

NOT YOUR USUAL CLEVELAND TOUR

This self-guided tour is designed to get you to see our city's history from a different perspective. While some of the sights in the tour are fairly familiar, many are not -- nor, for that matter, is much of the route. It will take you from the East Side to the West Side and will dip into the Flats -- and all along the way you'll encounter interesting and, indeed, critical aspects of our city's history. While the tour highlights certain locations along the route, take the time to look closely (and safely if you are driving) at the neighborhoods, businesses, and buildings that you will see along the way. There are also multiple links embedded in the tour directions that will take you to websites that provide a deeper background of some of the places you will see. Take the time to read them before, during, or after the tour. They, in turn, will lead you to other articles and essays that relate to the city's history.

Bon voyage!



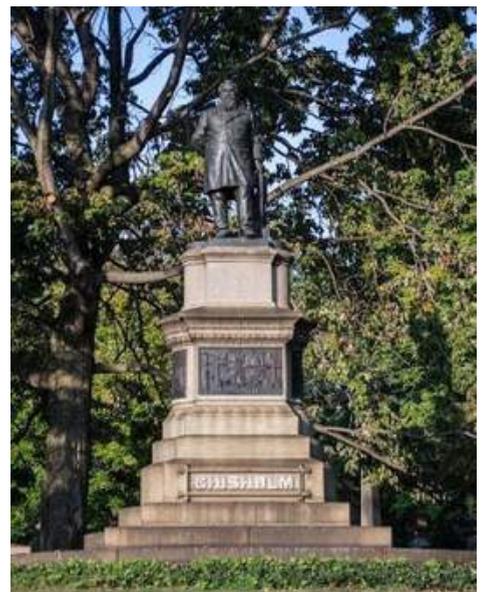
Start your tour by driving to the Euclid Avenue entrance of Lake View Cemetery. 12316 Euclid Ave. Go half way around the small traffic circle just beyond the entrance & turn right.



Proceed to the first cross street and make a left and continue, bearing to the right. You will drive past the Wade Memorial Chapel (on your left). At the next cross road, make a right and proceed (going uphill) to the second road on the left. Make a left turn. On your left you will see a large column. Park. You are now at the gravesite of Jephtha Homer Wade, a founder of the Western Union Telegraph Company and one of the founders of Lake View Cemetery. This is the Wade family plot. It also has one of the best views of Lake Erie. Take some time to wander and look.



Retrace your route toward the Euclid Avenue entrance. Just before the traffic circle you'll see a large statue just up an incline to your right. It honors Henry Chisholm, a Scottish immigrant who became the "Iron Master" of Cleveland. Find a place to park and visit it. It was erected by the employees of Chisholm's factory, the Cleveland Rolling Mills. Three bronze relief panels depict scenes in the mills and Chisholm's statue shows him leaning on a mill stand. Later in the tour you will visit the site of his factory. Go out the Euclid gate and carefully turn left onto Euclid.



Proceed west and make a right onto Ford Drive. Follow Ford Drive to East Boulevard. Turn right onto East Boulevard. To your right, after passing the Cleveland Institute of Music you will see the Cleveland History Center headquarters of the Western Reserve Historical Society and the enclosure housing the Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel. Go past the Veterans Hospital and then turn right. And at the light at E. 105th Street turn right again.



At the next light make a left turn onto Wade Park Avenue and at the next light make a right onto East Boulevard. Carefully follow East Boulevard. Once you navigate across Superior, you will come to the beginning of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens. The East Boulevard route is one of the best ways to see the gardens at their upper level so stay on the Boulevard and, if you have time, park and walk the gardens. All are wonderful and the Italian Garden (at the intersection with Parkgate St.) is particularly large and interesting.



Continue along East Boulevard to St. Clair.

Turn left onto St. Clair. Your drive west along St. Clair will take you through what was once one of the city's major industrial neighborhoods. The storefronts along the street housed the grocers, butchers, bars, and other stores that served a largely immigrant (Slovenian, Polish, Croatian and Serbian population) that worked in the area. The automobile, the move to the suburbs and the rise of shopping malls would change the dynamics of what had once been a place where people lived and then walked to work. Then with the demise of major employers, such as White Motors, the economy that sustained the area began to collapse. Yet, if you choose to explore some of the streets north of St. Clair you will still find industries working along the railroad line that defines the north side of the neighborhood.

On your drive, look for:

Maple Lanes – 6918 St. Clair.

