

Paris was founded in 1829 by Hiram Capron who came to this area from Vermont. Here, at the "Forks of the Grand" he noticed an abundance of gypsum deposits on the banks of the Nith River. This he milled into world-renowned plaster of Paris. With his foresight, Paris soon became a village in 1850 and, by 1856, had attained town status.

A - Established in 1891, the John M. Hall store is the longest running business to remain in one location in Paris.

B - 91 Grand River St. is the location where Alexander Graham Bell received the world's first long distance telephone call on August 10, 1876. (See plaques)

C - The Arlington Hotel started out as a simple three-storey rough cast hotel known as the Bradford House C-1850 (part of it can still be seen on the north side). In 1888, John Ealand turned it into this unique, elegant building.

D - The Norman Hamilton home is one of Paris' finest examples of cobblestone masonry. Constructed by Levi Boughton from New York State, it was completed in 1844. Paul Wickson, a well known Canadian painter, also resided here and completed many of his paintings in the belvedere.

E - Paris Presbyterian Church is a beautiful Romanesque church built in 1893. The greatest portion of funds came from wealthy Paris Industrialist, John Penman.

F - You will notice that St. Paul's United Church has two cornerstones. The church was built in 1875 as a Wesleyan Methodist church, but upon church unification and extensive remodeling of the facade, it became St. Paul's United Church in 1926.

G - Paris Public Library was built in 1904 using funds from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. Prior to the new addition, the main entrance was on William St.

H - Paris Baptist Church was built in 1885 and replaced an original Baptist church which overlooked Paris on Bobby West St.

I - The Greek-influenced cobblestone house at 16 Broadway St. was built in 1845 by Levi Boughton, a stone mason from New York State. Highlights to notice: smooth stone lintels and sills; V-shaped ridges between each row of cobbles; each stone is tilted; small grated second floor windows; Greek symbols on portico.

J - You will notice that this bell was cast in 1874. For many years it was located in Paris' old town hall (building still found behind Kentucky Fried Chicken).

K - This brick building is all that is left of many buildings that made up the Paris Wincey Mills. Constructed around 1888, the mill used water power supplied by the 1831 mill race which emptied into the Nith River.

For information on our famous Historic Walking Tours, call or visit our website. Private tours are available on request.

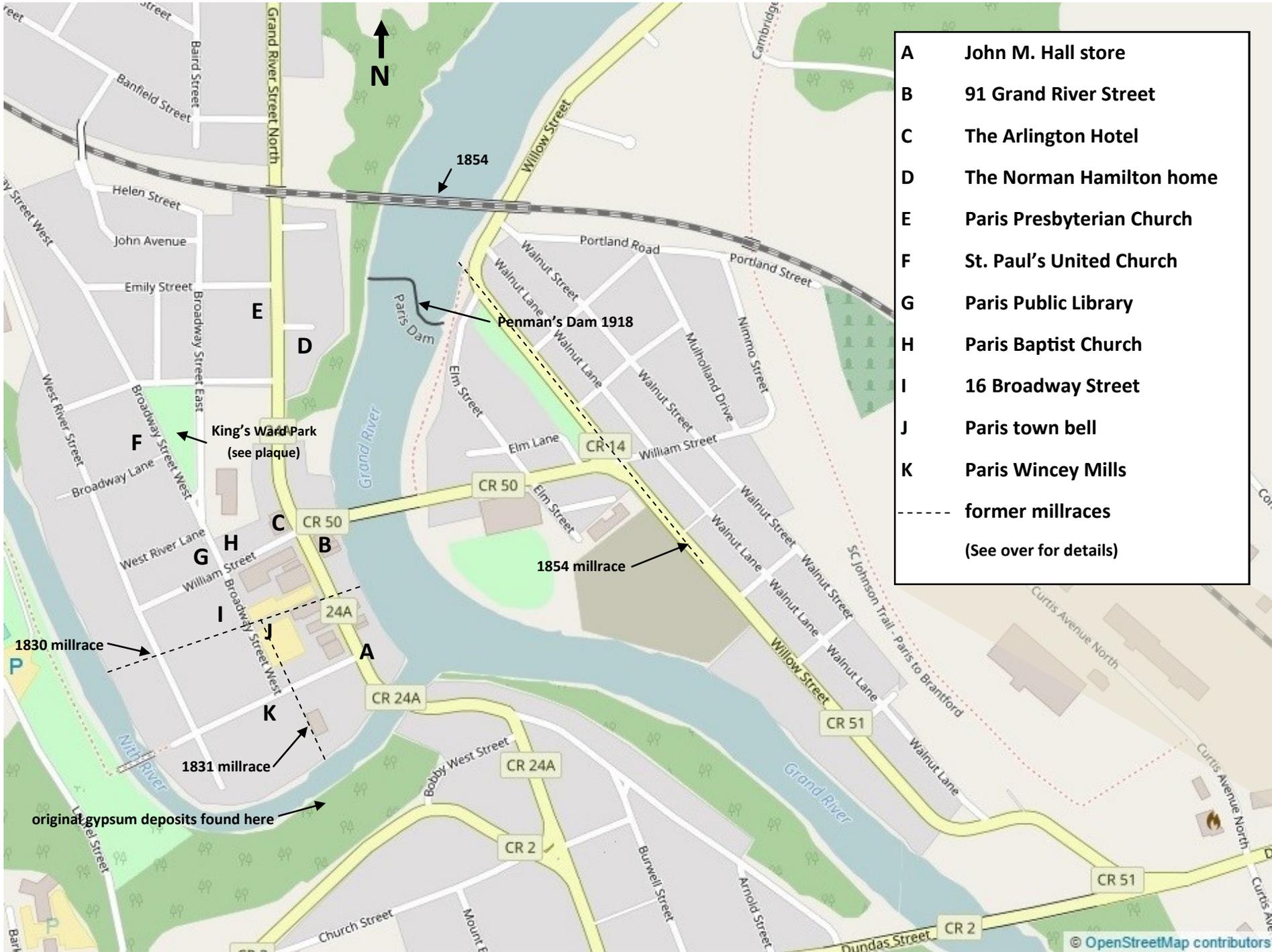


Self-guided Walking Tour

The Paris Museum & Historical Society

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For Guided Tours check
our website**



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- J** Paris town bell
- K** Paris Wincey Mills
- former millraces
- (See over for details)