

Guided Trolley Tours

Historic Shullsburg & Surrounding Area



Shullsburg is home to the first trolley in southwest Wisconsin. Miner Trolley offers tours around our scenic community with destinations at Gravity Hill, Water Street Historic District, and other historic landmarks. Miner Trolley is available for wedding transportation, reunions, birthday parties or group tours. The Trolley can be reserved for your special event by contacting The Shullsburg Merchants Group, Inc.

Watch our web site for special city-wide events featuring Trolley rides, occasional horse-drawn carriage rides and hayrides.



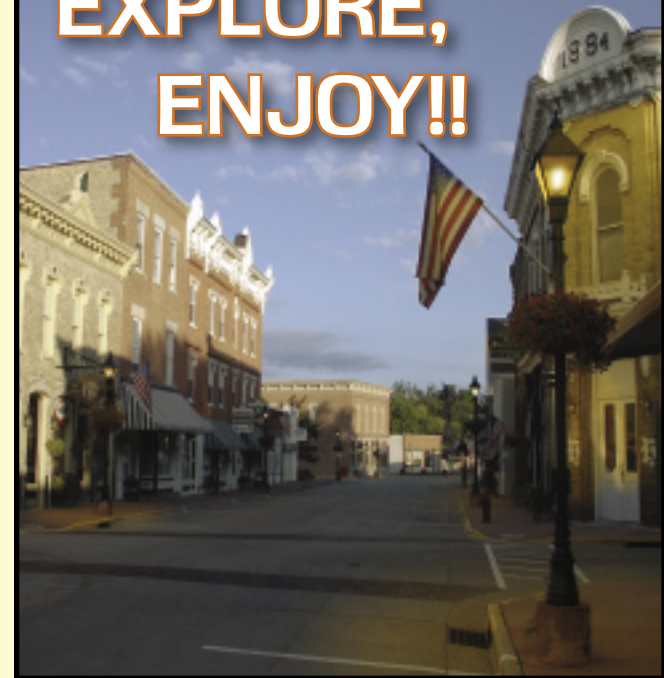
Things to See, While You're Here

- St. Augustine Church, New Diggings 6mi
- Rollo Jamison Museum, Platteville 22mi
- Wisconsin's First Capitol, Belmont..... 20mi
- Pendarvis, Mineral Point.. 23mi
- Port of Dubuque, IA..... 30mi
- Potosi Brewery, Potosi ... 30mi

Shullsburg Historic Self-Guided Tour



TOUR, EXPLORE, ENJOY!!



Auto/Bike/Walk

Founded in 1827, Shullsburg is arguably the 3rd oldest city in Wisconsin. Working for John Jacob Aster, Jesse Shull bought and traded furs with Native Americans and early trappers. Shull became aware of the surface deposits of lead Ore, and left behind the fur trade to become a miner and smelter. Shull later married and lived in the growing city that would bear his name. Shullsburg attracted immigrants and speculators, the early miners known as "badgers", after the holes dug into the area hillsides. Shullsburg's lead mining history began in the heart of southwest Wisconsin 'Driftless area', unscoured by ancient glaciers. By the 1800's, lead ore mining would be replaced by Zinc production. This lead mining by-product would impact the local economy for nearly the next century.

Walk, Bike, Drive and Follow Our History

Self-Guided Walking Tour Historic Shullsburg

1 Shullsburg High School, 444 N. Judgement
The site of the first County Courthouse in Lafayette County. The county seat later moved to Avon, near Darlington. The Shullsburg school Board purchased the courthouse and reopened it as a school in 1868. Destroyed. The center section of the present school building was built of native limestone quarried from the nearby 'Rennick Quarry'. Built in the Romanesque style, the design was by Dr. C.C. Gratiot. The gymnasium was added in the 1940's, completed as a WPA project.

2 St. Matthews Catholic Church, 344 N. Judgement
Completed in 1855, this limestone church was built by Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, an Italian Dominican Priest & architect. Mazzuchelli also surveyed and named many of Shullsburg's streets in the 1840's. Hope, Charity, Peace and many other street names remain today. Mazzuchelli has been proclaimed venerable, on the path to possible sainthood.

3 Tower House, 305 N. Judgement
Built in the 1850's, the home was purchased in the 1890's by H. Kate Richmond, a Shakespearean actress from Boston. A four-story tower was added to allow Richmond to view her considerable mine holdings. The tower and servants quarters were later removed.

4 Copeland House, 123 E Water St
Built by Joseph Copeland in 1868. Of local brick, in the Italianate style, this fine home displayed the wealth of an Irish immigrant who held interests in lead mines, cattle farms, bank stock, and property as far as the Pacific coast. Also built the Copeland Opera House and adjoining brick storefronts on Water Street.

5 Water Street Historic District
The first commercial buildings were of a vernacular style, several of which still exist today, built in the 1840's & 50's lead mining boom. The second boom came with the railroad in 1881. Brick & stone facades, many in an Italianate style, add to the 44 commercial buildings now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Following an economic downturn in the 1970's, a recent

revitalization of the business district has resulted in the restoration of many of these historic structures. Period street lamps, and our 'pink' sidewalks, will take you back in time.

6 Badger Park, Galena St/ W. Estey St
Named Badger Point by Native Americans, Badger Park is the location of Beon Gratiot's 1827 lead mine. Descend into the actual lead mine, now housed inside the Mining Museum. Also located in this beautiful park is the limestone pool building, built as a WPA project.

