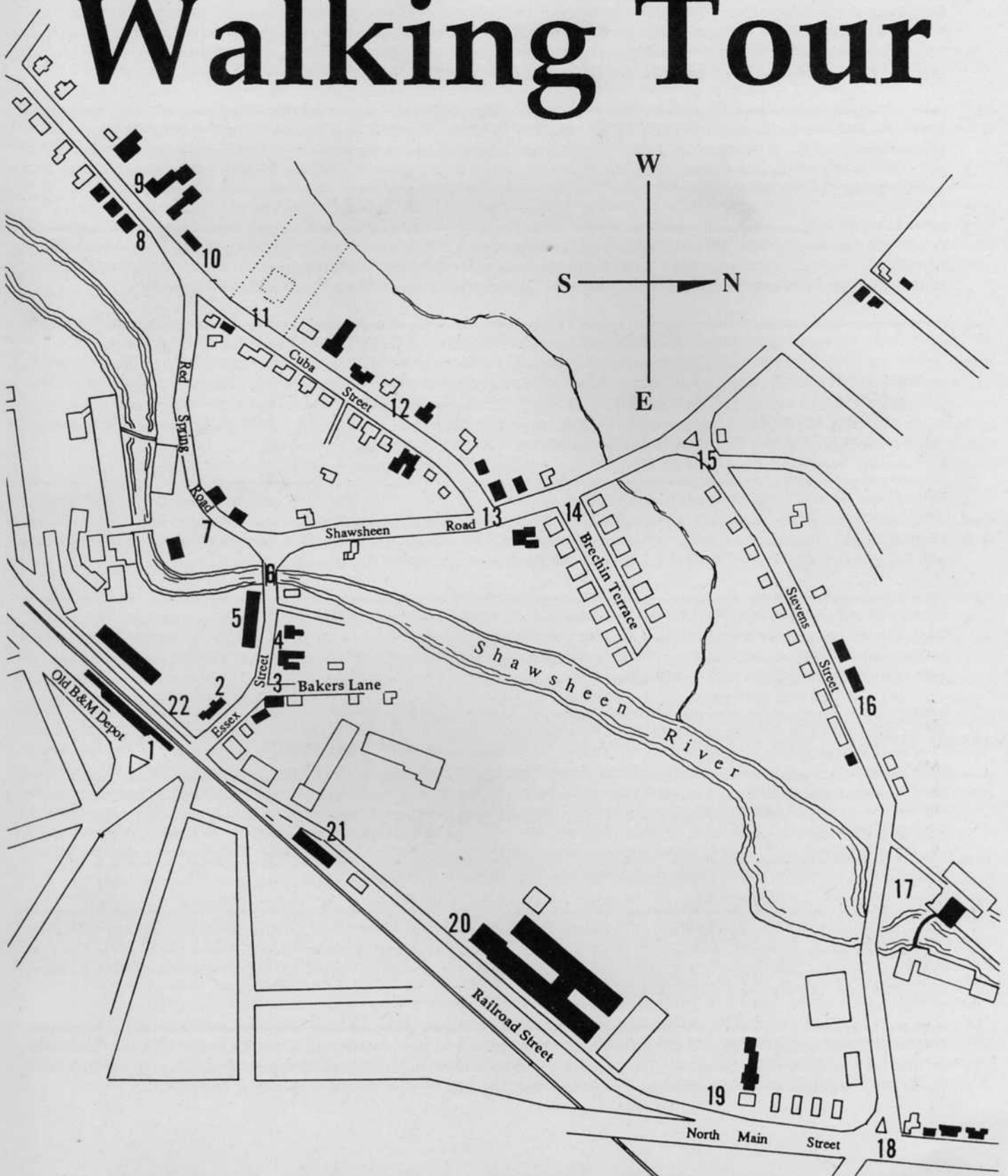


Andover Village Industrial District

Walking Tour



This walking tour winds through three 19th-century mill complexes designated as the Andover Village Industrial District (AVID) on the National Register of Historic Places. First, along Essex, Red Spring and Cuba streets is Abbot Village (AV), second following Stevens and lower North Main streets is Marland Village (MV) and lastly between Railroad Street and upper North Main Street is the Tyer Rubber Company area.

