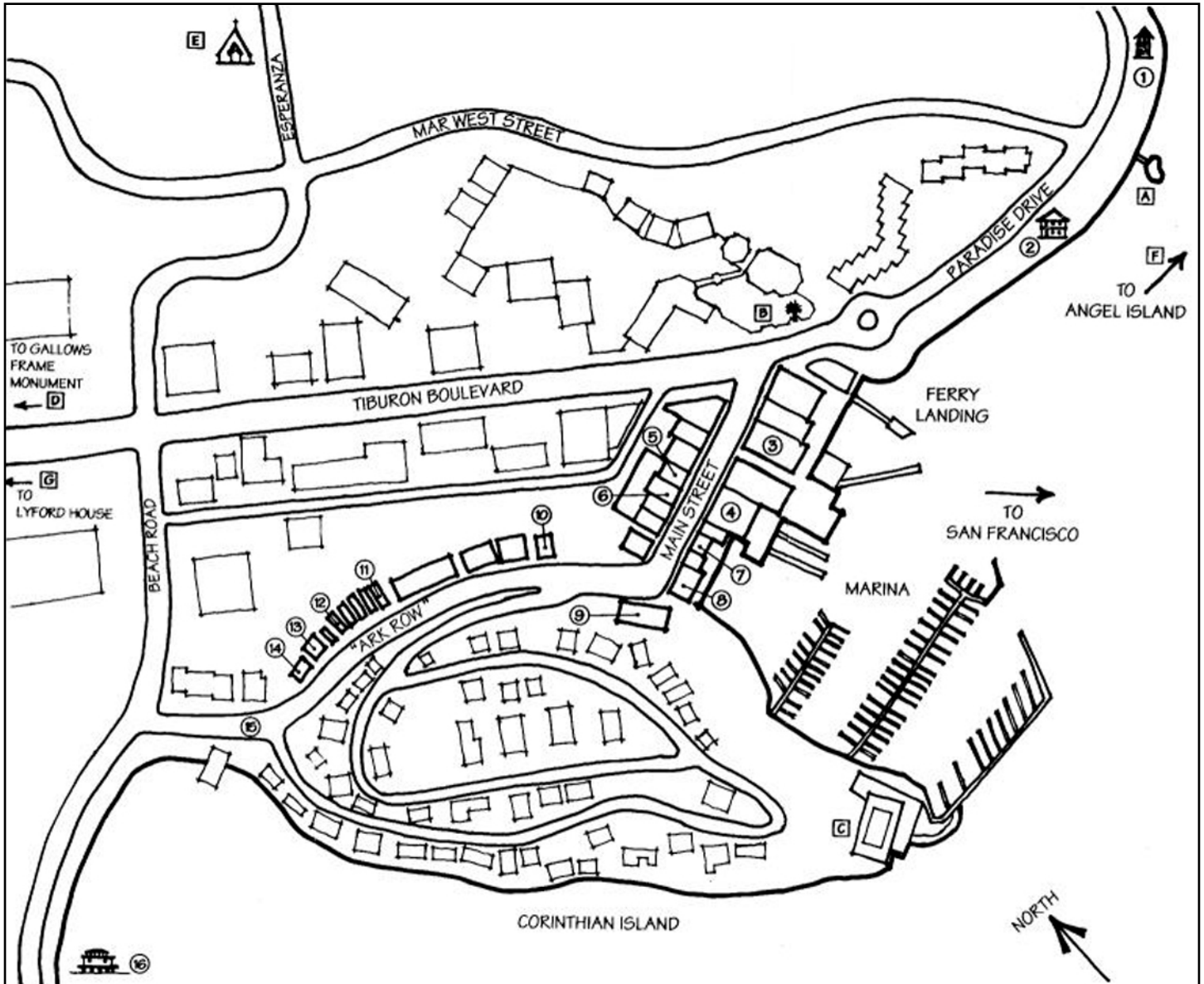


Walking Tour of Tiburon and Belvedere



Notable Buildings

1. **Paradise Drive ~ Lyford Tower ~ 1889.** National Register of Historic Places - Round sandstone edifice, reminiscent of castle keep, erected by Dr. Benjamin Lyford as Southern gateway to "Lyford's Hygeia", a planned town site and health spa. First subdivision on the Tiburon Peninsula. Tower affords a view of Racoon Straits across to Angel Island, looking NE to Berkeley Hills and SW to Golden Gate.
2. **1920 Paradise Drive ~ Train and Ferry Terminal ~ 1884.** Passenger and freight depot of the San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad, later the Northwestern Pacific. In recent years named "The Donahue Building" for the railway's founder. Built of redwood with board and batten siding, Victorian style window trim. North exterior and roof original. Concrete caissons and piles, remnants of 300 foot pier, seen at low tide. Building will be used as railroad and ferry museum by the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society.

3. **15 Main Street ~ McNeil Building ~ 1886.** First structure on water side of street. Saloon-pool hall, boat leasing, and apartments. Compass rose decoration added to upper facade during Town weekend paintup in 1955.
4. **27 Main Street ~ Sam's Anchor Cafe ~ 1920s.** Oldest continuous use restaurant in Tiburon. Original owner Sam Vella, an immigrant from Malta. Saloon fully operational during prohibition. Trap door to Bay built for access to boats bringing whiskey exists beneath floor. Remodeled 1930s.
5. **32 Main Street ~ Anderson Meat Market ~ 1921.** First butcher shop erected 1891. Purchased by H. D. Anderson, a New Yorker, in 1898. Store survived at this location for more than 50 years. Building burned to ground in the great fire of 1921 and re-erected. Renovated in 1960s with ornate false front, an example of Victorian embellishment.
6. **34 Main Street ~ Beyries General Store, Hotel ~ 1921.** Original 1900s two-story structure with grocery on first floor and Tiburon Hotel above destroyed in 1921 fire. Upper story rebuilt from whole sections of hotel saved from fire. Ballustrade salvaged from author Jack London's Sonoma residence. Food market operated until 1955. Upstairs lodging with separate stairs reportedly a bordello in past times.
