

Tour starts at the intersection of North Gay Street and Fifth Avenue

Total Driving Distance = 8.2 miles



1. NORTH GAY STREET

Many newcomers notice "that little downtown" of close two and three-story urban buildings north of 1-40, along Fifth Avenue up to the intersection of Broadway and Central, and a bit beyond. In fact, that area was once just the northern quarter of downtown Knoxville, from the 1880s to the 1950s, connected by unbroken blocks of buildings, streets, and sidewalks, and considered integral to the central business district.

Fifth Avenue is part of a mathematical puzzle. The ordinal number popped up on what was then the northern edge of town just before the Civil War. Once there were also First and Second Avenues, but they vanished before 1870. There are still fragmentary portions of Third and Fourth. They were numbered from the northern "top" of the city down. But Fifth was the main one, and it's possible that it grew much more than the others due to the fame of the Fifth Avenue in New York. By the late 19th century, it was an especially fashionable address, with grand townhouses and apartment buildings like those known today as the LUCERNE and STERCHI OAKS, as well as Minvilla Flats, which is today used as part of a public-housing program. All these were built between 1910 and 1915.

Also in the mix were an array of architecturally impressive churches. One survivor of that era is the FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, built between 1913 and 1915, and perhaps the only building designed by well-known Victorian architect George Barber and his son, Charles. George Barber, best known for his Victorian homes, died days after it was completed. Later that year, Charles Barber co-founded the new and durable firm of Barber and McMurry. The church design, especially the six-pillar front, was reportedly inspired by famous New York architect Stanford White's Madison Square Presbyterian Church in Manhattan; considering that church was later torn down, this might be considered a survivor of that aesthetic. It also got attention for its California-Spanish additions, including an unusual courtyard. First Christian used the church for almost a century before moving to a more modest building in a suburban location. In recent years, it has occasionally been used for musical events, especially those associated with the Big Ears Festival.

Incidentally, artist Charles Griffin Farr's "Street in Knoxville" painted in California in the 1940s, appears to be based on a ca. 1920 memory of this part of Fifth Avenue. The painting, often on view at Knoxville Museum of Art, inspired some Bay-Area critics to use a then-unfamiliar phrase, "magic realism," to describe it.

-- Proceed north on N. Gay Street to Emory Place --



2. EMORY PLACE

0.1 Mile ahead

Emory Place began life as Emory Park, which itself evolved from the old Central Market. It has an unusual backstory. In the 1880s, the city in partnership with some private developers began work on something they called the Central Market, literally a second Market Square that would be more convenient to both farmers' wagons and the booming suburbs of North Knoxville than the original traffic-choked Market Square. In 1888, they built a long, bent market house there, with ends at both Central Street and Broadway. For a few years it showed potential, as businesses built buildings closely around it, alongside a post office and a firehall. By 1897, when old Market Square built its grand modern Market Hall, Central Market was an obvious failure. The building was used for various purposes until it was dismantled in 1905 and moved to South Knoxville for commercial use. The city jumped at the chance to name it the city's first urban park.

It was named for Isaac Emory, the popular New York-born Presbyterian minister who was killed in the New Market Train Wreck of 1904, still the worst transportation disaster in East Tennessee history.

The largest business presence on Emory Park was located in the Victorian buildings on the southeastern quadrant: it was the nationally known Walla Walla Chewing Gum Factory.

3. ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

On N. Broadway at north end of Emory Place



On the far left (or north) side of Emory Place, adjacent to Broadway, is the St. John's Lutheran Church. Knoxville's first English-language Lutheran church, established at a time when First Lutheran still conducted services in German, St. John's operated out of another church building nearby before building this Gothic-revival structure in 1913. One of the most elaborate churches downtown, with its three square towers and once-famous Rose Window, the Indiana sandstone structure, with stained-glass windows by Von Gerichten Art Glass of Ohio, has been described as a miniature cathedral. Behind the effort was philanthropist Martha Henson, who built it as a memorial to her husband, shoe magnate James Henson. The architect was R.F. Graf (1863-1940), son of Swiss immigrants, whose work, mostly from the early 20th century, can still be found in downtown Knoxville as well as Maryville College and Carson-Newman University. This building has been called his career masterpiece.

