

WETHERSFIELD– 5K/10K Trail Directions and Map
2026/Y2668

“PRE-AMBLE”:

City/State	Wethersfield, CT
Event Name (Town-Tagline-County) (50 characters max)	Wethersfield – Revolutionary War Village near CT River in Hartford County
Event Pitch (200 characters max)	The oldest town in CT combines colonial village charm with scenic beauty.
Rating - Distance	1A – 5, 10km
Event Type	OSB Year Round Walk
Event ID (Year/ID)	2026/Y2668
Dates	1/1 – 12/31, 2026
Special Programs	Washington-Rochambeau Nat'l. Historic Trail, America's Veterans, Anniversaries Hurrah, Walk the USA A-Z
Map Location	200 Main St., Wethersfield, CT
Award	Credit-only
Strollers (Easy/Medium/Hard/No)	Easy
Wheelchairs (Easy/Medium/Hard/No)	Easy
Restrooms	Yes – Keeney Memorial Cultural Center and at some eateries on Main St.
Pets	Yes
Sponsor	AVA-0784 Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club
Web	www.avaclubs.org/cvvc/
Contact	Lee West, LFWest@sbcglobal.net , 860-721-1185.
Start Point Times	Daily, dawn to dusk
Start Point	WEB REGISTRATION ONLY using the AVA Online Start Box (OSB)
Driving Directions (provided to registered walkers)	Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St., Wethersfield: From I-91S: Take Exit 26, turn right at end of ramp and left at the T. Proceed on Marsh St., keeping to right until you reach Main St. (church on your right). Turn left on Main St. and the Keeney Center will be 3 rd building on your left. Drive to parking lot behind building. From I-91N: Take Exit 26 to Old Wethersfield, turning left at end of ramp and proceeding on Great Meadow Rd. to stop sign just beyond corporate complex on your right. Turn left, go under I-91 overpass to T. Turn left at T and proceed on Marsh St., keeping to right until you reach Main St. (church on your right). Turn left on Main St. and the Keeney Center will be 3 rd building on your left. Drive to parking lot behind building.
Event Info (Trail Highlights) (600 characters max)	Wethersfield includes 116 homes built before 1840, with a few dating back to the 17th century, plus a lovely cove off the Connecticut River, with its 1600s warehouse, and a cemetery with many 18th century graves. Historical museums are in the Webb-Deane-Stevens homes (where George Washington and Rochambeau planned the Yorktown campaign, which resulted in American victory in the Revolutionary War) and at Keeney Memorial Cultural Center. More info. at https://wethersfieldct.gov . The 10K route now includes a new recreational trail to the Putnam Bridge over the Connecticut River, connecting Wethersfield and Glastonbury.

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“POST-AMBLE”:

Be sure to log back into the OSB system to “finish/complete” your online registration after doing the walk. The OSB system does not deduct any walking fee from a walker’s Event Bank until they have submitted walk completion info., including the date the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that walker 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 walker’s Event Bank when he/she submits the walk completion info as a paying for credit walker. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.)

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AVA Special Programs: *Washington-Rochambeau Natl. Historic Trail, America's Veterans, Anniversaries Hurrah, Walk the USA A-Z*
FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, CALL 911. LOCAL CLUB POINT OF CONTACT:
 Lee West, 860-721-1185.

