

HUDSON CITY

Neighborhood Reference Guide

by Steven S. Long

Looking for a place to hunt for an apartment in Hudson City, or maybe go for a stroll or get a bite to eat? Well, there are some really nice places in the Pearl City... and some not so nice. Here's a quick guide to the different neighborhoods:

ARDMORE

Pages 27 - 28

Ardmore's a mostly residential neighborhood over on the Northside, sort of wedged in between Little Italy, Guilford, and Worthington. It's not a very large area, but many Hudsonites think of it as one of the most pleasant, safest places in the city. Over the past couple of decades it's slowly transformed from a neighborhood of mostly families to one where a lot of young professionals live.

BANKHURST

Pages 29 - 32

A long strip of the Northside immediately to the east of LeMastre Park, Bankhurst is what many Hudsonites refer to as "downtown." It's a neighborhood of skyscrapers, office buildings, banks, and multi-million-dollar deals. Primarily a commercial area, it does have some high-rise luxury apartment and condominium buildings for the extremely wealthy, and even a few high-class brownstones in the Westhurst district.

Some of the important areas of Bankhurst include: Dawnlea Street (Hudson City's equivalent to Wall Street); and the Lowdown (Lower Downtown). Many of Hudson City's best-known landmarks, such as the Berkely Commercial Center and Sports Metroplex, the Stewart Regency Hotel, the Hudson City Stock Exchange, and the Stailey Towers can be found in Bankhurst.

BAYSIDE

Pages 33 - 34

This coastal Northside neighborhood occupies the "bulge" north of Owl Bay. Traditionally a center of shipping and manufacturing, it remains a mostly industrial neighborhood today, though a few loft apartments and other residential developments creep in from time to time. The Mafia, primarily the Marcelli family, is thought to dominate a lot of the industry in Bayside, though the area has only a moderate rate of street crime. The Marwich neighborhood that sort of straddles Bayside and Bankhurst is more upscale and more residential.

BLACKBRIDGE

Pages 35 - 37

This once mostly residential Northside neighborhood of brownstones, apartment buildings, and even a few areas of detached housing has seen a significant increase in commercial development in recent decades. North of LeMastre Park and immediately west of the northern part of Bankhurst, it's an ideal location for businesses that want to be "close to the action" but avoid the high rents of the downtown area, and a great place for professionals who value a short commute to live. The Hudson City Convention Center and Jason Devon Memorial Coliseum are both located here. It's considered

a relatively safe neighborhood; the vigilante Dark-Angel has often been seen patrolling there.

CHINATOWN

Pages 38 - 40

Located in the northwest corner of the Southside, Chinatown is home to most of Hudson City's Asian population. Consisting of four distinct sub-neighborhoods defined by ethnicity — Chinatown proper, Little Tokyo, Koreatown, and Little Saigon — it's a bustling place that mixes commercial and residential buildings. Various Asian criminal groups, such as the tongs and the yakuza, dominate the underworld here.

CROWN POINT

Pages 41 - 42

Crown Point is a Southside neighborhood that used to be mostly industrial, but since World War II many parts of the neighborhood (particularly the parts not adjoining the river) have become more residential. In recent years it's seen a significant influx of immigrants from the Near East, Southeast Asia, Africa, and elsewhere, making it one of the most diverse parts of the city. One part, Ashwood, is the center of Hudson City's gay and lesbian community. Some of the area's other attractions include the Herodome (where the Hudson City Heroes play baseball), Mural Street, and the Museum of World Art.

EASTWOOD

Pages 43 - 45

The northwesternmost neighborhood in Hudson City is a mix of residential and industrial, and has a not-undeserved reputation for being a sort of rough and dangerous place — though a few areas, such as Eastdale (which borders on Highlands) and Vidersea (home to a large community of Low Countries, Eastern European, and Russian immigrants), are nicer and more picturesque. The relatively new Three Lakes Mall has helped to improve the neighborhood (though not as much as people hoped), and the Vidersea Boardwalk remains a famed attraction.

ELMVIEW

Pages 46 - 47

This working-class residential and industrial neighborhood occupies most of the eastern part of the Southside. It's got a high crime rate, thanks in part to its proximity to neighborhoods like North Elmview, Latin City, and Forsyth. Most Northsiders think of it as a dangerous place and rarely venture there; people who grew up there often seem to retain a rough affection for its charms even if they've moved away.

FORSYTH

Pages 48 - 49

Located roughly in the center of the Southside, Forsyth is primarily a residential neighborhood, though a few businesses make their homes there as well. Despite being the location of Hudson City College, for the most part it's a rough, dangerous neighborhood with a high crime rate. The presence

of Boxtown, a squatters' community of homeless people beneath the intersection of S. Truman Boulevard and the South Expressway, doesn't exactly improve matters.

FREETOWN

Pages 50 - 53

Considered by many people the worst, most dangerous area in Hudson City, Freetown began as a shantytown for freed black slaves who migrated north after the Civil War. It remains almost entirely black today. Though a few of its neighborhoods, such as Wister Park and Greenbriar, aren't too bad, the other parts more than make up for that. The most squalid and dangerous neighborhood in Freetown is the Numbers, where most of the residences consist of housing projects and the people live in fear of murderous street gangs like the Nubians and the Warriors.

GADSDEN

Pages 54 - 55

A mostly middle-class residential neighborhood with a few lower-class areas, Gadsden occupies the center of the Northside coast, around the area of the Gadsden Cliffs. It has a moderate crime rate; no one group or gang seems to dominate. That may have something to do with the fact that it's home to Longview Correctional Center (the city's massive jail complex) and Juvenile Offenders Correctional Hall. To balance those rather depressing places, the neighborhood boasts such attractions as the lovely Gadsden Park and the massive Gadsden Consumerplex shopping mall.