If you have time you can park at Emory Place and carefully cross Broadway on foot and explore Old Gray Cemetery and Knoxville's National Cemetery.



4. OLD GRAY CEMETERY

Across from St. John's Lutheran

The area's oldest institution is Old Gray Cemetery, established in 1850. A privately owned cemetery with plots open to purchase by the public at large, the 14-acre cemetery became Knoxville's first "garden cemetery," inspired by others in Paris and elsewhere. In a time when all graveyards were either family plots near a residence or churchyards, Gray Cemetery was designed to be a beautifully landscaped place, with trees and flowering shrubs that would attract visitors. It's the resting place of thousands of both prominent and forgotten Knoxvilleans, especially of the Victorian era and just after, including old-family aristocrats, hundreds of immigrants from Germany, Italy, and Greece (at least two stones are carved entirely in Greek), and a few African Americans. Among those buried here are "Parson" W.G. Brownlow, the pro-Union journalist and forcefully influential governor who helped pass the 13th and 14th Amendments; impressionist artist Catherine Wiley; suffragist Lizzie Crozier French; and McGhee Tyson, the airman killed in World War I whose name is remembered on an airport you may have heard of.

The cemetery's name, suggested by Henrietta Reese in 1850, honors Thomas Gray, the English poet of "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard."



5. KNOXVILLE'S NATIONAL CEMETERY

Entrance behind Old Gray on Tyson Street

Adjacent to Old Gray, accessible via Tyson Street, is Knoxville's National Cemetery. One of the first national cemeteries in America, this 10-acre military cemetery was established as an emergency of war by Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside, days after his occupation of Knoxville in September, 1863, at a time when Union casualties in East Tennessee were mounting, and Burnside was anticipating the Confederate attack that came two months later. About 3,500 Union soldiers were buried here, both black and white, and about a third of them marked "Unknown." Originally it was intended for Union soldiers who died on the battlefields of East Tennessee, most of whom could not be delivered to their homes far away. However, later the cemetery became almost the opposite, a desired burial place for East Tennessee veterans who had served in conflicts far away. It includes the grave of World War II Medal of Honor recipient Troy McGill, who died in hand to hand combat in the South Pacific. However, the most famous burial here may be that of Gen. Robert Neyland, longtime football coach of the Vols--who, knowing that a stadium would be named for him, desired a simple soldier's burial.

By government policy, the white, sturdy stones are of Vermont marble, which is whiter and more durable than Tennessee marble, which dominates next door at Old Gray. The wall between the two, by the way, also marks what was the northern city limit during the Civil War.

The Union monument in the cemetery is said to be the largest Union monument in the South other than those on battlefields. Originally built with a different design in 1900, with hundreds of Union veterans present, that first monument was destroyed by lightning in 1904. Many Union veterans were on hand to witness the current, non-conductive monument completed in 1906.

-- from Emory Place, turn right onto Broadway and turn left at traffic light onto N. Central Street --



6. DOWNTOWN NORTH

0.1 mile ahead on left

The intersection of Broadway and Central marks what was the northern city limits of Knoxville from 1852 to 1897. That was significant to some during that period, because crossing the line to the north meant there was very little law enforcement beyond. Some would come out here for cockfights and other gambling opportunities frowned on in the city.

Today this northernmost part of what was considered "downtown" a century ago presents an interesting juxtaposition of urban buildings, especially the "flatiron" style building at the southern acute angle. It was built in 1904, a peak for that kind of architecture nationally. It's one of at least four such buildings built in Knoxville that year.



This part of Central had its name a few years before the connecting downtown street, which was previously known as Crozier and, before that, Water Street. It can be said to run through the central part of Knox County, through Sharps Gap, and up to Anderson County. It was once a primary route to Knoxville.

On the right, the CORNER LOUNGE is a Knoxville landmark. Established around 1939 as the Corner Grill, it was a popular beer joint known for card games and later pinball and live music. It's mentioned briefly as a refuge in Cormac McCarthy's novel, *Suttree*. In the 1960s and '70s it was best known as a nightclub, and drew crowds for pianist and singer Con Hunley, later a recording artist.