7 Mining Museum, 279 W. Estey St. Newly renovated in 2006. 10:00-4:00 Daily, Memorial Day through Labor Day

Self-Guided Auto/Bike Tour Historic Shullsburg and surrounding area

8 Jaimeson Cottage, corner of S. Henry and E. Church St
Excellent example of the evolution of a miner's cottage over time. Original limestone with later frame additions. Note the many miner's cottages dotting the city.

9 Evergreen Cemetery, continue on S. Henry to Ringold

10 Williams House, 504 S. Judgement
Large brick Victorian on an expansive front lawn. Built in 1889 by Dr. C.C. Gratiot. Originally a frame house, Johns Williams added the brick veneer. Williams began the first bank in Shullsburg.

11 Stephens House, 561 S. Judgement
Built in 1846 by miner owner and architect Henry Stephens. Italianate style. General Ulysses S. Grant is said to have visited & dined here.

12 Rickert House, 560 S. Judgement
Built in 1846 of native limestone. Designed by Henry Stephens, the house walls are two-feet thick. Note the carriage barn behind the house retains the gun slits in the stone walls for defense against Indian attacks.

13 Shullsburg Airport, 4400, County U Founded in the 1940's, Hanifan Flying Service. Military pilots trained here. Air traffic once demanded a control tower!

14 Gratiot House, 20950 S. Judgement continues as County U
Turn left on Rennick Road, first house on left. Built in 1835 by Pioneer Henry Gratiot, this limestone House is one of the oldest houses extant in Wisconsin.

15 Rennick House, 20106, continue on Rennick Rd., house on left
Built of native limestone with an original frame front in a rare Gothic style. Once abandoned and overgrown with brush, the restoration was completed by the Lead Region Historic Trust.

16 Gravity Hill, return to County U, continue south. Stop your vehicle about where a sign tells you about the upcoming curve. Put your vehicle in neutral, and experience a natural phenomenon. You will feel like you are rolling backwards up the hill. Please remember you are on a public road and use extreme caution.

17 White's Hill/School, 3010, intersection of County U & W
Built of native limestone, depicts an era of district one- room country schools. Restored and adapted as a private residence by the Lead Region Historic Trust. In 1840's Mrs. Beon Gratiot described the view from White's Hill "As far as the eye can see there are miner's cabins". Notice the view of the mounds.

18 Native American Grave Site, from intersection, west on County W
Soon you cross a dry stream bed, along the banks of which is the mass burial of Native Americans who died of cholera, in an epidemic in the 1840's.

19 Berry Tavern, County W On your right, is the site of Fortunatus Berry's Tavern. A victim of cholera arrived by stagecoach and innocently transmitted the disease to people in the area, The stone building near the house served as a crematorium for some cholera victims. As you enter the drive, notice the sign marking the graves of other cholera victims. Located at the cul-de-sac, is a monument to all those who perished.

20 Eagle Picher Mine, County W Proceeding west, on your right, you will see a huge grass covered Tailings pile. This is the remains of the last operating Zinc mining Company in the area, closing in 1979. Shullsburg still boast one of the largest lead & zinc reserves in the Midwest.

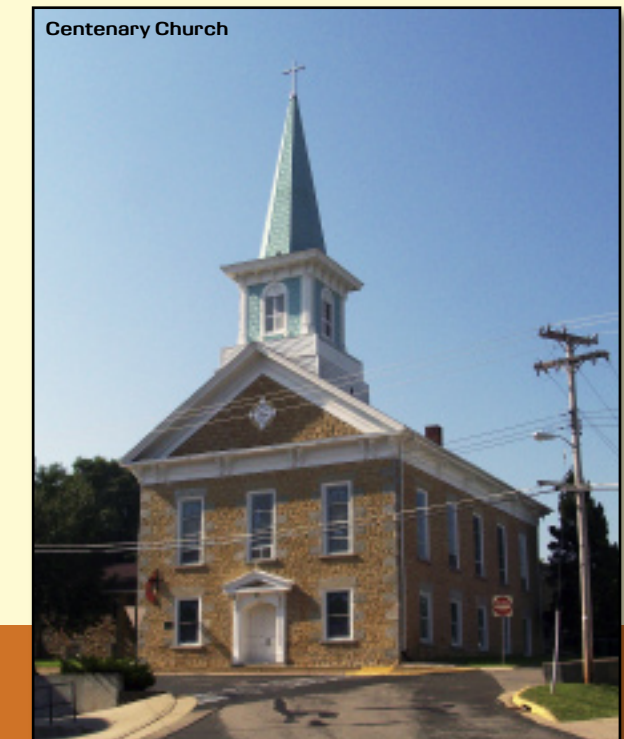
21 View of the Mounds, As you descend the hill to the stop sign/intersection of 'W' & 'O', note the view of the mounds on your right.

22 Rustic Road, Turn right on County O, then left on Copeland Road. This must be how the pioneers saw the wilderness. A tree-lined, unspoiled stretch of rustic road. Turn right on Mullen to return to Hwy 11.

23 Old Mining Remnants, Turning right on Hwy 11, notice the rock piles on your right, debris piled as a result of Leading Mining.

24 Colonel Elijah Carver Townsend House, built of native limestone an 1855, Greek Revival. Townsend family very early area settlers. Miner, farmer, brick-maker and smelter.

As you return to Shullsburg, on your left you will see a grove of trees behind the farm field. This is the Mulcahy Mine, site of the mining disaster memorialized by the Water Street Lead Miners Memorial Park.



Centenary Church