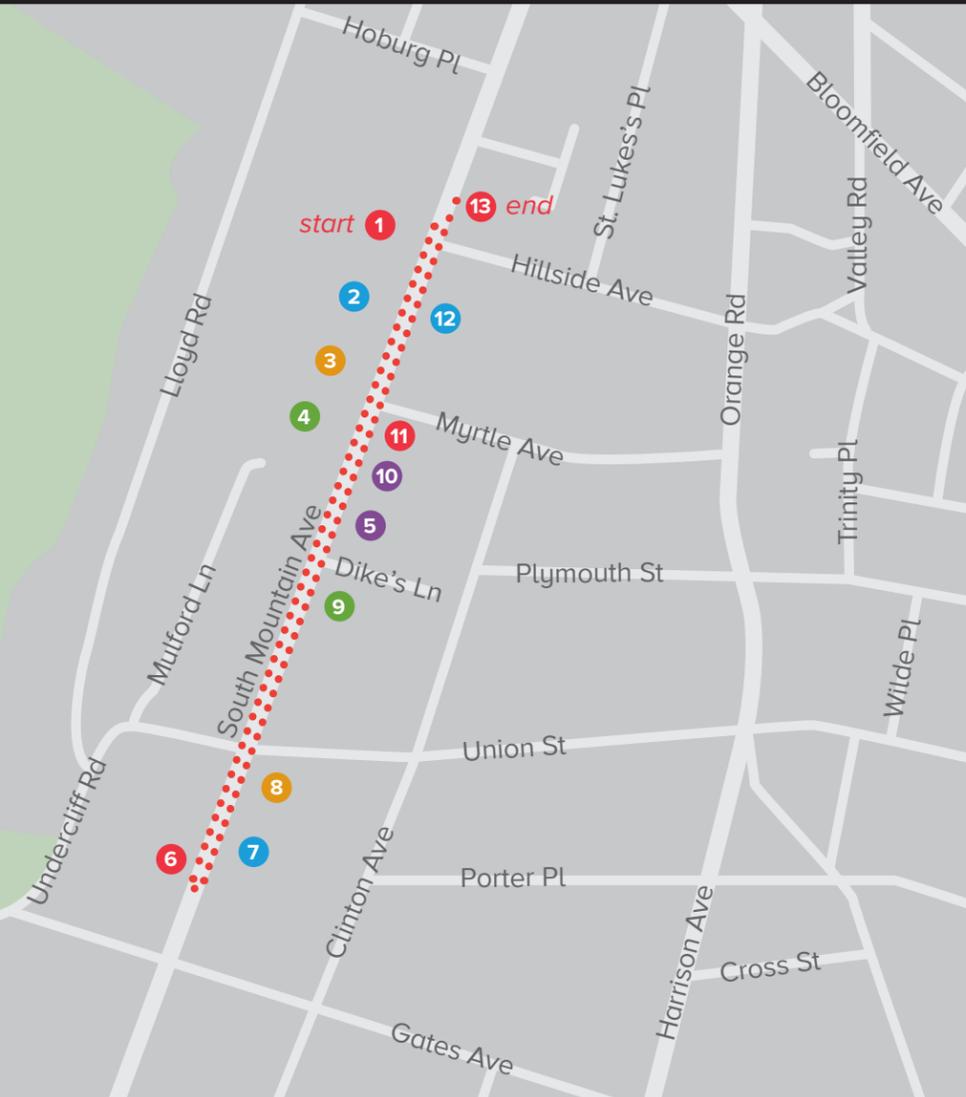


SOUTH MOUNTAIN ESTATE SECTION 1.2 MILES

A residential architectural treasure trove



By the third quarter of the 1800s, when the farms on South Mountain were being divided into individual lots to build homes for families moving to Montclair, architecture was in its heyday with a wide variety of styles: Queen Anne, Second Empire Baroque, Prairie, Gothic, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Stick, Shingle, and more. Many people took elements they liked from each style and mashed them together. A stroll along South Mountain is like walking through a dictionary of residential architectural styles. In this tour, you'll see some of **Montclair's grand homes** and learn more about the people who lived in them.

Begin at the corner of Carriage Way and South Mountain Avenue. You'll be looking at the houses across the street from you.

1 66 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1902-1904

This prominent house was designed by Prairie-style architect George Washington Maher, who first worked for Frank Lloyd Wright. Note its horizontal lines and wide eaves, typical of the Prairie style. It was commissioned for Frederick T. Gates, a Baptist minister, who was an advisor to John D. Rockefeller, and trustee of his Foundation. In 1953, Charles Manual "Sweet Daddy" Grace, an African American religious leader, lived in the mansion, used it as a church and to manufacture beauty products to support the church.

