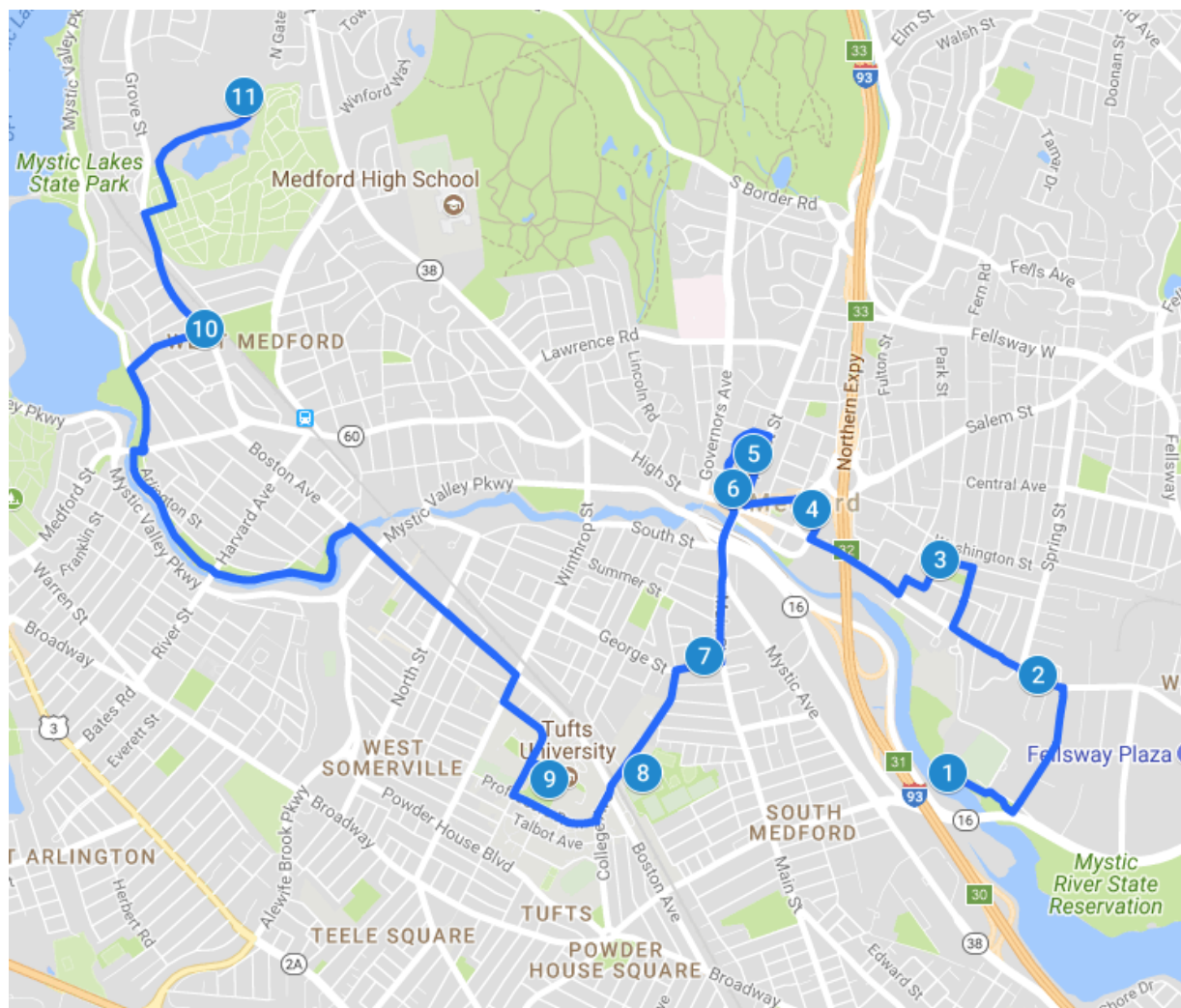




MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

10 Governors Avenue, Medford, MA 02155

Medford Brick by Brick Walking Tour



Tour Stops

1. Ship Memorial

Riverbend Park

Ship building began on Riverside Avenue, formerly known as Ship Street as early as 1631. The first shipyard in Medford was founded in 1802 by Thatcher Magoun of Pembroke. From 1802-1873, Medford Shipbuilders worked in 10 shipyards and built a total of 568 ships. By 1879, the shipping industry had died out and the street name was changed. The location for the ship yards was chosen because of its passage to Boston Harbor and its high tide depth could accommodate up to a 2,500 ton vessel.

2. Peter Tufts House

350 Riverside Avenue, Medford, MA 02155

Built ca. 1680, it is one of the oldest all-brick houses in the U.S. and the first of three 17th-century brick houses in Medford. Built by Peter Tufts Sr. in a transitional style that incorporates Georgian and Colonial features with a Flemish bond of brick-laying. Historic New England acquired the house in 1930 and sold it to the Medford Historical Society in 1982. Charles Tufts (1781-1876), a descendant of Peter Tufts Sr., later donated the land for the campus of Tufts University.

3. Park Street Railroad Station

20 Magoun Ave, Medford, MA 02155

Built between 1893-94, this station was built at the urging of Samuel Crocker Lawrence, a VP of the Boston and Maine Railroad and Medford's first mayor. Known as the Medford Branch Railroad, it ran only two miles with stations at Glenwood, Park Street, and Medford village. Some of the old tracks can still be seen today in various locations across the city. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and is now a home for Alzheimer's patients.

4. Medford City Hall

85 George P Hassett Dr, Medford, MA 02155

Built in 1936 on the site of the historical Medford Commons, it was dedicated in 1937 on the 307th anniversary of the founding of Medford. The building was to have been constructed of cinder blocks and stucco, but brick was substituted. Some details are still visible today which show the effort put into the building. Note the corner quoins, as you also see at the Royall House.

5. Old Medford High

54 Forest St, Medford, MA 02155

Construction of the High School began in 1894 and was completed in 1896 with expansions added in 1914, 1929, and 1939. Characteristic of each period, the new wings were built of combining elements of Renaissance and Colonial Revival styles. After a fire in 1965, Medford High School was used as an annex for the City and listed with the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 before eventually being developed into condominiums.

6. Jonathan Wade House

13 Bradlee Dr, Medford, MA 02155

One of the three oldest brick houses in Medford, it is known to have been standing on this site in 1689, when Jonathan Wade, Jr., died. The house was given Georgian styling in the mid-18th century, and was owned for many years in the 19th century by Samuel Crocker Lawrence. It is privately owned today.

