TREES OF INTEREST

ON MAIN STREET

IN GLASTONBURY'S HISTORIC DISTRICT

A self-guided walking tour of trees from Glastonbury Center to Hubbard Street including Hubbard Green

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PURPOSE AND INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this self-guided walk is to encourage our citizens to learn how to identify trees along historic Main Street, to enjoy their beauty and appreciate their role in the environment. In planning the walk, we have partnered with the Town of Glastonbury as well as the Main Street homeowners. They have graciously allowed us to place markers on most of the trees, so that you can find them more easily. The markers list the scientific and common names of the trees just as they appear in your guidebook. We request that you **PLEASE STAY ON THE SIDEWALK AND DO NOT ENTER THE YARDS**. This would abuse the generosity of homeowners along the route.

The tree walk begins across the street from the intersection of Rankin Road and Main Street. Starting at #2277 Main Street, walk toward South Glastonbury on the west side of the street. At Hubbard Brook, cross the street where the guide indicates you do so. Continue to Hubbard Street, and walk around and through Hubbard Green. The map in the centerfold will guide you to the location of each tree listed there. Return to Main Street and continue walking on the east side of the street to Rankin Rd.

The total roundtrip distance is 2 miles. To break it into two segments, the roundtrip distance from the start to the corner of Hubbard Street is 1.6 miles. The distance around Hubbard Green is .4 mile.

We hope you enjoy your walk, and will emerge from it with more knowledge and appreciation than when you started. We also ask that you don't throw this guidebook away when you have finished. Please give it to a friend or return it to where you picked it up.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Additional thanks go to Deborah Kent, Ann Pettengill and Della Winans for their editorial input and guidance, to Stephen Shipman for designing the brochure and to Betty Schmitt for providing the leaf graphics.

Also, we are very grateful to The Historical Society of Glastonbury for allowing us to include the location of our Trees of Interest on their map of historic homes along Main Street.

A very special Thank You to Quality Name Plate Inc. in Glastonbury for donating all of the tree labels.

Trees of Interest on Main Street

IN GLASTONBURY'S HISTORIC DISTRICT

A self-guided walking tour of trees from Glastonbury Center to Hubbard Street including Hubbard Green

The tour begins on Main Street at the corner of Rankin Road. Walk south on the west side of Main Street toward South Glastonbury.

2277 Main White Fir (Abies concolor)



This tree is directly across the street from Rankin Rd. on the right of the entrance to a parking lot. Needles on the tree are long, soft and bluish-green in color. It has a neat pyramidal shape and does well in city conditions.

2247 Main



Kwanzan Cherry (Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan') *Town*

Three cherry trees here provide a great burst of color with pink flowers in early spring. The bark on these trees is reddish-brown to black with horizontal lines or lenticels, which serve in providing aeration.

#2217 Main Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba) Private



The Ginkgo is the most primitive broad-leaved tree in existence today. The species is native to eastern China and goes back at least 65 million years. It is the only living member of a group of broad-leaved trees that existed that long ago. It's often called the Maidenhair Tree because its fan-shaped leaves resemble the shape of pinnae [leaflets] of the maidenhair fern. Short spurs on the side of twigs in the winter help to identify it. Foliage turns a brilliant yellow in the fall. The tree can grow to 100 ft. and is capable of living 1000 years.



This tree is to the left of the front door of the house. It is a small tree but very decorative. Its leaves are often finely cut and very dainty in appearance.

#2205 Main American Elm (Ulmus americana) Private

There are several American Elms along Main St. This one is quite large. Very few elms are resistant to the Dutch elm disease, which is spread by the elm bark beetle. These on Main St. are probably still alive because of relative isolation. When trees of one kind are planted closely, roots become grafted together and diseases are then easily transferred from one tree to another. Open wounds on the trees often attract the elm bark beetle. Young elm trees that have been bred to be resistant to the Dutch elm disease are now being grown in our town nursery for planting in Glastonbury.

Thornless Honeylocust (Gleditsia triacanthos 'Inermis') Private



On the same property, this large, old tree is the thornless variety of a common tree. The species has long, stout spines and large brown seed pods. The foliage is small and delicate, and turns a lovely shade of yellow in autumn. It is tolerant of pollution, salt and drought.

#2195 Main

American Elm (Ulmus americana) Town

Between the sidewalk and the street. See #2205 Main St. for description

2183 Main Pin Oak (Quercus palustris) Private



On the lawn of the church, to the right of the entrance. Oak trees are not very easy to identify, but the Pin Oak is easier than most. If you step back and view the tree from a distance, you will notice that its branches reach upwards at the top of the tree, are rather strongly horizontal in the middle and somewhat pendulous lower down. These traits seem to be unique to the Pin Oak. Once you know them, you can spot a Pin Oak from afar.

