

HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST (continued)

6 First Church of DuPont (502 Barksdale Avenue): The church was built in 1917 with funds raised by the townspeople. It was briefly dubbed the “Little Brown Church” and later the “Campside Church” for the many Camp Lewis soldiers who attended services there. The manse or parsonage next door was moved in 1927 from Brandywine Avenue to its current location (507 Barksdale Avenue). The Manse served as a home for the minister and later housed Sunday school classes. Today, it is still owned by the church and used as a private residence.

7 DuPont Hotel Site (Barksdale Avenue between Hopewell and Penniman): The DuPont Hotel was built in 1911. It had 41 rooms and served as boarding house for single male employees. In the early days, it also housed the doctor and dentist offices. With few remaining single men, the Company demolished the building and in 1930 donated the furnishings to Goodwill.

8 Clubhouse Site (Barksdale Avenue between Hopewell and Penniman): The Clubhouse was built in 1910 to provide a place for employees to socialize. It once boasted a ballroom, bowling alley, library, tavern, billiard and card rooms, and a barber shop. After falling into disuse, the Clubhouse was razed in 1962.

9 Playground (DuPont Avenue, wooded area): The playground was a 5 acre site which contained two baseball fields, tennis courts, playground and children’s wading pool.

10 Fire Company No. 11 (303 Louviers Avenue): Fire Company No. 11, organized in the 1920s, was made up of boys ages 8-12. It is recognized as the youngest officially listed fire department in the United States. Four hose carts strategically placed throughout the Village provided fire protection. The last remaining hose cart resides in front of the new fire station at 1780 Civic Drive. This Historic Village building housed the fire station from the 1960s to 2008. The building currently houses the City Public Works Department.

11 Silk Stocking Row (Brandywine Avenue): This was the term used for Brandywine Avenue which housed the majority of DuPont Company managers.

Please respect the property owners of the private residences listed in this guide. Do not enter into or trespass onto any private residence property without their consent.

DuPONT’S HISTORY

In 1906 the E. I. DuPont de Nemours Company purchased 3,192 acres of land once owned by Britain’s Hudson Bay Company to build an explosives manufacturing plant. The area was remote but still accessible to the major population centers of Tacoma and Olympia. The plant supplied dynamite for some of the largest construction projects in world history, including the Panama Canal and the ALCAN (Alaska-Canadian) Highway. The plant also manufactured black powder and explosives used in both World Wars.

In 1909 the DuPont Company began construction of a town that would meet all the daily and social needs of its workers. This included building 110 houses, a hotel, a children’s playground, a clubhouse for after-hours socializing, two general stores and a butcher shop.

By the 1940s, as roads and housing developments materialized in communities around DuPont, the need to own and maintain a village for the plant employees became costly and unnecessary. The Company sold the homes to its employee tenants. In 1951, DuPont became an incorporated city. The Company closed the plant in 1976 after 67 years of operation. This was a result of diminishing demand for explosives and the invention of Tovex, a water-gel explosive. Today, DuPont’s Historic Village is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the only former company town to have most of its original homes preserved with historic integrity intact.



DuPont Museum in Historic Village

Visit the DuPont Museum

207 Barksdale Avenue
www.dupontmuseum.com
phone: (253) 964-2399



A Walk Around Town
HISTORIC VILLAGE
DUPONT

— Historic Tour Series —

Sponsored By:

City of DuPont
DuPont Historical Society
DuPont Tourism Board



Barksdale Avenue in DuPont, WA (1945)

www.visitDuPont.com
email: visitorinfo@ci.dupont.wa.us
phone: 253-576-0696

07-09

HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Iafrazi Park (Barksdale Avenue near Entry Gate): This park is named after DuPont Mayor John Iafrazi. It provides views of the homes of the former DuPont Plant Manager (100 Brandywine) and Assistant Manager (125 Barksdale). The Assistant Manager’s house originally had 10 rooms and a basement on a 1 acre plot. The photo is an early view showing the rutted roads. The Plant Manager’s house is on the left and signs to the former Picton Service Station are on the right.

2 Private Residence (100 Brandywine Avenue): This home was the former Plant Manager’s residence. Built in 1910 the home had 15 rooms on a 2½ acre lot. Both managers’ homes came equipped with gardeners who were DuPont Plant employees.

3 DuPont Museum (207 Barksdale Avenue): The building, built in 1917, was originally Carsten’s Meat Market. In 1952 it became Town Hall after the Village incorporated. After closure of the DuPont Plant in 1976, the building became a museum which is operated by the DuPont Historical Society. Harry L. Robinson Park, adjacent to the museum was named after the first Mayor of DuPont. The historic DuPont Dynamite Train is located behind the park and museum. The narrow gauge train was part of a fleet of trains that transported materials and explosives between the Plant and Puget Sound. It is the last known intact dynamite train in the State of Washington. The Bavarian Apartments (211 Barksdale Avenue) is the site of the original DuPont Store. The store had several owners until it was purchased by the Johnson Brothers.