7. Royall House & Slave Quarters

15 George St, Medford, MA 02155

One of the oldest brick houses in Medford, in the 18th C, the Royall House and Slave Quarters was home to the largest slaveholding family in MA. Today, RH&SQ is a museum whose interpretive collections bear witness to intertwined stories of wealth and bondage. Tours are available in the summer months.

8. College Brick Yards

Alumni Fields, Tufts

In the 19th century, a large part of the south and east of Medford was underlaid with fine clay from which bricks were made. By the early 20th century, brick-making declined in Medford. By 1921, Tufts tried to purchase the abandoned clay pits on College Avenue. The purchase was not authorized until 1926. Additional clay pits were acquired in 1927. What you see are the athletic fields and the Cousens Gymnasium.

9. Ballou Hall, Tufts

Tufts Green

Charles Tufts inherited several hundred acres in the early 19th century then known as Walnut Hill, the highest point in Medford. The College was founded by Universalists who wanted a non-sectarian institution. P.T. Barnum, one of the first Trustees, donated the carcass of "Jumbo" to be the mascot. Initially called College Hall, Ballou Hall, built in 1853/54 was the first building on the young Tufts campus and housed classrooms, the library, laboratories, a museum, administrative and faculty offices, student living quarters, and a chapel.

10. Slave Wall

Also called Pomp's Wall, it is capped with thin stone slabs and a granite post at the southern end. Built by Pomp, an enslaved man owned by Thomas Brooks, around 1765. The wall, like the Slave Quarters at the Royall House is a visible remnant of the slave trade in 18th-century Medford. It stands as a testament to Pomp's masonry abilities as well as the efforts of the other unsung individuals who made Medford's prosperity possible.

