


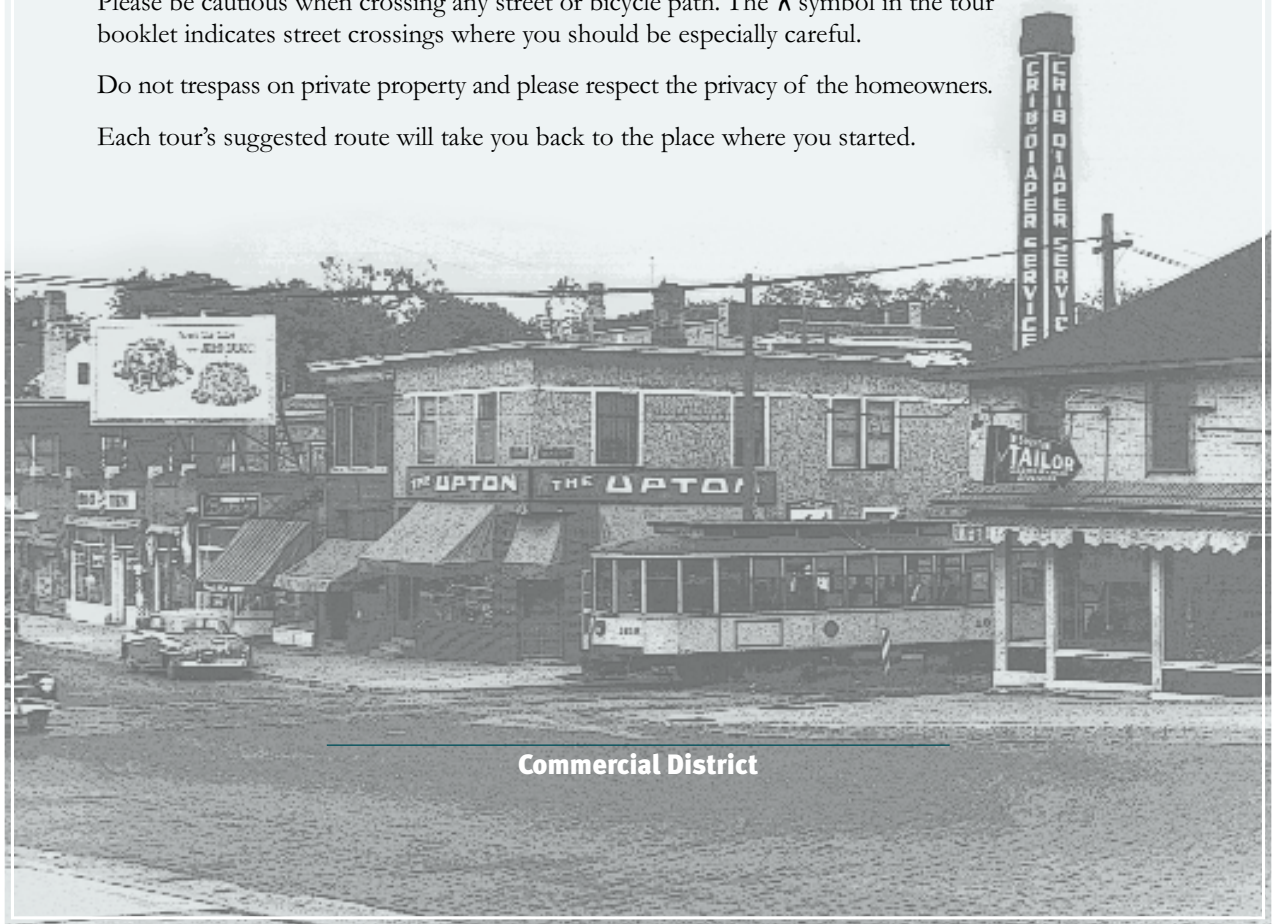
Linden Hills Walking Tours

Stroll 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.



Commercial District

Commercial District

Tour length: 1 mile

Start the tour on Forty-fourth Street, just west of Upton Avenue.

In the early years, Linden Hills residents knew the Forty-third and Upton business district as “The Loop.” The source of the name was the streetcar line, which terminated in a circular section of track east of Upton Avenue. The tracks were extended west in 1905, but the loop continued to be used as a turnaround until 1939. The streetcar line was an important factor in the commercial success of the business district. Many residents of Linden Hills, the Fulton neighborhood, and the village of Morningside used it as a primary destination for shopping, worship, and cultural activities.

