

Pittsburgh Steps Walking Tours – East Hills

Steep Steps and Plenty of Turns and Ups and Downs

East Hills, according to the Pittsburgh Beautiful website, “has an elusive and hard-to-find history.” A tactful accounting? Seems so, for I didn’t spot a single site of historical interest on my walking tour. The East Hills Steps Walking Tour is a neighborhood walk that features streets that resemble an older suburb and streets that seem like they belong in remote mountain towns. You can learn more about East Hills here.

<https://www.pittsburghbeautiful.com/2020/01/29/east-hills/>

This tour includes five staircases, with a total of 738 steps.

The walk is 2.2 miles long and can be completed in an hour and a quarter. While not one of my longer tours, the East Hills walking tour is rigorous, owing to steep climbs. The tour is current as of March 2024.



Dornbush Street Steps

The best place to start this tour is at the intersection of Frankstown Road (Route 380) and Dornbush Street. I found convenient street parking on Frankstown Road.

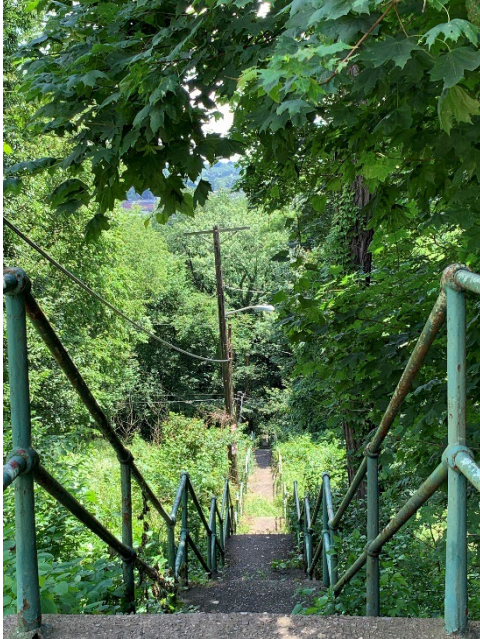
Begin your walk on Dornbush Street. After you cross Bricelyn Street you will start up the 273 Dornbush Street steps, built in 1950. A woman I talked to at the base of the steps asked, “Are you going to walk up that street?! I’ve lived here twenty-seven years and

I’ve never walked up there!” Fair enough; it’s the second steepest street in Pittsburgh, with a 32 percent grade. On my way up the steps I noticed an attractive home with its owner sitting on the front porch. I remarked on



Nimick Place Steps

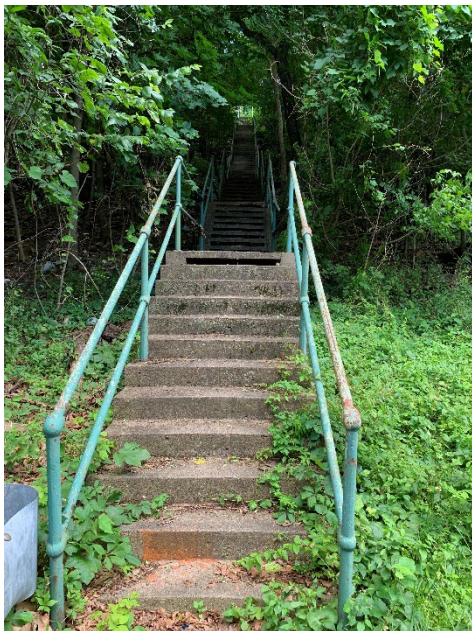
how nice a setting it is, and he invited me in to show me all the work he was doing to improve the home. A proud homeowner, for sure!



Inglenook Place Steps

Turn right on Oakwood Street. Just past Haverhill Street, which bears to the right, you will find steps that lead from Oakwood Street up to Haverhill Street. These 31 steps were built in 1949. Climb up these steps and walk up Haverhill Street.

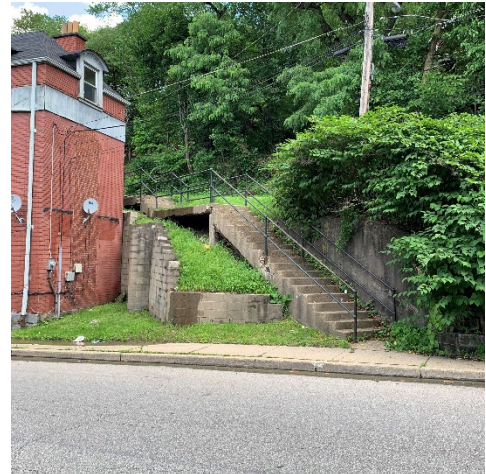
At the end of Haverhill Street you will find a set of 109 steps, built in 1949, that lead up to Singer Place. As with the Nimick Place steps, these steps offer a pleasant climb through the woods.



Steps from Haverhill Street to Singer Place

At the end of Dornbush Street turn right on Calistoga Street. Then turn right on Tokay Street, turn left on Maplewood Avenue, and then right on Nimick Place. Turn left on Fahnstock Avenue and right again on Nimick Place. The Nimick Place steps start where Sickles Street crosses Nimick Place. Descend these 124 steps, which were built in 1949, to Singer Place. The steps are quite pleasant, with nice woods on the right, a grassy field on the left, and Pittsburgh's skyline in the distance.

Climb back up the Nimick Place steps and turn left on Sickles Street. Proceed to Inglenook Place, turn left, and descend the 201 Inglenook Place steps. This long set of steps was built in 1944 and leads to Oakwood Street, the border with the Homewood neighborhood.



Haverhill Street Steps

Except for descending the Dornbush Street steps, this completes the stairways in this walking tour. To return to your starting point, turn left on Singer Place and then turn right on Haverhill Street. When you reach Nimick Place, turn left. Turn left at Fahnstock Avenue, turn right on Nimick Place, and then left on Maplewood Avenue. When you reach Tokay Street turn right, then left on Calistoga Street, and then left to descend Dornbush

Street. As mentioned at the outset, you will notice the extremes of suburban streets and roads that seem to belong in remote mountain towns. And you will be glad you are now *descending* rather than *ascending* Pittsburgh's second steepest street.



The Dream BBQ

And here's another thing you can be glad about. You're just three minutes away from The Dream BBQ, located at 7600 North Braddock Street. As I devoured outstanding ribs, yams, and baked beans, delivered with a generous smile and an "Enjoy, Babe," I knew I was livin' the dream at Dream's.



Livin' the Dream at Dream's