DIRECTIONS	COMMENTARY
<p>0. Leaving the START/FINISH at Keeney Memorial Cultural Center parking lot, walk back out to Main St. and turn right on the sidewalk. You'll pass the Hurlbut-Dunham house and museum. Across the street are 3 colonial houses that constitute the Webb/Deane/Stevens Museum. Since these are probably the most well-known historic landmarks in Wethersfield, it's worth carefully crossing the street to read the two interpretive panels in the courtyard (about "Wealth and Taste in Wethersfield" and "Silas Deane – Patriot and Statesman.")</p> <p><i>If you are interested in history, you can enhance your walk by reading the Wethersfield Heritage Walk interpretive markers. There are a total of 27 in Old Wethersfield - you will pass by 19 of them. The MARKER signs are noted in the Commentary column to the right. For more detail, check www.wethersfieldct.com.</i></p>	<p>Wethersfield (named after an English town "Weathersfield") is the oldest town ("most ancient") in Connecticut (well, Windsor residents might debate that). It has the largest historic district in the state: 2 houses from the 17th C., 88 from the 18th C., and 160 from the 19th C. Wethersfield was home to many wealthy ship captains, farmers, and seed companies.</p> <p>The Keeney Memorial Cultural Center was a high school from 1894 to 1929, and an Elementary School from 1929 to 1967. Since 1990 it has been a museum, offering changing exhibits and housing the Wethersfield Historical Society shop. Rest rooms available. Note MARKER A, on left side of driveway exiting the Keeney.</p> <p>Hurlbut-Dunham house and museum – built in the 1790s, bought in 1804 by Capt. John Hurlbut, who circumnavigated the globe on the ship "Neptune." Italianate changes were made around 1860 – piazza, portico, belvedere. Note MARKER 4.</p> <p>Webb/Deane/Stevens Museum consists of three 18th century houses, belonging to a merchant, diplomat and saddler, respectively. General George Washington stayed at the Joseph Webb house not one but 4 nights when he met with Rochambeau in 1781 to plan the Yorktown campaign (colonial revival garden in back). The second house belonged to Silas Deane, who was a member of the First Continental Congress and went to Paris in 1776 to negotiate with the French Government for supplies for the army. Isaac Stevens house was built for his bride in 1788 and remained in the family for 170 years. Note MARKER B.</p>
<p>1. At Church St., turn left toward Village Pizza, crossing Main St. carefully. Proceed down Church St.</p>	<p>Deming-Standish House (1787), now Lucky Lou's restaurant, was once the Wethersfield Village Hotel (1854) serving as a stagecoach stop between Hartford and Middletown, and later the Wethersfield Bank & Trust (1920s).</p> <p>An old sign about George Washington and Rochambeau is in front of the restaurant, and you can cut across the grass around the huge spruce tree to see Note MARKER 1 about the organizations that help preserve the history of Wethersfield and Connecticut..</p>
	<p>The distinctive street signs commemorate Wethersfield's 240+ "Hubbard-built" homes from the 1910-1922 period, usually side-gabled Craftsman (or bungalow) style, with large columned front porches and front dormers. Albert Hubbard later (1929-38) built houses on Garden St. featuring Tudor elements. Many of these homes are on Church St. and in neighborhood between Woodland and Garden streets to left.</p>