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church - 2914 West Forty-fourth Street.

Before St. Thomas Church was built, this was the site of Frank Fletcher’s estate. Fletcher, an insurance agent, owned several lots on this block and built a large house in 1900. The estate included an elaborate garden that was featured in the November 1902 *Western Architect* magazine. Some years later it was transformed into a Japanese garden. The *Minneapolis Journal* (August 25, 1913) featured Fletcher’s “Temple Garden.” The article noted that the gardener, Yamado Baske of Japan, worked under the direction of renowned Minneapolis designer John S. Bradstreet. The grounds included a rustic bridge, bronze and stone lanterns, a stream of water trickling among the stones, and a Buddha sitting beneath arched cedars. In 1923 Fletcher sold the property to St. Thomas Church.

In 1924 architect Joseph V. Vanderbilt, a neighborhood resident and St. Thomas parishioner, designed an elaborate church campus in the Italian Romanesque style. The church and the school building, completed on Christmas Day 1925, were only the first stage of Vanderbilt’s plan. The church building was intended to become an auditorium after a “permanent” church, much grander in scale and architectural detail, could be built facing Upton Avenue at Forty-fourth Street. A second school building, in the mirror image of the first, was envisioned for the west side of the auditorium.

The former Fletcher mansion, located just east of the school, was to be remodeled into a rectory. A convent was planned where the lower parking lot is today.¹ The depression and World War II postponed major improvements, and by 1949 five additional Roman Catholic churches had been built in the area, limiting St. Thomas’s growth potential.² Today the church and school buildings remain, but the rest of Vanderbilt’s original plans were never carried out.

The Fletcher mansion was demolished in 1940. New parish offices, a convent, and rectory were added in 1958. The church was extensively enlarged in 1966 and further improvements have been underway since 1995.

Lakewest Tower Apartments - 2800 West Forty-fourth Street

A cottage occupied this hilltop in 1898. A larger St. Thomas Church would have faced Upton Avenue at this location if the original plans had been implemented. Instead, a filling station was built on this corner in 1926. The Phillips 66 station on this site was demolished in 1971 and in 1972 the apartment building was constructed.

Walk east along Forty-fourth Street to Upton Avenue.



◀ The Frank Fletcher estate and original garden, ca. 1902



▲ Construction at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, ca. 1925

Commercial District

Dome at
Lake Harriet
Spiritual
Community ►



Lake Harriet Spiritual Community - 4401 Upton Avenue.

In 1915 Lake Harriet Methodist Episcopal Church hired the firm of Fulton and Butler of Uniontown, Pennsylvania to design this Neoclassical-style church. The structure replaced a 1907 building that the congregation had outgrown. By 1953 the Methodist congregation, now known as Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, built a new house of worship at 4901 Chownen Avenue and sold this building to the First Divine Science Church. Lake Harriet Spiritual Community now occupies this edifice with its distinctive silver dome.

Building permits, city directories, and advertisements provide a historical record of businesses housed in commercial properties. The list of Linden Hills businesses below is not comprehensive, but is intended to give a sampling of the retail and service enterprises that have existed in the Forty-third and Upton commercial district from the time it was first established until approximately 1980. The dates cited indicate that the business was present in the year(s) noted and possibly before or after that time.

Cross to the northeast corner of Forty-fourth and Upton.

Parking lot and patio (Sebastian Joe's Ice Cream Café) - 4353-4323 Upton Avenue.

1930–Williams's gas station; 1950–Brown's Tydol Service; 1970-1980–Fotomat booth.

Sebastian Joe's Ice Cream Café - 4321 Upton Avenue.

1908–E. C. O'Brien, milliner; 1920-1940–Charlie Toy's Laundry; 1960-64–Pizza Pantry; 1970-78–Big B Pizza; 1980–Lake Harriet Pizza.

The Bibelot Shop - 4315 Upton Avenue.

1908-1920–confectioner's shop with a series of different owners; 1930–W. S. Casebolt's sandwich shop; 1960-1970–White Way Cleaners and Launderers.

The alley between 4315 and 4313 Upton was the right-of-way for the streetcar line. Two sets of tracks, one for each direction, crossed Upton at this point. The cars stopped before crossing Upton to let passengers board or depart. To the east, toward Lake Harriet, was the loop of track that gave the district its nickname.

Between 1907 and 1932, Linden Hills residents Julia and Henry Ebert, together with their sons Lloyd and Leslie, built the block of stores stretching from 4313-01 Upton.

