This walking tour is comprised of 5 STOPS. Directions to each stop are found at the BOTTOM of each page.

STOP 1 - Cyrus Dallin Art Museum
In the intimate setting of Dallin Museum, visitors experience over ninety works spanning the sculptor’s sixty-year career. These include historical and allegorical figures, portraits of family and friends, and humanizing portrayals of Indigenous peoples. Visit Dallin.org for hours and information.

The Museum is located in the historic Jefferson Cutter House. This c. 1830 Greek Revival home was originally constructed two miles north on Mass. Ave. In 1989, the Mirak family donated the home to the Town of Arlington, and it was subsequently relocated and restored. The property also houses the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and Cutter Gallery.

The green space in front of the Museum is known as Whittemore Park. The park retains a portion of rail from the Lexington and West Cambridge Railroad. The line was constructed in 1845 to connect Lexington Center to the Fitchburg Railroad (location of Alewife station in Cambridge). After a severe storm in 1977, the Mass Bay Transportation Authority terminated all service. The rail was removed to make way for the Minuteman Bikeway.

The Cutter family settled in what is now Arlington before 1682 and became very influential in the development of the area’s early industries. The family owned several mill privileges along Mill Brook which they employed for grain production, tool making, and millwork.

FUN FACT
Take a close look at the elaborately carved main entry door. This was likely the work of Jefferson Cutter himself, who was a turner and millwright.

DIRECTIONS TO STOP 1
Cyrus Dallin Art Museum
Begin at the Cyrus Dallin Art Museum at 611 Mass. Ave. in Arlington, MA. The Museum is located at the corner of Mass. Ave and Mystic Street. Parking is available in the municipal lot behind the museum. Limited street parking is also available.
My Boys, by Cyrus Dallin, is a portrait of the sculptor’s three sons, Bertram, Arthur and Lawrence. This work is located in the lobby of the historic Robbins Library – a notable landmark in Arlington.

Bertram (1894-1964), the oldest son, attended Harvard University and became an engineer specializing in radio communications. He and his wife Ruth raised their three children, Ruth, June, and Jean, in the house across the street from his parents at 84 Oakland Avenue in Arlington.

Arthur (1898-1940), the middle child, was born in Paris and had a life-long allegiance to France. During World War I, he served as an ambulance driver with the French Foreign Legion. Following the war, he became an accomplished stained glass artist. At the outbreak of World War II, he joined the 12th Foreign Infantry Regiment in France and was killed in combat at the age of forty-three.

Lawrence (1905-1989), the youngest, was a successful entrepreneur and helped manage his parents’ business affairs. He and his wife Polly lived for a time next door to their parents at 8 Cliff Street in Arlington.

Cyrus and Vittoria Dallin raised their three sons in this house at 69 Oakland Avenue in Arlington Heights. The home is privately owned.

FUN FACT
Bertram’s research in underwater acoustics led to the development of sonar technology.

DIRECTIONS TO STOP 2
Robbins Library/My Boys

Walk to the intersection of Mass. Ave. and Mystic Street (Route 60). Cross to the opposite corner where the Unitarian Universalist Church is located. Robbins Library is on your left after the church. Enter the library through the main entrance on Peg Spengler Way. My Boys is located in the niche across from the circulation desk.
Robbins Memorial Garden
Menotomy Hunter, 1911, Bronze
Between the library and Arlington Town Hall

The Menotomy Hunter is the crowning jewel of the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden, located on the hillside between Robbins Library and Arlington Town Hall. In 1911, the Robbins family commissioned Cyrus Dallin to create a memorial statue for Town benefactor Winfield Robbins. The statue was to be situated within a garden designed by architect R. Clipston Sturgis. The original garden design consisted of formal beds and a rectangular plinth for the statue.

