cemetery. On your left is a monument and flagpole. The monument marks the graves of American, British and German soldiers who died of wounds in the Battle of Bennington as well as a loyalist executed later.*

*Follow the green signposts to the grave of poet Robert Frost.*

9. **RETURN** to Monument Ave.

*The Old First Church is the home of the first Protestant congregation in Vermont, established in 1762. The current church building dates to 1805 and was the first in the State to be built solely as a church, previously meeting houses served both religious and secular purposes. Enlisted soldiers taken prisoner at the Battle of Bennington were briefly housed here and many wounded died in the church and were buried in the adjoining cemetery.*

*Across the street is the Walloomsac Inn. Built in 1764, it is the oldest inn in the state (now a private residence). Its guests have included presidents Benjamin Harrison and Rutherford Hayes.*

10. **LEFT** on Monument Ave a short distance to and **CROSS** Church Lane.

11. **Immediate RIGHT** crossing Monument Ave. and then Main St. to sidewalk.

12. **LEFT** on Main as it merges with and becomes Monument Ave. Continue to Elm St.

13. **LEFT** on Elm St. to South St.

14. **LEFT** on South St. to Jay's Art Shop and Frame Gallery.

*At the corner of Elm St. and South St. is the Downtown Welcome Center which was built c. 1840 as a blacksmith shop.*

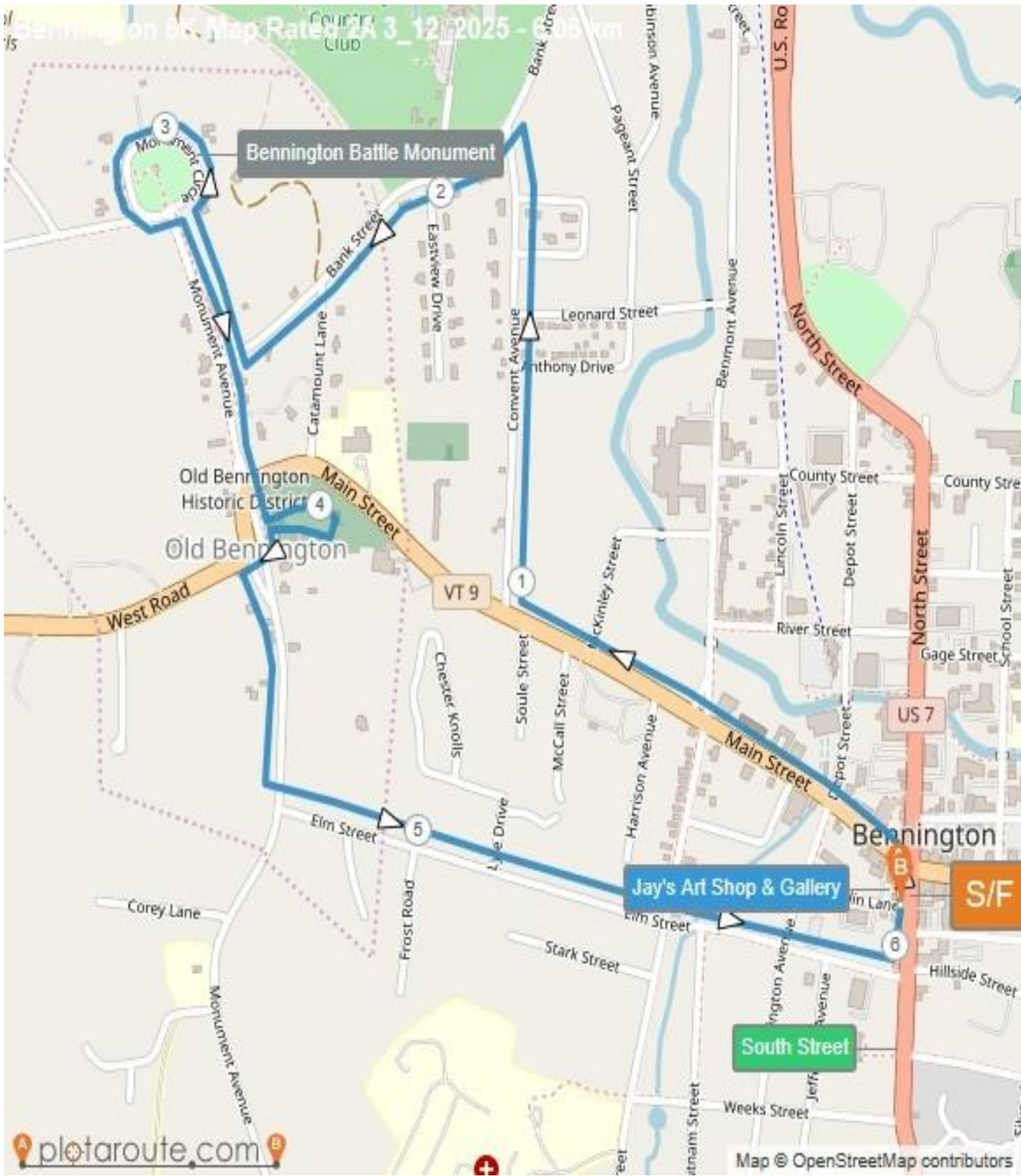
*(Restrooms are available when center is open).*

