



START

Corner of Wyoming and Marcellus Streets

In 1878, the Syracuse Chilled Plow Company bought land here to produce its innovative plows. The “chill” refers to the process used to rapidly cool the cast iron plow blades, enhancing their strength and durability. The company’s factory facilities eventually encompassed three blocks. In 1911, the Deere Company (yes, that Deere!) purchased the Syracuse company and operated it until 1955. Several of the original factory buildings remain, including the one at this corner owned and renovated by WCNY, Central New York’s public media company. It is linked to WCNY’s second but newly constructed building, which is adjacent to two more former factory buildings, owned by the NWSI. One of them is home to the headquarters of ProLiteracy, whose mission is to help adult learners in the community while simultaneously developing cutting-edge programs and services that can bring better literacy services to millions of people around the world.

Across the street at 200 Wyoming St. is the PEACE Inc. Westside Family Resource Center. It offers a wide variety of programs and services for individuals and families. It is called the “Little House of Hope” in recognition of the difference the Center and its staff have made in the lives of others.

To the left is West St., which during the 19th and early 20th centuries was a retail center for the neighborhood. In the 1950s, the street became a six-lane arterial, changing it from a tree-lined street of retail establishments to a highway, and cutting the neighborhood off from easy access to downtown Syracuse.

215 Wyoming Street

This building was a 1930s manufacturing facility but is now home to the Syracuse offices of the Hillside Family of Agencies, one of the oldest and largest family and youth non-profit human services organizations in New York State.

Cross to the other side of Otisco St.

115 Otisco Street

Salt Quarters houses an artist-in-residence program, two apartments, three studio spaces and a gallery in what was the former Sherman’s Restaurant Building, bought and renovated by the NWSI through a grant received from Art Place – a national foundation committed to transforming communities through art and cultural projects.

The burgundy-colored building at 109 Otisco St., to the left of Salt Quarters, is the Lincoln Building, NWSI’s first large-scale project.

The 2010 renovation of the over 100-year-old Lincoln Supply Warehouse resulted in the creation of 30,000 square feet of mixed-used commercial and residential space. Notice the innovative living wall screen over a portion of the building, just one of the project’s many “green” features. The building houses the La Casita Cultural Center, which showcases the rich heritage of the Hispanic cultures of Central New York and beyond.

Continue south on Wyoming Street to the corner of Tully Street.

215 Tully Street (at the corner of Wyoming and Tully Streets)

The owner of the “Graffiti Building”, which is for sale, has given permission to area graffiti artists to use it as a “canvas.” It is the only place in Syracuse where graffiti is allowed.

From here look across to 216 Tully St and the Patch-Up Studio, owned and renovated by the NWSI. It is a community place for children and adults to learn art. The studio also focuses on beautifying the neighborhood by publically displaying artwork. Juan Cruz, current artist in residence, has been working with children creating a mural on the side of 311 Wyoming St. The mural is a collection of different cartoon figures that the children drew to represent themselves.

Turn by Turn Directions Direcciones Paso a Paso

1. Begin at the corner of Marcellus and Wyoming Streets (near Peace, Inc.).
Inicia en la esquina de las calles Marcellus y Wyoming (Cerca de PEACE, Inc.)
2. Walk south on Wyoming Street (toward Nojam’s).
Camina hacia el sur en la calle Wyoming (Hacia Nojam’s)
3. Turn right on Gifford St.
Da vuelta a la derecha en la calle Gifford
4. Turn right on Gifford St.
Continúa recto en la calle Gifford
5. Turn right on Oswego St.
Da vuelta a la derecha en la calle Oswego
6. Continue straight on Oswego Street – past Skiddy Park.
Continúa recto en la calle Oswego hasta que pases Skiddy Park
7. Turn right on Marcellus St.
Da vuelta a la derecha en la calle Marcellus
8. Continue straight on Marcellus St.
Continúa recto en la calle Marcellus
9. Arrive at the Start/Finish sign.
Arriva a la señal de inicio/meta

Continue south on Wyoming Street.

