

*Start at the entrance to Tyson Park at 2500 Tyson McGhee Park Street.*

*Total Driving Distance = 8.4 miles*



### 1. TYSON PARK

One of Knoxville's older parks, the Third Creek bottomland had been used by the public since the 1890s, even when it was privately owned and had a makeshift nine-hole golf course on it. But in 1929, Bettie Tyson formally donated the land to the city with an extraordinary proviso: that the city's airport should always be named for her son, McGhee Tyson, a Navy airman killed in a crash in the North Sea during World War I.



### 2. TYSON JUNIOR HIGH

0.2 miles ahead on right

Built in 1936 and named in honor of Bettie's husband, Lawrence Davis Tyson, the World War I general and later U.S. senator who had recently died in office, Tyson was a well-known public school with some facilities considered to be superior to those of nearby UT, which sometimes used the school for public events, like dramatic presentations. It operated as a school for half a century, closing in 1986. Empty for several years, it was handsomely redesigned as an office building in the 1990s.



### 3. OAKWOOD

0.1 miles ahead on right

The historic home next to Tyson Junior at the corner of Kingston Pike and Concord, known as Oakwood, it was built in 1870 by the prominent McClung family. For half a century it was a semi-rural residence with a small farm attached. In the 1920s, it became a private hospital, well known to the affluent, and later hosted a nursing home, a restaurant, and offices. It's now the headquarters of Furrow Services.



### 4. CRESCENT BEND/ARMSTRONG LOCKETT HOUSE

<0.1 miles ahead on left

On the left is Crescent Bend. The brick house built in 1832 is the oldest house on Kingston Pike, and features terraced gardens down to the river. Its builder and original resident was Drury Paine Armstrong (1799-1856), a major landowner (and slaveholder). Armstrong's descendants lived in the neighborhood for five generations. It's now a museum house, known for its collection of English silver.



### 5. BLEAK HOUSE/CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL HALL

0.5 miles ahead on left

A bit farther west, also on the left, D.P. Armstrong's son, Robert, an aspiring artist, built the more exotic Tuscan-style home he called Bleak House, after the contemporary Dickens novel, in 1858. Armstrong was not notably Confederate in his sympathies, but his house with its tower became a headquarters for Confederate Gen. James Longstreet and his staff during the siege of Knoxville in November, 1863. The house's eastern face is pocked with bullet holes, and its tower shows the scars of war, as well as somewhat mysterious pencil sketches, on plaster, of three men said to be snipers killed or wounded in the tower. A private home for more than a century, it was re-branded the Confederate Memorial Hall in 1959 when purchased by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. It's open to the public by appointment.



### 6. HISTORIC WESTWOOD

0.2 miles ahead on right

Ahead on the right is Westwood, an 1890 Victorian near-mansion well-preserved and extraordinary in one respect. Adelia Armstrong Lutz, a Paris-trained painter of portraits and still lifes, was the daughter of Robert Armstrong, who coordinated with her husband, John Lutz, to build a house whose most notable feature was a long, high-ceilinged studio with skylights and lots of windows; there Adelia worked for 40 years, while also raising two children. It's now the headquarters of the preservationist nonprofit Knox Heritage.

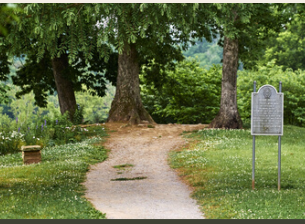
-- Turn left at traffic light onto Cherokee Blvd --



## 7. SEQUOYAH HILLS

<0.1 miles ahead on left

Sequoyah Hills developed in the 1920s on a river peninsula once known as Looney's Bend, and soon became a stylish neighborhood. Despite Sequoyah's association with wealth, its hundreds of acres of public parks along the river, ball fields, and the Boulevard's three-mile walking trail make it one of Knoxville's most popularly accessible neighborhoods. Cherokee Boulevard, one of its first streets, threaded through a separate development called Talahi, a perhaps too-idealistic early experiment in what would later be known as town-center planning. Talahi, ca. 1926-1930, was a financial failure, but left interesting remnants in the form of several '20s-artsy concrete monuments along the Boulevard.