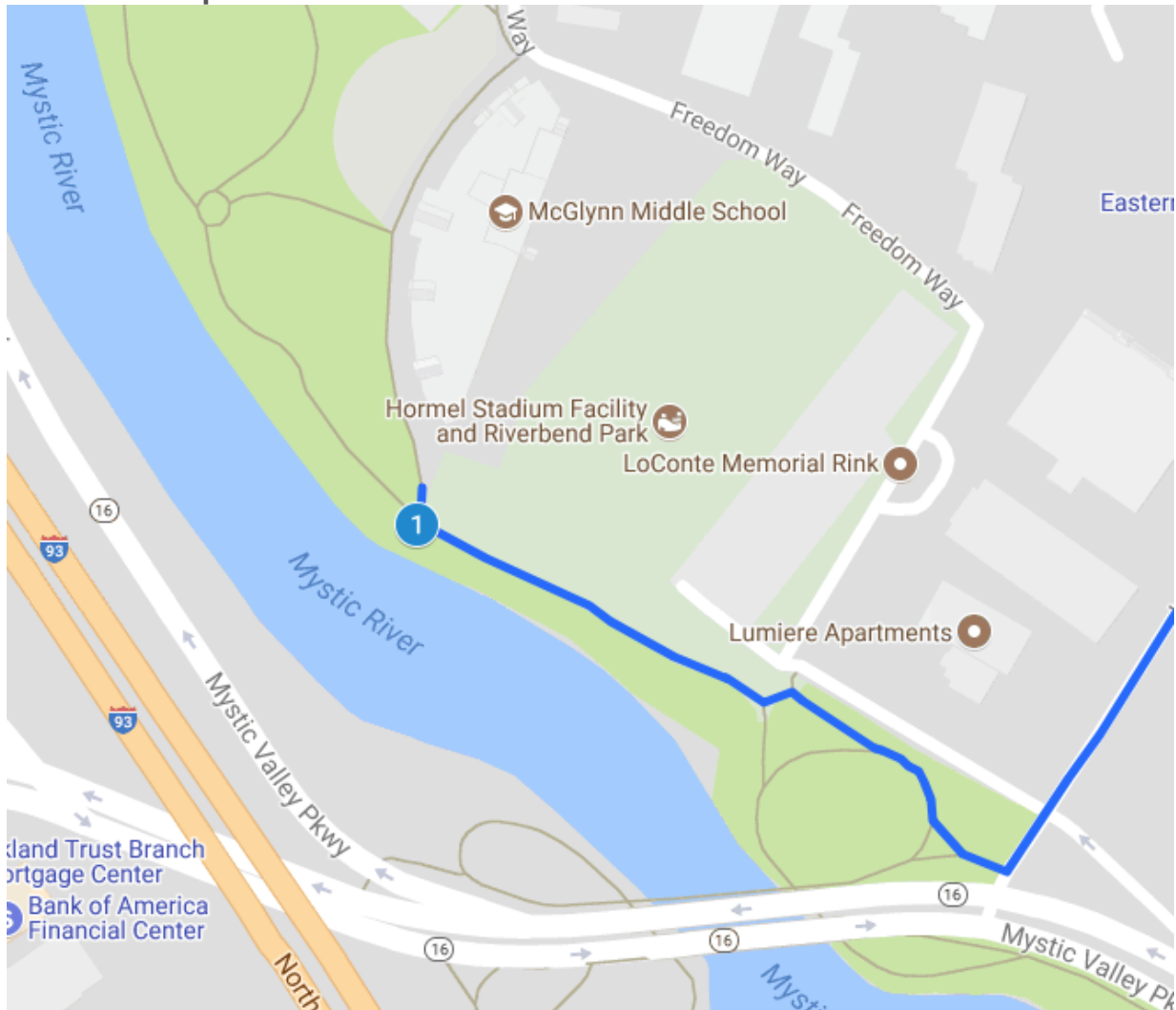
11. Brooks Estate

275 Grove St, Medford, MA

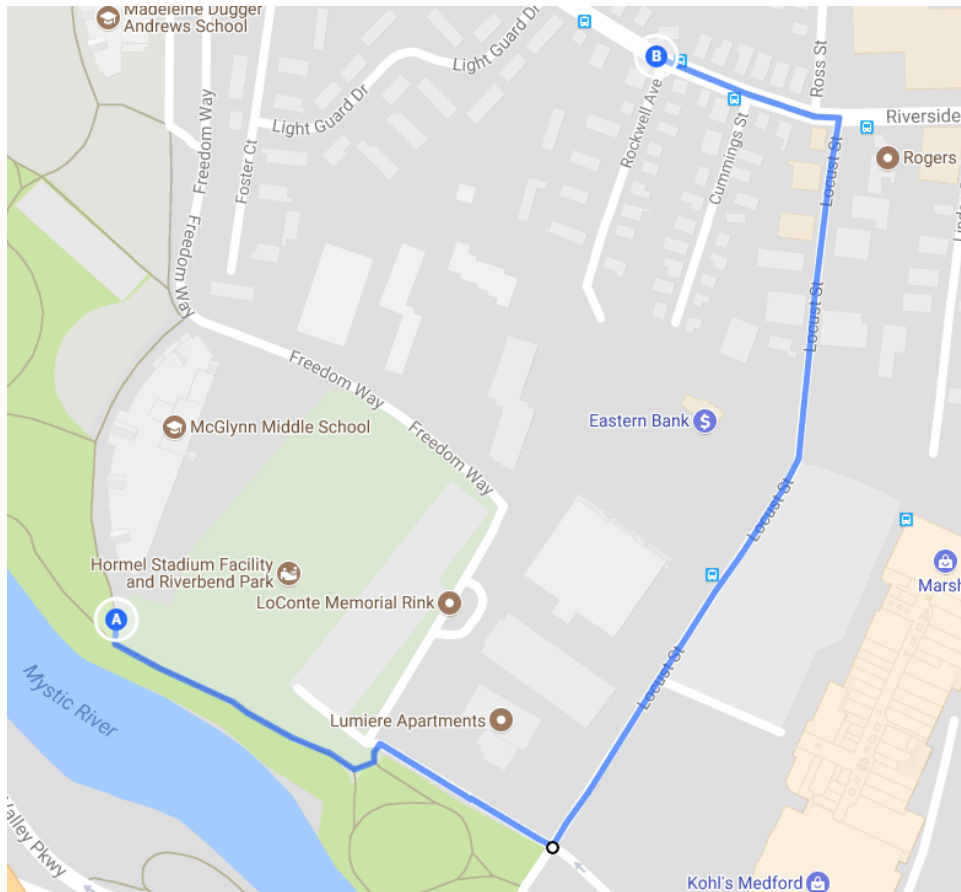
The manor house constructed in 1880 by Shepard Brooks is the main feature of the estate. The house is brick with Queen Anne styling. It is the only major 19th century city estate to remain relatively undeveloped. The city acquired after the death of Brooks' wife. After WWII, it was used as a veteran's home and was used as a nursing home up