Notice, to your right, the James Geddes Housing Complex, operated by the Syracuse Housing Authority. It consists of four senior citizen high rises and 39 row houses, built between 1955 and 1961. The construction of this housing interrupted the flow of several streets in the neighborhood.

Speaking of streets, in the 1800s, these streets were named for early Syracuse landowners or, in the case of Gifford Street, for a salt manufacturer and land developer. Today, many of the east-west oriented streets, such as Marcellus and Tully, are named for Central New York towns while the north-south streets, including Oswego and Wyoming, are named for Central New York counties.

Corner of Wyoming and Gifford Streets

To your left, at 300 Gifford Street, is the Gifford and West Pharmacy, one of the last independent pharmacies in Syracuse. 307 Gifford Street is the home of Nojam Brothers Super Market, a family-owned grocery store established in 1919. The store’s owner, Paul Nojam, is a leading advocate for the revitalization of the neighborhood. The supermarket has collaborated with St. Joseph’s Hospital, SU and the Onondaga County Department of Health on several initiatives to help link primary care with nutrition and healthy food access.



Across the parking lot from Nojam’s is the St. Joseph’s Hospital Primary Care Center – West at 321 Gifford St. which has operated here since 1994 but in 2014 completed an expansion that quadrupled the size of the center. It provides primary healthcare for children and adults along with educational nutrition and financial counseling services.

*Turn right on Gifford Street, crossing Wyoming.
Continue down Gifford Street.*

On the left, at 405 Gifford St., is Huntington Family Centers, dedicated to the preservation and strengthening of individuals and families in Onondaga County through year-round, diverse programming delivered in a safe, caring environment.

432 Gifford Street

Saint Lucy’s Roman Catholic Church is home to several ministries devoted to helping the community including a food pantry, free lunch programs, low-cost clothing, an athletic program for young people and the Stone Soup Community Garden Nature Education classroom. It also provides classrooms for the Westside Learning Center which offers education, training and employment services for English-language learning adults.

The parish received its name from its first pastor, Rev. John J. Kennedy, who had initially been rejected for priesthood because of near blindness. He vowed that, if he recovered his sight, he would dedicate a shrine or church to Saint Lucy. Noted architect Archimedes Russell designed the English Gothic-style church, which cost \$40,000 to build. 10,000 people were present for the cornerstone-laying ceremony in 1873.

A 1998 Labor Day storm damaged the church and destroyed the church’s steeple and bell tower. The estimate to rebuild the bell tower was \$100,000, money the church felt could be better spent in other ways. So the bell is now seated on a platform near the church entrance. The platform was built by Mack Brothers Boiler and Sheet Iron Works, located on nearby Marcellus Street.

Continue down Gifford Street towards Oswego St.

The housing at 439, 441, 443 and 445 Gifford St. are managed by Christopher Community, Inc. which specializes in housing for seniors, disabled and low and moderate income individuals and families. Syracuse Habitat for Humanity is another housing organization that has built over 30 new homes throughout the neighborhood.

Turn right onto Oswego St. to Fabius St.

411 Oswego St.

(corner of Oswego and Fabius Streets)
St. Mary and St. Mina Church is part of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate in Egypt, and traces its roots to St. Mark, an apostle of Christ, who established a Christian church in Alexandria, Egypt. There are about 18 million Coptic Orthodox Christians worldwide and about 200 Coptic Orthodox churches in the United States and Canada. The first Coptic Christians arrived in Syracuse in 1968 with St. Mary and St. Mina Church founded in 1998. The congregation purchased its present building, a former Russian Orthodox church, in 2002. Note the large Russian Orthodox cross on the top of the building.

Continue to walk down Oswego St. to Tully St.

Corner of Oswego and Tully Streets

Look to the left across Oswego Street at 601 Tully, the nickname for the Near Westside Peacemaking Project, a program of the Center for Court Innovation that promotes conflict resolution in the neighborhood. The Peacemaking Center, a former “crack house” was remodeled with the input of community members, and now promotes justive and peace.