7. **35 Main Street ~ Saloon ~ 1925.** Another Main Street saloon with access to the Bay for bringing in illegal spirits, safeguarded by concrete sidewalls. Building had varied use until 1970 when bakery opened.
8. **41 Main Street ~ Waterfront Bar ~ 1920s.** The original small saloon was next door to an old-fashioned drugstore/soda fountain complete with marble top counter and swivel stools. After the pharmacy moved in 1954, the waterfront bar enlarged to become a bar/restaurant with nautical South Seas decor including Gauguin-style paintings.
9. **55 Main Street ~ Bank Building ~ 1925.** Brick structure originally branch of Bank of Sausalito. Branch closed in 1935. Property sold to first owner of Sam's Cafe who made daily deposits of liquor to bank vault, a convenient locker for his nearby bar.

Ark Row

The rest of Main Street is known as Ark Row. The name recalls the 1890s recreational houseboat lifestyle enjoyed in Belvedere Cove by sea captains, bohemian artists, and summer residents from San Francisco. In winter, houseboat dwellers anchored arks in the lagoon. After 1900, craze for arks waned. Some docked along lagoon shorelines and converted to permanent local housing. Part of filled-in lagoon became parking lot behind the shops.

10. **72 Main Street ~ Fleming Rooming House ~ 1918.** Mid-1880s structure affixed to pilings here early 1900s. The landlady, Mrs. Fleming, lived in apartment on first floor and rented rooms to Northwestern Pacific trainmen checked carefully "for their good character." Outside spiral gingerbread staircase added in 1956.
11. **104 Main Street ~ Ark ~ 1895.** Typical ark of 4 rooms and kitchen. Dwelling 90% original with flat roof, bead and reel molding and slender Corinthian columns. Another intact houseboat

“The Double Ark” at 116 Main has unusual arched roof and four fine Corinthian capitals. Visible remains of tar and planks indicate lower level once an ark.