Creative Kidstuff - 4313 Upton Avenue.

1930-1950–Dentist Frank O'Donnell; 1940-1950–The Upton Five to Dollar Variety Store; 1970–Sample Rack women's clothing.

Creative "Artzy" Kidstuff - 4311 Upton Avenue.

1908–Elizabeth Coyle, milliner; 1930–C. B. Taylor, Realtor; 1940-1950–Mrs. J. S. Holden, milliner; 1960–B. M. Wacholtz, Investment Inc.

Creative "Little" Kidstuff - 4309 Upton Avenue.

1908–Mrs. M. E. Milton, hardware; 1930-1940–Manning Brothers Bakery; 1960-1970–Hollywood Upholstering; 1970–Ritz Cleaners.

Linden Hills Meats & Deli - 4307 Upton Avenue.

For most of its existence, this storefront has housed a meat market. 1928-1930–Ruedy's Cash Meat Market; 1932–Premier Cash Market; 1940-1970–Lippka's Meats.



▲ Mid-block streetcar crossing between 43rd and 44th on Upton Ave. looking east, ca. 1925



▲ One of the last streetcar runs before the system was abandoned in 1954 and the tracks removed

Commercial District

Attorney Frank Rahn - 4305 Upton Avenue.

1930-1950—Harriet Barber Shop; 1960-1970—Linden Hills Barber Shop.

Kenwood Cyclery - 4303 Upton Avenue.

1930—Warren Stores, Inc., grocery; 1940—National Tea groceries and meats; 1950—Linden Hills Grocery; 1960—Linden Hills Bakery. Linden Hills Co-op was founded here in 1976 and moved across the street in 1979.

Garden Sampler - 4301 Upton Avenue.

From 1931 to 1964, this was the site of System Drug. Former employee Stanley Veker recalls that owner A. C. MacInnes operated a soda fountain where people gathered for refreshments and conversation. Veker worked his way through college (1938-1943) delivering goods to the neighborhood in a Model A, which sported a System Drug advertisement. When he graduated from dental school, Veker joined dentist Charles Hansen’s practice across the street. In 1957 Veker built the dental office at 3925 West Forty-fourth Street in Morningside where he worked until his retirement.

Around 1910 there was police kiosk located at the corner of Forty-third and Upton. Neighborhood tradition holds that the kiosk was built to help stop a rash of bank robberies that plagued Minneapolis at the time.

Cross West Forty-third Street and turn east toward Lake Harriet.

Kent Here for Hair/Drs. Ramsey, Reinhold & Hinke, DDS - 4289 Sheridan Avenue.

This building was built in 1913 for Lake Harriet State Bank. 1921—Satterlee Printing Company; 1950—Spring Realty Company.

The firm of Downs and Eads designed the three buildings from 2732 to 2720 West Forty-third Street. Each building is distinct, but they all have intricate brick detailing and are accented in some places by terra-cotta or tile inlays. The structure with the addresses 2732-2728 was built in 1915 for the Tri-State Telephone and Telegraph Company. This building is now the site of three storefronts and a place of worship.

Solomon’s Porch - 2732 West Forty-third Street.

1930—Harriet Laundry; 1940—Spring Realty Company, Dentist Robert Olstad; 1950—Rodange Studio millinery; 1960—Stone Brothers Realty/Insurance.

Coffee & Tea Ltd. - 2730 West Forty-third Street.

1920—Barney Anderson’s jewelry store; 1930—Modern Cleaners and Dyers, Mrs. Emma Patterson’s gift shop; 1950—Lake Harriet Shoe Shop.

Daughters and Sons - 2728 West Forty-third Street.

1930—Anna Boyle’s delicatessen; 1940—Otto Roemhild’s shoe repair; 1950—Linden Hills Restaurant, 1960—Linden Hills Café.

Mekong Kafe - 2726 West Forty-third Street.

1940—Tailor Jacob Jamig, W.C. Hermann’s watch repair; 1950—Evans Cleaners and Tailors; 1960—Joe’s Cleaners and Tailors.

TEA2 Architects/D’Amico and Sons - 2724 West Forty-third Street.