A bar with a four-lane
bowling alley where the pins
are still set by hand.



Zagreb Meats – 6706 St. Clair.

The name reflects the Croatian
community which it still serves.



Azman and Sons Market
6502 St. Clair. A great place
to buy Slovenian Sausage.



The Slovenian National Home 6417 St. Clair. Built as space for the offices of various Slovenian organizations and a social hall and center for concerts, weddings, and other events this is the largest of seven “homes” built by the Slovenians in various neighborhoods in Cleveland. Today the building houses a Slovenian archive and continues to play host to various cultural activities – after all, Cleveland is the largest Slovenian settlement in the US.



Empress Taytu Restaurant
6125 St. Clair. Cleveland’s first
Ethiopian restaurant and a
symbol of the growing
diversity of the city and region.



Zak Funeral Home 6016 St. Clair. Family owned, and operated, this funeral home has served the neighborhood since 1890. Although its origins are within the South Slavic community, today Zak serves a diverse population and has developed a specialty in Chinese funeral customs.



At the intersection with E. 55th Street, turn right (north) and proceed to Carry Avenue. Turn right and follow Carry to East 61st and turn left. Continue following the street. As you drive through this area you will notice a number of small brick homes typical of the postwar era. They are here as a result of the East Ohio Gas Company explosion and fire of October 20th 1944. The disaster occurred when two tanks holding liquefied natural gas began leaking and the gas (equal to 90 million cubic feet) exploded, decimating the area. The fire spread over 20 blocks & took 130 lives.



The homes you see were built after the disaster by Anton Grdina, a neighborhood businessman and leader. The small park you pass to the north is named in his honor.



Continue the loop around and proceed south on E. 62 street to St. Clair. Turn right and proceed west on St. Clair to Marquette Street (the first intersection after E. 55th). Turn right and follow Marquette to Hamilton Avenue (do not turn onto Hamilton Court).

Turn left and follow Hamilton – here again you will see that industry is not “dead” in Cleveland. The street is home to many industries and much industrial history. Make certain to stop at East 45th and Hamilton. Here stands the Cleveland Industrial Warehouse – it occupies the incredible structure that was home to the Brown Hoist factory. Brown Hoist built machinery to unload iron ore and other bulk cargo from Great Lakes ships.



Now follow Hamilton to East. 38th. Go north one block to Lakeside and turn left. Follow Lakeside to East 33rd and turn left again. Now carefully navigate the red brick road that goes under one of the most remarkable railroad bridges in Cleveland. Look up and you'll see that it is an open work trestle and, if you are really lucky, a freight train will thunder over you. This is the rail line that connects Cleveland to Pittsburgh and which first saw traffic 170 years ago! Not that the bridge is that old!



Follow E. 33rd south to St. Clair, turn right towards Downtown. At the northeast corner of E. 26th you'll find the "Union Club." No, not "The Union Club" but one more attuned to those in labor unions.



At 2205 St. Clair (north side) you'll pass the Leather Stallion, reputedly Cleveland's oldest gay bar.



Continue into downtown and make a left turn onto E. 9th Street. Go south one block to Superior and turn right. At Public Square turn right and then left onto Rockwell. You will pass Old Stone Church, but just past it, on your left you'll see a cannon. This is a war souvenir – it was taken from the Spanish Cruiser Viscaya, which was destroyed by US forces in the Spanish-American War. You'll encounter this "Splendid Little War" as it was dubbed by then Secretary of State John Hay – a former Clevelander – once more along your tour.



Turn left at the end of the Square onto West Roadway and then right onto Superior. Follow Superior to W. 9th, make a right and then quickly a left onto West Superior which will take you down into the Flats. Next a left onto Robert Lockwood, Jr. Drive. Make a right onto Columbus and bear to the right moving onto Center Street.



You will now cross Cleveland's only swing bridge. Proceeding along Center St. you will go under one of the stone arches of the Superior Viaduct. Completed in 1878 it was the first high level bridge connecting the east and west sides of the city. Make a left onto Hancock, follow it to Mulberry, make a right turn onto Mulberry and shortly after, a left onto West 25th. This will bring you into Lakeview Terrace, one of Cleveland's oldest public housing projects and one of the first in the nation.

Designed by architects Joseph Weinberg, Wallace Teare, and William Conrad, it was opened in 1937. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt came for the dedication.