12. **112 Main Street ~ Cottage ~ 1890.** Secret staircase led to hidden cupboard between floors for safekeeping of illicit liquor. To escape revenueurs, the rumrunners, tipped off to a raid, exited by the back door to boats on lagoon.
13. **120 Main Street ~ Cottage ~ 1890s.** Served as artists’ studio. Possible 1927 residence of Selden Connor Gile (1877-1947), important California landscape painter and leader of the “Society of Six,” a group of California impressionists.
14. **122 Main Street ~ Ranch Building ~ 1870s.** Oldest building on Ark Row. Former shed on a Tiburon Peninsula ranch. Salt box construction later addition. U.S. Centennial (1876) wallpaper uncovered.
15. **Main Street Drawbridge Site ~ 1880s.** Several different style drawbridges have linked Tiburon’s Main Street to Belvedere’s Beach Road until 1930s. Story has it that the raising of the drawbridge for arks and boats to go from winter harbor on lagoon to summer fun on Cove began the tradition of “Opening Day on the Bay,” a spring parade of ships.
16. **52 Beach Road ~ Social Saloon of the S.S. China ~ 1866.** Belvedere Landmark 001. “China Cabin.” Victorian drawing room of a passenger and cargo sidewheel steamer that plied between San Francisco, Japan and China. Salvaged before the fire when the ship was burned for scrap metal in Tiburon Cove 1886. Saloon barged to Belvedere Cove beach. Served as a residence for 90 years, before restoration as a maritime museum by the Landmarks Society. Open 1-4, Sunday, Wednesday, April-October.

Points of Interest

- A. **Elephant Rock.** Natural landmark just offshore in downtown Tiburon. Probably named for its size and form viewed from water. On a chart of 1850, “Pulpeti de Padre” (Father’s Pulpit) may refer to Elephant Rock. Favorite fishing spot officially designated for the young.
- B. **Railroad Palm/Depot Palm ~ 1923.** The NWPRR was noted for gardens and palm trees around its main buildings and passenger depots. Town required developers of Point Tiburon complex to preserve this palm. Marker placed by Heritage and Arts Commission in 1988 to show location of railroad yard.
- C. **Corinthian Yacht Club ~ 1912.** White frame building is second clubhouse. A wall remains from original 1886 structure which burned. One of three yacht clubs in Tiburon area. Private. Please view from street.
- D. **Gallows Frame Monument ~ 1992.** A gallows frame is a mechanical device which adjust wharf tracks to the same level as the tracks on the barge allowing transfer of railroad cars to continue despite changes in the tides. Originally stood at the waterfront near intersection of Paradise Drive and Main Street. Dismantled in 1974. Heritage & Arts Commission designed monument and marker.

- E. 201 Esperanza ~ Old St. Hilary's ~ 1888.** Former Roman Catholic Mission Church for railroad families. Redwood New England-style structure, separate bell tower. Area is home to rare plants and flowers. Owned by Landmarks Society. Used for private weddings and other events. Open 1-4 Sunday, Wednesday, April-October.
- F. Angel Island.**** State park with spectacular vistas, hiking and biking trails and historic sites: Ayala Cove--ancient Coast Miwok Indian ceremonial site and 1775 anchorage for the Spanish ship, San Carlos, commanded by Lt. Juan Manuel de Ayala, first European surveyor of the Bay. Fort McDowell--WWII Pacific troop embarkation point. Immigration Station--main portal of entry for Asian immigrants first half of 20th century. Reached by Angel Island Ferry Service, operated by the McDonough family for three generations from 21 Main Street, Tiburon.
- G. 376 Greenwood Beach Road ~ Lyford House ~ 1876.**** Victorian residence built by Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Lyford at Stawberry Point. House barged to present location in 1957. National Audubon Society acquired house and adjacent property, 1961. Open Sundays, November-April, 1-4 p.m. (A beautiful 2.6-mile walk along Richardson Bay past Blackie's Pasture on path that traces the former railroad trackbed. By car from Main Street approximately 3.2 miles to Greenwood Beach and left .3 mile to Audubon Sanctuary.)

**Beyond central walking tour.

*The Walking Guide of Historic Tiburon is published as a printed brochure by:

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Town of Tiburon, CA 94920
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