


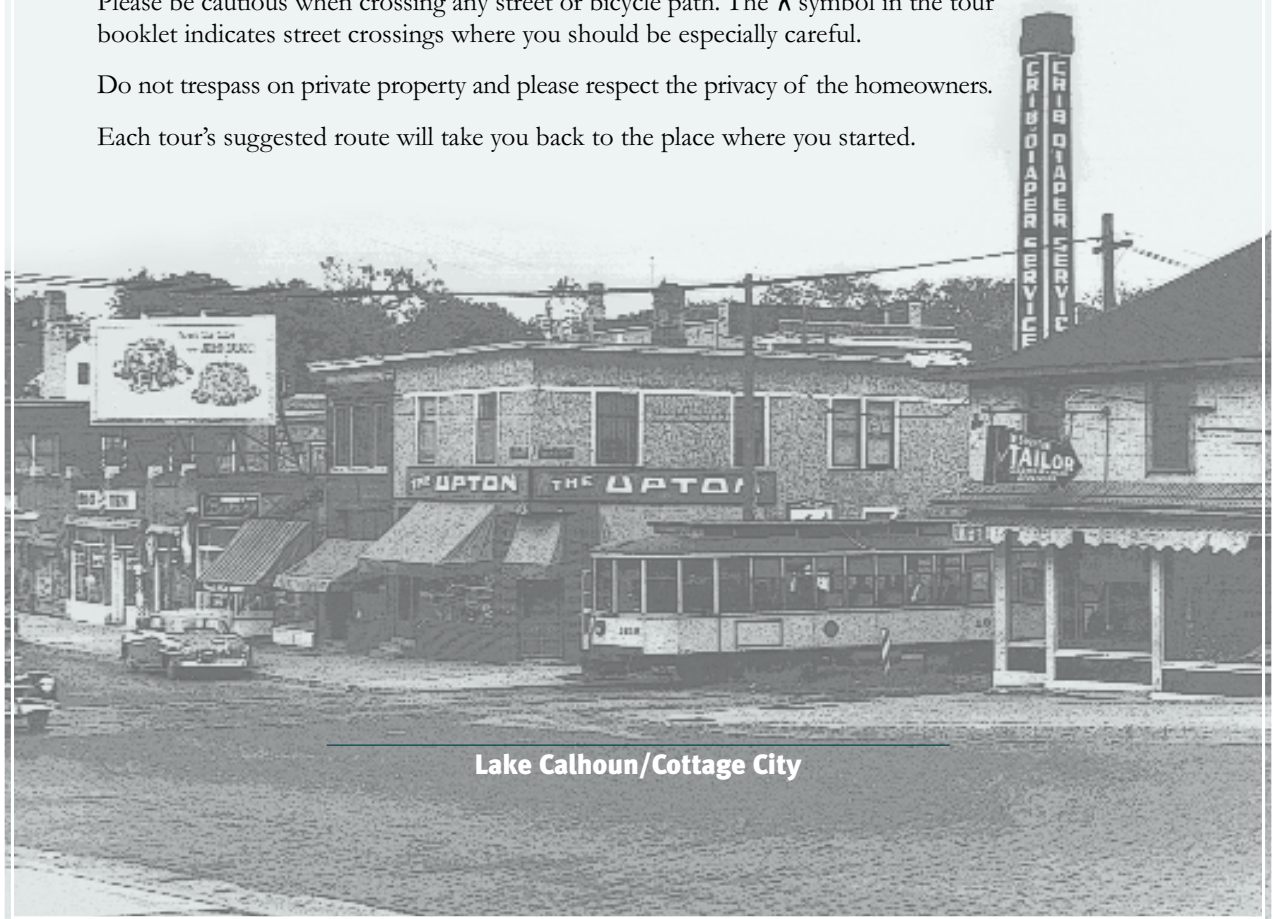
# Linden Hills Walking Tours

**S**troll the streets of Linden Hills and you will see historic locations, many that date from the nineteenth century, as well as buildings in a variety of architectural styles. As you walk along the shores of Lakes Calhoun and Harriet you will learn of the early activities that took place around these natural landmarks. On each tour you will get a glimpse of the pioneers who shaped the Lake Harriet District. The walking tours in this booklet highlight only a sample of the Linden Hills area's rich heritage. Many places, briefly mentioned here, are covered in greater detail in the book, *Down at the Lake: A Historical Portrait of Linden Hills and the Lake Harriet District* published by the Linden Hills History Study Group.

Please be cautious when crossing any street or bicycle path. The  symbol in the tour booklet indicates street crossings where you should be especially careful.