Adjacent to the Corner Lounge is **Magpies**, the well-known bakery founded by musician Peg Hambright, which has thrived here for more than a decade. Those aren't pigeons on the awning, by the way, but sculptural magpies. There are lots of little surprises in this neighborhood: behind Magpie's is a colorful mural depicting folk-singing legend Harry McClintock (1882-1957), famous for "Big Rock Candy Mountain," who was born and raised in Knoxville.



7. WEST OF CENTRAL

<0.1 mile ahead on left at traffic light

On the left, **BERNARD AVENUE** is named jointly for a Union general and his son, a soldier killed in the Spanish-American War; both are buried at National Cemetery. Bernard's most startling feature today is **SCHULZ BRAU**, the big brewpub that created this German-themed faux-medieval fantasy (with outdoor "biergarten") of an old industrial site in 2015.



On the next left, on **DAMERON AVENUE**, is the Knox County Health Department, which stands on the footprint of the old 1902 Knoxville General Hospital. Knoxville's first public hospital, it had 285 beds, which some taxpayers complained was too many until the New Market Train Wreck of 1904; more than 100 of those injured in the two-train wreck were accommodated here.

Two buildings of the old hospital remain. The colorful brick "Laboratory" building on Dameron, built in 1911, later served as a nurses' dormitory. The larger nursing home on **WRAY STREET (on the left off Dameron Avenue.)** known as **SERENE MANOR**, built in 1935, was, in those segregated days, known as the Rosenwald Wing for African Americans. Knoxville General closed in the early 1950s, as UT Hospital was completed, and most of it was torn down.



8. DOWNTOWN NORTH CONTINUED

0.1 mile ahead from Bernard Avenue

Back on N. Central, heading north, on the right is the Knox County office building, where acres of records are kept, is actually the old **SEARS DEPARTMENT STORE**, which played a major role in modern development history. It was the first big department store to appear outside of the downtown area, albeit not very far outside. Built over a period of two years, the "excitingly different" new Sears, Roebuck & Co. opened in 1948. Its parking lot, roughly the same one you see today, was said to be the biggest free parking lot ever built in Knoxville. Believe it or not, the building has both literary and a little country-music history. Its "diabolical ugliness" is described in Richard Marius's final (2001) novel, *An Affair of Honor*, partly set in postwar Knoxville. And in April, 1949, Maybelle Carter, her teenage daughter June Carter, and the little-known guitarist Chet Atkins spent an afternoon at the Sears record store signing records. It closed in 1984, after Sears' West Town Mall was established as the area's main Sears store.



HOLY GHOST, the second Catholic church ever built in Knoxville, opened here in 1908, partly reflecting the fact that many of the Irish had moved into suburban neighborhoods north of old Irish Town downtown. Its cornerstone, in fact, was laid on St. Patrick's Day. The older church, on the left, has been used for various purposes over the years, including a Catholic-charity thrift store and in recent years an Ruthenian orthodox church. Immediately adjacent to the old church, on the right, is the larger, current building. It was built in a Norman Gothic style in 1926, and designed by Crowe and Schulte in Cincinnati, one of that firm's southernmost achievements.



BAXTER AVENUE is named for North Carolina-born attorney and judge John Baxter (1819-1886), who had a dramatic life. An early and prominent supporter of Henry Clay, he was Unionist at the time of secession, he later ran for Confederate Congress, but after losing, became a Unionist again. Prominently involved in postwar education, he was a trustee for postwar East Tennessee University, before it was UT. To the west, Baxter Avenue leads to the Lonsdale community.



On the right is **THREE RIVERS MARKET**. Founded in 1981 as the counterculture Food Co-op, it was originally in a modest old house on Broadway. In 2011, they completed this supermarket-scale grocery, adapted from an old Merita bread bakery. They specialize in organic and specialty foods, many products, from spices to breakfast cereals, available in bulk, by the scoop; customers are invited to buy in, and become members.



10. HAPPY HOLLER

0.2 mile ahead at Anderson Avenue

The pronounced dip in Central became known by 1910 as Happy Hollow, or Holler. According to a plausible story, the name was inspired by the fact that an Irishman named Kavanaugh noticed how many farmers coming to market in a mule cart would break down at the bottom of the hill, get stuck in mud or break an axle. It seemed to him a perfect place for a saloon, and he established one there in 1885.

