



**1** Above the Northwestern Bank entrance, you will see the coat of arms of the House of Orange. On it contains the motto “Je maintiendrai” which means “I shall persevere.” Orange City is named after the Royal House of Orange. The red brick building next to the bank depicts a step gable design which is a common form of architecture used in the Netherlands. Brick is a popular building material used by the Dutch.



**2** Walking past the alleyway, the next building depicts an embellished neck gable. Perched on top of the gable on a projecting beam is a hoist with a winch and a pulley mechanism which is used in Holland to lift merchandise and furniture to the upper floors of buildings.



**3** As you cross 1st Street, you will see several bell gable types and two triangle gables. Note the various colors used to accent the gables.



**4** Going south, you will see a building with a dark green bell gable. This was the first gable to be completed in Orange City's downtown project. A little sign next to the building translates as follow: “This little alleyway is for people not for animals.”



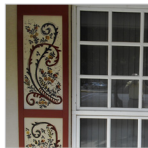
**5** Crossing 2nd Street SW, view the Richardsonian Romanesque Sioux County Courthouse building. This was completed in 1904 and the stone used was Sioux Quartzite, the oldest and most resilient rock in Iowa.



**6** As you walk past the courthouse, you will see the Museum which contains a Dutch Heritage Center and an original school house that once stood on the prairie. The building has a classical 18th century Dutch façade that can be found on the Herengracht Canal in Amsterdam.



**7** When you cross Central Avenue at 3rd Street SW, head back toward Windmill Park. The first few buildings you pass house Sioux County offices. As you continue, notice the Ulbuorden Swan motif on top of the Farm Bureau building just before you get to the City Hall. The motif is found primarily in Friesland and is placed on the roof or the front peak of a house or barn.



**8** Decorative shutters are a popular Dutch feature. The hour glass design in red and white are the most popular throughout Holland. The Sioux County Treasurer's office has an example of a unique shutter which was painted in the Hindeloopen—a small village in Friesland—style of painting.



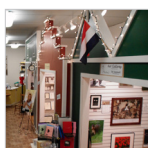
**9** The Hawkeye Center serves as an important anchor for Orange City's vibrant downtown. The building is a bold and progressive initiative that “rose from the ashes” of the Hawkeye Building following the fire in the summer of 2008. It features five loft condos on the upper level, and the main floor is home to Evie's Hallmark, along with a coffee and ice cream shoppe



**10** Old world signage, some incorporating Dutch words, can be seen at the meat market and at the bookstore.



**11** The “Little White Store” next to the meat market is the oldest store in Orange City. It once housed a lady's hat shop and a barber shop. Today it is owned by the Dutch Heritage Boosters who use the building for serving poffertjes—tasty Dutch treats. Between the Little White Store and the bookstore is an entry to a small garden setting, De Achter Tuin, behind the store.

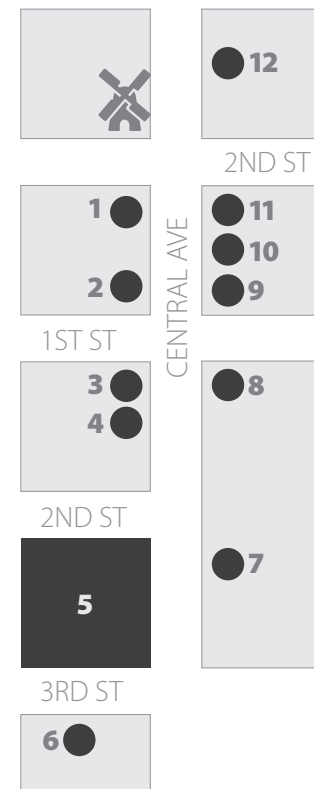


**12** As you walk past the bookstore and cross 2nd Street, continue North to Centrum Foto. You have to go inside this shop to see several examples of Dutch gables creating a small Dutch street market scene.