Knowing Mr. Robbins “would never approve of an effigy of himself,” and that he “…delighted in this phase of my work,” Dallin chose to pay tribute to the land’s First People, the Massachusetts, whose name for Arlington had been Menotomy. “I aimed to have it appear as though the Hunter had run down through the trees on the hillock, paused for a drink, and with every line conveying the sense of poise and readiness to be off on the instant,” said Dallin.

At the dedication ceremony in June 1913, Dallin spoke of “the great historical crimes of the white man.” “For little more than a handful of gold, a coat to be given annually, and a few strings of wampum,” he said, “all the lands which compose the Town of Arlington passed into the possession of the white man.” He then made a passionate plea for the town to return its name to Menotomy.

Dallin’s son Lawrence made his own contribution to this work of art. Can you see where he etched his name on the base of the statue?

FUN FACT
In 1939, the Garden was redesigned by the Olmstead Brothers firm. Their more naturalistic approach seamlessly integrates the Hunter with its environment.

DIRECTIONS TO STOP 3
Robbins Garden/Hunter

Exit the library and continue up Mass. Avenue. Just past the library you will see an opening in the stone wall and a brick path leading to the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden and Menotomy Hunter.
Arlington Town Hall
Robbins Memorial Flagstaff, 1913-1914, Bronze
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

In 1913, Cyrus Dallin was commissioned by the Robbins family to create the Robbins Memorial Flagstaff to be placed next to the new Town Hall. The figures on the flagstaff represent the Town’s early history: Woman Leader of the Massachusetts Tribe; a Pilgrim father studying his Bible; a mother teaching her child to read; and a Minuteman on guard with his musket. The base is ornamented with reliefs of fruits, nuts, insects, and birds, commemorating Arlington’s famous market garden economy of the early 20th century. The carver of the Flagstaff’s plinth was John Evans. He was responsible for architectural carvings on many H.H. Richardson buildings, including Trinity Church in Boston.

The finial at the top of the 85-foot Flagstaff is entitled American Agriculture. The figure is draped in a classical tunic and wearing a laurel wreath crown. She holds a sheaf of tobacco leaves, an important American cash crop and export for centuries. In 2000, after almost 90 years of corrosive exposure to the weather, the finial was removed and replaced with a resin copy. The original bronze is on exhibit at the Cyrus Dallin Art Museum.

FUN FACT

The tip of the Minuteman’s musket was broken off and thought to have been lost. During restoration, it was found inside the barrel!

DIRECTIONS TO STOP 4
Town Hall/Flagstaff
Walk back toward Massachusetts Avenue and turn left. The Robbins Memorial Flagstaff is located on the opposite side of Town Hall.
Over the course of their forty plus years in Arlington, Cyrus and Vittoria Dallin dedicated much of their time and talent to make Arlington the vibrant community it is today. Cyrus bestowed some of his most masterful public art on Arlington, and he and Vittoria played key roles in the development of many local institutions, including Robbins Library, Symmes Hospital, and Arlington Friends of the Drama. This grave marker also serves as a memorial to their second born son Thomas, who died in infancy before the couple moved to Arlington.

Cyrus and Vittoria Dallin at their 50th wedding anniversary surrounded by their children and grandchildren.

FUN FACT
Vittoria Dallin was an accomplished author and teacher. In 1913, she wrote and directed a pageant that featured 600 Arlington residents and 1 cow!

DIRECTIONS TO STOP 5
Dallin Family Gravesite
Walk back to the Museum and across the rear parking lot. Turn right onto Medford St. and walk about ¼ mile. Mt. Pleasant Cemetery will be on the left. Enter through the third gate (Auburn Ave.). At the fork, follow the road to the right onto Elm Ave. The stone will be on the left across from the Boynton Proctor memorial.

Got a car or bike? Check out these nearby Dallin sculptures!

The Teacher, Mary F. Scanlon
1931, bronze
Lesley Ellis School
34 Winter Street, Arlington, MA 02474

Angel Moroni. Placed 2001 on spire of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
15 Ledgewood Place
Belmont, MA 02478

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