Linden Hills’s residents initially opposed a fire station, but public opinion changed and in May of 1914, this became the home of Fire Engine Company No. 28. It was also designed by Downs and Eads and served the community for seventy-nine years until



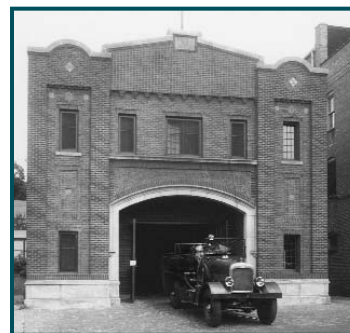
▲ W. 43rd St. looking east across Upton Ave., ca. 1940. System Drug is on the southeast corner



◀ Spring Realty in the former Lake Harriet Bank building, ca. 1940



◀ Terra-cotta inlays on the upper story at 2732 W. 43rd. St.



◀ Fire Station No. 28, 1936

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Lake Harriet Masonic Lodge, formerly the Lake Harriet Commercial Club, ca. 1926 ▶



Delivery wagon for Philpott Baily Transfer, ca. 1915 ▶



▲ Streetcar turnaround loop. The houses in the background are on W. 43rd. St. near Linden Hills Blvd., ca. 1905

Linden Hills Congregational Church, ca. 1905 ▶



a new station was built at Fiftieth and Upton in 1993. The building renovation by TEA₂ received a Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission award. The exhibit, “A Historical Portrait of Linden Hills and the Lake Harriet District,” was installed in the entry hall in 1995. It provided the inspiration for the book, *Down at the Lake: A Historical Portrait of Linden Hills and the Lake Harriet District*.

Wild Rumpus Book Store/Linden Hills Yarns - 2720 West Forty-third Street.

The Lake Harriet Commercial Club hired Downs and Eads to design this three-story brick building in 1911. The club used the third floor auditorium for meetings and neighborhood events and rented out the commercial space below. For many years the Linden Hills Dance Club met in the auditorium.

The Linden Hills branch library was located here from 1911 until 1931. In 1926 the Lake Harriet Masonic Lodge purchased the building and owned it until 1971. Other occupants: 1929-1964—Linden Hills Post Office; 1960—Timm’s Mailing Service; 1970—Kent Here for Hair.

2701-39 West Forty-third Street.

Look across Forty-third Street and imagine a now-vanished block of storefronts. Although it is now occupied by apartment buildings, this was formerly the location of many businesses. Immediately behind these buildings was the streetcar loop.

1908—M. A. Bogle & Company dry goods, barber I. F. Andrews, Desmond and Kane millinery, L. A. Johnson’s meat market, J. G. Sinclair fuel dealer; 1908-1940—Hansen’s grocery; 1910-1920—Linden Hills Post Office; 1915-1917—Philpott Fuel, Feed and Transfer (offered wood, coal, stables, and excavating); 1950-1960—Crib Diaper Service, Harriet Interior Decorators; 1960—The Beauty Chalet, Holmberg Printing Company.

Go west on Forty-third Street and turn right at the corner. You will then be on Sheridan Avenue. Continue north until you reach St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church.

St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church - 4201 Sheridan Avenue.

In 1903 St. John’s was organized as a mission church. The following year the congregation purchased a lot at Forty-second and Sheridan and built a wooden chapel. St. John’s was incorporated as a parish in 1916 and the congregation built a new \$25,000 stone church which still stands today. The architectural firm of Hewitt and Brown designed the English perpendicular Gothic-style church made of Mendota blue limestone with seating for four hundred. In 1942 a new enlarged parish hall was added.

▲ From St. John’s cross Sheridan Avenue and proceed south toward the commercial district. When you reach Forty-second Street, turn right and walk one block west to Upton Avenue.

Linden Hills Congregational United Church of Christ - 4200 Upton Avenue.

This is the oldest established church in Linden Hills. The first service was held in June 1902 in the Union Sunday school tent at Forty-second and Sheridan, which was located directly across the street from the present St. John’s Episcopal Church. In October 1902 the congregation built a frame church designed by architect George H. Keith, one of its members. In response to the growing congregation, a church expansion was planned in 1907—a combination of the original frame structure and a newly-constructed Gothic

Commercial District

Revival-style building. The new church cost \$12,000 and was designed by Glenn L. Saxton. The building featured an auditorium that was used for flower shows and meetings of the Linden Hills Improvement Association. The 1902 section of the church was removed and replaced with a new education wing in 1968.

Walk south on Upton Avenue toward the commercial area.

The Lindens condominiums - 4221 Upton Avenue.

