

The Gilded Age (1880-1930)


The feather is a nod to architect Douglas Ellington's recognition of Native American culture with his decorative touches to the Asheville City Building. This time period is pre-Depression and post arrival of the railroad.

- 1 Walk Into History**
City leader and philanthropist George Willis Pack arrived in Asheville in 1880. He established the public library and was the largest donor for the Vance Monument. Pack Square is named in his honor.
- 2 Crossroads**
Native Americans originally forged trails through this location, now the intersection of Biltmore and Patton Avenues. In 1827, the north-south route became a thoroughfare known as The Buncombe Turnpike, used by animal drovers traveling from Tennessee. The original trolley rails represent both the railroad and the electric street car.
- 3 Stepping Out**
A bronze top hat, cane and gloves recall the theaters and Grand Opera House that made Patton Avenue the center of culture in the late 1800s.
- 4 O. Henry**
The master of the surprise ending, author O. Henry's famous short story, "The Gift of the Magi," is represented here with embedded bronze objects.
- 5 Immortal Image**
The Drhumor Building (1895) is named for the Johnston family estate in Ireland and was designed by architect Allen Leroy Melton.
- 6 Elizabeth Blackwell MD**
Medicinal herbs decorate the bench honoring Asheville's Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, who began her medical studies in Asheville and was the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States. She later established the New York Infirmary for Women and Children in 1857 and later founded the first four-year medical college for women.
- 7 Art Deco Masterpiece**
This mosaic, crafted in Venice, Italy, mirrors architect Douglas Ellington's art deco masterpiece, the S&W Cafeteria (1929). Cross Haywood to Pritchard Park, cross College Street and go one block to Battery Park Avenue.
- 8 Flat Iron Architecture**
A giant flat iron references the adjacent Flat Iron Building (1926) and the gateway to the Battery Park Hotel (1886). In 1923, Edwin Wiley Grove built a department store, now the Haywood Park Hotel (across the street). The trail continues down Wall Street.
- 9 Cat Walk**
You are standing above the retaining wall constructed when Edwin Wiley Grove had a 70-foot hill removed to build the Grove Arcade. Peer over the half wall to see the original structure and some surprises. To continue the trail, cross Wall Street and take the steps or use the elevator in the adjacent parking garage.
- 10 Grove's Vision**
The glass etching depicts the original architectural plans for the Grove Arcade, which stalled after Grove's death, and was never fully completed. The Asheville community saved and restored the building in the 1990s and it now houses an indoor mall and residences.
- 11 Historic Hilltop**
The tall brick building across the street is the "new" Battery Park Hotel constructed by Edwin Grove after the original hotel burned. The original Battery Park Hotel is where George Vanderbilt stayed in 1888. Note his signature and other famous people's signatures on the bronze registry.
- 12 Guastavino's Monument**
Rafael Guastavino collaborated with architect Richard Sharp Smith on the Basilica of St. Lawrence (1909). The church boasts North America's largest free-standing elliptical dome, unsupported by wood or steel, created by Guastavino's patented process.




- 13 Appalachian Stage**
Five bronze dancers and musicians celebrate the significance of Appalachian music and culture. Bascom Lamar Lunsford staged the first Mountain Dance and Folk Festival in 1928, an event which continues each August in Asheville.
- 14 Shopping Daze**
The abstract, forged-metal sculpture of three frenzied ladies and their dog commemorates the time when Haywood Street was the region's fashionable shopping district.

The Frontier Period (1784-1880)


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- The horseshoe symbolizes a time when Asheville teemed with farmers on horseback and wagons loaded with milk, produce and eggs.
- 15 Marketplace**
The bronze basket of apples recalls a time around 1800, when produce markets and livery stables lined the street, still evident by the many double doors remaining on buildings.
 - 16 Legacy of Design**
A bench and visionary young boy honor architect Richard Sharp Smith, supervising architect for Biltmore House. Along with his partner Albert Heath Carrier, Smith's influence was evident in the design of significant buildings including the long-gone Langren Hotel and Eagles Home (now home to Blue Ridge Public Radio) as well as the Masonic Temple just down the street.
 - 17 Woodfin House**
A ceramic replica of a building which housed the YMCA for 50 years. The left side of the structure was originally home of Nicholas Woodfin, a prominent citizen, lawyer and experimental farmer.

The Times of Thomas Wolfe (1900-1938)

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- A replica of the angel sold by Thomas Wolfe's father, W.O. Wolfe, made famous in *Look Homeward, Angel*.
- 18 Wolfe's Neighborhood**
A diorama of two different time periods merges today's skyline with earlier buildings. Enjoy both views by standing in Wolfe's size 13 footprints. A plaque at the YMCA marks the location of Wolfe's birthplace, a house built by his father W.O. Wolfe.
 - 19 Dixieland**
The abstract replica of Wolfe's size 13 shoes mark the entrance to his mother's famous boardinghouse, immortalized as "Dixieland" in his novels. During his lifetime, the area was lined with Queen-Anne-style homes such as the Old Kentucky Home.
 - 20 Curtain Calls**
Asheville has long had a vibrant theatrical community as portrayed by the abstract metal sculptures on the side of Asheville Community Theatre. Does one of them remind you of Don Quixote?
 - 21 On the Move**
This art-in-motion sculpture evokes the history of transportation in Asheville and honors the last of the original brick streets in downtown. Turn the wheel to hear 11 different sounds.
 - 22 Civic Pride**
This historic bell is similar to City Hall's 1892 bell. Granite circles at the base of the bell represent bollards and are in the shape of the octagonal City Hall's belfry.
 - 23 Man and Mountain**
Beaucatcher Road (1808) still winds over the storied mountain with the romantic name offering a view of the city and sunsets to the west. The mountain was breached in 1926 when a tunnel eased the hardships of reaching the city.
 - 24 Time Remembered**
A bicentennial time capsule is buried here, not to be opened until 2047.

- 25 Ellington's Dream**
A granite etching shows Douglas Ellington's original architectural concept of a pair of complementing city-county buildings. The county decided on a Federalist style instead, but the City Building is Ellington's Art Deco design, controversial at the time.
- 26 Past and Promise**
Asheville's little girl ("Childhood") drinks at a replica of a horse head fountain on a gas lamp post that once stood on Pack Square. Cross towards the historic Jackson Building and look up for a glimpse of its gargoyles.

The Age of Diversity

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- An eagle, representative of Eagle Street and its historic building, honors Asheville's commitment to cultural diversity.
- 27 Monument Corner**
Bronze carving tools and a carving in progress represent W.O. Wolfe's tombstone shop, which stood where the historic Jackson Building (1926) now rises.
 - 28 Brick Artisan**
African American master craftsman James Vester Miller was the chief mason for the Municipal Building (1925). The cornucopia over the doorway on the side of the building (across the street) marks the place where an integrated public market was relocated when the old City Hall was razed.
 - 29 "The Block"**
The bronze wall sculpture is based on the collective memories of former residents who recall when Eagle and Market Streets were the heart of the African American community in Asheville, with shops, doctors' offices and the Young Men's Institute, a cultural center for young black men.
 - 30 Hotel District**
A bronze eagle overlooks an early hotel district which included the 1814 Eagle Hotel, a stagecoach stop on the Buncombe Turnpike and the first grand hostelry downtown. Later the Swannanoa, Oxford and Savoy Hotels opened nearby.