*Note: #13 South St., built in 1865, is considered the most architecturally outstanding building in the downtown historic district. Also, Bennington Town Offices are on your left as you approach the art shop.*

**SPECIAL PROGRAM:** Anniversary Hurrah!

**AFTER YOUR EVENT:** Be sure to log back into the OSB system to 'finish/complete' your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the date of the event, the distance, and the selection of applicable Special Programs that person is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying-for-credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.) Also note that an event registration expires after 30 days, but if your registrations lapses, you may re-register without cost.

# Bennington, VT 6K Map



## Bennington, VT 10K Walk – Rated 2A

The 10K route includes all the points of interest noted in both 5K and 6K routes and is **rated 2A**.

**Begin:** In front of Jay's, face the street:

1. **RIGHT** on South St. and walk to Elm St.

*Note: Bennington Town Offices are on your right as you leave the art shop.*

*At the Corner of South and Elm is the Downtown Welcome Center. It was originally built c. 1840 as a blacksmith shop.*

2. **RIGHT** on Elm St. to Dewey St.
3. **LEFT** on Dewey St. to **CROSS** Elm St.
4. **Continue** on Dewey St. until you are across from Hospital Dr.
5. **RIGHT** to face Hospital Dr. **CAREFULLY CROSS** Dewey St. and walk on the left side of Hospital Dr.
6. **Continue** through the grounds of Southwestern Vermont Medical Center. Look for the stop sign opposite the Cancer Center.
7. **LEFT** at the stop sign opposite the Cancer Center and proceed to the end of Hospital Dr. The intersecting street is Monument Ave. **CROSS** Monument Ave.

*You will have mountain views both before and behind you.*

8. **RIGHT** on Monument Ave. and **continue** on the left side of the street. Eventually there will be a sidewalk.
9. **Continue** on sidewalk as road splits to Main St (left) and Monument Ave (right). **Continue** to West Rd.

*When you come to a section of old homes clustered near a church, you will be in Old Bennington, the original center of town*

10. **RIGHT** crossing Main and **immediate LEFT** crossing West Rd. to a stone path.

11. **Continue** on stone path. **Follow** stone path as it turns **RIGHT** towards a church. You are in Old Bennington.

12. **CROSS** street(Monument Ave.) to front of the Old First Church.

*The Old First Church, home of the first Protestant congregation in Vermont, was established in 1762. The current church building dates to 1805 and was the first in the state to be built solely as a church. Meeting houses in the era often served both secular and religious purposes. Enlisted soldiers taken prisoner at the Battle of Bennington were briefly housed here. Many of the wounded died in the church and were buried in the adjoining cemetery near the flagpole as well as an executed loyalist.*

13. **LEFT** to cemetery entrance. **Enter** cemetery and note the following:

*Read the historical information on the signboards. Follow the path down through the cemetery. On your left is a monument and a flagpole. The monument marks the graves of American, British and German soldiers who died of wounds in the Battle of Bennington as well as a loyalist executed later.*

*Follow the green signposts to the grave of poet Robert Frost.*

14. **RETURN** to Monument Ave. when you are finished exploring the cemetery.

*Across the street is the Walloomsac Inn. Built in 1764, it is Vermont's oldest inn. The innkeepers hosted Presidents Benjamin Harrison and Rutherford Hayes. Today, it is a private home*

15. **RIGHT** on Monument Ave. and **CROSS** West Main St. and Bank St. to continue up the hill towards the monument. Look for the street called Monument Circle.

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- 16. RIGHT** on Monument Circle to walk around the monument counterclockwise. You will return to Monument Ave after completing a full circle.