## 8. INDIAN MOUND

1.2 miles ahead

About half a mile past Tugaloo, look for the prehistoric Indian Mound in the median near the second intersection with Kenesaw. It was built centuries ago by a pre-Cherokee Native-American culture. One of two notable Indian mounds in Knoxville, it's more eroded than the one on UT's campus.

--- Follow Cherokee to its end, where it turns into Blows Ferry (named for an early 20th-century ferry operated by Peter Blow) at the stop sign, go straight for 1 mile and turn left onto Arrowhead Trail ---



## 9. LONES CEMETERY

1.5 miles ahead on left

Immediately on the left on the tight bend, easier to see than get to, is the Lones Cemetery. It has recently been identified with the Lones family—also spelled Lonas, they were prominent landowners in the area in the 19th century—but its best-known grave may be that of War of 1812 veteran Absolem Looney (1770-1859) whose family had occupied the Sequoyah peninsula before Tennessee achieved statehood.

--- Turn left onto Lyons View Pike ---



## 10. EUGENIA WILLIAMS HOUSE

0.4 miles ahead on left

The first walled property on the left is the longtime home—you have to look fast to see it—of Eugenia Williams. The heir/divorcee hired Knoxville-born architect John Fanz Staub, then famous for his Texas mansions, to design the grand house, completed in 1940. The once-sociable "Miss Eugenia" then lived here for more than half a century by herself, rarely admitting visitors. After her death in 1998, a will left it to the university, but the house remained empty for years, as attorney's tried to address legal questions concerning its future use. After years of legal questions, the Aslan Foundation acquired in 2019, with intentions to renovate it for future uses.



## 11. MT. PLEASANT & LYONS VIEW SCHOOL

0.1 miles ahead on left

Immediately to the west is the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, a still-thriving predominantly black congregation that's been here since 1887 (the current stone church was built in 1943) and its historic graveyard, which includes church members who were born into slavery, some who fought for the Union in the Civil War. Adjacent is the former Lyons View School, a public school for black children founded around 1900, though the current building dates to 1950, when the school system was still segregated.



## 12. CHEROKEE COUNTRY CLUB

0.2 miles ahead on left

Hard to miss on the left is Cherokee Country Club, founded here in 1907, when it was still in "the country." This building, its second, was designed with a sort of neo-Norman exterior by Baumann and Baumann, and completed in 1928. The 18-hole golf course, Knoxville's first, dates to 1907, though it has been reconfigured more than once. Golfing great Bobby Jones won one of his first regional tournaments there. The course was occasionally used as a landing strip for biplanes.



### 13. WESTCLIFF/GATEHOUSE

0.5 miles ahead on right

In 1929, inventor-industrialist Weston Fulton built his willfully exotic mansion on the ridge to the right. He and his family lived there until his sudden death in 1946—after which it served for a time as dormitory for nuns associated with St. Mary's Hospital. The mansion was torn down in 1966, but the old stone gatehouse, in a style similar to that of the mansion, remains.



### 14. DALTON'S STORE

0.1 miles ahead on left

On the left you'll see one commercial building with faded letters: L.H. DALTON. A grocer who also sold fireworks and ran slot machines on the side, Lum Dalton operated his store here from 1926 to the early 1950s. The store then served as the anchor of the city's westernmost electric streetcar, the Lyons View car, which turned around the store before heading back to town.



### 15. LAKESHORE PARK

0.1 miles ahead on left

With 207 riverfront acres, several athletic fields, and miles of walking trail, Lakeshore is one of Knoxville's most popular public parks. It covers the old campus of Eastern State Mental Hospital, known as Lakeshore in its later years, but known in its early days as Lyons View Asylum. Little of the old hospital remains except for the 1886 administration building, the castellated brick building on the hilltop, and a postwar modernist chapel down the hill. The hospital once accommodated as many as 3,000 patients, and was almost independent of the city, with its own power plant and large gardens, tended by patients and staff, which helped feed them.