Do not trespass on private property and please respect the privacy of the homeowners.

Each tour's suggested route will take you back to the place where you started.



Lake Calhoun/Cottage City

Lake Calhoun/Cottage City

Tour length: 2½ miles

Start the tour opposite Thomas Beach (south side of West Calhoun Parkway and Upton Avenue) and walk east.

Bathers at Thomas Beach ▶



The Lake Calhoun and Cottage City walking tour includes some of the oldest remaining houses in Linden Hills, the location of the widow Hamilton's boarding house where Henry David Thoreau stayed during his 1861 visit, the sites of the Pond brothers' 1834 cabin and Cloud Man's village, as well as examples of Cottage City architecture.

In 1886 the Minneapolis Park Board began acquiring Lake Calhoun shoreline property piece-by-piece. The final section was purchased in 1909, but the wetlands at the southwest and northeast prevented full access and limited recreational value. Park Superintendent Theodore Wirth ordered dredging, which was completed in 1925. The fill material removed from the bottom of Lake Calhoun was used to create most of the lake's level shore area, including Thomas Beach and the west and south parkways.<sup>1</sup> By 1923 this portion of parkway was open to vehicular traffic, and in 1925 Thomas Beach was officially opened.



▲ Storm sewer excavation at Lake Calhoun

3766 West Calhoun Parkway

The age of this house is debated by local historians. Ezra Hamilton purchased Daniel Eaton Dow's ninety-acre claim, which included this property, in 1859. The oldest portion of the house is a later example of Greek Revival style that was fashionable from approximately 1820 to 1860. Greek Revival was the first national architectural style and spread from the east coast across the United States via pattern books that allowed carpenters to produce houses resembling Greek temples.

3766 W. Calhoun Pkwy. ▶



Ezra Hamilton, who married Sarah Landson (or Laudson) in 1861, was a carpenter and could have constructed the house, but he spent most of the early 1860s participating in the Civil War and sold this property soon after his discharge in 1866. Early records are cloudy, but do not support residency for Ezra or Sarah at this address or improvement to these lots during that period. Another possible builder was Eugene Sherwood who purchased the property in 1885 and established residency.<sup>2</sup>

Continue east along Calhoun Parkway.

Newspaper advertisement for May's Restaurant ▶



The western corner of Sheridan Avenue and West Calhoun Parkway was the former site of May's Dinner House. Edgar May (1829-1901) came to Minneapolis in 1874. He established his catering business on Nicollet Avenue and bought land in Cottage City in 1887. May's son Fred later joined him in the catering business. At some point, perhaps around 1910, Fred and his wife Wilhelmina started offering Sunday dinners at their house on Sheridan Avenue. The establishment was recalled in Fred's obituary in the *Minneapolis Star* on August 28, 1951, as "a mecca for Minneapolis citizens seeking an outing and dinner on the south shore at Lake Calhoun." The house was razed in 1950.

Lake Calhoun/Cottage City

**3810-3826 West Calhoun Parkway.**

As you look up at the rise, imagine Elizabeth Hamilton's boarding house, where writer Henry David Thoreau and Horace Mann, Jr. stayed during their 1861 visit to Lake Calhoun. During his stay, Thoreau swam in Lake Calhoun, studied the local flora and fauna, and wrote about the area in his diary. He noted on June 11 that he had finally found specimens of the wild crabapple tree. He recalled that he had never seen the crabapple until May 1861, when he viewed the trees from a train window while traveling through Michigan. Once he reached St. Anthony Falls, he was told that it was too far north for the crabapple to grow: "Nevertheless I succeeded in finding it about eight miles west of the falls; touched it and smelled it and secured a lingering corymb of flowers for my herbarium."<sup>3</sup>

Twenty-three years later, in 1884, Andreas and Clara Ueland bought this property. In 1890 they built their house on this same rise. Andreas was a lawyer and a judge. Clara, a community activist, was a driving force in the Minneapolis school system. She was also a nationally recognized suffragette. The three-acre Ueland estate was located at the corner of West Calhoun Parkway, west of Richfield Road.

**▲ Before you reach the traffic light at Richfield Road, cross to the lake side pedestrian path and continue east along Lake Calhoun.**

The parking lot to the right of the bicycle path is part of the earlier route of Lake Calhoun Parkway. Until the late 1970s, two roads ran in parallel along this section of the lake between William Berry Parkway and Thirty-sixth Street West. This part of the parkway was closed, and all vehicular traffic now uses Richfield Road.