4 Johnson Brothers Store (303 Barksdale Avenue): The Johnson Brothers relocated their business into this building. The building served as City Hall from 1990 to 2009. Above its doors is the copula from the DuPont school building. The school, which was located in what is now Barksdale Station, served grades K-9. Grades 10-12 were added when the W. B. Laughbon High School was established in 1962. The school building was razed in 1989.

5 Private Residence (400 Barksdale Avenue): This building served as the Plant Physician office and later as the Superintendent’s Hiring Hall. Patients accessed the clinic through a door on the side of the building. (no photo available)



1 Early Entry to Village of DuPont



2 Former Plant Manager's House (circa 1920s)



3 Town Hall (mid 1950s)



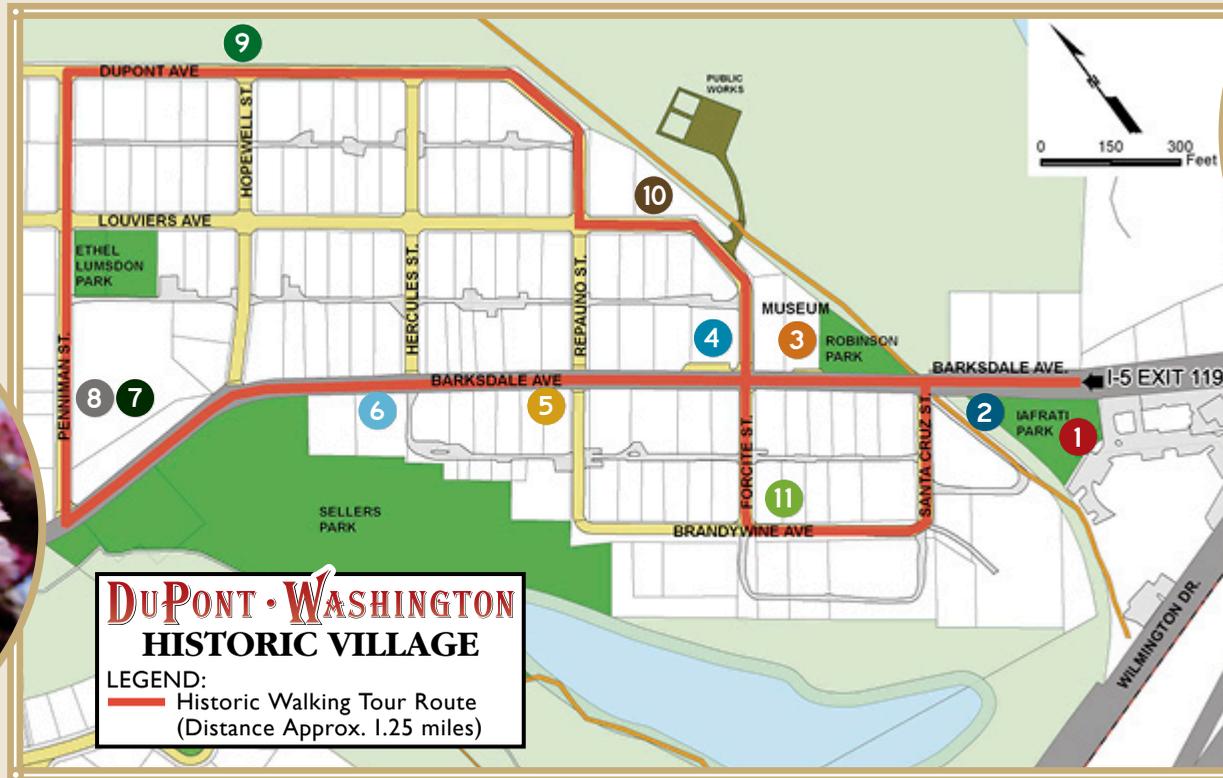
4 Johnson Brothers Store



11 Houses of Silk Stocking Row

Cherry Blossoms in Historic Village

In the mid 1930s, the DuPont Company planted Japanese Cherry Trees down Barksdale Avenue and around area parks. The village ladies began hosting an annual Cherry Blossom Tea at the Clubhouse some time in the 40s to celebrate the beautiful blossoms, which were a welcoming site to rain-weary residents.



Mount Rainier from DuPont

The city of DuPont is located about 50 miles south of Seattle in the shadow of majestic Mt. Rainier. Picturesque views of Mt. Rainier, the Olympics and Puget Sound are abundant around the City.

5 Doctor's Office (No Photo Available)



6 First Church of DuPont



10 Fire Company No. 11 (Youngest in U.S.)



9 Playground Wading Pool (1921)



8 Clubhouse



7 DuPont Hotel