Bradford Pear (Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford') *Private*



On the same property, to the left of the church driveway. and also on the right edge of the driveway against the church building are two Bradford Pears. They are a cultivar of the Callery Pear. Callery Pears are being widely planted in Glastonbury, but other cultivars are replacing 'Bradford', which has a tendency to split as it ages. It has white flowers in the spring and dense, shiny green foliage all summer. Late in the fall, after many trees have dropped their leaves, the foliage turns a brilliant red. Compared to other pear trees, it is free from pests and disease.

#2163 Main

Norway Maple (Acer platanoides) *Town*



Between the sidewalk and street, directly in front of the house. Leaves are similar to the Sugar Maple, but their leaf stalk exudes a milky sap when broken off. The bark of this tree is furrowed into more narrow ridges than the Sugar Maple. In the fall, its yellow leaves fall much later than most maples. It is considered by many to be an invasive species. A second Norway Maple is also on the front lawn.

2157 Main Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida) Town



There are two dogwood trees on the front lawn, near the street. This is a native tree often found in Connecticut woods. The small, greenish-white flowers are surrounded by 4 large white bracts [leaflike structures which resemble petals]. The bracts are rounded and notched. These are followed by clusters of small red fruit that attract winter birds. The tree has handsome, scarlet fall foliage. Pink Flowering Dogwoods are not as common.

#2155 Main

Vienna Weeping Hornbeam (Carpinus betulus 'Dervaesii') Town



On the lawn of the Town Hall, next to a bench. The original specimen of this tree was planted at the Hapsburg Palace in Vienna, Austria in 1890. It was done on the order of Emperor Franz Joseph to honor the visit of the Sultan of Turkey. In 1959, a nurseryman from the United States happened to see the tree on the palace grounds. At that time, it was 60 ft. tall and 60 ft. wide. He took a cutting and brought it to America. He obtained a patent for it here, and sold the first grafted tree in 1970. The trunk is regular European Hornbeam and the grafted part is completely weeping. This tree was planted here as a memorial to Peter Stern, a noted Glastonbury environmentalist, who was born in Vienna.

Giant Sequoia (Sequoiadendron giganteum) *Town*

On the lawn near the south end of the parking area. This is native to northern California where it usually grows at altitudes of 5,000 ft. or more. It is rare in Connecticut. In 1997, this tree was moved to its present location from land next to a medical building on Naubuc Ave. It was scheduled to be cut down due to an expansion of the building. Fortunately it was saved, and since its move, has added growth in both diameter and height. Black Walnut (Juglans nigra) Town



This tree with three trunks is located near the street on a narrow strip of land between the Town Hall and the driveway of the house next door. The nut of this tree is enclosed in a large, thick, yellowish-green husk which is the source of one of the oldest dyes used for dark brown and black color. The Black Walnut is also the source of a fine, grained wood used for furniture. Its roots give off a material which is toxic to many kinds of plants, particularly tomatoes and apple trees.

#2113 Main

London Planetree (Platanus x acerifolia) *Town*



A very large tree with spreading branches located between the sidewalk and the street. The London Planetree is a hybrid between the American Sycamore and the Oriental Sycamore that grows in Eurasia. The leaves of the two trees are very similar so to tell the difference between the London Planetree and the American Sycamore, look for the seed balls. The Oriental form has four seed balls on a stem. The American Sycamore has only one. The hybrid has some double seed balls and some single. If you see a tree with any doubles, you know it is a London Planetree. Also, the American Sycamore usually loses its leaves early in the growing season because of anthracnose disease. It then produces a second crop of leaves.

#2059 Main American Beech (Fagus grandifolia) Town

Between the sidewalk and the street. This is our native beech tree with long, spreading, horizontal branches and smooth, gray bark. Leaves have saw-toothed edges and straight, parallel side veins. It produces edible beechnuts.



2140 Main Red Maple (Acer rubrum) Private

> On a narrow piece of land between the driveways of # 2134 and # 2140 Main take note of a large, old Red Maple close to the street. There is a Sugar Maple right behind it. *See #2108 Main St. (Police Station) for description.*

#2146 Main Valley Forge Elm (Ulmus americana 'Valley Forge') Private

> On the south corner of Douglas Rd. There are two young trees here along the white fence across the front lawn, one on each side of the walk way. These are replacements for American Elm trees in landscapes today. The leaves, uneven at their base, closely resemble those of the American Elm. These have been bred to be resistant to the Dutch elm disease. *See #2205 Main St. for description of American Elm*.

