

# MAP

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# BOOK LIST

## Lewis Barnavelt Series:

- The House With a Clock in Its Walls
- The Figure in the Shadows
- The Letter, the Witch, & the Ring
- The Ghost in the Mirror\*
- The Vengeance of the Witch-finder\*
- The Doom of the Haunted Opera\*
- The Specter from the Magician's Museum\*
- The Beast Under the Wizard's Bridge\*
- The Tower at the End of the World\*
- The Whistle, the Grave, & the Ghost\*
- The House Where Nobody Lived\*
- The Sign of the Sinister Sorcerer\*

## Anthony Monday Series:

- The Treasure of Alpheus Winterborn
- The Dark Secret of Weatherend
- The Lamp from the Warlock's Tomb
- The Mansion in the Mist

## Johnny Dixon Series:

- The Curse of the Blue Figurine
- The Mummy, the Will, & the Crypt
- The Spell of the Sorcerer's Skull
- The Revenge of the Wizard's Ghost
- The Eyes of the Killer Robot
- The Trolley to Yesterday
- The Chessmen of Doom
- The Secret of the Underground Room
- The Drum, the Doll, & the Zombie\*
- The Hand of the Necromancer\*
- The Bell, the Book, & the Spellbinder\*
- The Wrath of the Grinning Ghost\*

## Adult Works:

- St. Fidgeta & Other Parodies (short stories)
- The Pedant & the Shuffly (short story)
- The Face in the Frost

\*Some of Bellairs's series were co-authored with Brad Strickland, then the series was continued by Strickland after Bellairs's death.

# John Bellairs Self-Guided Tour



# TOUR STOPS

## 1. Marshall District Library

124 West Green Street

Read "About John Bellairs," then start your tour at the local library. MDL keeps both digital & physical archives of Marshall HS yearbooks. Can you find Bellairs's photo in the 1955 *Dial* yearbook? MDL also has a framed print of an original Edward Gorey illustration from Bellairs's novel *The Chessmen of Doom* that features annotations from the publisher. Can you find where it hangs?

## 2. American Museum of Magic

107 E Michigan Avenue

The building that houses the Museum of Magic was built in 1868 & purchased by the Lund family in 1974 to house their personal collection of Magic memorabilia, one of the largest collections in the world. Magicians from around the world come to research here, & the museum is open to the public for a small fee from April to December. Magic & fantasy elements can be found throughout Bellairs's writings. Maybe you can find some magical inspiration around Marshall, too.

## 3. Craft Photography; formerly Ann LaPietra's Book Store

101 E Michigan Avenue

This building housed the Kid's Place Bookstore, owned by Ann LaPeitra for 20 years, as well as the original Hemmingsen Drug Store. In 1989, LaPietra worked with the Marshall Historical Society & Bellairs himself to create the original John Bellairs tour featuring locations that had served as inspiration for his novels. The tour was run by a volunteer committee from 1989-2004 & was later revived by the local library.

## 4. Hemmingsen Drug Store

132 W Michigan Avenue

Hemmingsen Drug Store is built in an area known as The Cook Block. The current building was built in 1913 as the Commercial Savings Bank, which did business in Marshall until 1938. At this time, Chet Hemmingsen moved his drug store to this location, which had opened in 1844 & is the oldest business in consecutive years in Marshall. It appears in New Zebedee as "Heemsoth's Rexall Drug Store."

## 5. Sherman & Brundage Law Offices; formerly Elk's Cigar Store

208 W Michigan Avenue

Sherman & Brundage Law Offices were once the location of Elk's Cigar Store, which was run by John Bellairs' father until 1965.

## 6. Brooks Memorial Fountain

323 W Michigan Avenue

The Brooks Memorial Fountain was presented to the City of Marshall on July 3, 1930 during Marshall's Centennial Celebration by Harold C. Brooks in memory of his father, C.E. Brooks. In *The House With a Clock in Its Walls*, Lewis notices that one end of Main Street has "a fountain that spumed a crystal willow tree from within a circle of marble columns. At night the fountain was lit up & turned from red to orange to yellow & from yellow to blue & from blue to green & back to red again."