Lake Harriet School, built here in 1898, was the first permanent Minneapolis public school building west of Lake Harriet. For more than eighty years, this was a neighborhood elementary school. Due to declining enrollment, Lake Harriet School was closed in 1978; the building was razed in 1982. The school's name, carved in limestone from the original building, is incorporated into the Upton Avenue side of The Lindens that now occupy the site. At the beginning of the 2000-2001 school year, the Minneapolis Public Schools merged Audubon and Fulton Schools into a K-8 school with two campuses. The new school was named Lake Harriet Community School after this beloved neighborhood institution.

FrameStyles - 4250 Upton Avenue.

This frame dwelling was built in 1902 and was converted to a store with an apartment above in 1928. Other occupants: 1915–residence for confectioner S. D. Ogg; 1932–E. Lindstrom's shoe repair; 1960-1970–Betty's Artcraft Beauty Shop.

Other business establishments once stood in the area between 4250 and 4264 Upton.

4252 Upton Avenue - 1905–Annie Minnett's confectionery; 1915–S. D. Ogg's confectionery. **4256 Upton Avenue** - 1915–Vroman Hardware; 1920–A. L. Nelson Electric Construction; 1960–Eckes Motor Company. Eckes Motor Company had a large, partially underground garage where the local merchants parked their delivery trucks at night and on weekends.

Famous Dave's BBQ - 4264-66 Upton Avenue.

1905–Henry Weber's grocery store; 1926-1971–Frank B. Waller's Pure Oil service station; 1973-1990–Union 76 station.

The intersection of Forty-third and Upton was for many years the location of a spring flooding phenomenon nicknamed "Weber's Lake." The "lake," which was deep enough to float a rowboat, was named for Henry Weber's grocery store which stood at the intersection.

Take a right on West Forty-third Street.

Long-time area resident Don Hawkinson recalls that there once was a stable near the corner of West Forty-third Street.

Dunn Brothers Coffee/Rag & Bone Books - 2814 West Forty-third Street.

1920–Linden Hills Garage; 1936-40–Fred T. Hopp, plumber; 1942-1950–Stillman Company Food Store; 1960–Tennessee Quality Meats; 1970–Kenesaw Drugs, which later became Butler Drug Store.

Eydie's Country Quilting/Sticks & Stones Design/The GoldWorks - 2822 West Forty-third Street. Loren L. Chadwick built this residence in 1902. Chadwick, a local contractor, also constructed three cottages in Cottage City during the same year. This building was converted to commercial use in 1993.



▲ Lake Harriet School facing Sheridan Ave. Linden Hills Congregational Church is seen a block away, ca. 1905



▲ Nameplate from Lake Harriet School



◀ Springtime flooding at the corner of Upton Ave. and W. 43rd St., ca. 1905. Henry Weber's grocery store in the background



◀ Upton Ave. and W. 43rd St., ca. 1893

Commercial District

Johnson
Flowers,
ca. 1945 ▶



Enchanted Tree House/offices - 2826 West Forty-third Street.

This home, built in 1903, was moved to this location in 1913 from 4285 Sheridan Avenue South (currently the site of Dimensional Wellness) when Lake Harriet State Bank was constructed. The house was converted to commercial use in 1997.

Walk across Vincent Avenue to Linden Hills Library.

Linden Hills Community Library - 2900 West Forty-third Street.

The Linden Hills branch library began in 1911 in rented space two blocks to the east in the Lake Harriet Commercial Club. The firm of Bard and Vanderbilt designed this slate-roofed Tudor Revival-style library which was built in 1931. The exterior of the library has received historical designation from the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission. A major renovation and expansion began in 2001.

▲ Cross West Forty-third Street.

Linden Hills Co-op - 2813 West Forty-third Street.

This building has been the location of several grocery stores. 1940–Witt Food Centre; 1950–National Tea Company; 1960–National Food Stores; 1980–Tom Thumb Food Store.

The Zumbro Café - 2803 West Forty-third Street.

This was formerly two storefronts. 1930–Christian Nimer’s barbershop; 1940–Josiah A. Witsoe’s restaurant; 1950–Leader Café; 1960-70–Huber’s Café.

Linden Hills Florist - 4300 Upton Avenue.

This brick block was built in 1912 to house stores, offices, and apartments. 1920–W. H. Dewey’s bakery; 1923-1924–Mrs. M. E. Eigenman’s confectionery; 1931-1932–DeLyons Quality Shop, confectionery; 1933–Arthur Pierson’s confectionery; 1934-1936, 1939–Harold Warner’s restaurant; 1937-1938–Mother’s Cupboard deli and bakery; 1940-1975–Johnson Flowers. There formerly were stairs on the north side of the building that led to a commercial space in the basement. One occupant was Betty’s Artcraft Beauty Shop in the 1930s; another was Wimpy’s Bicycle Shop in the 1960s.