until the early 80s. The property was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

Directions

Start at 1. Ship Memorial



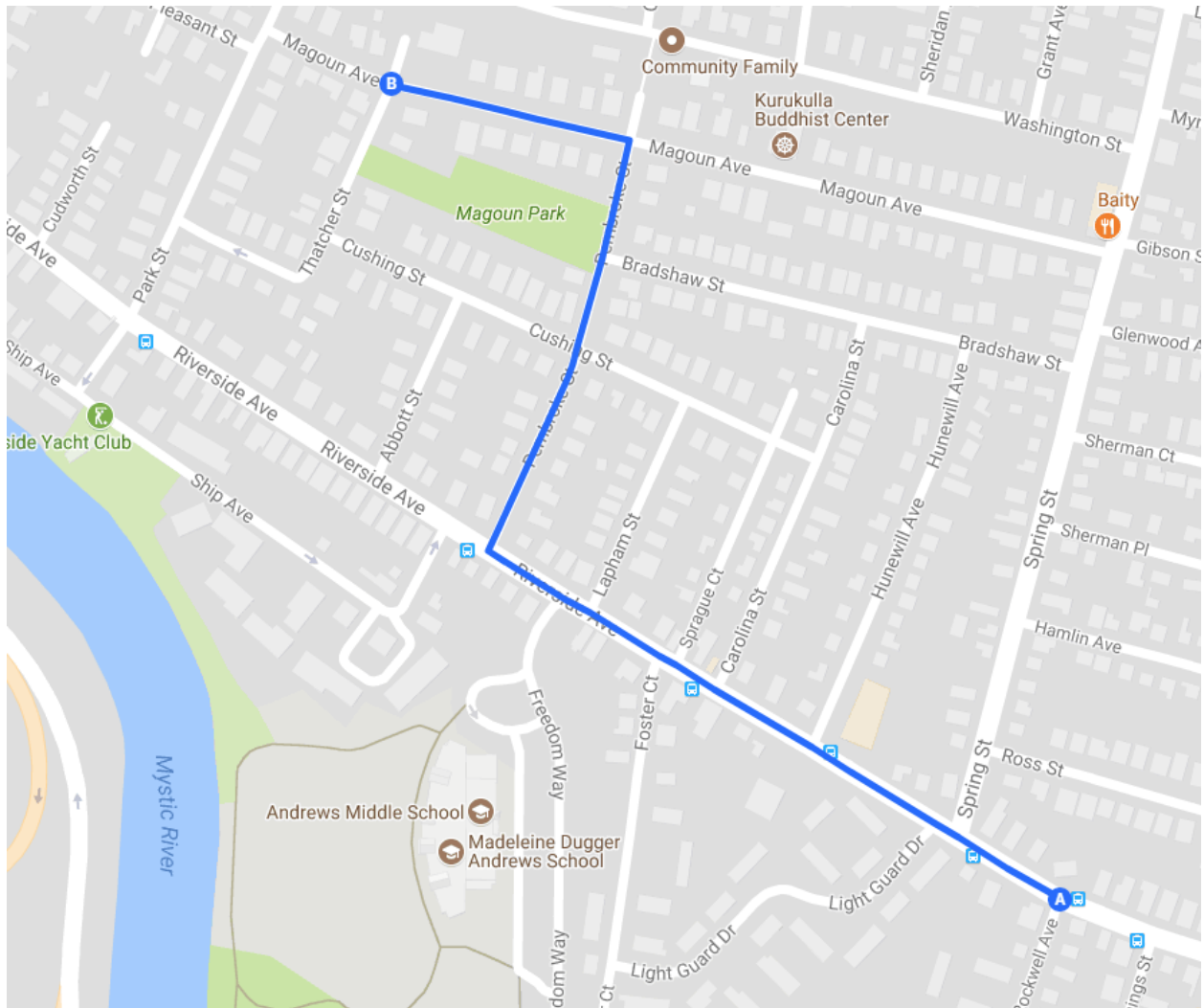
From 1. Ship Memorial to 2. Peter Tufts House



Head south

- 59 ft
- Turn left toward Locust St
- 636 ft
- Turn left toward Locust St
- 52 ft
- Turn left toward Locust St
- 46 ft
- Turn right toward Locust St
- 469 ft
- Turn left onto Locust St
- 0.358 mi
- Turn left onto Riverside Ave
- 436 ft