To the right is Skiddy Park, the neighborhood’s main park. Within the park is the Paul Seymour Playground. Seymour was a Westside native and longtime business owner who became a noted America basketball player and coach, a three-time All-Star and the team captain of the 1955 NBA Championship Syracuse Nationals.

Across from Skiddy Park, at 312 Oswego St., is the Westside Academy at Blodgett middle school. It was here that, in 1954, the 24-second shot clock was introduced to professional basketball. Instead of slow-paced, low-scoring games that were losing the interest of fans, basketball today is known for its fast-paced, high-scoring duels that have helped it to become one of America’s most popular sports.

Danny Biasone, a former owner of the Syracuse Nationals NBA basketball team, tried out his inventive clock in an NBA scrimmage at Blodgett...and the rest is history!



Performance Park will create a new public gathering place along Wyoming Street to further engage the neighborhood.

Continue down Oswego Street and turn right on Marcellus Street.

This street is a combination of industrial and residential structures. Businesses include Syracuse Signal Systems, a provider of traffic signal products and services at 410 Marcellus St. and on the opposite side of the street, at 409 Marcellus St., Mack Brothers Boiler and Sheet Iron Works.

317 Marcellus Street

Home HeadQuarters, established in 1996, is a not-for-profit organization committed to creating housing and related opportunities that improve the lives of underserved Central and Upstate New York people. This house is the result of a green house design contest, From the Ground Up Competition, held by Home HeadQuarters, the SU School of Architecture and the NWSI. Designs for a 1100-1500 square foot, single-family sustainable, affordable house were accepted, with three designs selected and built in this neighborhood (the other two are at 619 and 621 Otisco St.), including this home, valued at about \$150,000. Notice the unique screen with a hole pattern designed to allow light to filter through, much like sunlight filtering through a canopy of trees.

Continue walking down Marcellus St. to Wyoming St.

Corner of Marcellus and Wyoming Streets

The rear of the Delavan Center fills this corner. The building dates to about 1878, when it was part of the Syracuse Chilled Plow complex. At the height of production, the company was producing 100,000 plows per year. Today, the Delavan Center, whose entrance is on West Fayette St., is home to the Syracuse Ceramic Guild, founded in 1947; Signature Music, an educational organization dedicated to providing music education, performance opportunities and college guidance for teen musicians of all backgrounds; Box Car Press, a nationally renown commercial letterpress printing company; and numerous other businesses and artist studios.

From here you also can see the exterior colored lighting of WCNV's radio operations. The colors around radio studio windows change, reflecting what is occurring within the studios. Green signifies that there is an "open mike" - live music in the studios or commentary by WCNV radio hosts. Blue lighting signifies WCNV's 24/7 broadcasting. The vertical light pole is blue except when there is an "open mike" - then the top eight feet of the pole are green.

And speaking of light...a street redesign is planned for Wyoming St. Called Movement on Main, it will create a new public gathering place along the street to further engage the neighborhood through a variety of movement, lighting and new technologies. The "Light-Play!" design focuses on shaping healthy bodies, a healthy street and a healthy—and vibrant—neighborhood. The design plays with light and colorful materials to create a new activity center for neighborhood life and playful new surfaces and structures that inspire movement in people of all ages. The design includes activity mounds (small and large), seating elements and rain gardens—arranged as social rooms along the street that allow for people to sit, jump, skip, run, sled and play. Additionally, projected lights are activated at night by people via motion sensors and reflective surfaces.

Thanks for exploring the Near Westside!



NEAR WESTSIDE

Walking Tour

Welcome to Syracuse's Near Westside neighborhood

HISTORY

The section of Syracuse bounded by S. Geddes, S. West, W. Fayette., and W. Onondaga streets was Syracuse's first industrial district. Access to water, for power and transportation, made the area ideal for business development. Mills began operating in the early 1800s, harnessing the water power of Onondaga Creek that still runs through the neighborhood. In the 1820s, local salt manufacturers constructed solar evaporation sheds in the area. And in 1825, the transportation marvel of its day—the Erie Canal—opened in Syracuse. Railroads soon followed, securing the area as an industrial hub for several generations.

