

Pittsburgh Steps Walking Tours – Point Breeze

Stately Homes, Magnificent Trees, and a Nod to Robert Frost

According to Pittsburgh Beautiful, “Many large and stately homes occupy the streets of this stately Pittsburgh neighborhood, known for its beautiful foliage and quiet neighborhoods.” Famous families settled here – the Fricks, Mellons, Scaifes, and Hillmans. Today, Point Breeze is home to families with young children, whom I found playing together in yards and on the sidewalks on the beautiful summer day I first took this walk. Learn more about Point Breeze here. <https://www.pittsburghbeautiful.com/pittsburgh-neighborhoods/point-breeze/>

The neighborhood lived up to its billing. You will, indeed, walk along streets lined with magnificent oaks, sycamores, and grand homes. You’ll encounter four sets of steps, with a total of 156 steps.

This short walking tour is 1.2 miles long and will take you less than 45 minutes. The map accompanying this tour displays the location of the four sets of steps you will encounter. This tour is current as of May 2023.

Speaking of stately, I started this tour by parking in front of Saint Bede School, located near the intersection of Edgerton Avenue and S. Dallas Avenue. It’s an impressive structure that was built in 1926. Its school bell rings to this day.



St. Bede School

Proceed north from the intersection of S. Dallas Avenue and Edgerton Avenue. The Edgerton Avenue steps appear soon on your left. These 30 steps



Edgerton Ave. Steps from S. Dallas to Glen Arden

were built in 1933, making them older than most of the steps you encounter on these tours. The steps lead up to Glen Arden Drive, a street that accurately reflects the description of the neighborhood outlined by Pittsburgh Beautiful. Turn left on Glen Arden Drive and then right on Edgerton Avenue. Follow Edgerton Avenue until it ends at S. Linden Avenue.

Maps suggest that Edgerton Avenue continues here and becomes a set of steps. But Edgerton clearly ended, and what

appeared to be two driveways were all I saw across S. Linden. Perhaps the one to the right was an old walkway to the steps? Or was it a driveway to the home it passed closely by? Maybe the one to the left was the path?



Edgerton Ave. Steps from S. Linden to Hastings

Unlike Frost's narrator, I took neither and intuitively turned right on S. Linden, then left on Reynolds Street, and then left on Lacy Way. Sure enough, I found the 27 Edgerton Avenue steps that connect S. Linden Avenue (sort of) and Hastings Street. You can take the steps to the left and see the driveway you chose not to take, and then walk back down the steps to Hastings Street.

Turn left on Hastings Street and left again on Fennimore Street. Turn left when you reach S. Linden Avenue and then turn right on Linden Lane. At the end of Linden Lane you will descend 42 steps, built in 1947, that lead



Linden Lane Steps

to Wilkins Avenue. Turn left on Wilkins Avenue. Just after you pass Worth Street on your right, you will find another set of steps leading up the hill to your left. These 57 steps are older



Steps from Wilkins Ave. to Glen Arden Drive

than the Edgerton steps, having been built in 1930. They'll lead to Glen Arden Drive, where you will turn right. Follow Glen Arden

Drive until you see the Edgerton Avenue steps to your right. Descend them to return to your starting point.

Well, that was a short walk. What to do now, you might ask. Before leaving Point Breeze, why not explore two reminders of one of Pittsburgh's principal families. Just a few blocks away stands Clayton, the lovingly restored, 23-room mansion of the Henry Clay Frick family from 1882 to 1905. As business partners

in 1892, Frick and Andrew Carnegie formed Carnegie Steel Company, the primary forerunner to United States Steel. Also nearby is Frick Park, a legacy of Mr. Frick. Known as Pittsburgh's woodland park, at 644 acres it is the city's largest park. It offers an extensive trail system if your short sojourn exploring Pont Breeze's steps has you wanting for more walking. Learn more about Frick Park and Clayton here <https://www.pittsburghparks.org/frick-park> and <https://www.thefrickpittsburgh.org/clayton>.