Make the first possible right turn (onto Loop Road) to drive through the center of the project. Loop Road will meld into W. 28. Follow W. 28th to Washington St., making a left. When you reach W. 25th turn right and head south to Lorain. Turn left at Lorain and just beyond the West Side Market parking lot, carefully make a left turn onto W. 20th Street. A quick right will put you onto the old stub of Lorain and bring you into "Duck Island". Once an authentic working-class neighborhood, Duck Island is in the midst of major gentrification. Follow this part of Lorain to its end at W. 17. Stop, get out and take a look over the empty lot for one of the great views of downtown Cleveland. Then look up at the Hope Memorial bridge for a new perspective on the "Guardians of Transportation". Proceed south on W 17th to Bradford, make a right on Bradford and then a left onto W. 18th which will curve into W. 19th. A left on W. 19th will take you to Abbey Avenue. Make a left onto Abbey and cross the bridge over Walworth Run. Walworth Run was once an open tributary to the Cuyahoga River. It has long since been culverted. It was the location of Cleveland's first railroad line (The Cleveland Columbus and Cincinnati).

You may wish to park and visit the script “Cleveland” sign on the left at the south end of the bridge—here again is a spectacular view of the city. From Abbey make a right turn on W. 14th and follow it through the center of Tremont. After you cross Clark Avenue, continue to Holmden Road – it will be on the left. Turn onto Holmden and go downhill through one of the few remaining parts of Tremont that have workers’ homes terraced into the hillside just above the steel mills in the valley.



At the end of Holmden, turn right onto Quigley Road and follow it to Steelyard Drive. Make a left onto the Drive and then a left just after the first large building to your left. Park here and take time to look at the Steel Heritage Museum next to the Towpath Trail. The building will likely be closed but there are some great “heavy metal” exhibits to be seen outside of it – including the working mills across the railroad track.



Return to Steelyard Drive and turn left. Follow it until it turns into Jennings Road. Follow Jennings to Harvard and make a left turn. Follow Harvard up the hill.

To your right will be the large Arconic (former Alcoa) plant and to the left, a main entrance to Arcelor Mittal Steel. You are now in Newburgh Heights, one of the city's older ethnic/industrial suburbs.

Follow Harvard to E. 49/Washington Park Blvd and make a left onto Washington Park. As you drive along, you'll see the fields of Washington Park to the right and a 1920s ethnic suburbia to the left. After you pass the residential area you'll notice a small triangular piece of parkland to the left. This is the site of the USS Maine memorial. It contains a porthole cover and a piece of the main mast of the ship, the sinking of which helped push the US into the Spanish-American War.

If you wish to visit, proceed a bit beyond the site to where you can make a left across the divided boulevard and access a parking lot. You can then walk back and view yet another Cleveland-based reminder of a war most Americans have forgotten.



Turn right onto Fleet Avenue – the main street of what is now branded as Slavic Village – formerly known as the Czech neighborhood of Karlin and the Polish neighborhood of Warszawa. Make a right turn at E. 57th Street and then a left at its intersection with Lansing. To your right on Lansing you will find one of Cleveland’s oldest and largest Jewish Cemeteries. Just beyond it is Harvard Grove Cemetery which is a city burial ground. Take the time to drive into Harvard Grove. Just beyond the entrance and to your right are the graves of five soldiers from the Revolutionary War. Initially buried elsewhere in the area, their bodies were moved (along with others) to Harvard Grove when the previous burial grounds were developed for industry.

Return to Lansing Avenue from the cemetery, turn right and, at its end, turn right onto E. 71st and follow it to Harvard. Turn left and follow Harvard to Jones Road (just before an overhead railroad bridge) and turn left onto Jones. As you near the end of Jones Road (just before its intersection with Broadway) you’ll see a small red brick church on the right. This is the old Centennial (1876) Welsh congregation church.



This area of what was once Newburgh was the home to the Cleveland Rolling Mills (remember Henry Chisholm in Lake View?) and many of the original workers were Welsh as were the Jones brothers, after whom the street is named, who founded the mill just before Henry became a partner. As you look down the street and across Broadway, you are viewing part of the immense site of the Rolling Mills. Almost all structures are gone and only the railroad lines and the scrapyards in the area serve as a reminder of the past.



Now, for an earlier history of this area, turn right onto Broadway. Follow it across its intersection with Harvard. Stay to the right and turn onto Warner Road. You will immediately cross a bridge over the railroad line and at the end of that bridge make a right into the Metropark.

