



8

## ASSOCIATION HALL

Now come back to Commonwealth Ave. and stop at Saltbox Kitchen (84 Commonwealth Ave), the site of Association Hall where residents held meetings and enjoyed movies, performances, dances, and many other social and recreational activities.

9

## BLUINE FACTORY

Behind the Saltbox Kitchen, at 20 Beharrell Street, was the Bluine Factory, founded in 1893 to manufacture a laundry clothes whitener. In 1935, the Dovre Ski Binding Company moved in to produce releasable bindings that made skiing safer and more popular.



10

## BOSTON HARNESS COMPANY

Return to Commonwealth Avenue, then go east on Main Street until you reach Baker Avenue. Near here was the Boston Harness Company factory, built in 1890, where a multinational workforce made harnesses, saddles, holsters, and belts. Across the street on "Harness Shop Hill" many of the homes the company built for workers still stand.



Presented by the West Concord Junction Cultural District Committee with funding support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency

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*Photos courtesy of Concord Free Public Library except Dovre Ski Binding Company about 1956. Concord Museum Collection, Gift of Jack Lorenz; 2016.10.10.*

# A TOUR OF WEST CONCORD'S INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

Explore the sites of West Concord's mills, factories, railroads, and community life from the 17th to 20th centuries.





**The West Concord Junction Tour is a leisurely excursion through the industrial history of our village. You can use this brochure in conjunction with the West Concord Junction Cultural District brochure map to lead you through town and along the way visit our vibrant community of today.**

1

## DAMON MILL

From the center of West Concord, follow Main Street west about a mile to the Damon Mill pictured above. An ironworks was founded near here in the 1600s. In 1808, a cotton mill was built by Ephraim Hartwell and John Brown and then bought by Calvin Damon in 1834 to produce cotton and wool cloths. The mill was a major employer in West Concord for many decades.

2

## GUNPOWDER MILLS

To get to Pratt's Gunpowder Mills, continue west on Main Street, turn left onto Forest Ridge Road, then take the second right off the large rotary to a small parking lot for Powder Mill Woods Trail at the entrance to the Black Birch community. Here workers labored in 40 buildings on 400 acres on both sides of the river to make gunpowder between 1835 and 1940.



3

## CONCORD JUNCTION DEPOT

Head east down Main Street to Commonwealth Avenue and the Concord Junction Depot, now the Club Car Cafe. By the 1870s, growth of the railroads greatly increased West Concord industry by transporting raw materials and finished goods. At its peak, 120 trains came through Concord Junction.

4

## NASHOBA BROOK

Go to 152 Commonwealth Avenue, now home to Art for All, Nashoba Brook Bakery, Potager Soap, and more. Near this site on Nashoba Brook was the Loring Lead Works (1819), Ralph Warner's Wooden Pail and Tub Factory (1850s), the Lambretta Garnett Mill (1916) which worked recycled wool fabric, and Leather Shop (1968) where a multinational workforce made beautiful handmade leather accessories.

5

## WARNER'S POND

Follow Commonwealth Avenue towards the Route 2 rotary where Ralph Warner built homes primarily for prison officers of the Reformatory. Warner's Pond, off Commonwealth Ave., offered skating, sledding, boating, and other recreation.

6

## REFORMATORY

At the Route 2 rotary is the site of, first, a state prison built in 1878, and then the Reformatory with its mission to rehabilitate inmates. Here they learned to make harnesses, furniture, clothing, and more, took academic classes, and enjoyed lectures and social events. West Concord residents came to the Reformatory grounds for picnicking and other recreation.



7

## ALLEN CHAIR COMPANY

Return to West Concord Center via Commonwealth Avenue to the Wheelhouse at the Bradford Mill on Bradford Street. Here, beginning in 1906, the Allen Chair Company made furniture for offices and homes for 50 years before selling the building to the Finley Manufacturing Corporation, which made household furniture.