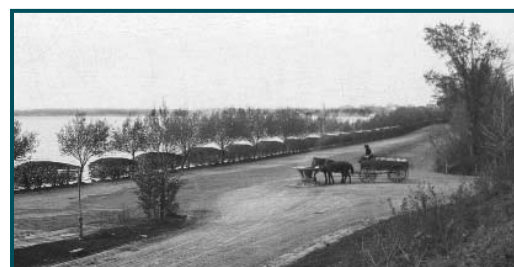
Richfield Road was the wagon road that went through the neighborhood and is the oldest street in the Linden Hills. It was named for the town of Richfield and was the connection between Minneapolis and Richfield Township. This four-block stretch of road, which ends at Fortieth Street, is all that remains of the original thoroughfare.

Across Richfield Road is the stream that has been re-established by the Park Board to connect Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet. You will get a closer view of the stream on your return trip.

Cloud Man's agricultural village, Eatonville (1831-1839), extended from this area all the way to present-day Thirty-sixth Street and included the land that is now Lakewood Cemetery. Chief Cloud Man was a member of the Mdewankanton band of the Dakota Nation. Farther along (to the right of the path), nestled behind a cedar tree, is a boulder with a bronze marker that memorializes the Dakota who inhabited this region prior to the treaties of 1851. The Daughters of the American Colonists dedicated the marker in 1930.



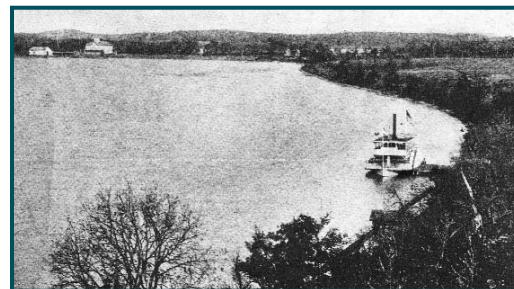
◀ 3820 W. Calhoun Pkwy., ca. 1900; demolished in 1953



▲ Richfield Road at W. 36th St., ca. 1900



▲ East shore of Lake Calhoun, ca. 1873



▲ The Steamer Hattie, Lake Calhoun, ca. 1886

**Lake Calhoun/Cottage City**



The Lakewood Cemetery streetcar station was located between William Berry Road and Thirty-sixth Street, near the present-day northern terminus of the streetcar line. A gate marks the former entrance to Lakewood Cemetery. The Como Harriet Streetcar Line, rebuilt from 1971 to 1974, parallels the old track. From 1889 to 1954, the track continued over a bridge across Thirty-sixth Street.

As you follow the path, Lakewood Cemetery is on your right. After Eatonville was abandoned, this land eventually became part of Lyndale Farm, owned by Colonel William King. In 1871 Lakewood Cemetery was founded. Lakewood is the final resting-place for many city founders and prominent Minneapolis families.

Inside the cemetery fence near Thirty-sixth Street, you can see the Flour Mill Explosion Monument. This prominent obelisk was dedicated to the eighteen workers who were killed on May 2, 1878, when the Washburn “A” Mill exploded.

About one-half block north of Thirty-sixth Street is a boulder with a 1908 bronze marker identifying the site of the cabin built by Samuel and Gideon Pond in 1834. The Pond brothers were missionaries to the Dakota at Eatonville. The cabin was located up the hill where St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church now stands. Two imposing structures preceded St. Mary’s on this site. In 1877 Colonel William King built a pavilion, which later was remodeled into the Lyndale Hotel. From 1879 the steam-operated Motor Line, the predecessor to the electric streetcar, served the hotel. The Motor Line from downtown ran along the terraced hillside and in 1880 continued across Thirty-sixth Street to Lake Harriet and beyond. North of the church are the remains of the streetcar waiting station. Years after the hotel was destroyed by fire, Frank B. Forman built a mansion on the site. The estate was razed in 1957, and the following year St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church was constructed.

Look across the lake and you will see the water tower and the clubhouse of the Minnekahda Club. The Minnekahda Club, founded in 1898, was one of the stops when steam-powered launches plied Lake Calhoun. The southern portion of the golf course is located in Linden Hills.

**Return on the Lake Calhoun path to the intersection of West Lake Calhoun Parkway and Richfield Road.**

Across Richfield Road you will see William Berry Park and Parkway. William Berry was the first full-time superintendent of the Minneapolis Park System. A large stone on the west side of William Berry Parkway displays a plaque that pays tribute to Superintendent Berry.