GUILFORD

Pages 56 - 57

A west Northside residential neighborhood between Little Italy and Irishtown, Guilford is considered one of the nicest places to live in the city by many people. It features a mix of brownstones and apartment buildings, detached housing, and shopping districts, and has a low crime rate.

HIGHLANDS

Pages 58 - 59

Home to the Governmental Center, Courthouse Plaza, and the headquarters of many of the city's most important corporate residents, Highlands is the seat of power in Hudson City. As such, it's also one of the wealthiest and safest neighborhoods, and features many elegant shops and an upscale nightlife. Many Hudsonites go to Highlands every evening to enjoy the attractions of the Hudson City Underground, a five-by-five block underground shopping and entertainment area built from a portion of the old city that was built over following the 1895 Independence Day fire.

IRISHTOWN

Pages 60 - 61

Hudson City's wealthiest and most influential residents live in the northwest corner of the city in Irishtown, a neighborhood where even the poorest people are fabulously wealthy. Marked by its large, detached houses, well-manicured lawns and parks,

and expensive shopping, it's not a place where the average Hudsonite goes very often.

LAFAYETTE

Pages 63 - 63

If Freetown has any competition for the title of "worst, most dangerous area in Hudson City," it's Lafayette, the neighborhood immediately to its east. Filled with poor people, the homeless, junkies, and gangs, it's an unsafe place even for cops. The worst area is the Needle, an arrow-shaped strip of land decimated by years of street warfare, slumlord neglect, and drug addiction.

LATIN CITY

Pages 64 - 65

The southeasternmost corner of Hudson City, an area inhabited almost entirely by people of Hispanic descent, has been known as Latin City for years. It's a mix of residential areas and commercial areas, with a little industry that's crept up from Southport for good measure. Hispanic street gangs, such as the Mexican Mafia, Los Reyes, and Los Toros, sell drugs, run prostitutes, and commit other crimes here.

LeMASTRE PARK

Pages 66 - 67

This enormous (2,000 acres, or about three square miles) park sits on the center of the northern bank of the Stewart River. Featuring dozens of miles of paths and trails, tennis courts, sports fields, a skate park, two nice restaurants, the Hudson City Zoo, the Brucato Bandshell, the New Globe Theater, and countless other attractions, it's the perfect place for Hudsonites to go to relax and unwind. But that's only during the daytime — at night it's a dangerous place where muggers, rapists, and other predators lurk, and only stupid or foolishly brave citizens venture.

LITTLE ITALY

Pages 68 - 70

This neighborhood in the southwest corner of the Northside was settled a century ago by Italian immigrants, and as the name indicates it remains mostly Italian today. Primarily residential, it's known in the minds of most Hudsonites for two things: as a place with lots of wonderful restaurants; and as the home of the infamous Mafia.

MINT RIDGE

Pages 71 - 72

Located on the western edge of LeMastre Park, the Mint Ridge neighborhood features a mix of residential and shopping districts. It has a moderate street crime rate, thanks in large part to Mafia dominance of the underworld, though Russian mobsters from Moscow West have begun competing with the Mafia here.

MOSCOW WEST

Pages 73 - 74

A tiny neighborhood nestled between the river and Mint Ridge, Moscow West has been the destination for immigrants from Russia and East-

ern Europe for nearly a hundred years. Although mostly residential, it does feature some industry and other businesses along the river. The Russian Mafia has a stranglehold on the underworld.

NORTH ELMVIEW

Pages 75 - 78

The northeast corner of the Southside is known as North Elmview. A poor, squalid, dangerous area, it's best known for the Strip, which is the center of Hudson City's vice trade. Prostitution, strip clubs, and worse are rampant. Few people live here, and most of them are not exactly what you'd call upstanding citizens; even fewer businesses (outside from those on the Strip) remain functional.

PIERPOINT

Pages 79 - 80

The southeastern tip of the Northside is known as Pierpoint. Like Bayside, it used to be home to a lot of shipping and related businesses. While the docks remain busy, other parts of the neighborhood have undergone "urban renewal" and become a fashionable address for urban professionals and the like (many of whom work in nearby Bankhurst). The crime rate is moderate.

RED HILL

Pages 81 - 83

This working-class residential and light industrial neighborhood borders Elmview and North Elmview, and is similar to Elmview in most respects. It was once a German neighborhood, but

today has no particular ethnic character. It has a slightly higher crime than Elmview rate due to spillover from the Strip.

RIVERSIDE HILLS

Pages 84 - 85

One of the largest neighborhoods in Hudson City, Riverside Hills is a long strip of the Southside stretching from the city's western border to Centre Street between Chinatown and Crown Point (to its north) and Freetown and Forsyth (to its south). Most of it is residential, with some retail areas, but a few pockets of light industry or commercial buildings exist.

WORTHINGTON

Pages 86 - 88

Another large neighborhood, but this time on the Northside, Worthington occupies the area between the northern border, Guilford, Blackbridge, Highlands, and Eastwood. To the east it's mostly commercial, with lots of skyscrapers and office buildings; to the west, it's more residential. The Norward district between N. Truman Boulevard and Kurtland Boulevard has some light industry, trucking, and other businesses that take advantage of proximity to the highway. Hudson City State University is located in the Burlington Heights and Somerset districts, and this, combined with HCU right on the border in Guilford, creates several areas of housing and businesses catering to students.