## Orange City's Centrum

During the 17th and 18th centuries, Amsterdam and other cities embellished their architecture with decorative stone inspired by French and Italian building design. During this period, smaller towns adorned their buildings with painted gables in colors of dark green, light gray, and cream. This is the time period and architectural style that Orange City uses as its theme.

You will begin the downtown tour at the Windmill Information Booth and cross 2nd Street NW. This tour will continue along Central Avenue for three blocks, crossing the street, and returning to Windmill Park.



## Dutch Windmill Visitors Center & Orange City Chamber of Commerce

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# orange city walking tour



## Discover the Dutch

Welcome to a walking tour of downtown Orange City. The tour begins at the Information Kiosk located at the southeast corner of Windmill Park. It was around this present town square that Henry Hoppers, a leader of the 1870 Holland settlers, plotted the settlement of Orange City, named after Prince William of Orange, a prominent royal figure in The Netherlands (Holland) in the 17th Century.

This tour will be done in two parts:

1. Tour of Windmill Park
2. Tour of “Downtown” or Orange City's Centrum

The six molens on the canal are scale models of historic Dutch molens and represent different time periods in the economic and cultural history of the Netherlands. They were a gift from Rod and Sara Shea of Middleton, Wisconsin.



**1. Information Kiosk**

The central information center identifies events in Orange City. It also contains a detailed map showing locations of local businesses. Brochures may be found in the box below the posters.



**2. Standard Molen (Post Mill)**

This is the oldest type of molen used as early as 1200 to grind corn.



**3. Wipmolen (Hollow Post Mill)**

Developed during the 15th century, this is the oldest drainage molen. It evolved from the Standard Molen and was used to drain the polders.



**4. Paltrokmolen**

Developed around 1600, these were used to saw timber. Logs arriving on flats had to remain in water for a long time before they were sawn, thus this molen was always located along a waterfront.



**5. Farmer's Market**

Looking ahead beyond a patio, you will see a farmer's market. It is built in the style of Zaanse Schaans with dark green paint and decorative shutters. A "Booster Rooster" stands proudly on top of the cupola which is modeled after one on the Spaander Hotel in Volendam, North Holland.



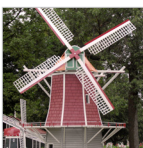
**6. Tjasker**

Continuing around on the sidewalk, you will see on your right a small molen called "Tjasker." These molens were used to keep pasture lands dry and have fallen entirely into disuse. These do not resemble the typical Dutch Molen in any way.