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2. At Garden St., cross Church St. and continue up Garden. Pass the Hanmer School on your right. Then follow the sidewalk between the playing field and Mikey's Place playground (on your left) to Hartford Ave. (corner of Nott St.)	Mikey's Place is a wheelchair accessible community playground that allows children of all abilities to play together on specially designed equipment. It was built by family and friends of Michael Daversa who, in 1998 before the age of three, passed away from Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Note MARKER 13.
3. Cross Hartford Ave at the brick house. Turn left near landscaped island to carefully cross Nott St. and State St. to sidewalk on other side. (Watch for turning traffic) The large white Solomon Welles House, 230 Hartford Ave., will be in front of you.	The Solomon Welles House (c. 1774) was formerly the State Prison warden's home. It is now a conference center. The lawn is the site of Wethersfield's Farmer's Market from May to October, held every Thursday from 3 pm to 6 pm. Note MARKER 14
3-A. IF THE PARK IS COVERED WITH DEEP SNOW OR IS MUDDY, take this alternate route: At the Solomon Welles House, turn right on State St. Pass the Motor Vehicle Dept on your left until you come to Main St. At the end, where State St. intersects Main St., turn left and walk up/north several blocks to the Wethersfield Cove, and then retrace your steps on the sidewalk on the far side of Main St. Proceed to Step #8 .	
4. Proceed down circular driveway on left of house, and then follow gravel path on left at a lamp post marked "Bike Trail" down hillside across lawn.	From the 1820's until the 1960's, Cove Park was the site of the State Prison. All that remains today is a rectangular area to your left near the fence of the yacht club, which is the State Prison Cemetery, marked by a single small flush stone in center, 1820-1963. Note MARKER 15
5. Follow stone path along shore of Cove, bearing left at fork in path to stay close to water. Cross Hanmer St. (unmarked). Continue following shore on a grassy rise to the right of the old brown Cove Warehouse. After passing Warehouse, at the Cove Park sign near the parking lot, turn right and join the end of Main St. (unmarked).	Until about 1700, the Wethersfield Cove was the main channel of the Connecticut River; Cove Park was a port with shipyards and warehouses. In a flood, the river course shifted eastward, and now the Cove connects with it via a small channel. The remaining warehouse is from the late 1600's. Note MARKER 16
6. Continue on grassy path until you reach traffic triangle with Cove Park sign. Take sharp right on pavement to head up Main St., crossing to sidewalk on left side of street.	Note MARKER C in Cove Park.
7. Proceed down Main St. on sidewalk on left side of street. Pass Kelley Ave. and River Rd. on your left. (River Road circles around what formerly was Goose Pond in the 17th century, Continue down Main St. passing the triangular landscaped island where State St. comes in from the right.	#521 Main St., first house on the right, was built in 1690. Most of the older homes on Main St. were built by wealthy merchants and sea captains. #481 Main St., a brown house on right, may be the oldest structure in town, a part of the house is believed to date from 1637. #490 Main St., Caleb Griswold House, built 1734. Note red onion painted on small white sign above name of house – a symbol of the town and a major export crop shipped to the West Indies in the 1700's, where, sadly, it was used as cheap food to feed slaves who worked the sugar cane. Note MARKER 17 at Hanmer Park Across Main St. on the right is a house on the site of the Pequot Massacre , in which 9 Wethersfield residents were killed on April 23, 1637. (A few months later, settlers took revenge, killing over 600 Native Americans in Mystic).