- 1 Beginning at *100 School Street* the former Boston and Maine Station (1906), look at the long, three-story rectangular brick buildings across the tracks. These buildings, now part of Dundee Park, were warehouses for the Smith and Dove Manufacturing Company (S&D). Although S&D dominated AV between 1843 and 1928, Abbot brothers, Paschal and Abel, and Abraham Marland had established spinning mills here along the river in the first decade of the 19th century.
 - 2 Decend to *60-62 Essex Street* (c1820), noting the similarity in form to *63-65*. Both of these workers' tenements may be some of the earliest surviving structures in Abbot Village. Location and shelter were more important than space and comfort and proximity to the workplace was an economic necessity. These buildings were filled by tenants whose length of stay and size of family unit varied greatly.
 - 3 Across the street, *1-3 Baker's Lane* (1830s) hugs the corner, illustrating a form and placement on this short street that is typical for the early 19th century. This house as well as the others on the lane were real estate investments for area residents. In this case, the landlords were Reverend Henry S. Greene and his wife, Mary E. Abbot, of Ballardvale.
 - 4 *69-71 and 79 Essex Street* (c1830) are late Federal style (1780-1820) exhibiting a link to traditional architecture and accepted house and barn plans. Two others, similar in appearance, on either side of *60-62 Essex Street* are gone. *69-71* was recently re-sided with wood clapboards, maintaining its visual integrity and original covering material, instead of vinyl like number *75*. The Abbot Village Hall (c1830), demolished (c1935) sat on the lot by the river and served as the neighborhood meeting place and entertainment hall. Such groups as the Indian Ridge Mothers' Club, Order of Scottish Clans, AV Coal Society, Andover Burns Club, AV Checkers Club and Andover Cricket Club gathered there.
 - 5 *70-84 Essex Street* (c1905), attached row dwellings, were some of the last housing S&D built for its employees. Occupants were families where both parents worked for S&D making linen thread for shoemaking, carpeting and sailmaking. According to a S&D promotional brochure, the company owned over 100 houses and rented them to employees for about 25% less than to non-employees. In 1896 there were 300 operatives on the payroll.
 - 6 Water power from the *Shawsheen River* attracted first the Native Americans and then the English colonist to early Andover. The river once provided sustenance and livelihood and now it gives passers-by a glimpse into historic landscapes and offers users passive recreation. Under the present reinforced concrete bridge is a fifteen-foot *stone arch* (1820) constructed to connect the west-side mills to the Center Village.
 - 7 To the left, find *18-20 Red Spring Road* (1814), the oldest surviving mill structure in the area. Occupied by the Redman Card Clothing Company, it is the only textile business still operating in the area. The building was originally one of the Abbot Mills, where spun cotton and woolen goods were woven on twenty hand-looms using wool bought from local farmers. Later brick S&D factory buildings can be seen across the river. On the other side of the road several houses were built into the hillside. *7-9-11 and 17-19 Red Spring Road* (c1830) remain although they were recently altered and remodelled with synthetic materials. Walk up the hill looking down at the river, see remnants of the sluiceway across the water, find the stone arches under the buildings and imagine an overflow pond and early 19-century grist and saw mills. Early histories record a fulling mill located on the Shawsheen near the intersection with Roger's Brook in 1682.
 - 8 *38-40, 42-44 and 46-48 Red Spring Road* (1900) show free standing identical duplexes, another variation of housing built by the S&D Company. Often occupants were from Scotland, either short-term or new Americans, and worked for S&D or Tyer Rubber Company. Red Spring Road, originally called Mineral Street, was so named for the mineral spring further south along this side. (Again, view mill buildings.)
 - 9 *49, 51 and 53 Red Spring Road* (1820-30) represent house and barn combinations typical of many small farms in the community. In these examples, Abbot families worked the surrounding land and owned shares in the nearby mills. Wives and children of the early owners were often spinners or weavers working first in their homes and then in the mills.
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