Zumbro To Go - 4302 Upton Avenue.

1915–Helen C. Strand’s millinery shop; 1933-1937–Red Owl Food Store; 1950–Beauty Zephyr Cleaners, Kiddies Klothes Kloset; 1960–Vroman’s Hardware; 1970–Lake Harriet Shoe Shop.

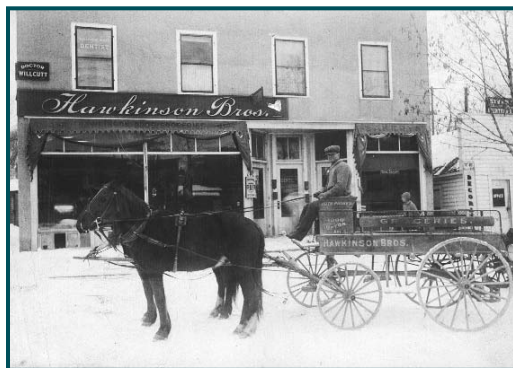
Phoenix Hair Design - 4304 Upton Avenue.

1930-1937–Red Owl Food Store (expansion); 1944-1970–DuVal’s House of Beauty.

Wild Child/Christian Science Reading Room - 4306-08 Upton Avenue.

The local iceman, Pete Pelkey, built this building for brothers Robert and Roy Hawkinson for a cost of \$6,000. The Hawkinsons opened a grocery store in 1909, which operated until 1979. In the early days they made deliveries to nearby homes using a horse and buggy. The building is still owned by the Hawkinson family.

The Linden Hills Co-op was located at 4308 Upton from 1979 until 1995. Neighborhood resident Eric Utne started the *Utne Reader* in a second-floor office in 1979.



▲ Hawkinson Bros. grocery store, ca. 1910

Ernie
Lindstrom
and his wife
outside their
shoe repair
shop at
4302 Upton,
ca. 1963 ▶



Commercial District

4310 Upton Avenue.

This address is now part of the Bayers Hardware building. 1915–Merchant tailor Maurice Rubenstein; 1930-1932–Plumber W. G. Christensen; 1940-1944–Peter Jebe’s barbershop.

Bayers Hardware - 4312 Upton Avenue.

1911–Harriet Theater, movie house; 1918-1922–Vroman’s Hardware; 1923–Clark Hardware. This is the oldest existing business in Linden Hills and has been operated by the same family since 1923. In 1948 Max Bayers took over the business from its founders, his uncles Cecil Clark and Emil Garbrecht. After World War II, in order to adapt to the changing marketplace, the store sold washing machines, dryers, and later televisions and air conditioners. In 1973 the name was changed to Bayers Hardware.

On this side of Upton Avenue, the streetcar right-of-way passed between the buildings at 4312 and 4314 Upton. Near the back of 4314 Upton, there once was an electric substation that boosted power to the overhead streetcar wires. To the west of the substation, parallel to the tracks and next to the retaining wall below St. Thomas Church, was a long siding where extra streetcars waited to return Lake Harriet concert-goers to Minneapolis. Streetcar service ended in 1954.

Great Harvest Bakery/Linden Hills Photo - 4314-18 Upton Avenue.

1908–Linden Hills Drug; 1915-1923–Roberts Drug. The current three-story brick building was constructed in 1923 to house stores, offices, and flats. 1930–Gregg’s Pharmacy; 1960–The Purity Dairy Store; 1970–Ralph’s Meats and Groceries.

4322-24 Upton Avenue.

A block of businesses that faced Upton Avenue once stood on this site. 1908–Howes and Son grocery, Shoemaker T. M. Oldfield; 1915–Davis & Goetzman’s meat market; 1930–Morley Colleran’s barbershop, Leonard Larson’s bicycle repair; 1930-1970–Adolph Andersen Cleaners. In 1971 the land was cleared for the Lakewest Tower Apartments.

Proceed to Forty-fourth Street, turn right and you will be back at St. Thomas Church.



▲ Interior, Hawkinson Bros. grocery store, ca. 1915



▲ Linden Hills Drug Store, ca. 1925

1. *Minneapolis Journal*, April 7, 1925.

2. Information found in the Minneapolis Public Library, Minneapolis Collections vertical file under “Churches: Catholic: St. Thomas.”

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.

PHOTO SOURCE CREDITS FOR ALL WALKING TOURS

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