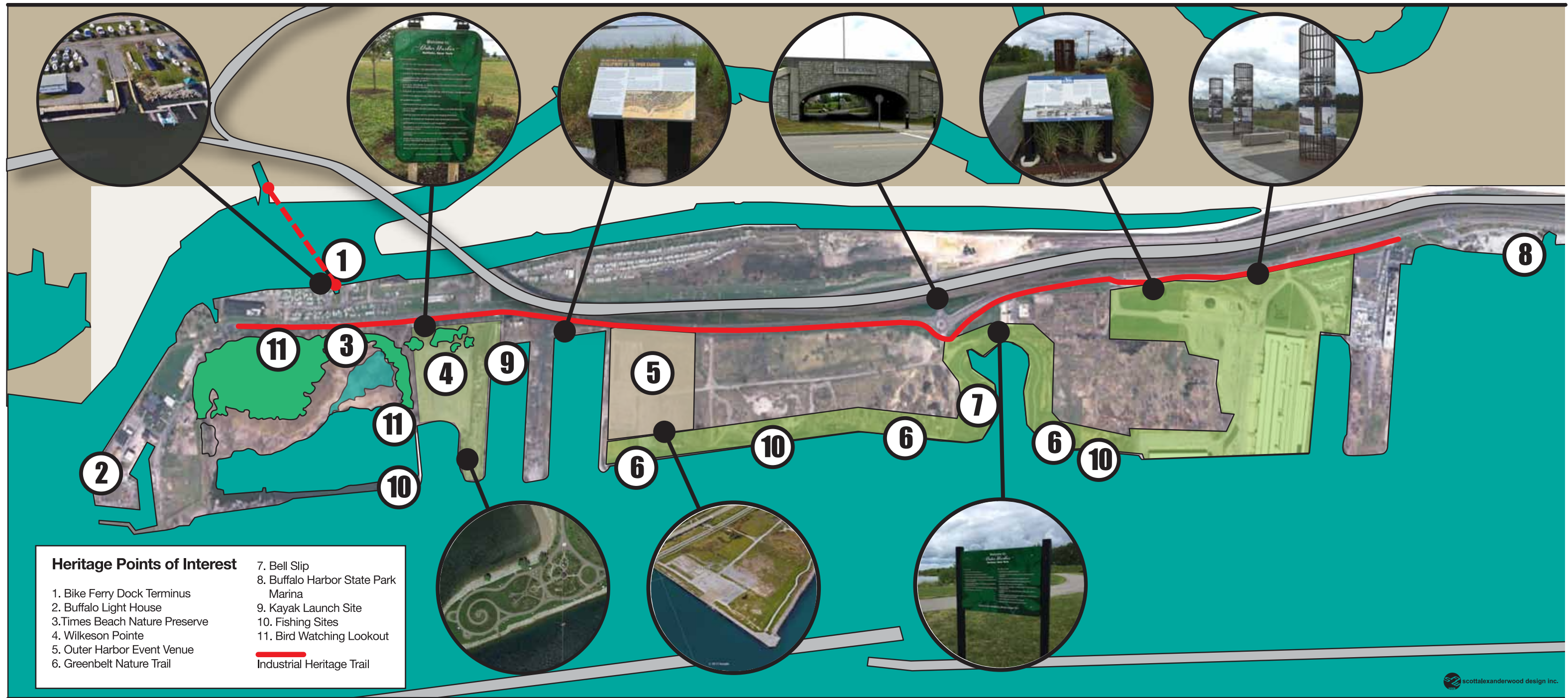


OUTER HARBOR

Adjacent to Fuhrmann Boulevard on the Outer Harbor you will find a well-marked Industrial Heritage Trail that doubles as a bicycle path. This trail provides interpretative signage that describes many of the important landmarks you will encounter as you make your way eastward. As you traverse this trail, try to imagine the original Dart Steam Grain Elevator standing where the Naval Park ships are now moored. This large wooden structure had

“legs” that extended down into the holds of ships and removed grain by means of a series of buckets attached to an endless belt. Invented in 1842 by Buffalo merchant, Joseph Dart, this steam-driven conveyor system reduced the time it took to unload a sailing vessel from a week to a few hours and launched Buffalo as the nation’s largest grain processing center.



