

Bennington, VT Walks

Two 5K routes are available: one is rated 1A, the other is rated 2A.
The 10K walk is rated 2A.

START POINT: Jays Art Shop & Frame Gallery PH: 802-447-2342
115 South St. (Vermont Route 7)
Bennington, VT 05201
Website: jaysartshop.com

Jay's Art Shop & Frame Gallery is open Mon-Sat: 9:00AM – 5:00PM and Sun: 11:00AM – 4:00PM.
Jay's is closed on Major Holidays. Call ahead or check the website to verify it is open.

****Restrooms are available across the street at the Police Station****

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 map & 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.

© 2020 Empire State Capital Volkssporters

POC: Louise Remillard, 518-496-1879

E-mail: benningtonwalk@walkescv.org

Bennington, VT 5K Walk – 1A

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

****Restrooms are across the street in the Police Station****

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

1. **LEFT** on South St. Walk to Main St. and cross Main. (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 County St.

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. **LEFT** on County St. 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.
7. **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.
8. **RIGHT** at Vermont Veterans' Home and walk down the driveway to the parking lot.
9. **RIGHT** into the parking lot to the path, immediately on the right. Follow the path through the memorials. When finished looking at the memorials, look for the intersection/exit path on the left.
10. **RIGHT** on the intersection path which leads back to North St.
11. **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.
12. **LEFT** onto the path. Walk on the path to School St. (No sign, it's the first street encountered.) Cross School St.
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.
13. **LEFT** on School St and cross the bridge. Look for the pathway.
14. **RIGHT** on the pathway to the end. This is Park St.
15. **RIGHT** on Park St. to Pleasant St.

Bennington, VT 5K Walk – 1A

16. LEFT onto 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.

17. RIGHT onto Valentine St. Continue to Main St.

18. 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.

19. LEFT – immediately, cross 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.

20. 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		
Rockin' Around the Clock	Little Free Libraries	Walking the USA A-Z

AFTER YOUR WALK, please be sure to log back into the OSB system to "finish/complete" your online registration after completing the walk. The OSB system does not deduct any walking fee from your Event Bank until you have submitted walk completion info including the date the event was walked; the distance walked; and the selection of applicable special programs you're participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded pdf is deducted from your Event Bank when the pdf is downloaded. Later, any pdf fee is credited back to your Event Bank when you submit the walk completion info as a paying-for-credit walker. Note, however, that the \$2 coupon for the downloaded pdf will expire in 60 days).

Bennington, VT 5K Seasonal Walk – 1A



Bennington, VT 5K Walk – 2A

This 5K 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.

****Restrooms are across the street in the Police Station****

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.

- 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.
- 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

Bennington, VT 5K Walk – 2A

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. and continue to Elm St.

11. LEFT on Elm St. to South St.

12. 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.

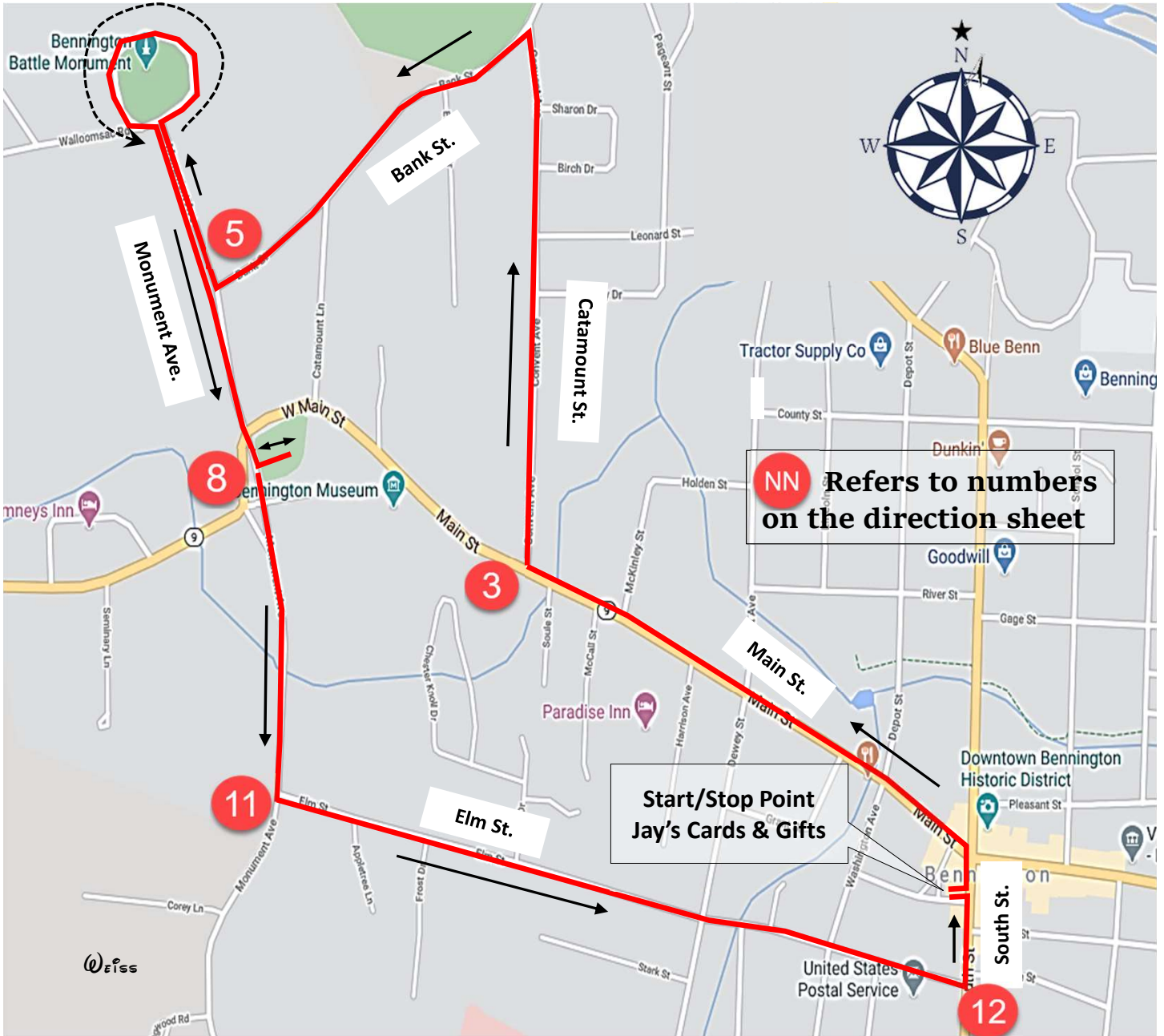
(Restrooms are available when center is open).

