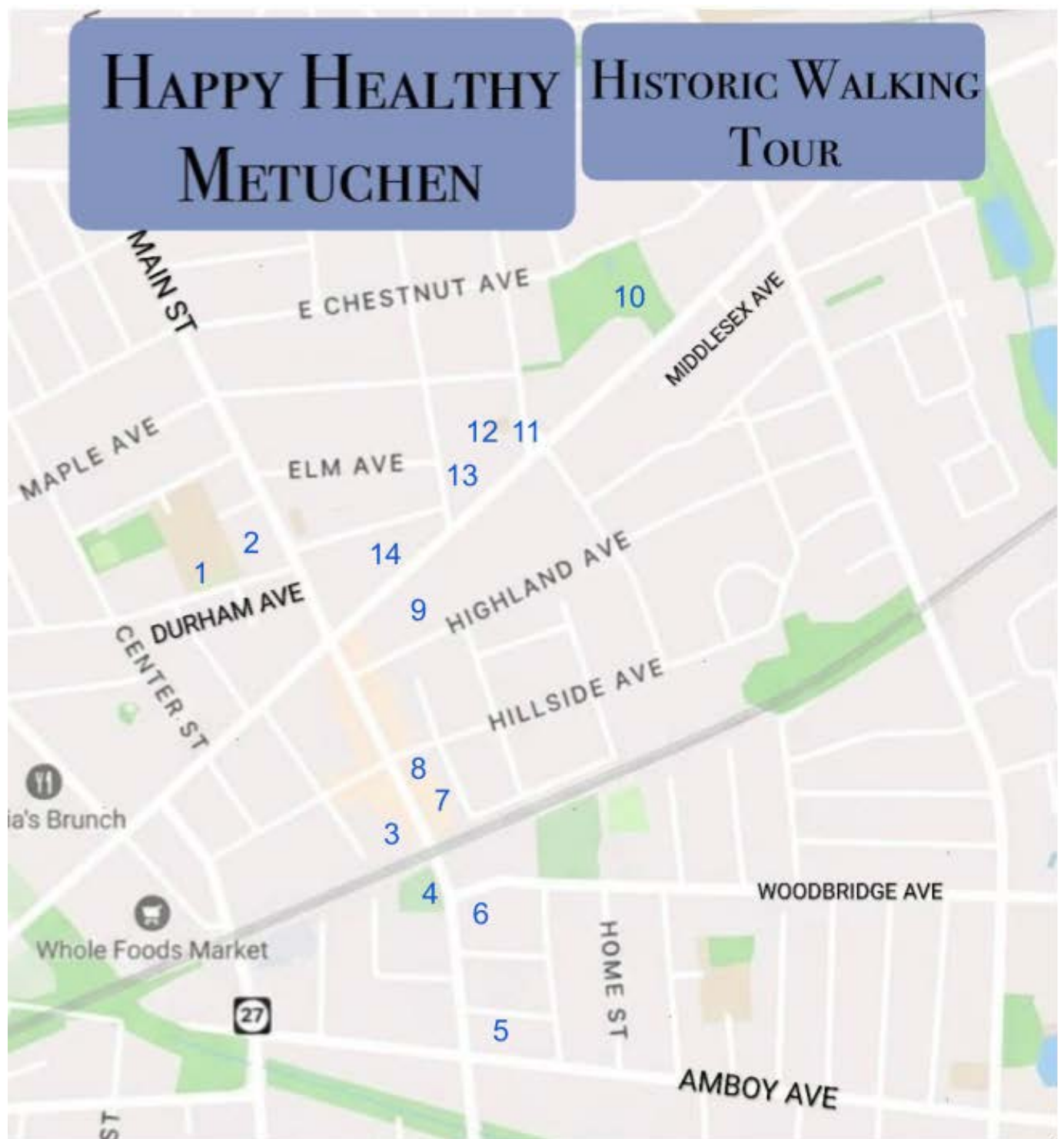


HAPPY HEALTHY METUCHEN - HISTORIC TOUR -
ADDIE PUERZER, GIRL SCOUT



1- Campbell Elementary School at 24 Durham Ave



Campbell Elementary School was opened in 1952. The school was named after a community member named William Thomas Campbell who was a citizen dedicated to the local children's education. Near the current day gym, a historic major league baseball game was held. This memorable game was the Metuchen team against the St. Louis Cardinals. For more information on this historic game, please visit <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/968560>