From 2. Peter Tufts House to 3. Park Street Railroad Station



Head northwest on Riverside Ave toward Spring St

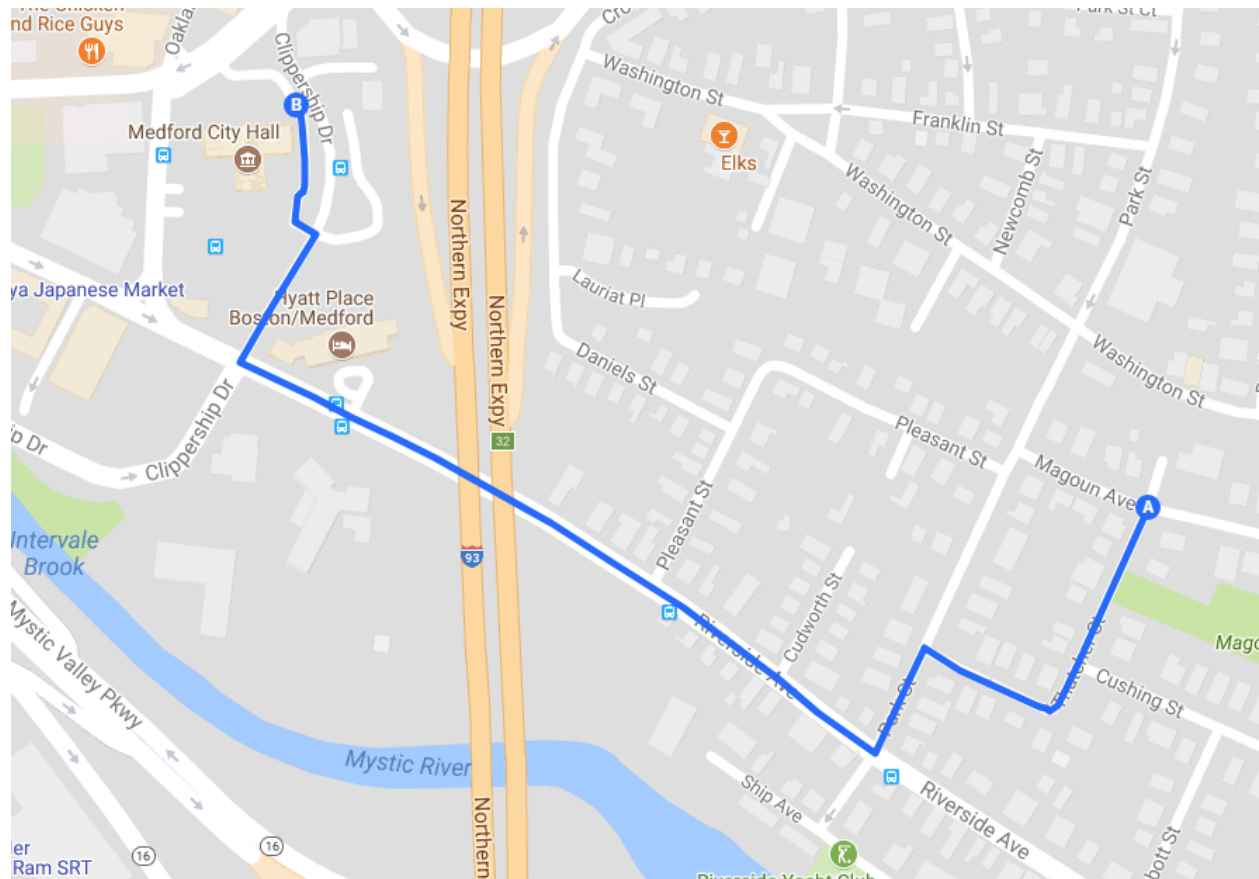
0.272 mi

➡ Turn right onto Pembroke St

935 ft

⬅ Turn left onto Magoun Ave

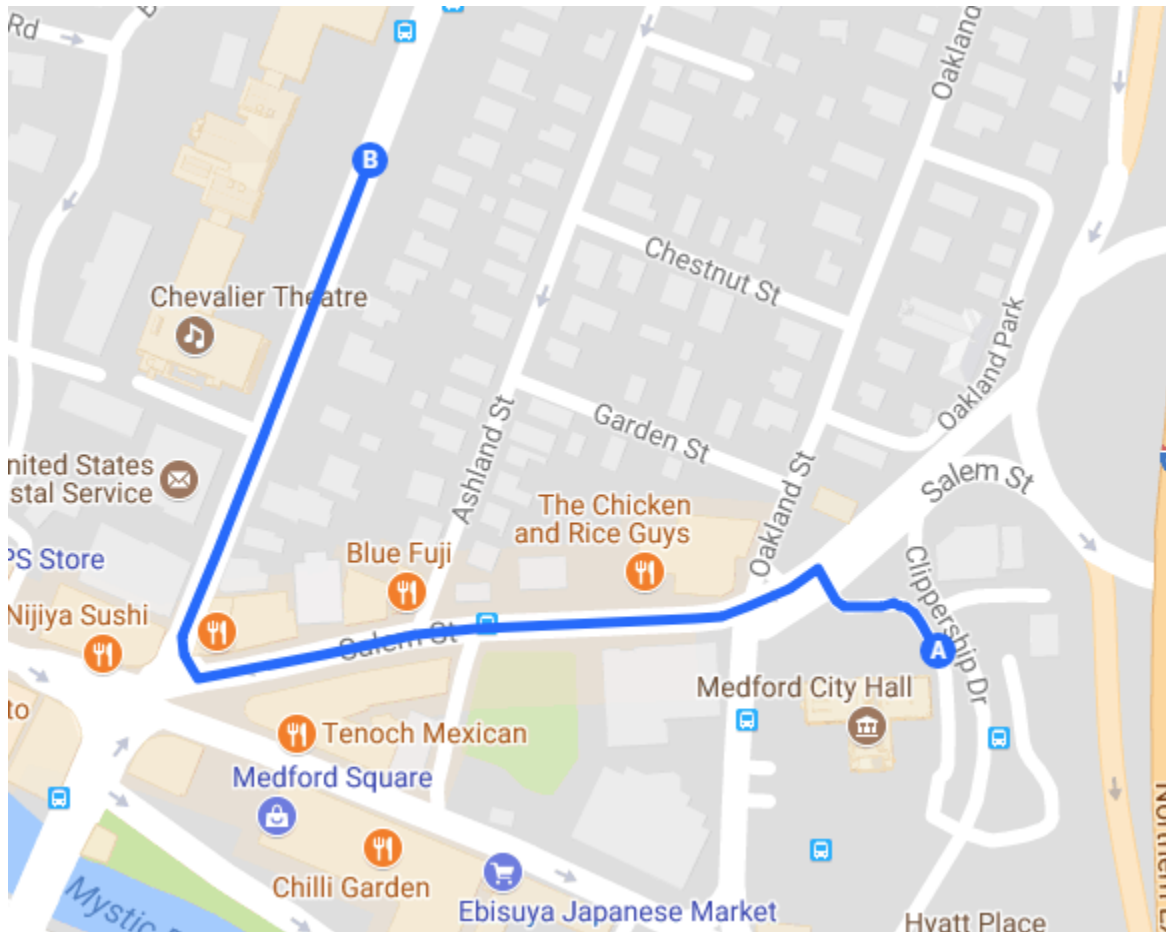
From 3. Park Street Railroad Station to 4. Medford City Hall