*While this impressive structure, the tallest in the state to commemorate the battle, it does not mark the site. The actual battle took place in Walloomsac, NY, a few miles to the northwest. However, the British forces who were defeated there were attempting to capture the supplies located in Bennington. Militia from VT, NH and Massachusetts under General Stark defeated a force composed primarily of German and Loyalist troops, thus denying General Burgoyne vitally needed supplies. The lack of supplies, coupled with the loss of troops, were factors which contributed to his later defeat at the Battle of Saratoga, the turning point of the American Revolution. (Anniversary Hurrah!)*

*The monument is open from mid-April to the end of October. An elevator runs to the top and tickets can be purchased at a small shop nearby. (Restrooms are located next to the shop during the period the monument is open.)*

- 17. RIGHT** on Monument Ave., use the left sidewalk to Bank St.

*The red brick house on the corner of Bank St. and Monument was built in 1821 as a school and later served as a library. It is on the site of the first cabin built in Bennington.*

- 18. LEFT** on Bank St. to Catamount St.

- 19. RIGHT** on Catamount St. (first right, no sign), to West Main St.

- 20. LEFT** on West Main St. and proceed down the hill to and **CROSS** North St. Along the route are buildings of interest:

*Across the street is the Bennington Museum. Exhibits include a collection of Grandma Moses' paintings and Bennington pottery as well as furniture and military artifacts.*

*St. Francis De Sales Church is located at 238 Main St. The original parish church, built in 1855, is now part of the Bennington Museum.*

*Hemmings Motor News is located at 222 Main St. Located in and outside an old-fashioned Sunoco Station. There are car-related items of interest.*

- 21. LEFT** on North St. to and **CROSS** Pleasant St.

- 22. RIGHT** on Pleasant St to Park St.

*After crossing School St., note the substantial homes of three men who led the Bennington pottery industry. The Northon/Fenton House at 204-208 was built in 1838. At one time a monumental ceramic piece exhibited at the 1853 Crystal Palace Exposition in New York City stood in front of the home; the piece is now in the Bennington Museum. The Thatcher House (1885) at the corner of Pleasant and Park is a mixture of stick style, Queen Anne and Tudor Revival.*

- 23. LEFT** on Park St. and walk to County St. Note the school playground on the left. (Par for the Course)

*Originally called Pottery St., this is the entrance to Pottery Row. The pottery industry, established in 1794 in Bennington, moved to this area in 1834 to take advantage of waterpower from the Walloomsac River. The pottery was located on the left side of the street just before crossing the river. On the left after crossing the bridge, immediately after passing the school, is 136 Park, the modest 1855 home of William Leake. Like many of the potters, he was an English immigrant. Across the street at 133-135 and 137-139 are double tenements dating to 1855 which were built to house single men working in the potteries. Many of the other homes on this street housed pottery workers as well.*

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## Bennington, VT 10K Walk – Rated 2A

**24. LEFT** on County St. and continue to North St.

*Directly across from the intersection with School St. is the Bennington Potters Yard, located in a former feed mill. The current Bennington Potters was founded in 1948.*

**25. RIGHT** on North St. Look for the stone entrance to the Vermont Veterans’ Home.

*You will pass the Blue Benn Diner on the left. Built by the Paterson Vehicle Co. as a “Silk City” Diner, it has been in this location since 1949.*

**26. RIGHT** at the stone entrance and walk down the driveway, look for the parking lot.

**27. RIGHT** into the parking lot and then an immediate right onto the path through the memorials (*Walking with America’s Veterans*). When finished looking at the memorials, look for the intersection/exit path on the left.

**28. RIGHT** on the intersecting path back to North St.

**29. LEFT** on North St. Pass over the Walloomsac River on a small bridge. Immediately after the bridge there will be a path along the river on your left.

**30. LEFT** onto the path.

*At your right will be a large stone building which was built as a foundry in 1842. It subsequently served as a gristmill and garage before its current use as commercial space.*

**31. Continue** on the path to School St. (No sign, it’s the first street encountered.)

**32. RIGHT** on School St. to Main St.

**33. RIGHT** on Main St. **Continue** to the intersection where North and South Streets (Routes 7 and 9) intersect. **CROSS** North St.

*Restaurants and businesses are located on this street and the intersecting side streets.*

**34. LEFT** immediately **CROSSING** Main St.

*Directly in front of you is the old Putnam Hotel built in 1871 and operated as a hotel until 1967. Some of the businesses retain the original cast iron pillars.*

**35. RETURN** to Jay’s Art Shop & Frame Gallery.

*Note: #13 South St., built in 1865, is considered the most architecturally outstanding building in the downtown historic district.*

SPECIAL PROGRAMS		
Anniversary Hurrah!	Par for the Course	Walking with America’s Veterans

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