



# Historic Middleton Downtown Walking Tour

A



**Rowley House** ... 7412 Hubbard Ave. Built by Dr. Newman C. Rowley in 1868 at a cost of \$800. When Newman died in 1871, his son, Dr. Antinous A. Rowley moved in and continued the practice. Next, Dr. Antinous G. Rowley became the third generation of this family to live in the home. These doctors served the Middleton area for many years as they traveled by horseback, buggy and finally by car. In 1989, the Middleton Area Historical Society purchased the home following a generous gift from Gilsie T. Techam.

**Wolf House** ... 7426 Elmwood Ave. Built in 1868 by Henry G. Wolf after the woods in the area were cleared off. The house was barely saved from the 1900 fire that destroyed much of downtown Middleton. Carpeting in the house was removed and hauled up to the roof where it was spread out and kept wet by family members passing water buckets up to Mr. Wolf while the fire raged. The present garage was once a summer kitchen. The home was in the Wolf family for more than 100 years.



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**American Hotel** ... 1904 Parmenter St. Built in 1867, the hotel was famous for 25-cent Sunday dinners and liquid refreshments when nearby areas were "dry." It was popular with Univ. students, residents and traveling salesmen. After closing as a hotel, it remained in the Stricker family as a residence and doctor's office (Dr. M.F. Stricker) until 1940; the upstairs was rented apartments. In 1968, Charles Haycock a Madison artist, opened the Gallery Haycock in the building and added structures in the back. He also started a unique restaurant, gift shop and greenhouse complex.

**Du Frenne Building** ... 1834 Parmenter St. Built of brick in 1898 by Fred and Martin DuFrenne, the store carried a full line of general merchandise, clothing, dry goods, groceries, hardware and farm machinery. The second floor was occupied by Dr. E. Schuster, a Dentist starting in 1899 and later by Dr. C.F. Allen a physician. The Du Frenne's eventually moved to Madison and a series of other owners turned the building into various retail businesses including a grocery store, furniture store, hardware store and a printing shop.



D

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**Weinberg/Schroeder Building** ... 1828 Parmenter St. Built in 1868, the building contained a store and a saloon opened by Charles Weinberg. In 1888, Postmistress Salome Schroeder established the Post Office in this building where it remained for 31 years; the first time it was in a business setting rather than a private home. The building, which survived the fire of 1900, was home to many establishments over the years, including a grocery store, ice cream parlor, dressmaking shop, newspaper, telephone company, funeral home, public library and private residence.

**Opera House** ... 1827 Parmenter St. Built in 1903 after the fire in 1900 destroyed the original Opera House constructed in 1885 by Fritz Hoffman. The original building contained a hotel and saloon as well as the opera house which was a large hall with a platform stage. Events held here included medicine shows, masquerades, holiday dances, political rallies and graduations.

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**Railroad Depot** ... 1811 Parmenter St., built in 1895, is the third depot built in Middleton. The first burned down in 1867 and the second, built by the Milwaukee, Mississippi Railroad Co. in 1870 also burned (in 1894). With the arrival of the railroad, the village of Middleton grew around the Depot and the first village plat was made in 1856. Large quantities of wheat were shipped from granaries near the Depot until the late 1800s. In 1901, two passenger and three freight trains traveled through Middleton daily. The Depot was in use by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad until 1975.



Middleton Area Historical Society, Middleton, Wisconsin  
[www.middletonhistory.org](http://www.middletonhistory.org)  
Rowley House Museum, 7410 Hubbard Avenue  
Middleton Depot Tourism Center, 1811 Parmenter Street

**Pierstorff House** ... 7457 Terrace Ave. Built in 1890 by local business man, William Pierstorff, owner of the lumber yard and founder of The Bank of Middleton. Previously, another mansion was built on this site by Richard Green which he later sold to Pierstorff who split the house into two homes. Each section was then moved to Henry St. and both are still occupied as private residences.



