

Printable PDF of the Pullman Walk:

The Walk:

Pullman Historic District

This walk covers only the Pullman Historic District, also known as the Pullman National Monument. It was the first model, planned industrial community in the United States. The district is significant for its historical origins in the Pullman Company, one of the most famous company towns in the United States, and scene of the violent 1894 Pullman strike.

Historic Pullman was built in the 1880s by George Pullman as workers' housing for employees of his eponymous railroad car company, the Pullman Palace Car Company. He established behavioral standards that workers had to meet to live in the area and charged them rent.

Pullman's architect, Solon Spencer Beman, was said to be extremely proud that he had met all the workers' needs within the neighborhood he designed. The distinctive row houses were comfortable by the standards of the day and contained such amenities as indoor plumbing, gas and sewers.

During the depression that followed the Panic of 1893, demand for Pullman cars slackened. Despite cutbacks and wage reductions at the factory, the Company did not reduce rents for workers who lived in Pullman. Workers initiated the Pullman Strike in 1894 and it lasted 2 months, eventually leading to intervention by the U.S. Government and military.

After George Pullman died in 1897, the town was annexed by the city of Chicago and the city sold the houses to their occupants. Deindustrialization and migration to the suburbs led the area to fall into decline and a proposal to demolish the area to create new industrial development was defeated by the efforts of its residents.

Over the years local organizations and foundations have fought and won for recognition of Pullman as a Historic District and all the protections that brings.

From Wikipedia and Historic Pullman Foundation

Tours of Pullman

Guided walking tours can be scheduled at any time. Special rates are available for students.

Tours are offered the first Sunday of each month from May through October.

Our Annual House Tour during which private homes are open is held on the second weekend of October.

A video presentation lasting 20 minutes is shown throughout the day and interiors of the Pullman Center, and Greenstone Church are open for visitors.

Start at the
VISITOR Center:

11141 S. Cottage

Grove Ave.

PULLMAN ON FOOT



KEY TO MAP

Detailed descriptions on other side

1. Administration Building and Clock Tower
 2. Hotel Florence
 3. Pullman Executive Club
 4. Executive Housing
 5. Workers' Cottages
 6. Colonnade Apartments and Townhouses
 7. Market Hall
 8. Block Houses
 9. Three-flat Apartments
 10. Bay Front Apartments
 11. Historic Pullman Center
 12. Skilled Craftsmen Housing
 13. Pullman Hospital
 14. Greenstone Church
 15. The Greystone
 16. Arcade Row Houses
 17. Arcade Park
 18. Pullman Stables
 - * 19. Arcade Site VISITOR CENTER
 20. Foreman's Row
- a. Pullman Metra Station
b. Kensington Metra Station

TAKE A STROLL THROUGH PULLMAN

**1. Administration Building and Clock Tower
111th & Cottage Grove**

Built in 1880 for the executive offices of the Pullman Palace Car co., the three-story structure was topped by a clock tower which roze 120'. An original wing for company shops remains on the north side. A similar wing at the south once made the complex symmetrical. The structure with the square tower visible further to the north was the Pullman fire station. The tower was used for drying hoses.

**2. Hotel Florence
11111 S. Forestville**

The first guest arrived in November 1881 and the hotel continued in operation until 1975. It offered patrons the only bar allowed in Pullman prior to the turn of the century. Elegant amenities were provided for dignitaries, visitors and the company's customers. The HPF purchased the building in 1975 and was engaged in rehabilitating and restoring it until it's sale to the state in 1995.

**3. Pullman Executive Club
605 East 111th St.**

This building was briefly used as a private residence before becoming a restaurant for company executives.

**4. Executive Housing
111th St. between St. Lawrence & Langley**

In placing the executive dwellings nearest the plant, the planners made it possible for the occupants to reach work without passing through the more modest residential area to the south. Exterior and interior detail not found in many other Pullman houses made this row a showplace.

**5. Workers' Cottages
111th & Champlain**

Bricks used in the construction of Pullman were made by the company from Lake Calumet clay. The composition changed as the excavation went deeper, resulting in a variation of color. Orange is the prominent shade here. The Y-shaped downspouts are an unusual feature.

**6. Colonnade Apartments and Townhouses
112th & Champlain**

Erected in 1893 to house visitors to the Columbia Exposition, these four units display a classical influence uncommon in Pullman.

**7. Market Hall
112th & Champlain**

Fire destroyed the original Market Hall in 1892 and the present structure was built on the site immediately thereafter. The Pullman Co. leased the space to grocers and butchers. The market was never a "company store." The second and third floors were removed after a fire in 1931. Yet another fire in 1973 left the building in its present state. Stabilization is underway today with funds from the state.

**8. Block Houses
111th & Langley (East Side)**

Only two of the original six "block houses" are still standing. They were the least costly form of housing and were intended for the use of unmarried employees. They are now comfortable, two-bedroom apartments.

**9. Three-flat Apartments
113th & Langley (East Side)**

These apartments were slightly larger than the blockhouses with individual private baths rather than only one per floor.

**10. Bay Front Apartments
114th & Champlain**

Also known as "honeymoon row," each building had four apartments. Their compact size and low rent made them attractive to young couples.

**11. Historic Pullman Center
614 E. 113th St.**

Erected as a boarding house, the building was remodeled after the Masons purchased it in 1904. It is currently owned by the HPF and is used for community meetings and HPF offices.

**12. Skilled Craftsmen Housing
112th & St. Lawrence**

The workers who rented these homes enjoyed fireplaces and had three bedrooms on the second floor. Kitchens were placed in brick extensions at the rear.

**13. Pullman Hospital
11217 St. Lawrence**

Until the Roseland Community Hospital was opened, this building served the Pullman community's health needs. It is now an apartment building.

**14. Greenstone Church
11211 St. Lawrence**

George Pullman's hopes that this church would be used by all denominations and that the rental would bring a 6% return were not met. The serpentine stone was quarried in Pennsylvania. Ornamentation included carved gargoyles. Methodists have met at the church since 1914. Today, residents enthusiastically attend fund raising church dinners.

**15. The Greystone
602 E. 112th St.**

A replacement for a brick townhouse, the greystone building is the only structure of its kind in Pullman.

**16. Arcade Row Houses
112th between Forrestville & St. Lawrence**

These single-family dwellings were designed to form a visual complement to Arcade Park. Uniformity of architectural style is more evident here than in other areas.

17. Arcade Park

The park was re-landscaped in 1977. It regained much of the appearance envisioned by Nathan F. Barrett, Pullman's landscape architect, when he designed the park in 1880.

**18. Pullman Stables
11201 Cottage Grove**

The Pullman co. required that all horses and carriages be kept in this building. Carved, wooden horse heads set into the façade made the purpose of the building unmistakable.

19. Arcade Site

The Arcade was a huge, all-enclosed shopping center. Housing the bank, library, and post office, as well as numerous shops, it was the hub of Pullman activity. The building was demolished in 1927.

**20. Foreman's Row
111th & St. Lawrence**

These spacious homes with a view of Arcade Park were considered to be among the most desirable residences in Pullman. The first occupied house in Pullman was 11109 St. Lawrence.

Metra Electric

- a. 111th St. Pullman Stop
- b. 115th St. Kensington Stop