It was the beginning of a commercial center known for entertainments. Nearby Brookside Cotton Mills, established in 1885 just to the west of here, was one of Knoxville's biggest employers, and many of its workers spent their spare hours here. Happy Holler had its own community sports teams, including the baseball Tigers. It was eventually home to several bars and poolhalls and even a movie theater. Originally established as a small "Motion Picture House" as early as 1917, the Joy Theatre opened at 1205 N. Central, and showed new-ish movies until it closed in 1955. (The long-delayed arrival of television in Knoxville in 1953 was hard on all neighborhood movie theaters.) It supported a wide variety of businesses for half a century after that, but through a remarkable leap of historical inspiration, its cinematic spirit revived in recent years when the same space became the popular art-film venue **CENTRAL CINEMA**.



Happy Holler was a little run down when Dan Moriarty, who grew up nearby, opened the one-of-a-kind **TIME WARP TEA ROOM** in 2002. **RELIX VARIETY THEATRE** opened a few years later in the old White Store. **RAVEN RECORDS**, a legend on the Cumberland Avenue Strip in the 1980s, re-emerged here in 2012.

The **ORIGINAL FREEZO** has been doing business since 1950s, and even though it has never offered indoor seating, it's one of Knoxville's oldest restaurants.



11. N. CENTRAL STREET

From Happy Holler to Atlantic Avenue 1.4 miles

SCOTT AVENUE Avenue was home to more affluent professionals, including managers at Brookside Mill. One of those was Larkin Brown, who lived on **EAST SCOTT AVENUE** in the second house on the left just off from Central. His son, **CLARENCE BROWN** (pictured on left), earned two engineering degrees from UT in 1910, and went on to become a prolific Hollywood director, known for *National Velvet*, *Intruder in the Dust*, and several of Greta Garbo's best-known films. The Browns lived in four different houses in the neighborhood; this one, the only one still standing, is where Clarence lived in his late teens and very early 20s, when he was at UT.



On the right is **EMERALD AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, which had a rather hair-raising beginning. The congregation built this church in 1932, but as the Great Depression persisted, they realized they couldn't make the mortgage payments on it. The lender foreclosed upon it in 1938. But a few Methodists got together and bought the church back. The old street that formed part of its address has survived in the name of an ambitious faith-based initiative called the Emerald Youth Foundation, a network of sports programs and other options for kids in inner-city communities, like the large new recreation facility in Lonsdale.



Along the stretch from Oldham to Churchwell, several young businesses, including **MAGNOLIA RECORDS**, **MID-MOD COLLECTIVE**, independent used bookstore the **BOOK EDDY**, and **WILD LOVE BAKEHOUSE**, have used mid-century commercial buildings to create a 21st-century urban node distinct from all others.

A little more than a block to the northeast on Churchwell is old **OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**, part of which dates to 1914. Now Oakwood Senior Living, it's an admired adaptation of a long-abandoned school building. Oakwood is the name for the residential development to the right, north of Churchwell Avenue.



Residents of the 1930s, knew the area west of Central by the whimsical name of **GRASSHOPPER CITY**. It included the North Central Circus Grounds, in the East Quincy Street area where Ringling Brothers and other national circuses would set up their big tops in the 1930s. It was handy to the streetcar. The same plot of ground also occasionally featured outdoor country-music performances.

RANKIN RESTAURANT, 2200 North Central, is a simple place that has thrived out of the spotlight. It began life as the Deluxe Waffle Shop, opened by Harry Regas around 1947, and was taken over by the Rankin family in 1954. Even if we limit its heritage to the Rankin era only, it is arguably Knoxville's single oldest restaurant in continuous operation. Open only for breakfast and lunch.



Across the street from Rankin is **CHARLIE'S PIE SHOP**, the building (pictured second from bottom) with art-deco curves on the left. Previously a baker in Chattanooga, Charlie Martin started his own bakery in a garage in Park City, then built this small factory, stylish for 1945. At one point, Charlie's was producing "thousands of pies every day" from this building, with a staff of 22. The bakery remained in business here until 1973, after which the distinctive building (currently vacant) was used by a series of nonprofits and startups.