H



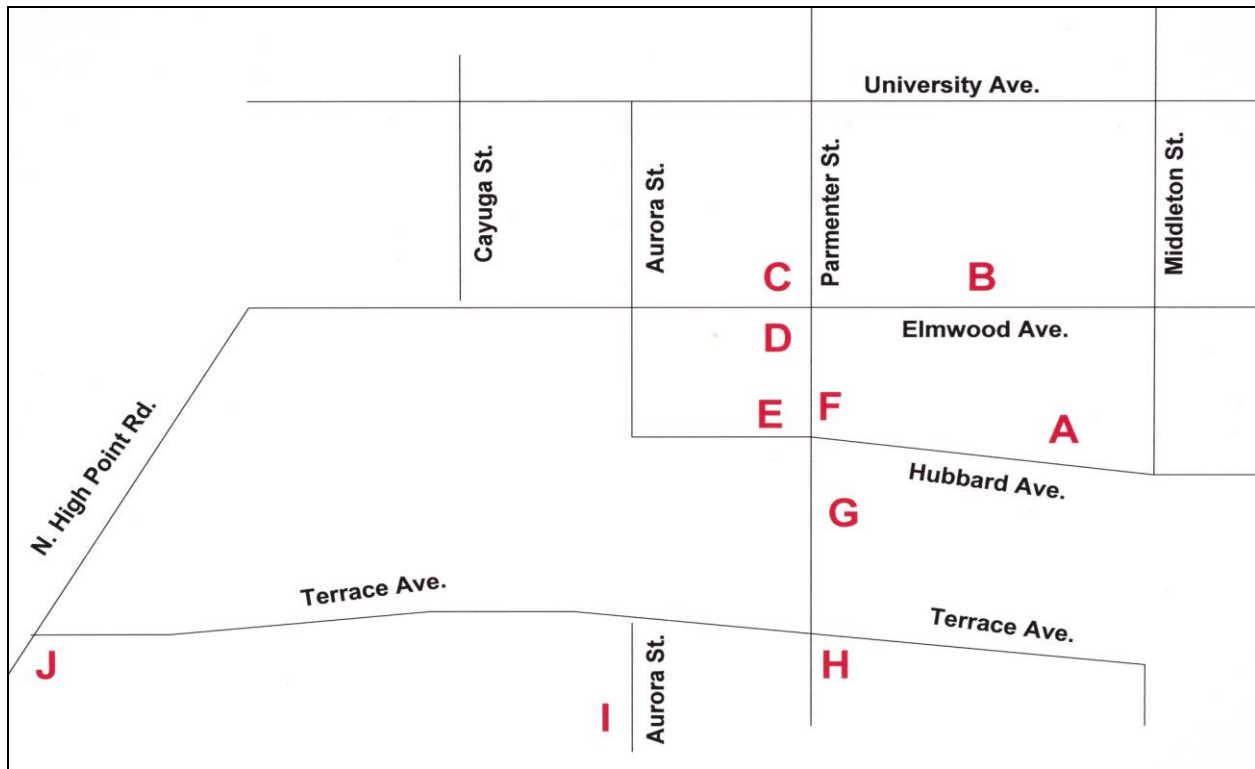
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**Little White Church on the hill** ... 1720 Aurora St. Built in 1870, and also known as the Community Church, the building was funded by donations from the "Baptist Church of Middleton" and a Methodist congregation. These groups held separate services but a common Sunday school. Later, other denominations held services in the church and the English Lutheran Church used the building from 1908 to 1926. When its days as a church ended it housed a youth center and American Legion meeting hall.

**First Middleton High School** ... 7739 Terrace Ave. Built in 1878 with Watertown brick for \$1000. The school District hired the first teacher for \$200 for the complete 3-month term. This served as the village High School until 1903 when the second High School was constructed at the corner of Middleton and Franklin Streets. In 1913, this first school was sold and remodeled into a private home, known for years as the Shellhorn home.



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For more information about each historic building please visit the Middleton Tourism web site:  
[visitmiddleton.com](http://visitmiddleton.com)

Click on the **HISTORY tab** and then **FIND HISTORICAL SITES** ... or, use the link:  
<https://visitmiddleton.com/history/find-historical-sites/>



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