Here you will find Mill Creek Falls, the highest waterfall in the county. Water-powered mills established here in 1799 helped make Newburgh a farming community which then by the 1860s became an industrial community. Take the time to get out and visit this “natural” site in the midst of an old industrial neighborhood. Exit Mill Creek Falls by turning right and following Warner Road to its intersection with Canal Road. Turn right onto Canal and make a left onto East 49th (this will be right after you pass a crosswalk connecting the Towpath trail to a parking lot on the right).

Your journey along E. 49th will take you through the suburb of Cuyahoga Heights. You’ll go past the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant (it no longer stinks as it once did), alongside the Ohio and Erie Canal, past a major oil depot, under yet another railroad bridge, past one of the main access points to the Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation, and through more steel-based industry.



When you get to Harvard Avenue you will be in familiar territory as it turns into Washington Park Boulevard. Follow it again, but this time continue past Fleet Avenue and bear to the left onto Independence Road. To the left, as you drive along Independence, was the entrance (near Sykora Street) for Forest City Park, Cleveland's first amusement park. It was established in 1883 and in 1912 a good portion of it was acquired by the city and became Washington Park.

Independence Road will lead you directly into the industrialized Cuyahoga River Valley and will take you through the heart of the portion of the Acelor Mittal plant that was once Republic Steel. The road is a bit rough, but it is "real Cleveland".



As you get to the end of Independence you will notice (on the right) an old brick building with a small tower to your right. That is part of the old Grasselli chemical company (which became part of DuPont). John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company, a prime customer for sulfuric acid, was a bit further down street.



After you go under the freeway bridge make a sharp right turn onto Rockefeller Avenue. Follow it uphill to the light at the intersection with Broadway. Turn left on Broadway.

As you drive along Broadway you will be on a bridge over the Kingsbury Run Valley. The area to the left where shipping containers are now stored was the site of Standard Oil Refinery #1 and the beginning of Rockefeller's rise to a position of great wealth. Turn left at the light onto South Broadway taking it to E. 9th. Go north on East 9th and make a right turn onto Carnegie.

You likely are now in an area that is quite familiar, but there are still some surprises as you go back east to University Circle. Immediately to your left is St. Maron Syrian Maronite Church. However, the church was originally St. Anthony's – the first Italian Roman Catholic Church in Cleveland serving the nearby Italian community in what was known as Big Italy.

When you get to East 71st, make a right turn. Go to Cedar Avenue and make a left turn onto Cedar. Cedar was the center of Cleveland's African American community in the years after World War I when the Great Migration increased the city's African American population from approximately 9,000 in 1910 to 70,000 in 1930. De facto segregation meant that at one time nearly 95% of African Americans lived in what we now call Fairfax. It was the center of numerous businesses, churches, and clubs.

St. James AME and Antioch Baptist both have deep roots in the community's history. You'll see them as you drive along, but much has been lost to suburbanization and the expansion of major institutions.





Take a while to linger at the intersection of East 89th and Cedar. There on the southeast corner you'll see the E. F. Boyd and Son Funeral Home. It is a landmark and a reminder of the impressive role the Boyd family has had in the community as entrepreneurs and leaders.



At East 105th make a left turn onto what is now the "Opportunity Corridor" and head back to University Circle. But if you want one last challenge and an intriguing discovery (and provided the gates are not closed) return to Lake View Cemetery.

Enter the Euclid Avenue gate, bear right immediately before the traffic circle.

Follow the road keeping the concrete cemetery wall to your right and continue bearing right until you come to a short road that quickly ends in a parking circle. Park in the circle and get out of the car. The concrete cemetery wall should still be to your right and a short rise should be directly ahead of you. Walk up to the slight rise and search for the grave of Rosa and Romeo Casino. (The approximate coordinates are 41.5100119 81.595473) Like many of the Italians from nearby Little Italy their resting site is in Lake View, a cemetery that provided jobs for many Italian immigrants, some of whom, like Joseph Carabelli, had the skills to carve the monuments for the great and powerful and the humble and hard working. In many ways they helped shape the landscape of the cemetery which today is one of the city's outstanding landmarks.

When you find the Casino headstone it will tell you a story relating to a famous institution and a major tragedy in Cleveland.



This is the end of your tour – To find out more about these sites visit
www.wrhs.org as well as www.case.edu/ech/



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