2- Ayers Allen House at 16 Durham Ave



The Ayers Allen House was built circa 1740. During the Revolutionary War, it served as a tavern where British and Americans met to find agreements with buying and selling ale. The house is said to be haunted with ghosts of those who have died on the premises in its early times.

3- Robins Hall at 401 Main Street (Present day Akihi)



Robins Hall was built in 1873 and originally served as a prominent community hub, post office, local theater, ballroom, public library, and temporary Borough Hall. The purpose of it was to be a convenient meeting point. Today it has residential apartments and storefronts on the ground floor.

4- Old Colonial Cemetery across from the Post Office



The Old Colonial Cemetery is the final resting place of at least 66 war soldiers and patriots. The oldest grave there is for an individual that died in 1731. The Colonial Meeting House formally on this site is referenced in General George Washington's letters from 1777.

5- Forum Theater and Arts District at 314 Main Street



The Forum Theater was built and opened in 1928. The space was used for community events like concerts, mass meetings, and social gatherings. The last show there was in 2022 but the town is planning to revamp the space to make it usable and restore its original purpose.

6- Freedom Plaza at the corner of Woodbridge Ave and Main Street



Freedom Plaza is a small area dedicated to all 701 New Jersey residents that lost their lives due to the 9/11 attacks. The monument specifically features 13 victims that were locals from Metuchen and Edison.

7- Hook and Ladder at 398 Main Street (The red brick building next to Hailey's)



In 1882, the Hook and Ladder was established in Metuchen. It was the original fire house. In 1928, the Mack Quad was invented. This meant there was a hose bed, a water tank, a pump, and a full complement of ground ladders all in a single vehicle.

8- Original Bank Building at 406 Main Street (Present day Optique Unique)



The historic National Bank Building was finished in 1908. The building was designed by a local architect by the name of John Noble Pierson and Sons. The bank was the most modern thing made during that time with special office layouts and also having meeting rooms..

9- Old Franklin School House at 491 Middlesex Ave



Old Franklin Schoolhouse was built around 1807 to serve as a school for young children in the area. The school was for small children learning the alphabet alongside teenagers preparing for adulthood. The older students would usually help and tutor the younger children. It retired from being a school in the 1870s.

10- Woodwild Park at 312 Middlesex Ave



Woodwild Park is a 3.5-Acre nature sanctuary. It was donated in 1897 by Charles and Elizabeth Corbin. In 2017 the park was recognized and added to the National Register of Historic Places.

11- House Trough on the triangle island at the intersection of Oak Ave and Middlesex Ave



The House Trough is a Victorian-Era cast-iron public fountain. It marks the entrance for Woodwild Park. The top basin was used for working horses and provided drinking water for them. The lower basin allowed dogs and other animals at ground level to have drinking water. The rear tap provided clean drinking water for human pedestrians and carriage drivers.

12- St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 17 Oak Ave



St. Luke's Episcopal Church was built in 1868 but the founding group came together 4 years prior in 1864. The church is built in the Carpenter Gothic style meaning it included pointed arches, steep gables, and towers. Due to budget cuts and loss of money, the church was built out of wood rather than the grand dream they originally thought of.

13- Metuchen Inn at 424 Middlesex Ave



This Metuchen Inn was built circa 1840 and was a home until 1923 when it became a restaurant. A fire in 2010 wipes out much of the original features.

14- Metuchen Library at 480 Middlesex Ave



The Metuchen Library was built between 1935 and 1937 as a W.P.A project and cost about \$75,000 and included a donation from a professor at the University of Princeton by the name of Theodore Hunt. Also, between the library and Borough Hall, there is a small space that includes a statue honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It honors his legacy and leadership.