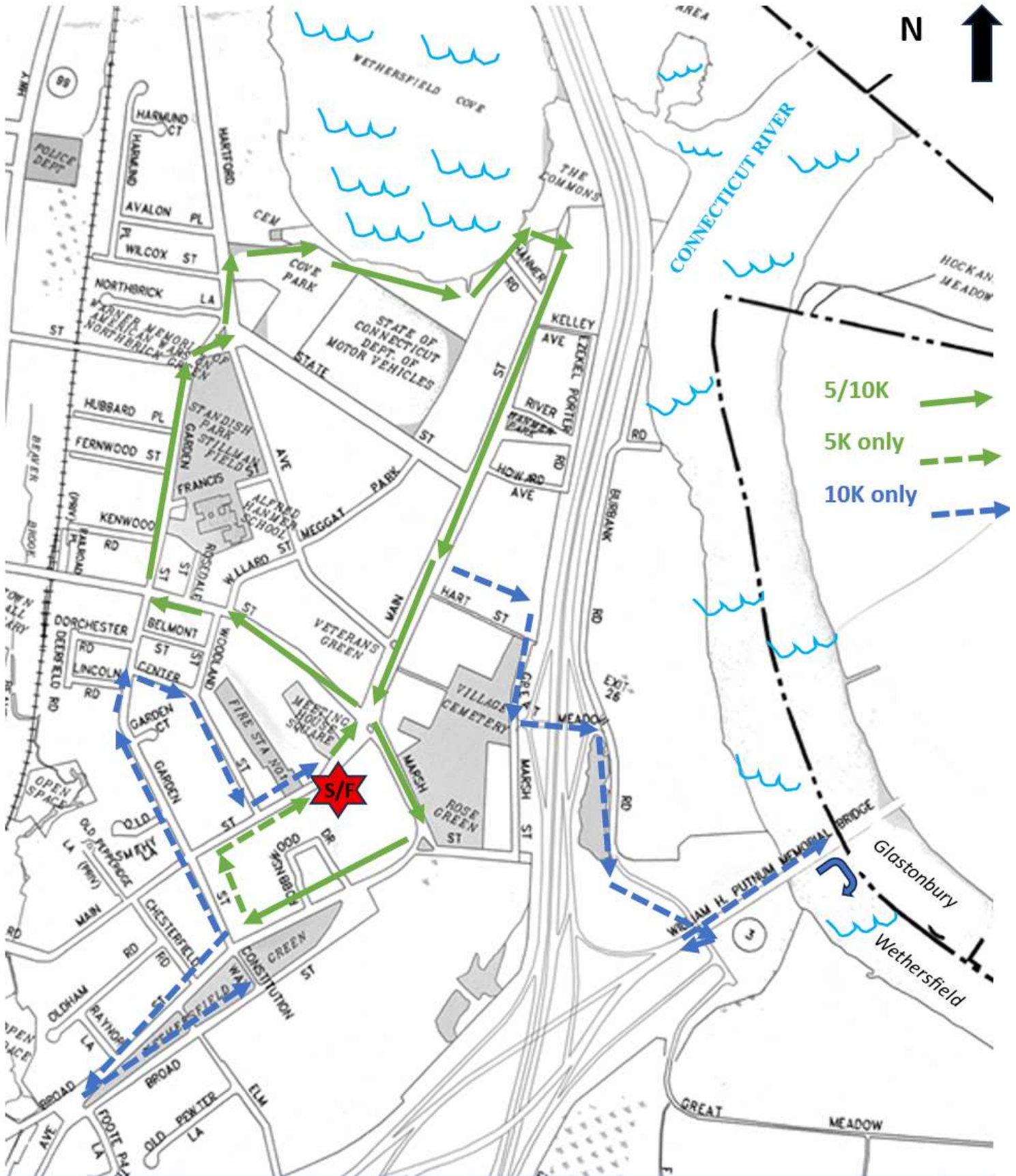
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<i>DIRECTIONS</i>	<i>COMMENTARY</i>
<p>8. Continue down Main St. to Hart St. 10K WALKERS: Turn left on Hart St</p> <p>5K WALKERS: Continue straight on Main St. and skip to step #11</p>	<p>Just past the island is a Colonial “center chimney” style yellow house on the left: #366 is the current home (1760s) of trail masters Carol and Lee West, and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Feel free to ring the front doorbell. If we’re home, we’ll come out and say hi.</p>
<p>9. 10K WALKERS: <i>Steps #9 and #10 include the recreational trail over the Connecticut River. Note: There is a short, somewhat steep ramp up to the trail, and it can be quite windy and exposed on the Putnam Bridge, so you may wish to just do the 5K walk by skipping to step #11.</i></p> <p>9a. Follow narrow Hart St. walking in the bike/pedestrian lane (marked by yellow line) on the left side of the street. Follow bike lane to the right, where name changes to Great Meadow Rd. (no sign).</p> <p>9b. At stop sign, turn left, staying in bike lane, going under I-91 overpass and crossing the off and on ramps with great care. At “T” intersection, carefully cross Great Meadow Rd and follow bike lane on the right. Now follow Great Meadow Rd (no sign) past a pond and marshes and under the bridge.</p> <p>9c. Immediately after the bridge (across from a parking lot and some benches on the left), take a sharp right onto the paved Bike Route ramp (toward Glastonbury) up to the Putnam Bridge.</p>	<p>The only building you will see on Great Meadow Road is the 7-story office building Putnam Park, which was built in the flood plain with only vehicle parking on the bottom floor. One level up is the River Restaurant with a balcony and excellent views of the river. Also, a portable Mexican restaurant Tequila Rio is located on the ground level behind the building with more great views.</p>
<p>10. Ascend the ramp with a switchback to the Putnam Bridge, which carries Rt. 3 over the Connecticut River. Follow the bike/pedestrian lane on the south side of Rt. 3 about halfway over the bridge, marked by a sign on the left indicating the “Wethersfield/Glastonbury” mid-river town line. Stop here and enjoy the view of the Connecticut River and the Hartford skyline to the north.</p> <p>Then turn around and retrace your steps along Great Meadow Rd. and Hart St., back to Main St.</p>	<p>Putnam Bridge was built in the 1950s to be part of the I-491 ring road around Hartford, but most of that highway was never built. In 2013 the bridge was rehabilitated and a bike and pedestrian lane was added to the south side. However, the bike trail and ramps leading to both ends of the bridge were not completed until 2024.</p>
<p>11. 5K/10K WALKERS: From the junction of Hart St. and Main St., continue south on Main St., passing the Chas. C. Hart Seed Co. (1892) and Trinity Episcopal Church on left and Comstock, Ferre & Co., the country’s oldest seed business (1820), on your right.</p>	<p>Wethersfield is famous for its many seed companies. Note MARKER 18. Also note MARKER 19 in front of the Episcopal Church (made of Portland brownstone transported up the Connecticut River). The cornerstone of the church was laid in 1871.</p> <p>Further down and across the street, Main Street Creamery, on your right, is the place for ice cream. Heirloom Market Café, in the Comstock, Ferre & Co. complex, has good baked goods and coffee. Note MARKER 2</p>