Head southwest on Thatcher St toward Cushing St

- 755 ft
- 🔙 Turn left onto Park St
- 240 ft
- 🔚 Turn right onto Riverside Ave
- 0.291 mi
- 🔚 Turn right onto Clippership Dr
- 305 ft
- 🔙 Turn left toward George P Hassett Dr
- 49 ft
- 🔚 Turn right onto George P Hassett Dr
- 249 ft

From 4. Medford City Hall to 5. Old Medford High



Head northwest on George P Hassett Dr toward
Salem St

236 ft

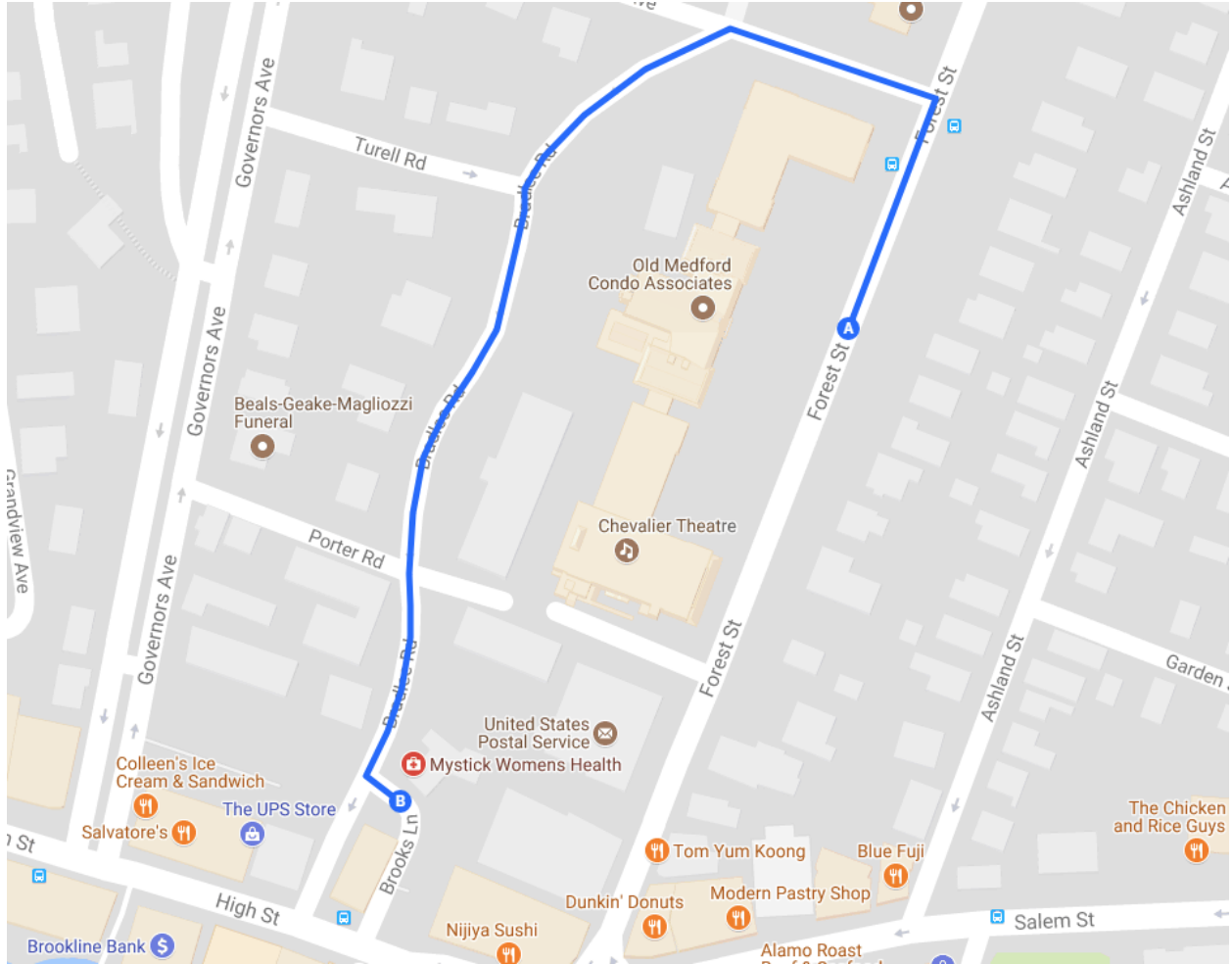
↩ Turn left onto Salem St

919 ft

↪ Turn right onto Forest St

807 ft

From 5. Old Medford High to 6. Jonathan Wade House



Head north on Forest St toward Hall Ave