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

SPECIAL PROGRAMS		
Rockin' Around the Clock	Little Free Libraries	Walking the USA A-Z

AFTER YOUR WALK, please be sure to log back into the OSB system to "finish/complete" your online registration after completing the walk. The OSB system does not deduct any walking fee from your Event Bank until you have submitted walk completion info including the date the event was walked; the distance walked; and the selection of applicable special programs you're participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded pdf is deducted from your Event Bank when the pdf is downloaded. Later, any pdf fee is credited back to your Event Bank when you submit the walk completion info as a paying-for-credit walker. Note, however, that the \$2 coupon for the downloaded pdf will expire in 60 days).

Bennington, VT 5K Seasonal Walk – 2A



Bennington, VT 10K Walk

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

****Restrooms are across the street in the Police Station****

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

1. **RIGHT** on South St. and walk to Elm St.
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. **RIGHT** to cross Dewey St. at the crosswalk.
5. **LEFT** on Dewey St. No sidewalks, do walk on the lawn area next to Dewey St. and cross Hospital Drive.
6. **RIGHT** on Hospital Drive. Continue through the grounds of South Western 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 and cross West Rd. You are in Old Bennington. Continue and look for the Old First Church across the street.
When you come to a section of old homes clustered near a church, you will be in Old Bennington, the original center of town.
9. **RIGHT** to cross the street in front of the 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.

10. **RETURN** to Monument Ave. when you are finished exploring the cemetery.
11. **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.
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.
12. **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.

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.)

Bennington, VT 10K Walk

- 13. 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.

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

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

- 16. LEFT** on West Main St. and proceed down the hill 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.

- 17. LEFT** on North St. and cross Pleasant St.

- 18. 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.

- 19. LEFT** on Park St. and walk to County St.

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 water power 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.

- 20. 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.

- 21. 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.

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

- 23. RIGHT** into the parking lot and then an immediate right onto the path through the memorials. When finished looking at the memorials, look for the intersection/exit path on the left.

- 24. RIGHT** on the intersecting path back to North St

- 25. 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.

- 26. 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

Bennington, VT 10K Walk

*before its current use as commercial space.
Walk up the path to School St. (No sign, it's the
first street encountered.)*

27. RIGHT on School St. to Main St.

28. RIGHT on Main St. Continue to the major intersection of Routes 7 & 9, (North St and South St). Cross North St.

Directly in front of you will be the old Putnam Hotel built in 1871 and operated as a hotel until

1967. Some of the businesses retain the original cast iron pillars.

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

29. LEFT to cross Main St. and 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		
Rockin' Around the Clock	Little Free Libraries	Walking the USA A-Z

AFTER YOUR WALK, please be sure to log back into the OSB system to "finish/complete" your online registration after completing the walk. The OSB system does not deduct any walking fee from your Event Bank until you have submitted walk completion info including the date the event was walked; the distance walked; and the selection of applicable special programs you're participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded pdf is deducted from your Event Bank when the pdf is downloaded. Later, any pdf fee is credited back to your Event Bank when you submit the walk completion info as a paying-for-credit walker. Note, however, that the \$2 coupon for the downloaded pdf will expire in 60 days).

Bennington, VT 10K Seasonal Walk