### 16. LYONS VIEW VETERANS & EASTERN STATE CEMETERIES

<0.1 miles ahead on right

Across Lyons View from Lakeshore is the East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, established in 1990 and the first state-administered veterans cemetery ever established in Tennessee. After 30 years, it now has more than 6,000 graves. Less well known is that right behind it is the old Eastern State Cemetery, for patients who lived and died at the mental hospital.

*<< Turn right at traffic light onto Northshore Drive >>*



### 17. CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

0.4 miles ahead on right

Church of the Ascension, an Episcopal church established by downtown's St. John's--and named for that older church's iconic mural--began its life on the hilltop thanks to a gift from the Van Deventer family of Lyons Bend. The first Episcopal church west of downtown, it originally operated out of a small house on this property in 1953, when it was still well outside of city limits. The main structure with its distinctive tower, said to have Byzantine influence, was one of the last major designs of well-known local architect Charles Barber (1887-1962) of Barber McMurry, and completed in 1957. Since expanded, the church now has more than 1,000 members.



### 18. SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

<0.1 miles ahead on left

On the left, and impossible to miss, is Sacred Heart Cathedral. Perhaps the grandest church of any kind ever built in Knoxville history, it's the headquarters to all of the Catholics in the East Tennessee diocese, and the seat of their bishop. Finished in 2018, it's still new, but stands on property used by the previous Sacred Heart church and its associated school since 1956. (The original modernist-style church building is still there, behind the cathedral.)

**LEARN MORE AT [KNOXVILLEHISTORYPROJECT.ORG](http://KNOXVILLEHISTORYPROJECT.ORG)**



## 19. OLD BEARDEN

0.5 miles ahead

When you pass under the New Deal-era train trestle, with Fourth Creek running alongside, you're in Historic Bearden, once a rural community known as Erin, reportedly for its abundance of Irish immigrants in the early 1800s. In those days, Bearden was a cluster of inns and shops on the old road to Nashville. By 1920, Kingston Pike was part of a couple of major national thoroughfares, the Dixie and Lee Highways. Thereafter, Bearden developed a tourist economy. To the left is Bearden Hill; at its top, if you happen to be up that way, is the columned house known as Knollwood, built for Mexican-American War veteran Major Robert Reynolds. Its vista made it a valuable headquarters for Confederate Gen. James Longstreet during his unsuccessful siege of Knoxville in 1863. It's now an office building, and not open to the general public.

*--- Proceed north on Northshore Drive to traffic light and turn right onto Kingston Pike ---*



## 20. BEARDEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

0.1 miles ahead on right

About all that remains of old "downtown Bearden" is the wood-frame Bearden Christian Church, with its stout bell tower, on the right. Dating to 1883, it was used as a church for more than a century. Behind it is a small historic churchyard; one grave refers to the New Market Train Wreck of 1904, in which dozens of Knoxvilleians lost their lives.



## 21. BEARDEN SCHOOL

0.2 miles ahead on right

On the left, as we go east, is Bearden School. The oldest part of it dates to 1938. What was once a rural high school (the earliest version was just west of here where Bearden Shopping Center stands) is now a public elementary school. When it opened, Bearden High School used a part of the school, and later, in 1948, a separate high school building was built next door, now occupied by the Knoxville Adaptive Education Center. (Bearden High moved almost four miles to the west in 1969.) Among the alumni who attended the school in this location was noted zookeeper and animal celebrity "Jungle" Jack Hanna.