279 ft

↩ Turn left onto Hall Ave

249 ft

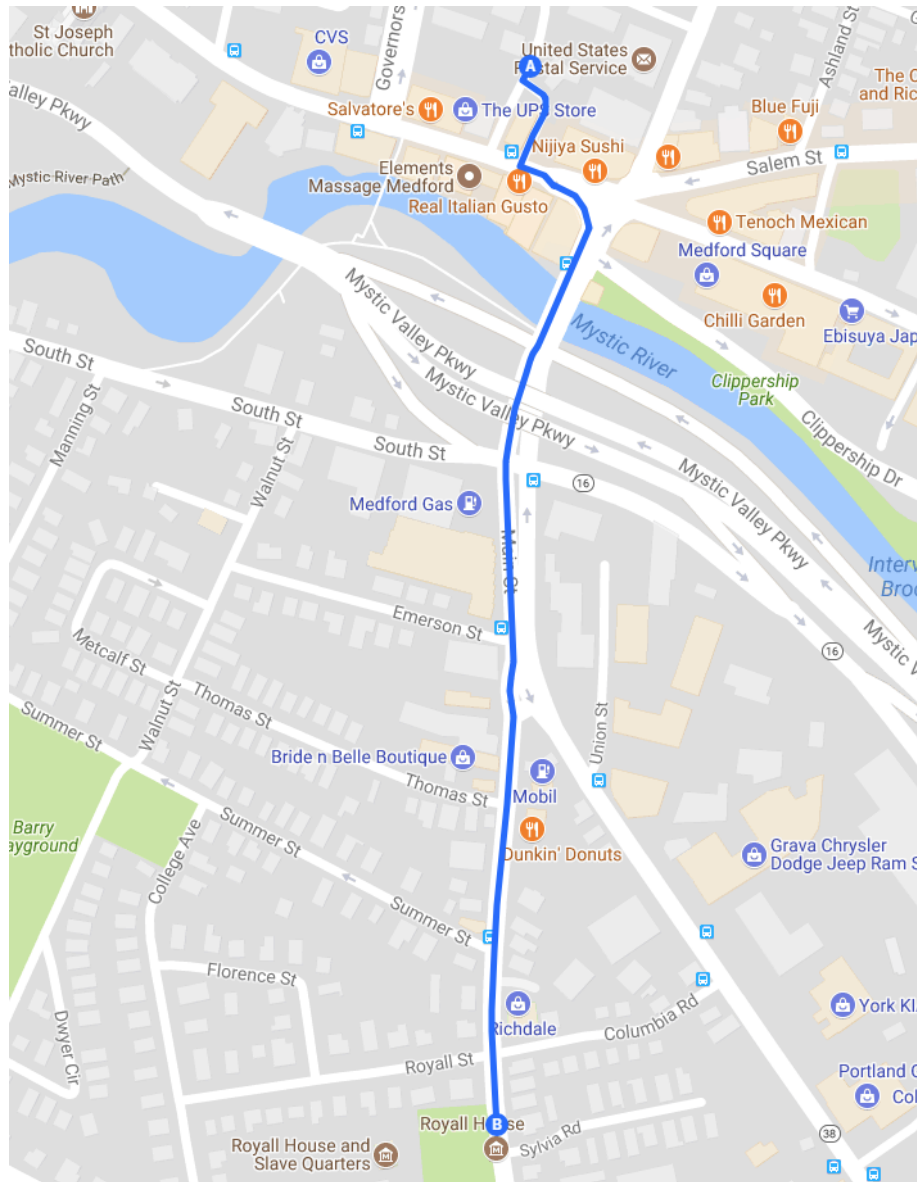
↩ Slight left onto Bradlee Rd

1,007 ft

↩ Turn left onto Brooks Ln

46 ft

From 6. Jonathan Wade House to 7. Royall House & Slave Quarters



Head southwest on Bradlee Rd toward Brooks Ln

36 ft

↩ Turn left onto Brooks Ln

230 ft

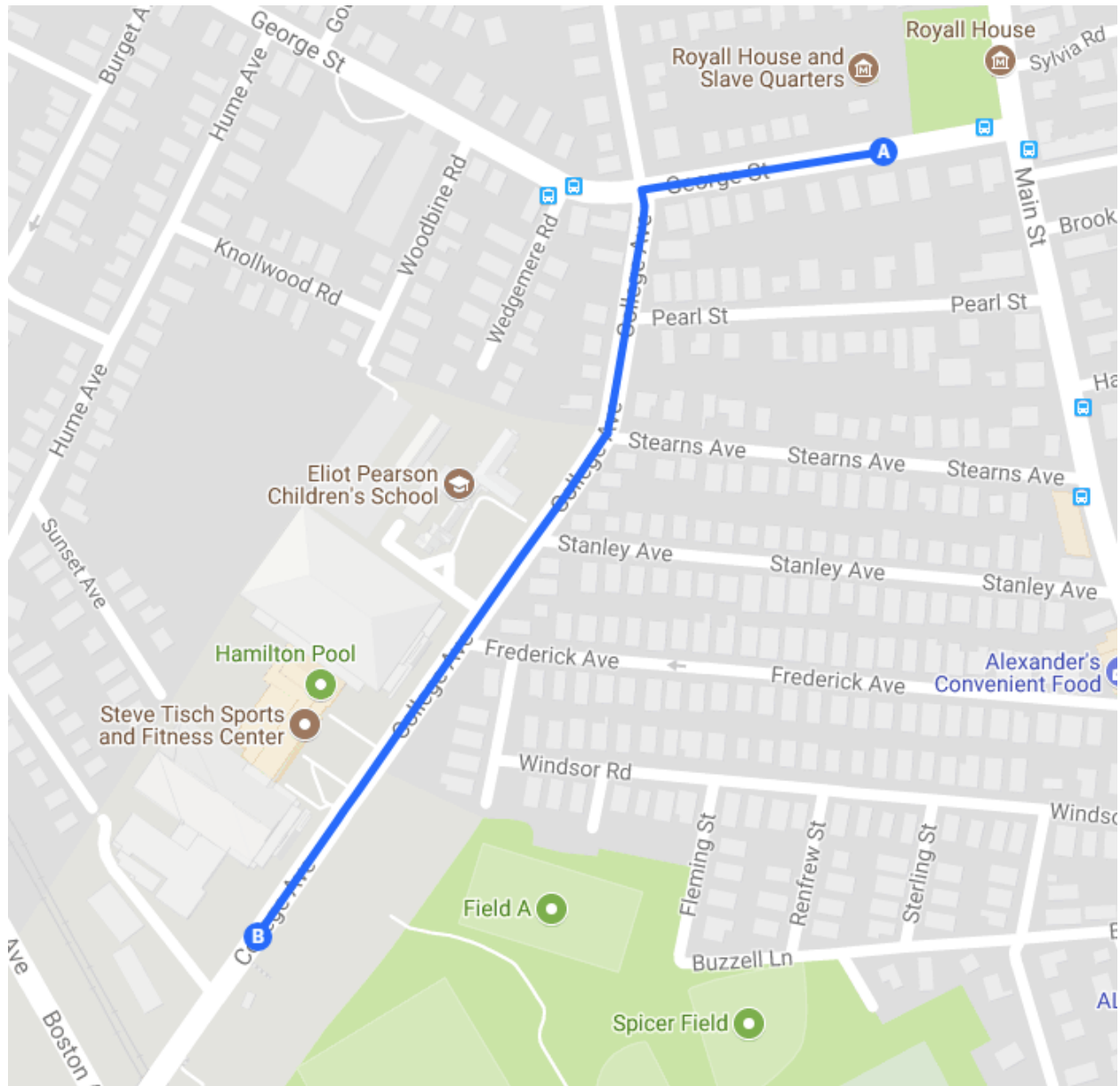
↩ Turn left onto High St

141 ft

↪ Turn right onto Main St

0.405 mi

From 7. Royall House & Slave Quarters to 8. College Brick Yard



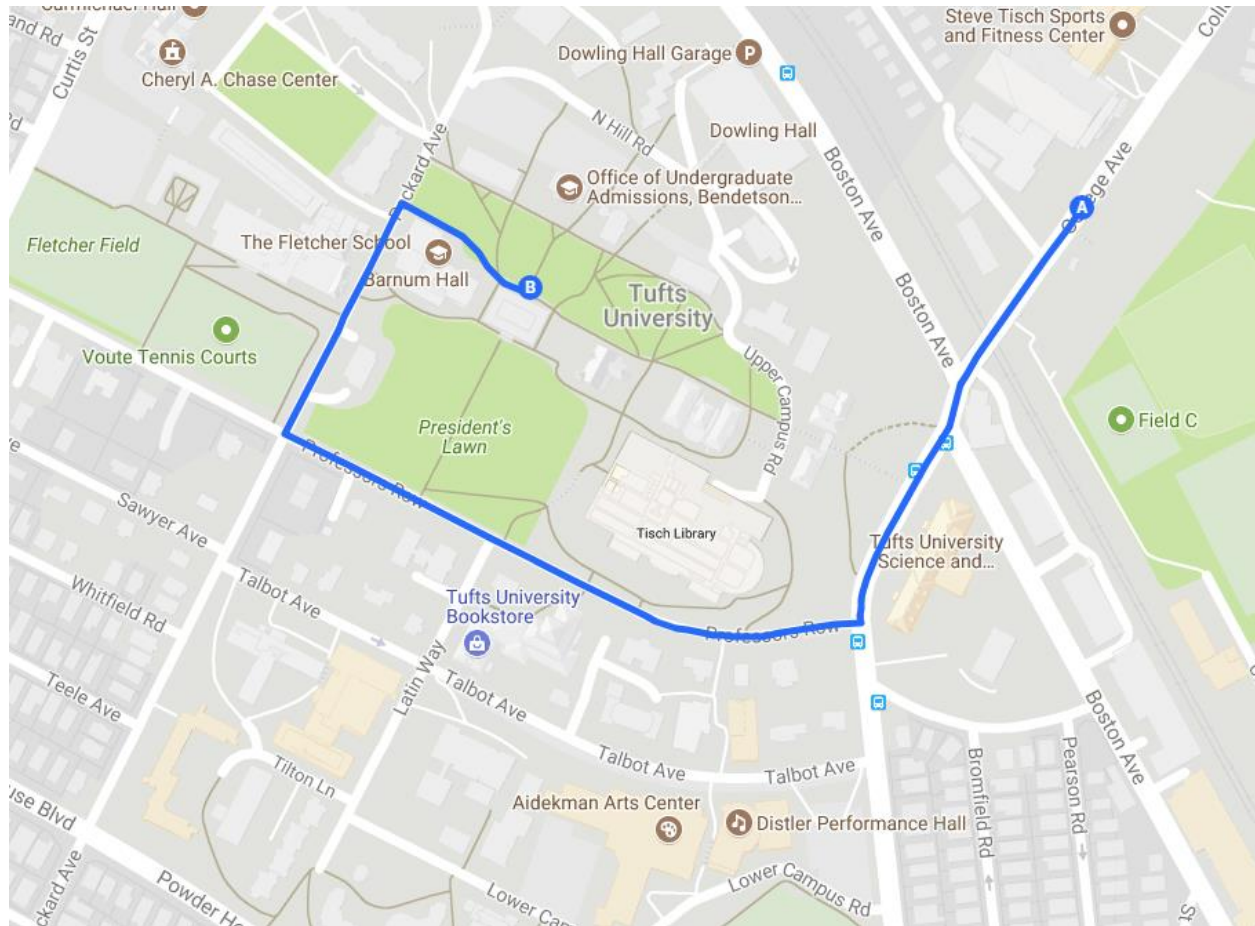
Head west on George St toward College Ave

