

## **1** THE PURDY HOUSE

Built about 1721 by Samuel Horton and passed to Samuel Purdy about 1730, the Purdy House remained in the Purdy Family until 1869. Jacob Purdy was Samuel's son who joined the Westchester Militia in 1775 serving until the end of the American Revolution.

The original farm was 132 acres and the house itself stood on Spring Street at the foot of Purdy Hill (now Church Street Hill)

The Jacob Purdy House was used by General George Washington as his Headquarters during the Battle of White Plains in 1776 and a second time in 1778.

By the early 1900's the farmland was gone and the house was multi-family. It was in extremely deteriorated condition and slated for destruction in 1961 by the Urban Renewal Agency during the re-construction of downtown White Plains.



The Battle of White Plains Monument Committee, led by Al Cerak, was able to raise sufficient money to purchase the house in 1963. It took over ten years, but eventually money was acquired for land and a proposed park as the new home of Jacob Purdy House.

On August 9, 1977, the sad little house was moved from Spring Street to its present location on Park Avenue overlooking the downtown. Interestingly, the House sits on property that was once part of the original Purdy Farm, as well as the camp of General Israel Putnam's troops during the Battle of White Plains.



In 1979 the House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and through grants and donations, the house was finally rehabilitated and dedicated on November 2, 1986.

## **2** CUBA FREE MONUMENT

On Purdy Hill at the corner of Park and Hillside Avenue, is a cannon that honors those who served in the Spanish American War, the plaque reads "Cuba Free, 1898".

Battle casualties amounted to 385 nationwide, but four times that number died as a result of disease contracted in Cuba.

One young man from White Plains, Sam Walton, was at San Juan Hill with Teddy Roosevelt but died from disease before he returned home.



## **3** THE CARPENTER HOUSE

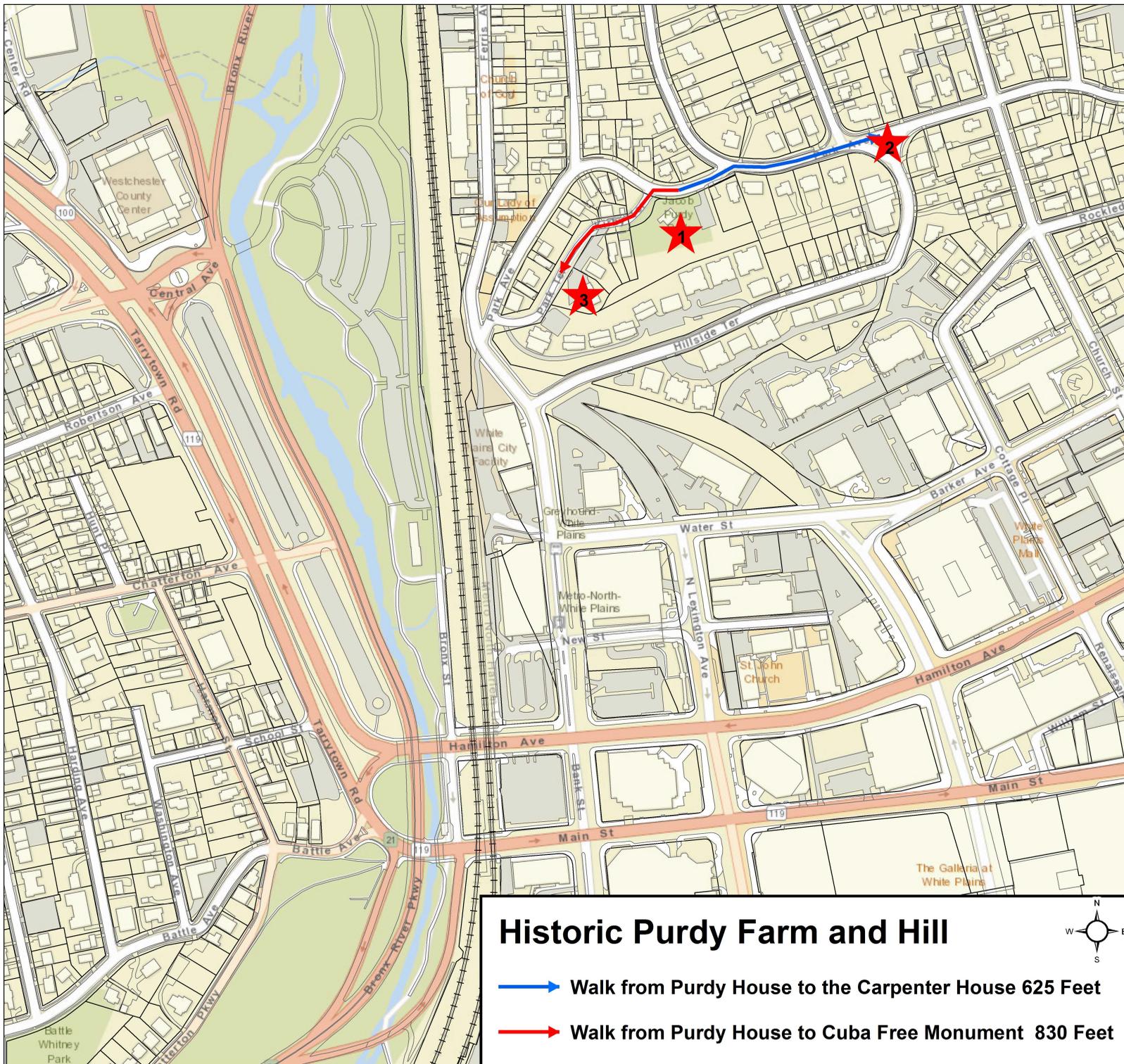
From the White Plains Train Station looking toward Ferris Avenue on the hill you can see the Carpenter House. The house sits on the site of the American Entrenchment during the Revolution.

The house was built in 1874 by Franklin Carpenter who had a grocery and dry goods store on Main Street.

In the 1930's - 1940's, it became a multi-family residence. One White Plains native remembers living there as a child with the eight rooms occupied by three generations of his family.

He recalled a coal stove in the kitchen for heat, and enjoyed training pigeons in the attic and seeing the Empire State Building from one of the windows. It was nicknamed "the castle" and sometimes "the haunted house."





**Historic Purdy Farm and Hill**

 Walk from Purdy House to the Carpenter House 625 Feet  
 Walk from Purdy House to Cuba Free Monument 830 Feet



## Historic Purdy Farm and Hill



Office of the City Clerk  
 City Archives  
*"The City's Attic"*