## 7. Honolulu House

107 N Kalamazoo Avenue

The Honolulu House was built in 1860 as a private residence for Judge Abner Pratt, who served as a U.S. Consul to the Sandwich Islands from 1857-59. The house was named a Michigan Historic Landmark in 1972. Constructed out of local Marshall sandstone, it is now a museum & serves as headquarters for the Marshall Historical Society. The Honolulu House is the inspiration for the Hawaii House in New Zebedee.

## 8. American Museum of Magic Archives; formerly the Lund Memorial Library

111 E Mansion Street

The Lund Memorial Library was built in 1911, & the library moved to its current location in 1998. This building currently houses the American Museum of Magic Research Center, which holds a vast collection of books, photographs & archival materials related to magic & magicians. This is a prominent location as the public library in Hoosac, MN, where Anthony Monday works as a library page with the Head Librarian Miss Myra Eells.

## 9. Cronin Mansion

407 N Madison Street

Built in 1873 by a local dry goods store owner named Jeremiah Cronin Jr., this house is known as the Cronin Mansion. It's an Italian Villa style home & was named a Michigan Historical Landmark in 1992. The home is currently owned by the Hamilton family. This is the house that inspired Bellairs to write his book *The House With a Clock in Its Walls* & serves as the home of Lewis Barnavelt & his Uncle Jonathan. However, the real-life house is on Madison Street, whereas in the book it is located one block East, at 100 High Street & "at the top of the hill."

## 10. Dance Dynamics Studio; formerly the Masonic Temple

115 E Green Street

Built in 1913, this building was known as Marshall's Masonic Temple until 1987. Since that time, the building has housed an art studio & the current occupants, Dance Dynamics, a recreational & competitive dance studio. In *The Figure in the Shadows*, the Masonic Temple is where Lewis encounters the mysterious Figure in person.

## 11. Marshall Middle School; formerly Marshall High School

100 E Green Street

Marshall Middle School was formerly the Marshall High School. This was the 3rd high school built in Marshall on July 14, 1930. Bellairs graduated from this location in 1955. This was also the location of Hoosac High School in *The Lamp from the Warlock's Tomb*. The new high school was built in 1971, & this building became the middle school.

## 12. The Octagon House

218 S Eagle Street

The Octagon House was built in 1856 by the Pendleton family. The current owners have continued to renovate the home & restored it to the original bright paint colors the house would have sported when it was first built. This house served as the inspiration for Winterborn Mansion in *The Treasure of Alpheus Winterborn*.

## 13. St. Mary's Catholic Church

212 W Hanover Street

Bellairs attended school at St. Mary's & used the church & school as a model for "St. Michael's Church" in *The Curse of the Blue Figurine*. The present church structure was built in 1883 through the efforts of a well-known local priest, Father Baart. Bellairs also used Father Baart's name for the chief villain in *The Curse of the Blue Figurine*.

## 14. Schuler's Restaurant

115 S Eagle Street

Schuler's restaurant has been a family business in Marshall for more than 100 years. Very few families in the nation have been in the restaurant business as long as the Schuler family, marking 100 years in 2009. This served as the inspiration for Schuyler's Restaurant in the book *The Doom of the Haunted Opera*.

# ABOUT JOHN BELLAIRS



John Anthony Bellairs was born in Marshall, Michigan on January 17, 1938. He attended elementary school at St. Mary's Roman Catholic School & started at Marshall High School in 1951, graduating in 1955 before going to college & earning degrees from Notre Dame & the University of Chicago.

During his writing career, Bellairs authored more than 15 gothic mysteries for kids featuring his beloved characters Lewis Barnavelt, Anthony Monday, & Johnny Dixon, as well as several short stories & one adult novel titled *The Face in the Frost*.

In these stories he incorporated popular locations from his hometown of Marshall into Lewis's town of New Zebedee, MI & Anthony's town of Hoosac, MN. Later in life, Bellairs worked & lived in Haverhill, MA & used that town as a model for Johnny Dixon's town of Dunston Heights, MA. Bellairs died suddenly of cardiovascular disease in 1991 at age 53.

Explore the locations along this tour to learn more about Bellairs's life, the history of Marshall, & the magic that can be found in your own small town, if you know where to look.

## Additional Resources:

- John Bellairs fan page - [www.Belairsia.com](http://www.Belairsia.com)
- Wikipedia - <https://bit.ly/3PI6FmW>
- Blog post about Bellairs's grave - <https://bit.ly/45R6Ai1>

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