443 ft

Turn left onto College Ave

0.295 mi

From 8. College Brick Yard to 9. Ballou Hall, Tufts



Head southwest on College Ave

997 ft

➤ Turn right onto Professors Row

1,306 ft

➤ Turn right onto Packard Ave

545 ft

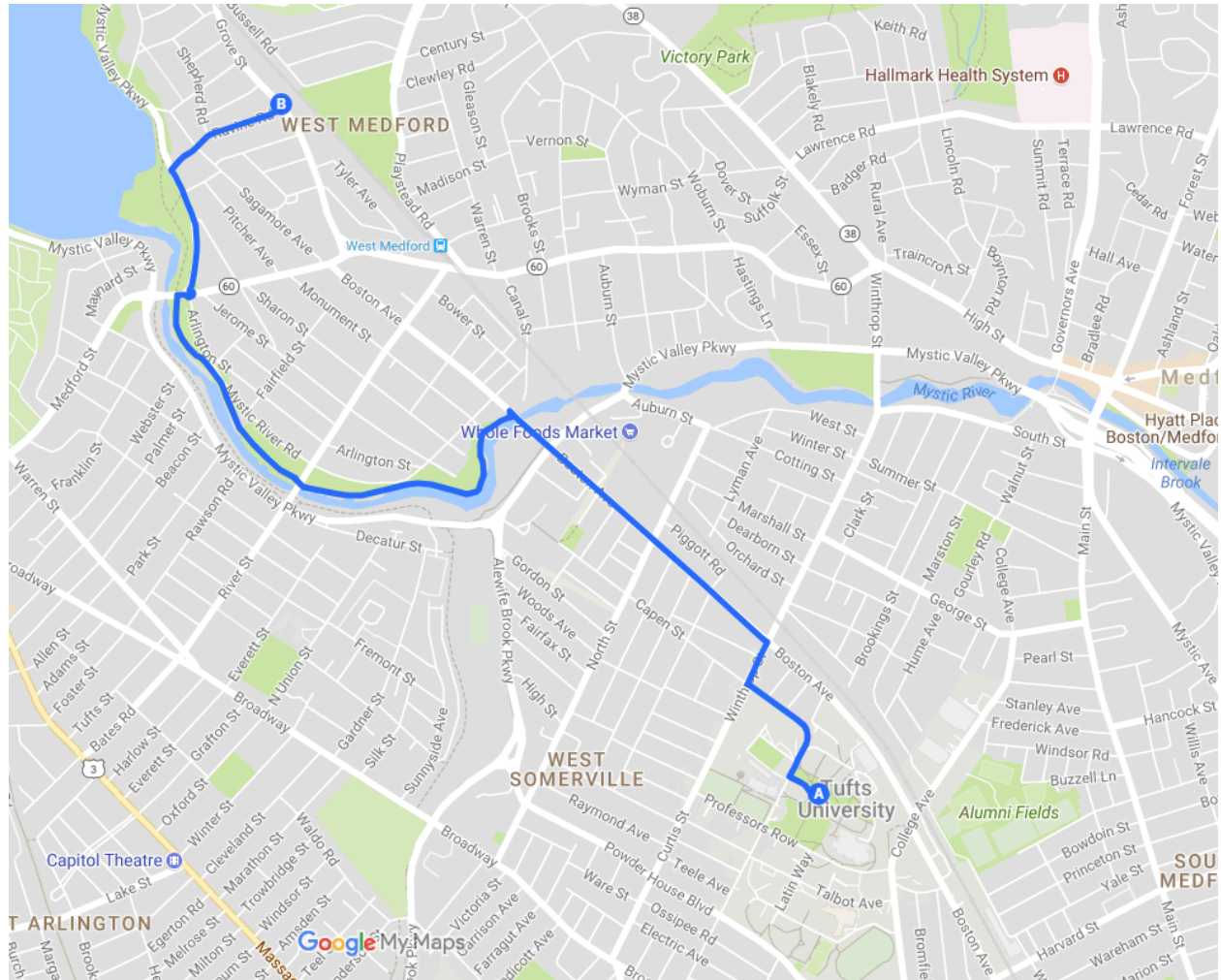
➤ Turn right

331 ft

⬅ Turn left

13 ft

From 9. Ballou Hall, Tufts to 10. Slave Wall



Head southwest

26 ft

➤ Turn right toward Packard Ave

331 ft

➤ Turn right onto Packard Ave

459 ft

Continue onto Capen St E

738 ft

➤ Turn right onto Winthrop St

440 ft

⬅ Turn left onto Boston Ave

0.621 mi

⬇ Sharp left onto Mystic River Path

0.928 mi

➤ Turn right onto High St/Medford St

92 ft

📍 At the traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto Mystic Valley Pkwy

0.252 mi

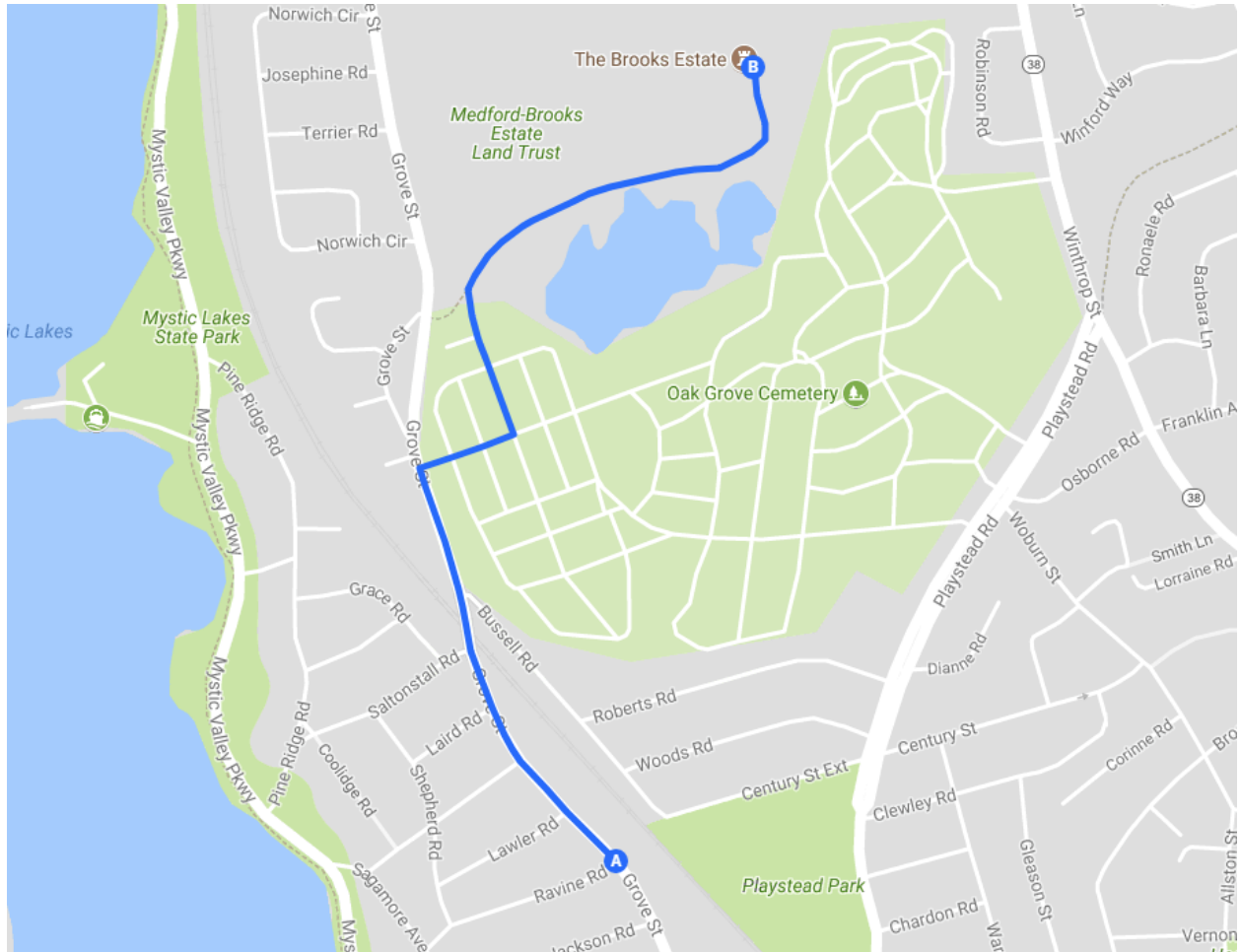
➤ Turn right onto Ravine Rd

1,243 ft

⬅ Turn left onto Grove St

43 ft

From 10. Slave Wall to 11. Brooks Estate



Head northwest on Grove St toward Lawler Rd

0.365 mi

Turn right

430 ft

Turn left

0.466 mi