Near Westside businesses included: the city's first steel mill, in 1870; the Charles Lipe Machine Shop, site of numerous inventions including bicycles, auto parts, and typewriter and motion picture equipment; the Franklin Manufacturing Company, specialists in metal castings they began producing complete automobiles by the early 1900s; Smith Premier producer of typewriters and then, to meet American munitions needs during WWII, .45 caliber Army pistols. The Carrier Corporation moved from New Jersey to Geddes Street in 1937, occupying the former Franklin Manufacturing Company's factory until moving to its present location in East Syracuse.

Homes, both modest and grand, ringed the industrial center. Industry leaders and factory workers lived blocks apart in the thriving Near Westside residential neighborhood. But as industrial needs changed, the large factories became obsolete, often relegated to secondary business functions such as warehouse space until they were fully abandoned. Automobiles made it possible for the wealthy to relocate to the suburbs eroding the tax base and depleting resources for the remaining residential areas. And finally, the combined loss of local jobs and affluence sent the area into a spiral of decline.

REVITALIZATION

Efforts to revive the Near Westside are being spearheaded by the Near Westside Initiative Inc. (NWSI), a community-wide, resident-driven coalition, formed in 2006 and led by Syracuse University (SU). The combined forces of SU, New York State, the City of Syracuse, private foundations, businesses, not-for-profit corporations and neighborhood residents are being engaged to foster economic growth through art, technology and innovation while aligning with the neighborhood's values and culture.

TOUR

This tour route highlights some of the area's landmarks and follows the mile-long "Near Westside Loop" created and marked with directional signage by Healthy Monday Syracuse, (healthymonday.syr.edu) an initiative of SU's Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion and its partners, "to support people and organizations in starting and sustaining healthy behaviors."



REVITALIZATION TIMELINE

- 2006**
NWSI was formed
NWSI was formed as a collaborative effort among Syracuse University, the Gifford Foundation, Syracuse Center of Excellence (CoE), SU's School of Architecture, and area residents and civil leaders.
NWSI creates the Salt District
WCNY announces commitment to move to the Near Westside.
- 2007**
WCNY to move to the NWS
Debt reinvestment targeted to the NWS.
- 2008**
Home Headquarters
Restore NY Grant awarded for housing and Lincoln Supply Renovation.
SU School of Architecture "From the Ground Up" competition finalists selected to built three homes in the NWS.
- 2009**
"From the Ground Up"
A Modular home created by SU architecture students is installed at 501 tully.
Link House Installed
La Casita Cultural Center Opens in the Lincoln Building (Renovated). WCNY And Proliteracy begins at the CASE Building.
- 2010**
Lincoln & Case Buildings
NWS Resident Rick Desitito completes the renovation on his home, the first \$ 1 home sold by Home Headquarters.
- 2012**
Case Building & Skiddy Park
Economic Development council approves \$ 1M grant for Nojaims Bros. Supermarket expansion.
2013
SALTQUARTERS OPENS
NYSHF funds the "Healthy Neighborhood Initiative" to improve the quality of life of residents in the NWS.
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center built a \$ 4.9 million clinic in the NWS.
- 2014**
Healthy Neighborhood Initiative
Primary Care West
The NWSI, Lerner Center, and Peacemaking Center launch Take Back the Streets campaign to address safety.
- 2015**
Take Back the Streets
West Street Renovations completed with the dedication of the pedestrian crosswalk on West Street, bicycle path, on-street parking and few lanes. (\$ 1.2 M project).
2016
NuVal & Fruit Prescription Program launched.
The Lerner Center, Nojaims Bros. Supermarket and Primary Care West launch a food index system (NuVal) to aid residents in choosing healthy food, and in collaboration with Primary Care West launch a fruit prescription program.