A stones throw to the west was the main plant of **DEMPSTER BROTHERS**, inventor and manufacturer of a new innovation, beginning in 1937, called the **DUMPS**. Although known all over the world today, the original Dumpsters were all manufactured right here. Nearby was the larger plant of the Southern Railway Coster Shops, established around 1900, and for almost a century, that major railroad's main national repair facility. (It was named for New Yorker Charles H. Coster, an associate of Southern Railway founder J.P. Morgan; Coster's sudden and premature death in 1900 suggested the honor.)

The interesting block of old commercial buildings on the left just after Springdale included, at 2419, a lively place known in the early 1970s as the **CASUAL LOUNGE**. It advertised itself as a "Go-Go" sort of place, and sometimes featured topless dancers, but also featured live music, like Sweet William and the Stereos, and occasionally broadly known acts like R&B and soul recording artist Clifford Curry—and, sometimes, guitarist Gregg Allman, sitting in on guitar with local bands.



STEAMBOAT SANDWICHES, at Burwell Street (pictured bottom), has been a North Central attraction for more than 20 years, despite an interval when they experimented with moving downtown. The original incarnation celebrated an almost mystical connection with singer Roy Orbison, who reportedly stopped here in the 1960s to get his motorcycle fixed.



ATLANTIC AVENUE, on the right, is the inspiration of an especially lovely song by recording artist R.B. Morris, who spent part of his 1950s-60s childhood here.



More and more prominent as we drive north is steep, lofty Sharps Ridge, one of Knoxville's most dramatic geographical features. From 1917 to 1962, it served as the city's northern city limits. Part of Sharps Ridge nearest Central was called Roseberry City, an African American community. It was sometimes less becomingly known as Buzzards' Roost, because in the late 19th century it was the location of Metler's Abattoir, perhaps the city's biggest slaughterhouse at the time, and an attraction for carrion feeders.

-- After Atlantic Avenue, take the second street on the right, Chickamauga Avenue, which runs xxx miles to N. Broadway --



14. LINCOLN PARK

Chickamauga runs 1.3 miles to N. Broadway

To get over to Broadway, we'll be driving about a mile through Lincoln Park, an 1890s "trolleyburb": a suburban development accessible by the electric streetcar. It never had any strong association with Abraham Lincoln, nor a very prominent park, though in its earliest days, a modest mineral-springs attraction at the center was park-like in some respects. Its name was likely inspired by trips to the 1893 World's Fair, when Chicago's Lincoln Park was a model community.

Several streets in Lincoln Park have historical names. The fact that some streets have tribal names may suggest the likelihood that Chickamauga was named for the uncompromising Native American confederation of the 1790s rather than for the bloody and confusing Civil War battle that set the stage for the battles of both Chattanooga and Knoxville. Maddening to copy editors is the fact that this Chickamauga is sometimes spelled with a K, sometimes not. In recent decades, the K spelling, more common in the historical usage of the word, seems to be winning out.

LINCOLN PARK SCHOOL, on your left, has been at this site since 1916, replacing an earlier school in a frame house on Atlantic. It was built roughly on the site of Lincoln Park Mineral Springs. It operated as an elementary school for 80 years, closing in 1997. Since then, the building has been used primarily for adult education. One of its last elementary students was Brad Renfro, who was still enrolled here when he appeared opposite Susan Sarandon and Tommy Lee Jones in the 1994 John Grisham film, *The Client*. Renfro made several more movies, winning several acting awards, but died of an overdose in Los Angeles at age 25.



Have a look at the unusually broad house at 706 CHICKAMAUGA AVENUE, on the right; it dates to 1910, and was built as the original Lincoln Park Baptist Church. It's now a private residence.

Up ahead, at 726 CHICKAMAUGA, is a building that's a lone survivor of an urban cluster of stores that once constituted a "downtown" Lincoln Park. Once a grocery store (in the mid-20th century, the Chickamauga Market or G.W Spalding Groceries), sometimes combined with a restaurant, with residents upstairs, it now serves as an upholstery business. A century ago, several businesses were here at once, all gravitating toward the terminus of the Lincoln Park streetcar line. Until 1947, this is where it turned around and went back to town.