**Cross West Calhoun Parkway.**



▲ Lakewood Cemetery west entrance and streetcar station, ca. 1900

◀ Cemetery monument memorializing the 1878 flour mill explosion in the Mill District of Minneapolis

Marker for cabin built by missionaries Samuel and Gideon Pond in 1834 ▼



▲ Motor Line passing the Lake Calhoun pavilion, ca. 1880

**3830 Richfield Road.**

This is where the Ueland family tennis court was located. Author Brenda Ueland played in the woods across the street as a child. In 1890 the Uelands platted their three acres west of Richfield Road as Interlachen Terrace. Interlachen, “between the lakes,” was the original name for William Berry Park.

**3832 Richfield Road.**

Each of the Uelands’ three oldest sons built a house on Richfield Road in the area their family referred to as the “pasture.” Sigurd Ueland, a lawyer, built this two-story stucco house designed by architects Walter Wheeler and D. R. McEnary in 1926.

**3846 Richfield Road.**

In 1925 Rolf Ueland, also a lawyer, selected the firm of Long and Thorshov to design his classic Tudor-style house. It stayed in the Ueland family until 1988.

**3850 Richfield Road.**

Arnulf Ueland, a banker, had Carl B. Stravs design his stucco house in 1925.

 **Cross Thirty-ninth Street at the Sheridan Avenue traffic signal and walk back to Richfield Road.**

Residences have replaced several small commercial operations that formerly stood on the 3900 block of Richfield Road. These included an 1890 fruit stand at 3918 and a store, built in 1889, at 3944 Richfield Road.

**When you reach Fortieth Street, turn right.**

**2504 West Fortieth Street.**

Architect Lowell Lamoreaux designed this Swiss chalet-style house in 1905. Beginning in the fall of 1906, and for over twenty years, Miss Covell taught private kindergarten classes in this house.

**2521 Fortieth Street.**

The 1902 Cummer Cottage is similar in style to the modest one-story houses that were built in the Cottage City Addition north of Fortieth Street. Carriage maker Oswald Cummer built this cottage and several other residences in the area.

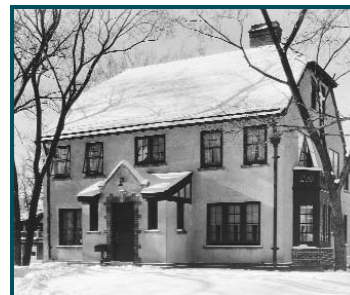
**2617 West Fortieth Street.**

Contractor Loren L. Chadwick built three cottages on adjacent lots in 1902 for \$300 each. One of them was torn down, and in 1972 these two were joined. They are considered classic examples of turn-of-the-century cottage architecture in the Minneapolis Lake District. The tiny cottages were designed with screened porches to take advantage of the breeze from the nearby lakes.

The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission designated the mirror-image Chadwick Cottages as a local landmark for their architectural design and illustration of development in Minneapolis.

**2627 West Fortieth Street.**

Architect Glenn L. Saxton designed this one-and-a-half story 1910 Craftsman-style bungalow for owner D. H. Duryea. Saxton also designed the 1902 Linden Hills Congregational Church building located two blocks south on Upton Avenue and Forty-second Street. He promoted his bungalow designs by publishing pattern books.



▲ 3850 Richfield Rd., ca. 1940



▲ Interior, 3850 Richfield Rd., ca. 1940



◀ 2504 W. 40th St., ca. 1905



◀ 2617 W. 40th St., ca. 1995

**Lake Calhoun/Cottage City**

Bungalows were very popular throughout this country in the early decades of the twentieth century. They were built in many architectural styles including Greek Revival and Spanish Mission, but are now most commonly identified with the Craftsman style that was an American interpretation of the Arts and Crafts movement. The Craftsman style rejected heavy ornamentation and favored straightforward expression of design through naturally finished native materials. This house exhibits many Craftsman characteristics, including a low-pitched roof with wide eaves and exposed rafter tails. The rounded rafter ends are not typical of the Craftsman style.



▲ 2627  
W. 40th St.

**2712 West Fortieth Street.**

As he advanced through the ranks at the Pillsbury Mills to become its general superintendent, Max A. Lehmann decided that a larger house was in order. The residence that he had built in 1904 was moved around the corner to a lot at 3935 Upton, where it stands today. Moving houses was a common practice at the time and several Linden Hills homes had former addresses. To replace the 1904 house, Lehmann had this Tudor Revival-style house built in 1913. Tudor Revival is patterned after medieval buildings and was popular from 1890-1940. The style features steeply pitched roofs (usually with side gables), decorative half-timbering in the upper stories, and tall multi-paned windows.<sup>4</sup>

**2817 West Fortieth Street.**

Charles A. Greenwood, who worked for a printing and lithography company, purchased this house from the builder C. S. Talbert. The concrete block and frame house with the Palladian-style window on the second floor was built in 1904. A central arched window flanked by two smaller rectangular windows characterizes Palladian-style windows. They are named for Andrea Palladio, the sixteenth century Italian architect.