*--- turn right by Naples onto Homberg Drive ---*



## 22. NAPLES/WAYSIDE INN

0.2 miles ahead on right

The Naples building, now empty, hosted a popular Italian restaurant for 60 years. It was built around 1948 to house the Wayside Inn, a replacement for a wooden structure of the same name that had burned down. From about 1926 to 1959, the Wayside Inn was a cafe aimed at motorists that sometimes turned into a nightclub / dance hall, welcoming traveling jazz bands.



## 23. HOMBERG

<0.1 miles ahead on right

When you turn right, near Naples, onto Homberg Drive, you're following the original path of Kingston Pike, as it ran before 1924. This road was called Old Kingston Pike until about 1950, when it was renamed Homberg Place, out of respect for the Bowman Hat Co.'s favorite product. After moving here from downtown in 1938, Bowman made hats here until it went out of business about 30 years later. Eccentric hairdresser Kristopher Kendrick startled Knoxville in 1971 when he opened a continental-style restaurant, decorated with exotic furnishings from around the world. For over 40 years, the Orangery (now Kitchen 919 at 5448 Homberg Drive) set a standard for fine dining.



## 24. MOVIE HANDPRINTS

0.3 miles ahead on left

If you stop at Mohican and get out of the car, you might be able to find Knoxville's best answer to Hollywood Boulevard. On April 9, 1970, a car door opened at the Capri-70 theater on Kingston Pike and Ingrid Bergman got out. Here for a world premiere of her locally shot movie, *A Walk in the Spring Rain*, she planted her handprint in the wet cement, and signed it, starting a tradition. In years to come, other TV and movie stars, including Cliff Robertson, Tippi Hedren, Patricia Neal, and Stan Brock followed suit.

*<< Proceed north on Northshore Drive to traffic light and turn right onto Kingston Pike >>*



## 25. WALLACE CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH/BRICKYARD

0.1 miles ahead on left

Wallace Chapel, on the left, is an African Methodist Episcopal church built in 1930, on the former spot of a dance hall destroyed by fire. Still active, the church is the most obvious relic of the Brickyard, a black community here where dozens of workers for an early 20th-century brick factory lived. The community outlasted the factory for decades; the last residents left in the 1980s.

--- Follow Homberg Drive to Kingston Pike and turn right. This intersection was, for many years—from 1917 to 1962—the western city limits of Knoxville ---



## 26. BACK DOOR TAVERN

0.1 miles ahead

See the Back Door Tavern, across the street. The 1930s commercial building, built during the Dixie-Lee Highway era, has hosted a popular beer joint since the 1960s. Today, the Back Door is one of Knoxville's oldest bars.

--- Turn left at Newcomb, and you're following the zigzag route of Kingston Pike as it lay from 1924 to the completion of a long viaduct over the train tracks in 1948 ---



## 27. BLAIR ANTIQUES/WHITE DOT COFFEE SHOP & BARBECUE

0.2 miles ahead

Notable on this jag is the two-story brick building with the unusual exterior fireplace. It was once the White Dot Coffee Shop and Barbecue, a popular tourist attraction that sometimes doubled as a nightclub, with dancing. In later years, it has hosted a florist and antiques shop.

--- Turn right onto Forest Park Blvd ---



## 28. EVERLY BROS. PARK

<0.1 miles ahead on left

Turn right on Forest Park Blvd. On your left is the new Everly Brothers Park. Phil and Don Everly lived in Knoxville for less than three years, but it was here that they discovered rock 'n' roll, began performing as a duo (mostly on WROL radio), and made connections with Chet Atkins, who helped them combine their brother harmony with driving guitar work to become some of the most influential rock pioneers of the 1950s. The park, a local project opened in 2019 but not yet complete, has the enthusiastic support of some of their family members, including their elderly mother.



## 29. HIGHLANDS GRILL

0.1 miles ahead on right

Follow Forest Park Blvd. as it crosses Kingston Pike, and you'll be crossing the old 1924 bridge over the train tracks, which was the reason Kingston Pike was crooked for a quarter century. On the right is old Highlands Grill, built in 1937. Although constructed with a faux-historic look for tourists, the restaurant and night spot became a popular local attraction for a couple of generations of Knoxvilleans. Colorful Broadway actress Tallulah Bankhead made a memorable surprise visit late one night in 1938.