Across the tracks is LINCOLN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH, which has been on this site since they left the frame building at 706 in 1928, though the current complex began with a new auditorium in 1953, with subsequent additions.

As we approach Broadway, on the left, is FOUNTAIN LANES. A popular bowling alley built in 1961 maintains its distinctive long arch that still evokes New Frontier-era modernist architecture.



-- Turn left on to N. Broadway --



15. KENTSHYRS

<0.1 mile on right

Immediately on the right, the Kentshyrs is an early 1930s apartment building built, a little suddenly, after the demolition of the old Haynes mansion, a rambling Victorian house built by shoe magnate W.P. Haynes that became the focus of unwelcome national attention when it was the site of baffling locked-room murder of widow Lillie Haynes in 1928. It was never solved, and the house, depicted in newspaper stories across the country, was so infamous that the family decided the property would be easier to sell without it.

16A. OPTION #1 - LOOP AROUND EMORILAND & FAIRMONT BLVDS

0.1 mile ahead on right

Turn right on picturesque Emoriland Boulevard for a tour of early-20th century homes. Emoriland is named for the family of Isaac Emory, honoree of Emory Place, who owned considerable property on the north side.

Follow Emoriland Boulevard to Orlando Street (0.5 miles), turn right, and right again onto Fairmont Boulevard which leads back to Broadway.





16B. OPTION #2 - SHARP'S RIDGE MEMORIAL PARK

0.5 miles from Emoriland Blvd.

Continuing north on Broadway for 0.3 miles turn left on Ludlow (then left on Freemason Street, then right on Pembroke Avenue), which leads to Sharps Ridge Memorial Park. The long, linear ridgetop drive offers surprising views of downtown Knoxville. Sharps Ridge was an attraction even in the 1800s, when it was a destination for a quick hunting trip or a scout camp outing. A "skyline park," first proposed in the 1920s, finally came to fruition in 1943, when the city purchased part of it as a war memorial park. The first road along the ridgetop was completed the following year. Soon after the war, the privately owned parts of it attracted television and radio stations to build high antennas with regional reach. East Tennessee's first local television station, WROL-TV (later WATE) broadcast from here in 1953. Live shows with celebrity hosts often drew crowds to the ridgetop.

-- Return to N. Broadway and turn right --

Note: The creek we cross past Chickamauga Avenue is First Creek, which meanders as it follows the course of Broadway between Fountain City and downtown Knoxville.



17. HOWARD HOUSE

0.6 miles ahead on right

On the right is the Howard House, at 2921 Broadway. The 1910 craftsman-style bungalow was the subject of a preservationist dialogue in recent years. Designed by architect Charles Hayes for his brother, it was later home to Charlton Karns, prominent city manager and councilman. Later it was home to another city councilman, Paul Howard. It's among of the last of hundreds of homes that once stood on Broadway, which began going commercial in the mid-20th century.



18. EDGEWOOD AVENUE

0.1 miles ahead on left

The next intersection is Edgewood Avenue, which leads toward the studios used by WBIR-TV (on Bill Williams Avenue) for more than half a century, where populist politician-impresario Cas Walker broadcast his musical morning show, and where the iconic documentary series "Heartland" was produced. This corner on Broadway was also the site of a drugstore where, in the mid-1930s, fiddler Roy Acuff first encountered musician Clell Summey playing an unfamiliar new instrument. The Dobro became part of the sound that made Acuff famous. The drugstore building, on the southeast corner, was flattened for development in recent years.



19. BRANSON AVENUE

0.1 miles ahead on left

Branson Avenue, on the left, bears a name art historians would recognize. Lloyd Branson (1853-1925), Knoxville's first full-time professional artist, an influence on impressionist Catherine Wiley and abstract expressionist Beauford Delaney, never had a permanent home until he was approaching 70. He owned some land in this area, made some available for development, and built his own house. If you drive up Branson, it's the first one on the left. Branson probably lived here when he completed his well-known portrait of Sergeant Alvin York. Abandoned for years, it was recently renovated by Knox Heritage and occupied by a private owner.