**2914 West Fortieth Street.**

William Ignatius Nolan and family moved into this house, built in 1902, in 1906. Nolan was a lecturer on the traveling Chautauqua circuit from 1900 to 1925. He was also elected to the Minnesota legislature, was lieutenant governor for two terms, and served Congress from 1929 to 1933. William and his wife Matea had nine children, all daughters.

Long-time residents recall that in the early 1900s Fortieth Street ended just below the Nolan house in what was referred to as “Fern Valley.” Two streams ran through Fern Valley, and a low wooden bridge allowed passage over the streams. Peat bog fires plagued this area. Fire control was virtually impossible because the peat fires were deep and difficult to extinguish. Fires were rumored to have been started by lightning and mischievous neighborhood children.

The area between Fortieth Street and Lake Calhoun is a unique part of Linden Hills called Cottage City. The land between Lakes Calhoun and Harriet was an attractive retreat from the often-grimy urban Minneapolis at the turn of the century. The streetcar provided easy access from downtown. Louis Menage considered these advantages when he had the property he owned north of Fortieth Street platted as Cottage City in 1883. The unusually small



2817  
W. 40th St. ▶

lot size of typically twenty-five feet wide by 125 feet deep was intended to entice working class families to build near the lake. There were several cottages constructed earlier, but most of the modest homes were built after 1900.

Many of these cottages remain, but most are obscured by additions. Cottage City is bounded by Fortieth Street, Lake Calhoun, Xerxes Avenue, Richfield Road, and the Interlachen Terrace addition.

**Reverse your direction on Fortieth Street. Walk east to Upton Avenue and turn left. Continue north on Upton and you will see the house that was the Cottage City Grocery at 3924 Upton. Turn right on Thirty-ninth Street, walk one block to Thomas, and turn left, crossing Thirty-ninth Street.**

Thomas Avenue between Thirty-ninth and Thirty-eighth Streets is one of the best places to see examples of typical early Cottage City homes, many retaining much of their original appearance. The 3900 block of Sheridan also has many former cottages.

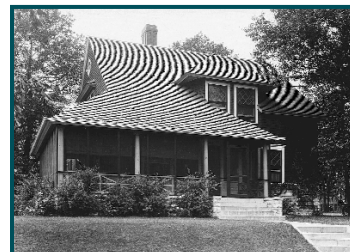
#### 3721 Thomas Avenue.

In 1891 Asa Barney built this two-story twenty-by-twenty-four-foot wooden frame house. The plumbing was installed in 1903 and electricity in 1920. A garage was added in 1922, and extensive renovations have since been made. Barney was a lineman for the Northwestern Telephone Exchange.

**After passing the house at 3766 West Calhoun Parkway, return to Thomas Beach where the tour began.**



▲ Before walking north on Thomas, notice the Craftsman-style fourplex at 3906 Thomas Ave., built 1914



◀ 3844  
Thomas Ave.,  
built 1902



◀ 3841  
Thomas Ave.,  
built 1911



◀ 3817  
Thomas Ave.,  
built 1904

1. Theodore Wirth, *Minneapolis Park System, 1883-1944* (Minneapolis: Harrison and Smith, 1945), 121, 84.
2. Minneapolis permit index card for 3766 W. Calhoun Parkway. Hennepin County Deed Book Q, page 97. Hennepin County Mortgage Book P, page 445. Hopkins Historical Society for information on Daniel E. Dow. Minneapolis Census Records, 1865. Hennepin County Deeds 13, page 228. Hennepin County Deeds 11, page 353. Warranty Deed Book 164, page 571, May 4, 1885. To see further documentation from researchers, see Minneapolis Public Library, Minneapolis Collection, vertical file: Biography: Hamilton, Ezra.
3. Henry David Thoreau, "Wild Apples," *The Atlantic Monthly*, November 1862 Vol. X, No. LXI, 517-518.
4. Linden Hills House Tour 1999, research by Peter Sussman.

Note: During the years between 1927 and 1957, the Confer Real Estate Company had photographs taken of homes that were used to promote their properties. A number of these photos were used to illustrate this walking tour. The Hennepin History Museum holds this impressive collection.