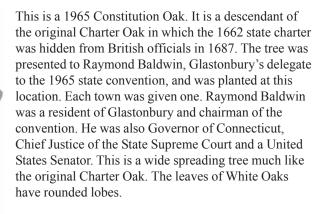
Osage Orange (Maclura pomifera) *Private*



On the same property as the Valley Forge Elms, this tree is close to the house. Osage Orange trees are native to the Red River valley in northern Texas and southern Oklahoma. They were of value to the Osage Indians of that area for their superior strength and elasticity and used for making hunting bows and war clubs. As firewood, it is considered the next best thing to coal. The trunk is gnarled and the bark has narrow ridges. The fruit is a large wrinkled ball resembling an orange in size and texture. It is yellow-green in color and when ripened, has a very pleasant fragrance. In previous generations, Osage Orange was known as a great fence tree. Before barbed wire was invented in the late 19th century, the trees were often aggressively pruned to promote bushy growth and were planted in hedges. It was a formidable hedge for cattle and humans to get through with its stout thorns and tough branches.

White Oak Quercus alba





Saucer Magnolia (Magnolia x soulangiana)

This tree is close to the White Oak described above. It is a small tree with wide spreading branches. Large flower buds open in early spring. They resemble large tulips when they begin to open and saucers when fully open. They are pink, purple or white. In early fall there are cone-like fruits that contain red seeds.

Norway Spruce (Picea abies)

At the edge of the Police Station driveway, there are 2 more Norway Spruces. Note their branches ascending and branchlets descending. See #1995 Main St. for full description.

5 Colorado Spruce (Picea pungens)

At the south corner of the Police Station driveway, there is a Colorado Spruce that is in very good shape. The condition of the tree shows the positive effect of plenty of sunshine and space to grow. See #10 on Hubbard Green Map for description.

European Copper Beech (Fagus sylvatica 'Atropunicea') *Town*



This tree is right next to the American Beech. This is a cultivated tree with a stout trunk and very smooth dark gray bark. With time, its spreading branches will extend almost to the ground. Although this is a young tree, you can see its branches are starting to turn toward the ground. It also produces edible beechnuts inside a brown prickly bur. It's one of the most popular shade trees in the landscape

today. This variety is known to have existed since 1680.

#2055 Main

Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum) Town



Between the sidewalk and the street. Two of the defining characteristics of the Sugar Maple are the facts that a majority of the lowest branches often originate as tight clusters at approximately the same height on the trunk. Also, the bark is light gray and on mature trees it is deeply furrowed into distinctive long ridges. This tree is a good example of these characteristics. The sap of this tree is used to make maple syrup. It's a favorite tree for fall color, when its leaves turn brilliant shades of yellow, orange and red.

#2049 Main

Camperdown Elm (Ulmus glabra 'Camperdownii') *Private*



This tree is back about 30 ft. from the sidewalk. During the 19th Century at Camperdown House in Dundee, Scotland, a mutant of the Scotch Elm was discovered trailing along the ground like a vine. The trailing portion was grafted to a typical Scotch Elm, Ulmus glabra. It produced a weeping tree that is very distinctive. It has very large and extremely rough leaves.

#2033 Main

American Elm (Ulmus americana) Town

Two elm trees between the sidewalk and the street. *See #2205 Main St. for description.*

#4

#2027 Main

Black Oak (Quercus velutina) *Private*



2027 Main is a yellow and red brick house on the corner of Meadow Rd. This very large tree is about 75 ft. back from the sidewalk on private land. For that reason, it is best viewed from the sidewalk. It's one of the larger Black Oaks in Connecticut and is in excellent shape. The inner bark of the tree is yellow or orange, and was formerly a source of gold dye for fabric.

#2003 Main

Cucumber Magnolia (Magnolia acuminata) *Private*



This is a very large tree quite close to the house. It has large leaves which appear before the greenish flowers. The immature fruit is said to resemble a small cucumber.

#1995 Main

Norway Spruce (Picea abies) *Private*



Large tree close to sidewalk, to the right of the driveway. The Norway Spruce, native to northern Europe, is easy to identify by its branching habit. The lateral branches are ascending, and the branchlets which grow from them are descending. This is a magnificent tree, but because of its large size and old age, these characteristics don't show. The weight of the lower branches causes them to be pendulous. Better examples are further along on the walk. The cones of the Norway Spruce hang down from its branches and are the largest of the spruces.