20. FULTON HIGH SCHOOL

0.2 miles ahead on right

Fulton High School was established in 1951 as one of four new public high schools for white students to replace overcrowded Knoxville High. The other schools were given directional names--West, East, and South--but for the one on the north side, the city opted to honor inventor Weston Fulton, a former weatherman who became one of the most prominent businessmen in early 20th century Knoxville. Fulton, who had died in 1946, may have been appreciated most in North Knoxville as the leader of the Sharps Ridge Memorial Park initiative. Desegregated since the 1960s, Fulton High was the home school of Zaevion Dobson, the Fulton football player who tragically earned national praise, including a commendation from President Obama, in 2015 after he died while shielding friends from drive-by gunfire at a residence in Lonsdale.



21. ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

Behind Fulton High School

St. Mary's Hospital was built on Oak Hill in 1929 as East Tennessee's first Catholic hospital. The property had been donated by Daniel Dewine (1863-1927), a career saloonkeeper from an Irish family who had used his earnings to purchase old Oak Hill. A member of Holy Ghost Church, he wanted to help build a Catholic hospital as a memorial to his daughter who had died in 1924. Dewine himself died before it was finished. For over 80 years, St. Mary's--for most of its history run by nuns, many of whom lived on the property, notably early administrator Sister Mary Annunciata--was one of East Tennessee's leading hospitals, and the site of thousands of births. Its purposes served by other suburban hospitals, the property is in the early stages of redevelopment for city-government purposes, including the police department.

The KROGER shopping center (on the right on Broadway), built here in the 1950s, was built on what had been a pocket African American community called Mucktown. This Kroger, now Knoxville's oldest, developed a reputation for attracting eccentrics, and in the 1980s, became known, facetiously, as the Fellini Kroger.

Steep Cecil Avenue, at left, leads into North Hills, a 1920s development, and beyond, to Cherry Street in East Knoxville. Cecil, near Broadway, was once the site of Turner Park, a public park prepared by the German-immigrant Turn Verein society, and popular in the late Victorian period. By several accounts, it was the site of the first motion picture ever shown in Knoxville, in the mid-1890s.

23. OLD NORTH KNOXVILLE

0.6 miles ahead

Mostly on the right, but also including a section on the left, is the revived early 20th-century residential neighborhood known as **OLD NORTH**, which we passed a few minutes ago on its opposite side. It includes a mixture of large and small homes built for families associated with a wide variety of businesses, especially Brookside Mills, Southern Railway, and Knoxville General Hospital.

At Glenwood is **GREENLEE'S BICYCLE SHOP**; dating back to the 1890s in its original downtown location as a "bicycle hospital," it's Knoxville's oldest bike shop.

On the right, at 1323 N. Broadway, is **FOURTH UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**. (Knoxville hasn't had a Third Presbyterian since 1910, but Fourth kept its ordinal name.) Built in 1914 for a congregation founded earlier, it was the subject of a major renovation in the 1930s, and an educational addition in the 1950s. It houses an active congregation, but also hosts some well-known nonprofits, like Friends of Literacy and the well-known African American troupe Carpetbag Theatre.

On the left is **GREYSTONE** (second from top), one of Knoxville's most prominent Victorian houses. Originally it was the home of major industrialist Eldad Cicero Camp (1839-1920), a former Union officer. Notorious in his youth for killing former Confederate Col. Ashby in an 1868 gunfight, Camp got off on a self-defense plea and later became a millionaire. In 1890, he hired nationally prominent architect Alfred Mullett (1834-1890), especially noted for designing the palatial office building near the White House (now known as the Eisenhower Office Building), as well as buildings in New York. Greystone is Mullett's last known work. He committed suicide in Washington the same year Greystone was completed. Since 1960, it has been the headquarters of WATE-TV. Although it's been radically remodeled for television studios, several rooms at the front of the house are intact and well-kept as Victorian-style meeting rooms. The carriage house to the side also dates to 1890, and is the headquarters of the Community Design Center.