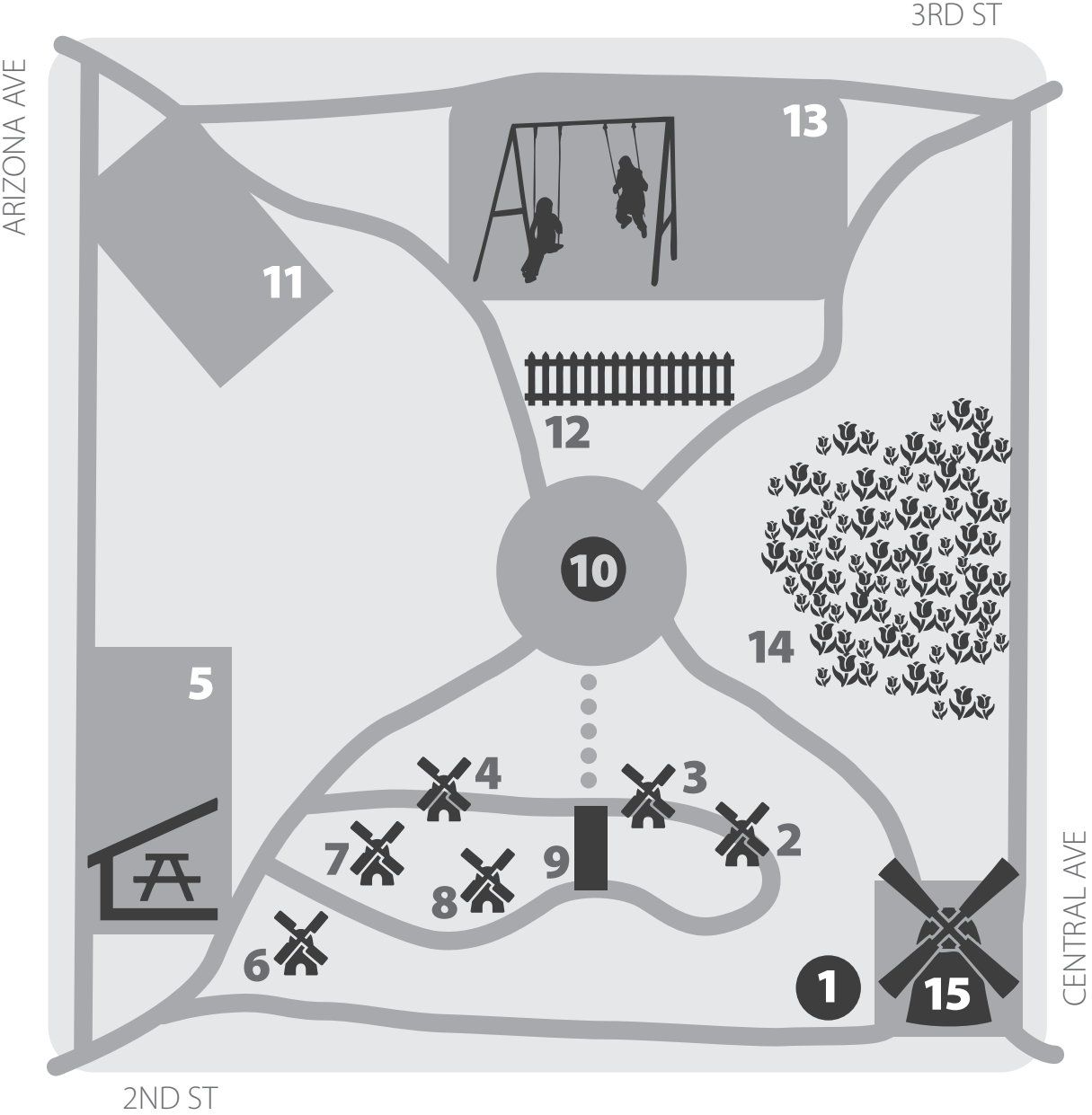
**7. Poldermolen**

Developed in North Holland during the 16th century to drain polders, these molens were built in gangs of five, each one lifting the water three feet.



**8. Stellingmolen (Tower Mill)**

About 1604, Dutch millwrights started to build large and tall molens to grind corn; these were able to catch the wind across other buildings and did not have to be erected on the outskirts of the towns. Used as a corn mill for industrial purposes during the 17th century.



**9. Canal**

As you walk across the bridge which spans the canal, note the fares one would pay to cross the bridge. This is a replica of the baluster lifting bridge found in Ouderkerk, Friesland. The mechanism which would open the bridge to canal traffic was a counterbalanced beam so that it could be opened by one person.



**10. Water Pump**

Centered in Windmill Park is a replica of the town pump in Middleburg, Zeeland. This was not only a water source for people, but the place to share the news by the citizens.



**11. Bandshell**

This was designed with towers, copper turrets, and colorful shutters similar to the castles in Gelderland.



**12. Colorful Fences**

The park displays three different fence designs patterned after those found in North Holland.



**13. Children's Playground**

This was recently re-done to accommodate a play area in the downtown business area.



**14. Tulip Beds**

The beds contain thousands of bulbs imported from the Netherlands which bloom each May for the Tulip Festival. Also, each province in the Netherlands is represented with a flag. Annuals are planted to beautify the park during the summer.



**15. Windmill Information Booth**

Built in 1955, the Windmill Information Booth is used during Tulip Festival and other community events.