--- Turn left onto Old Kingston Pike, still following the Pike's zigzag route as it was known from 1924 to 1948 ---



## 30. LONAS FIREHALL

<0.1 miles ahead on right

On the right is the old Lonas Firehall, "K.F.D. No. 12" Built in 1930, in the days when resident firemen slid down poles to save a few seconds on the way to the fire engine, this was for many years the main firehall in West Knoxville; they would put out fires in the city for free, but charge for putting out fires beyond city limits, which were then at Carr Street. Its name, Lonas, was that of an early country school by that name that had been located on that site, and closed when it incorporated with the new Sequoyah School.



### 31. LONG'S DRUGSTORE

<0.1 miles on left

On the left is Kingston Center, built by the White Store company in 1956, after the Pike was straightened out. It's still home to an original tenant, Long's Drugstore, whose now-rare soda-fountain service has remained intact for 64 years.

--- Merge to the right onto Kingston Pike ---



### 32. WESTERN PLAZA

0.1 miles ahead on left

Built in 1958, Western Plaza was the city's biggest shopping center at the time, with an unusual two-story construction, accommodating a large bowling alley and shops and restaurants downstairs, with a separate parking lot. (Nearby to the west is the Ice Chalet, built in 1961 and reputedly one of the first ice-skating rinks in the South.) Western Plaza caused a stir when it began coaxing downtown retailers, especially clothiers, to move here. The shopping center also offered barber shops, liquor stores, and popular restaurants. We don't often think of shopping centers as historic, but Western Plaza played a role, for better or worse, in how mid-century Knoxvilleians lived in their city.

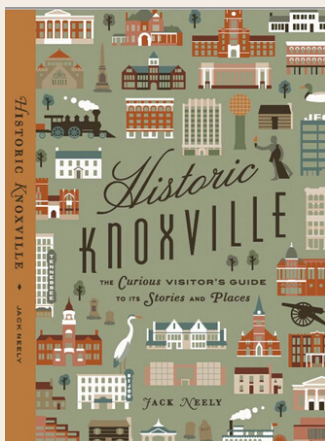


### 33. KINGSTON PIKE PLACES OF WORSHIP

ahead on both side of the Pike

After Western Plaza, along the tree-shaded old residential section of Kingston Pike, heading back east, there's a mile of places of worship that shows a diversity of faith in Knoxville: St. George's Greek Orthodox Church; Heska Amuna Synagogue; Temple Beth El; the Christian Science church; the First Seventh Day Adventist Church; the Laurel Church of Christ; First United Methodist; Calvary Baptist; Tennessee Valley Unitarian/Universalist; Second Presbyterian. It's interesting to note these 10 places of worship, all with demonstrably different creeds and weekly services, were all built in the 1950s and '60s after years of complaints that there were no churches on the west side of town.

## HISTORIC KNOXVILLE: THE CURIOUS VISITOR'S GUIDE TO ITS STORIES & PLACES



KHP's bestseller, *Historic Knoxville: The Curious Visitor's Guide*, written by Jack Neely, and beautifully produced by Robin Easter Design, is a comprehensive and engaging 200-page guide with maps for both visitors and residents offering a wide-ranging guided tour to scores of places and institutions relevant to the city's little known but endlessly fascinating history.

Features historic homes, buildings, museums & collections, statues, UT campus, cemeteries, parks & gardens, and neighborhoods, and more.

Available now through KHP direct, select local book shops, gift stores, historic homes, and museums.

The Knoxville History Project is an educational nonprofit whose mission is to research and promote the history and culture of Knoxville. Knoxville's only city-focused historical organization, KHP covers the city's historic center, but also neighborhoods throughout the county, to the north, south, east, and west.

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