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<p>12. At the flagpole and brick First Church of Christ (clock on steeple) in the center of town (Main & Marsh St.), turn left onto Marsh St. (Lucky Lou's restaurant across the street). Follow sidewalk until it ends, then walk a short distance across grass to the crosswalk.</p>	<p>The First Church of Christ (1761) is the third or fourth on this site. Note MARKER 3</p> <p>Behind the church, the Ancient Burying Ground has many stones from the 18th C., and 17th C (Chester family). It is thought the Wongunk Indians used this as a burial ground, and the hill ("Hungry Hill") seen from Marsh St. was a refuge during spring floods of the Connecticut River. Note MARKER 5.</p>
<p>13. Turn right to take crosswalk across Marsh St. onto Broad St. You will soon pass the medieval-looking Buttolph Williams House, with its overhang and casement windows, on right, 249 Broad St. This is one of oldest houses in town.</p> <p>Go straight on Broad St., staying on right (west) side of Green, passing the elegant Silas Robbins B&B (restored after a devastating fire in 2006 and Anderson Farm stand set out in front of the Gothic (à la Adams family!) house on your right (closed in winter.).</p>	<p>Buttolph Williams house, ca. 1720, is open to the public. It served as the setting for Elizabeth Speare's 1958 award-winning novel, <i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i>, about a young woman's experience of superstition and intolerance in a 17th century New England town. Note MARKER 6</p> <p>The Broad Street "Common" was formerly a field where the Wongunks cultivated beans, corn, and squash (east side), a place where Puritan settlers kept livestock (safe from wolves at night), and a training ground for the Revolutionary War's Colonel John Chester's Militia Company. (Wethersfield's John Chester Fife and Drum Corps has won many awards.) In 1928, it was preserved as a green (rather than the proposed "improved route" between Hartford and Middletown).</p>
<p>14. Proceed down right side of the Broad St. Green until you reach Garden St.</p> <p>5K WALKERS: Turn right on Garden St. Proceed to Main St. Turn right onto Main St. and skip to step #17.</p>	
<p>15. 10K WALKERS: Continue past Garden St., proceeding down Broad St. to tip of Green. You'll pass Chesterfield Rd., Raynor Ln., and Spring St. on your right. Take crosswalk across Broad St. and turn left to proceed north up the other side of the Green. Pass Elm St. and continue to next street (Constitution Way), turning left to cut across Green to corner of Broad and Garden St.</p>	<p>At the corner of Constitution Way and Broad, note MARKER D, about the Green and (on the back side) the trees on the Green</p>
<p>16. Continue straight down Garden St. to Main St. Cross over Main St. Proceed down Garden St. to Center St. Turn right on Center St., passing Woodland St. on your left, and continue back to Main St. Cross Main St. and turn left.</p>	
<p>17. 5K/10K WALKERS: On Main St., you'll pass the Old Academy Museum on your right and the award-winning Charles Restaurant and the Wethersfield Fire Station on your left.</p> <p>The START/FINISH at Keeney Memorial Cultural Center will be on your right.</p>	<p>The Old Academy Museum (1804) is now the Wethersfield Historical Society library. Note MARKER 10.</p> <p>The Fire Station was the first chartered fire dept. in Connecticut (1803) and is one of the oldest volunteer fire departments in continuous existence in the U.S.</p> <p><i>We hope you enjoyed your walk through Old Wethersfield.</i></p>

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