Heritage Points of Interest

1. Bike Ferry Dock Terminus
2. Buffalo Light House
3. Times Beach Nature Preserve
4. Wilkeson Pointe
5. Outer Harbor Event Venue
6. Greenbelt Nature Trail

7. Bell Slip
 8. Buffalo Harbor State Park Marina
 9. Kayak Launch Site
 10. Fishing Sites
 11. Bird Watching Lookout
- Industrial Heritage Trail

Start your tour, if possible, at the 1833 lighthouse, one of the first on the lakes, where from the top you can see the scale of Buffalo’s harbor and visualize how water-borne commerce built the city. Imagine the early breakwaters that extended the river out into the lake and prevented the formation of the sand bar at the mouth of the Buffalo River that had disrupted shipping

in the early days before the completion of the canal in 1825.

From lighthouse Point Park proceed east along the Industrial heritage Trail where you will soon come upon Times Beach Nature Preserve with its inviting Robert Andre Nature Trail. Nearby is a panel describing the history of the Connecting Terminal Elevator visible in the

distance. The original elevator, built of wood in 1882, burned in 1914 and was replaced by the present concrete structure.

Times Beach Nature Preserve alone is worth the trip, but if you are a history buff, press on to Wilkeson Pointe, and learn about the challenge of turning the Buffalo River into a workable port. Starting with Samuel Wilkeson’s heroic removal of the sand bar that

blocked the river mouth, the story includes numerous attempts to control the impact of Lake Erie’s frequent storms, and culminates with the installation of the present breakwater system.

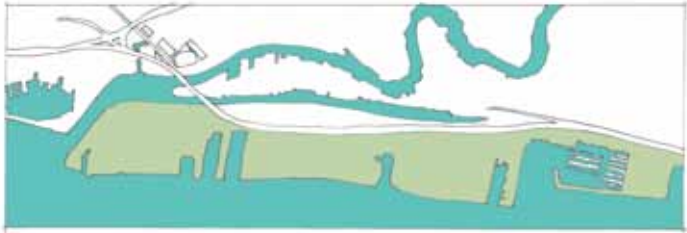
Following the Industrial Heritage Trail, with its many interpretive panels, will give you a thorough grounding grain elevator history and design, including the many

reasons for abandoning the original wooden structures.

Perhaps even more interesting, you will encounter a fabulous collection of historic photographs that depict the evolution of Buffalo’s grain storage industry in great detail. Continue on to the underpass that takes you to the Old First Ward and Ohio Street where a whole other celebration of Buffalo History is beginning to unfold.

INNER HARBOR

The sole remains of Buffalo's inner harbor are the Commercial Slip, the boardwalk that marks the location of the historic Central Wharf, the steel truss bridges that are patterned after the original bridgework, the cobblestone streetscape, and the restored Erie Canal template that offers opportunities for water play in the summer and ice skating in the winter. This guide shows the location of three interpretive panels that will help you imagine what this once vibrant area looked like in its prime: the Central Wharf, the Commercial Slip, and the Spaulding Exchange.