2 72 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1859

One of the earlier houses on South Mountain, this home was built by Henry and Anna Gates Nason. It resembles an old farmhouse "dressed up" with Carpenter Gothic details, such as a steeply pitched roofs, pointed windows that extend into gables, and tall,

slim chimneys. Nason built several houses around Montclair, including the homes on Gates Avenue, named for his wife's family.

3 74 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1911

This Tudor-style home, with tall, pitched gables and stucco, was built for Louis and Louisa Benziger, vice president of Benziger Brothers, manufacturer of religious articles. Years later, their children started Benziger Family Vineyards, a well-known Sonoma winery. When the Benzigers moved out, Walter and Anna Teter moved in. Teter is known for developing Teterboro Airport and Teterboro.

4 DAYBREAK, 88 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1914

Built for Kate A. Bennett, Daybreak is a Colonial Revival home with an accentuated front door and symmetrical layout. Bennett built the home to be near to her daughter and son-in-law who lived at a now-demolished home at 100 South Mountain. In 1926, Bennett sold this home to move to an even larger home at 166 Upper Mountain Avenue.

5 DIKE'S LANE (ON YOUR LEFT)

There are several small lanes like this in Montclair. When these roads were laid out, many people were still getting around by horse and carriage or by foot. If the streets were long, as South Mountain Avenue was, these lanes allowed people to cut through to get to a nearby road more quickly. *Wander down Dike's Lane.* On your left, behind the tall fence, is a carriage house that served as a studio for landscape artist Thomas R. Manley from 1925 to 1935.

Return to South Mountain Avenue.

6 148-164 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1925-1928

These homes, built within a three-year period, show how one style can be modified to create different looks. Find the Tudor hallmarks: steep, pitched gable roofs, masonry chimneys, elaborate doorways, unique groupings of windows, exposed half-timbers.

If you'd like to continue along South Mountain Avenue, turning around at Stonebridge Road, you'll see some beautiful older homes. It will add about another mile to your walk. If not, cross South Mountain Avenue at Gates Avenue and head back the way you came. You'll be looking at houses across the street.



Sledding down Hillside Avenue, starting at South Mountain Avenue, c.1890.

7 147 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1902

Dudley Van Antwerp, another noted architect who designed hundreds of homes in Montclair, built this home for Robert and Charlotte Drysdale. Although Drysdale called himself a "bookkeeper," he was a senior partner in an investment firm.

8 143 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1900

A. F. Norris, a Montclair architect noted for Colonial Revival homes like this one, designed this home for Frederick Lovejoy and his wife Katherine.

Cross Union Street and continue along South Mountain Avenue.

9 111 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1884

After the Civil War ended in 1871, Captain John Howard married Susan Merriam, whose father, George Merriam, published *Webster's Dictionary*. They were the first owners of this house. David and Mary Wesson owned this home later. Wesson became a household name when he invented Wesson Oil.



Little Bertha Benedict poses where the Montclair Art Museum now stands, c. 1895.

10 99 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1935

Built later than many homes on this street, this house would be equally at home in the French countryside. The tall roof that comes down to the window on the second floor and the stucco exterior are characteristics of French Country style. Although built for Charlotte Weeks, Frank and Irene Becket were its first true residents.

11 95 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1878

This Second Empire home was built for Charlotte's parents, John and Imogene Weeks. Notice the Mansard roof, named after French architect Francois Mansart, which is typical of the Second Empire style popular during the reign of Napoleon III. Other hallmarks of this style are decorative brackets on the eaves, one or two story bay windows, and tall chimneys. Most Second Empire Homes were built in the 1860s and 1870s. Because many Montclair homes were built in these decades, when new railroads came through, you'll find an abundance of Second Empire homes in town.

12 71 SOUTH MOUNTAIN AVENUE, 1880

This home has many of the hallmarks associated with the Stick style, prevalent between 1860 and 1890, including windows built into "stick work," hipped roofs, and lots of porches and verandas. Charles and Anne Knapp first owned this home.

St. Luke's church building on St Luke's Place was in use as a church for less than 20 years, 1870-1899.

13 FORMER ST. LUKE'S RECTORY, 1870s 55 South Mountain Avenue

This home was originally the parsonage for St. Luke's Episcopal Church, located on St. Luke's Place, until a wealthy parishioner gave the congregation land and money to build a new church next to his house on South Fullerton Avenue. The Reverend James E. Maxwell was the first rector to live here.