

A windmill sits atop the wood-shingled structure of Amsterdam Bicycles, built in the shape of a Dutch cottage. Designed with charm, the petite structure is a transplant from 19th-century Holland.

The tour's second stop includes a little cottage that housed the same candy operation before 1936 — and it was here, according to the brochure, that the "first nickel candy bar" was manufactured.

Like the windmilled structure across the street, the cottage looks fantastic enough to be a candy store of yore. With its boxlike symmetry and modest proportions — which are accentuated by the tall houses and high foliage that surround it and make it invisible from one side — the place looks almost cartoonishly old-fashioned and seemingly tucked away to guard against sugar addiction among the local youth.

But just when you're beginning to lose yourself in the fantasy of it all, reality hits you over the head. Regular people live in these places, with their Volvos parked out front. When a resident emerges from the house of the old candy shop owners, he is dismayed to find out that the tour exists. The stately history of this house does not extend behind its facade. The residents are not