

ST PETERSBURG PRESERVATION'S HISTORIC WALKING TOURS

All Tours start at 10:00 A.M. from the front of the historic Detroit Hotel, located at the corner of Central Avenue and 2nd Street in downtown St. Pete. Tours are free for members and a \$5 donation is asked of non-members. Tours last between 2 and 2 ½ hours. The Saturday Morning Market is located across the street from our tour starting point so come enjoy the market before or after taking our tour!

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC WALKING TOUR -This is the “original” and much enjoyed tour given on the second Saturday of each month from November until April (note because of the Festival of States Parade the April Tour will be on the first Saturday, April 5).

The tour follows a figure eight loop through downtown between Central Avenue and 4th Avenue North. Learn about the beginnings of St. Petersburg in the 1880's, the boom of the early 1920's and the Mediterranean influence on our architecture. Tour goers will get to see some of the boom era hotels, including the Princess Martha, Pennsylvania and the Dennis, some of our stately churches including the First United Methodist, St Peter's Cathedral, and the threatened First Baptist and some of our architectural gems including the Snell Arcade, the Open Air Post Office, and the Veillard residence. Learn about and see photos of some of our lost treasures, including the Soreno Hotel, the LaPlaza and Florida movie theaters. The tour typically stops inside one or two historic buildings.

WESTWARD HO FROM THE WATERFRONT – This is a new tour, first being offered February 23 and will be given on the last Saturday of February, March and April. The tour has two distinct segments - the downtown waterfront and westward to the bungalows of the Kenwood neighborhood.

The tour begins with a brief history about early St. Petersburg and proceeds to the waterfront where, as one looks onto Al Lang Field, you will learn about the history of baseball in St Petersburg. The tour continues through the waterfront parks where you will hear how William Straub, in the early 1900's, championed a movement that led to the creation of the country's largest public waterfront park system. Among other buildings, tour goers will see and learn about the Pier, the Vinoy Park Hotel and the Flori de Leon

Apartments where Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig lived during spring training. You will also have a chance to see photos and learn how other significant buildings of the 1920's boom have been lost, including the Soreno and Colonial Hotels. The tour leaves the waterfront at 4th Avenue North with its eclectic collection of historic homes and buildings.

Next, the tour hops aboard the bus system's rubber wheeled trolley, traveling down Central Avenue to the Craftsman Gallery, the wonderfully restored original model home for the Kenwood Neighborhood where we will stop at the Gallery. Tour goers will have the option of staying at the Gallery and ordering lunch and shopping for crafts or continuing with the walking tour into Historic Kenwood, one of the country's premiere bungalow neighborhoods. Typically, one of the bungalow style homes will be open for our tour. The tour will return to the Craftsman Gallery where the trolley or other frequently scheduled buses can be taken to return downtown.