On the right is **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH** (third from top). Built in 1955, this structure is the most durable of the church's four locations. Founded in 1869 by German immigrants, it was for many years a German-language church, and center for the city's very lively German community. By the time they built this church, services were in English. It has a surprising distinction. In 1988, young Oklahoma songwriter Garth Brooks performed there for a meeting of the Knoxville Songwriters Club.

On the right is **ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH** (fourth from top), designed by Barber and McMurry and built in 1926. The church evolved from an older one called Church of the Epiphany, and had previously met in a nearby Victorian mansion. The building is modeled on an English parish church, its nave long with high ceilings but relatively narrow.

When we get just a bit closer to where we began the tour, we start to see downtown-style urban buildings, like the three-story brick building at 824, a commercial building that probably dates to around 1900, when this part of town got a lot of walking and streetcar traffic. Directly across the street, though, is the modernist **BROADWAY BAPTIST CHURCH** (fourth from bottom). After a 1965 fire destroyed the previous building, noted modernist architect Bruce McCarty designed this one, completed in 1968.

On the right is **ELKMONT EXCHANGE** (third from bottom), a brewpub open in late 2017, named for the historic Smokies retreat and with an unusual facade meant to evoke the mountains. The core building is an old 1930s factory associated with a different sort of carbonated beverage - an old Dr. Pepper bottling plant.

On the left of Broadway is a section, once considered part of old North Knoxville but known since the early 1970s as **FOURTH AND GILL**, noted for its modest-sized Victorian homes (second from bottom). It makes for a pleasant stroll, but its labyrinthine layout makes it a challenge for newcomers; it's easier to get in than out. It was home to a wide variety of Knoxvilleans, including popular former governor Bob Taylor, whose enormous house right at the intersection of Fourth and Gill was sometimes known as "the governor's mansion," although he lived here only after his term in office (an arsonist burned it down in the 1980s) and eccentric socialist novelist Albert Chavannes, whose home on Third is also gone.

Of special interest, much larger than anything else in the neighborhood and not as old, is **CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** (bottom), which sometimes hosts community events. Organized by the merger of two older churches, the major brick and stone edifice built between 1925 and 1927. The primary architect was R.H. Hunt of Chattanooga, already famous for Atlanta's "Tabernacle," and other large buildings.

-- At the traffic light, angle left on N. Central towards downtown --

Note: On the right you can see the eastern side of Emory Place. The brewpub Crafty Bastard is in part of the old Walla Walla Chewing Gum factory.

24. OLD KNOXVILLE HIGH SCHOOL & DOUGHBOY STATUE

0.1 miles ahead on left



On the left (as you approach Fifth Avenue) is the side of old KNOXVILLE HIGH SCHOOL. Built in 1910, it was a public high school for white students from all over town. (A series of black schools, known as Austin High or Colored High, were downtown or east of town, and no longer exist.) Among Knoxville High's thousands of alumni are James Agee, who made fun of the overcrowded school in some of his first published stories, and future Oscar-winner Patricia Neal. The 16-year-old actress, who had already astonished local audiences with her performances, had her "professional" debut in this building in July, 1942, in a rare Barter Theatre road production of *Thunder Rock*. Tony laureate Broadway star John Cullum was also an alum; here in the '40s, though, he was better known as a champion tennis player. The auditorium was used for numerous public speakers over the years, including Socialist presidential candidate Norman Thomas, who denounced the New Deal here in 1934.

The "DOUGHBOY STATUE" in front of the building honors soldiers lost in World War I, including many alumni of Knoxville High. General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing himself was on hand for its unveiling in 1922. For decades, it was a site of speeches and poetry readings on Memorial Day.

-- TOUR ENDS HERE. TO GET BACK TO STARTING POINT, TURN RIGHT HERE FROM N. CENTRAL ONTO FIFTH AVENUE AND GO 02 MILES TO N. GAY STREET --



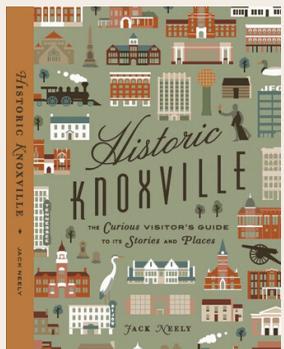
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