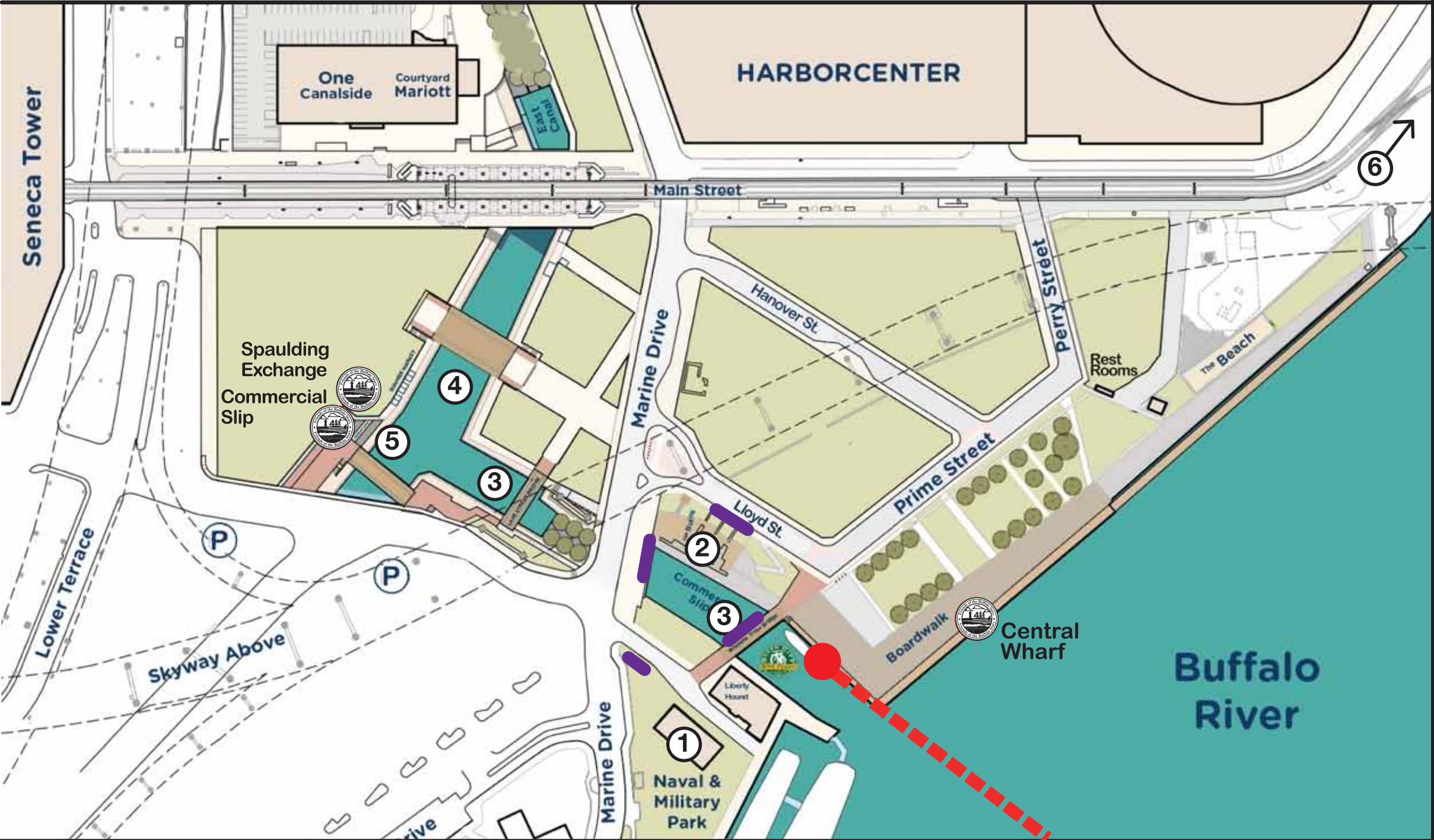


BUFFALO HARBOR MAP & GUIDE

This two-sided map and informational brochure will help you find your way around both the inner and outer harbors when traveling by foot or bicycle. As you make your way you will come upon numerous interpretive panels that provide historical details about the people, physical structures, and various activities that once occupied the places you are standing near or passing by.

If you take the bicycle ferry that runs in the warmer months, try to imagine the harbor in its heyday, about 1900, when it was crammed with ships from the smallest skiffs ferrying people and goods to the larger boats, to full-rigged sailing ships with their hulls loaded with grain, to the luxurious, steam-driven passenger vessels, some over 300 feet long, that took both the well-to-do and those seeking their fortunes to other ports on the lakes like Detroit, Chicago, and Duluth.

Some say that there were days when you could almost walk across the harbor on the decks of the innumerable vessels that transported people and products back and forth between the East Coast and the American heartland via the Erie Canal. The remnants of Buffalo's lucrative grain trade can be found in the innumerable grain elevators, the turning basin seen from the boardwalk, and the ship canal that dates from the 1840s.



Heritage Points of Interest


1. Naval Park
2. Lloyd Street Ruins
3. Commercial Slip
4. Erie Canal
5. Immigrant Steps
6. DL&W Building


The Central Wharf: This was the beating heart of commercial Buffalo before the coming of the railroads. It was the center of Buffalo's internationally known maritime activity. The Board of Trade, the freight forwarders, the shipbuilders, and the maritime insurance industry all had their offices here. Its boardwalk and second floor porch extended from the Commercial Slip to Main Street.

The Commercial Slip: Ground zero of Buffalo's maritime trade, this was the place where people and goods transferred from canal boats to lake vessels going west and lake vessels to canal boats headed east. This transshipment activity fueled commerce of all sorts, both legal and illegal. Nightlife thrived in the many hotels, saloons, and brothels that inhabited the surrounding neighborhood.

The Spaulding Exchange: This handsome five-story structure housed the law offices, banks, and commercial enterprises that dominated the business life of Buffalo during the second half of the 19th Century. As the wealth of the city grew, it became the workplace of Buffalo's social and financial elite, the people who built the mansions, libraries, museums, art galleries and public parks that continue to enrich

the city. As you walk around this streetscape, with its restored waterways, try to imagine Buffalo when its life blood was waterborne commerce.

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