Shagbark Hickory (Carya ovata) *Private*



To the left of the driveway. The bark of this tree is a distinguishing feature. Mature trees have a light gray, shaggy bark. It separates into narrow, curved strips that are loosely attached at the middle. This tree is not too shaggy because of its young age. In the fall, the light brown hickory nut is edible. its lovely pink flowers in the spring and dark foliage throughout the summer and fall. The tree was first introduced into France by the gardener of the Shah of Persia, M. Pissard.

2060 Main European Copper Beech (Fagus sylvatica 'Atropunicea') Private

About 40 ft. from the sidewalk, this tree is very old and large. Its lower branches have been removed due to lack of space on the property.

See #2059 Main St. for full description.

2094 Main



Northern Catalpa (Catalpa speciosa) Private

This tree is to the right of the driveway. The catalpa is a large tree with heart-shaped leaves and white tubular flowers after the leaves develop. Long, brown seed pods stay on the tree most of the winter. This feature makes it easy to identify during the colder months of the year.

2108 Main

n **On the lawn in front of the Police Station** *Town*

Red Maple (Acer rubrum)

#1



This tree is behind a bench. Its young green stems turn red in winter and young leaves are tinged with red before they turn green in spring. Flower clusters are red and fall color is dark red. It is also called Swamp Maple because it's often found in moist soil in the wild. Note the difference in branching habit and bark pattern between the Red Maple and the Sugar Maple directly behind it. Red Maples, when young, have smooth, gray bark. With age the bark develops narrow, scaly plates.

2016 Main Weeping Sargent Hemlock (Tsuga canadensis 'Pendula') Private



This Weeping Hemlock is part of a shrub and tree grouping to the left of the driveway. It is a very popular cultivar of the Eastern Hemlock. Charles Sprague Sargent was the first director of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. This is one of many plants he developed and therefore it bears his name.

Umbrella Pine (Sciadopitys verticillata) *Private*



In the same tree grouping are 2 Umbrella Pines. These handsome trees are slow growing, dense evergreens with long, dark green needles which are grouped in whorls at the end of twigs. The neat pyramidal shape adds to their value in any landscape.

Norway Maple (Acer platanoides) *Private*

Tree is on the left edge of the driveway on the same property. See #2163 Main St. for full description.

2044 Main Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum) Private

> Between the driveways of # 2044 and # 2038 Main. We include another Sugar Maple because this is such an outstanding specimen of great age. See #2055 Main St. for full description.

Pissard Plum (Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea') *Private*

On the same property, near the street, is a cultivar of the purple-leaved plum tree. It is planted between a pink Dogwood and a Forsythia. It is a small ornamental tree prized for The sidewalk ends here. Cross the street, and continue on to Hubbard Street.

Overlooking Hubbard Brook, just past the crosswalk:

American Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) Town

A double trunk tree. This species of tree grows to a larger trunk diameter than any other native hardwood. Its bark is whitish and mottled. It peels off in flakes exposing patches of brown, green and gray. Its fruit is a single brown seed ball that hangs from a long stalk. A common name for the American Sycamore is Buttonball tree. This probably had an influence on the naming of Glastonbury's Buttonball Lane, which was originally a service road during the construction of Route 17. When the project was complete during the 1950s, the service road became a town street. There are 2 very tall sycamore trees on Hubbard St. at the intersection with Buttonball Lane.

#1944 MainHubbard Green Town land surrounding the Historical
Society Museum Use map in the centerfold of the guide
book to aid in the location of the trees.

#1 Thornless Honeylocust (Gleditsia triacanthos 'Inermis')

At the beginning of the town land. This is a very large and old Honeylocust with a double trunk. See #2205 Main St. for description.



Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis)



Near small, brick building [pumping station] about 70 ft. back from the sidewalk. A memorial plaque is at its base. This tree is best known for its pretty lavender-pink pea like flowers which appear before the leaves in May. The heart-shaped leaves are yellow in the fall.

Turn left onto Hubbard Street.

#4

#5

Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)

First tree on Hubbard Street. The bark is a good example of the characteristic shagginess of Sugar Maples but it shows that the lower branches do not always cluster at their origin. *See # 2055 Main St. for full description.*

White Ash (Fraxinus americana)



This very large tree has compound leaves [each is divided into 2 or more leaflets] which are whitish on the underside. Its thick bark has distinctive diamond shaped furrows on mature trees. The wood of this tree is considered the finest for making baseball bats.

Upright European Hornbeam (Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata')

This tree is one of several cultivars of the European Hornbeam, sometimes called Ironwood tree. It is a slender tree of pyramidal shape. Its wood is used for tool handles.

Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii)

About 25 ft. from the sidewalk. Although a major lumber tree of the west coast, this is not a true fir tree. Its side branches are drooping and its distinctive feature are its cones that hang down like a spruce and have 3 pointed bracts [leaf like appendages] extending beyond its scales. On the Pacific coast, this tree can grow to 250 ft. In Connecticut, it rarely exceeds 100 ft.

7 Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)

Nearby, along the sidewalk, there are several medium-sized Sugar Maples. Note the clustered branching habit and the typical Sugar Maple bark. There are many Sugar Maples on and around the Hubbard Green. How many can you find? *See #2055 Main St. for full description.*

A group of six graceful trees that add beauty to any landscape. One has a double trunk. Their horizontal branches often droop to the ground. The needles are flat and small cones hang from the tips of the branchlets. In recent years, the health and sustainability of hemlocks has been threatened by attacks of the woolly adelgid insect. Near these trees is a second Plume Sawara Cypress.



#19

#17

European Larch (Larix decidua)

Eastern Hemlock (Tsuga canadensis)



Just past the hemlocks. This tree is not a great specimen because of the competition for light from nearby trees. A Larch is a lovely, graceful tree when grown in the open light. It is unusual because it is a deciduous conifer [cone bearing] that loses its needles in autumn. The soft needles turn yellow very late in the fall before they drop.

Littleleaf Linden (Tilia cordata)



This European species grows slowly in a dense pyramidal form. The leaves and flowers of Lindens are distinctive and make the tree easy to identify during the growing season. Deciding which species of Linden, however, is much more difficult. The small leaves have coarselytoothed margins and unequally divided heartshaped bases. It has small clusters of creamy white flowers which later develop into nutlike fruits that hang on thin stalks attached to a narrow, leafy bract. It is widely used as a street tree in landscapes today.

Continue along drive. Go back to Main Street and walk toward Glastonbury Center on the east side of the street.

#6



Kousa Dogwood (Cornus kousa)

This is a smaller tree than our native Flowering Dogwood, reaching about 20 ft. in height. It blooms in June after the foliage has opened. The creamy white bracts surrounding the small, greenish flowers are pointed at the tips. The fleshy fruit resembles a large red raspberry. The bark is exfoliating [peeling] on mature trees causing a mottled effect that is very attractive, especially in the winter.

13 Norway Spruce (Picea abies)

This group of trees is very old, but the branching habit is still visible.

See #1995 Main St. for full description.

14 Norway Maple (Acer platanoides 'Schwedleri')

This is one of the red-leaved cultivars of Norway Maple. *See #2163 Main St. for full description.*

15 White Fir (Abies concolor)

Just past the war monument. A very tall, single trunk tree with soft, long needles. It is the tallest tree in a group of four. The other three are spruce trees. This is one of the few fir trees that tolerates heat and dryness. Its soft, blue-green needles are very different from that of the stiff Colorado Spruce. Its cones are erect and disintegrate before falling. *See #2277 Main St. for more description.*

16 Plume Sawara Cypress (Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Plumosa')

Just before the rear of the museum building you will see a very tall and very straight tree with reddish bark. The bark of the Sawara Cypress is quite different from the bark of any of the nearby trees. This tree is a cultivar of the Japanese Sawara Cypress tree. If its foliage were close enough to examine, you would see that it appears to be soft but is quite sharp when touched. #8

White Spruce (Picea glauca)



On this spruce, the branchlets are commonly drooping, which can be an aid to identification. Sharp needles, bluegreen in color, are mostly on the upper side of the twigs. In Canada this tree produces the most lumber for commercial use.

#9

Pin Oak (Quercus palustris)

This tree, near the Civil War Memorial, is Glastonbury's 1902 Constitution Oak. At the end of the 1902 Constitutional Convention a delegate from each town in Connecticut was given a small pin oak. Glastonbury's tree was planted here on the green. Note the old wound in the trunk. Buried in that wound is a heavy, bronze plaque that says Constitution Oak . You can read just a few of the letters since the bark of the tree has grown over the plaque.

See #2183 Main St. for full description of the species.

#10

Colorado Spruce (Picea pungens)



A large group of Colorado Spruce trees span the width of the Hubbard Green at the far end. The needles on these trees are bluish-green or mostly green, stiff and very prickly. They stick out in all directions from the branch. Some cultivars have a stronger blue color than others.

Turn left along the drive and continue to the other side of Hubbard Green.

Notice the row of Sugar Maples on each side of this back portion of the drive. Their placement forms an allee, a French term used for an avenue or walk bordered by trees or hedges. It is usually designed to lead toward a feature or vista at either or both ends. An allee formed the basic framework for many of the classic seventeenth century French gardens.

11 Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida)

