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 Greystone Church are open for visitors.

Start at the Visitors Center:
11141 S. Cottage Grove Ave.

KEY TO MAP
Detailed description 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. Greystone Church
15. The Greystone
16. Arcade Row Houses
17. Arcade Park
18. Pullman Stables
19. Arcade Site
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 rose 120'. An original wing for
   company shops remains on the north side. A similar wing on the south once was
   part of 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 HFF purchased the building in 1975 and was engaged in
   rehabilitating and restoring it until it’s safe 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 plat, 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. Colonade 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
   stories 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 HFF and used for community meetings and
    HFF 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. Greystone Church
    11211 St. Lawrence
    George Pullman's hopes that this church would be used by all denominations and
    that the rent would bring a 6% return were met. The serpentine stone was
    quarried in Pennsylvania. Ornamentation included carved gargoyles. Methodists
    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
    113th between Forestville & 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

HISTORIC PULLMAN FOUNDATION * 614 E. 113TH ST. * 773.785.8181