

V.M. Ybor Heritage Tour 2026

A not-so-typical tour of this historic, eclectic, and diverse community.

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Welcome to V.M. Ybor.

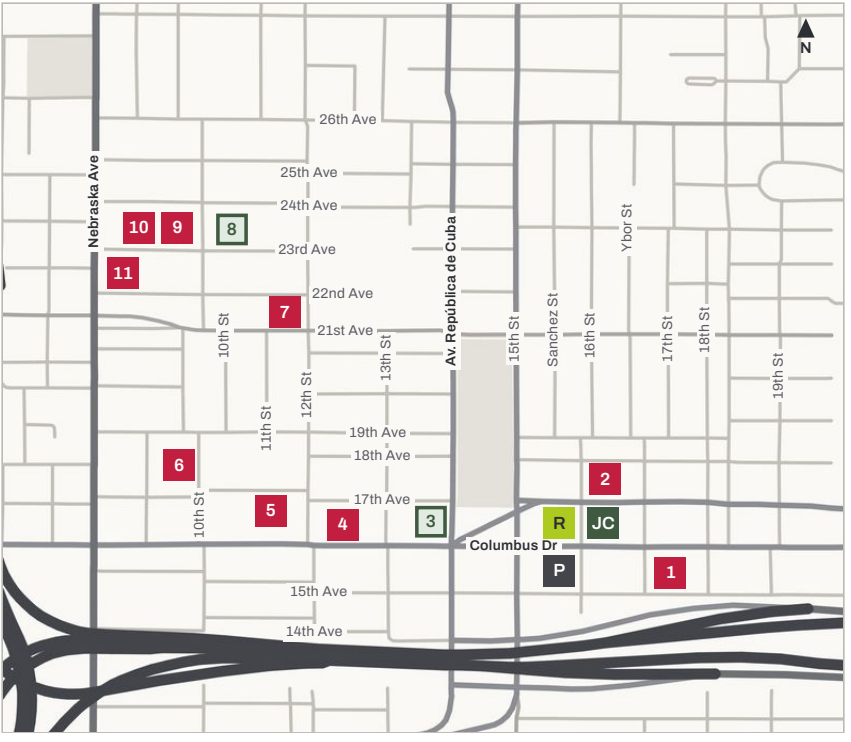
Thank you for spending part of your day with us at the 12th V.M. Ybor Heritage Tour. This is a neighborhood of front porches, backyard gardens and neighbors who look out for one another, where families who have been here for generations share the streets with newcomers who fell in love with the place.

Today, our neighbors are opening their doors to share their stories: what they love, what they have saved or restored, and what they imagine for our community's next chapter. Take your time. Say hello, ask questions, and listen to the stories. They are as much a part of this community as the houses and landmarks themselves.

This tour is made possible by the sponsorships and in-kind support of many great local companies and organizations, and by the generosity of our homeowners and volunteers. We are grateful to every one of them.



Burgert Brothers Collection: 1200 block of Columbus Drive. Photo courtesy of Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library.



Home Garden J.C. Newman, 2701 N. 16th St.

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ROUTE MAP

V.M. Ybor Heritage Tour Map 2026

JC		J.C. Newman, 2701 N. 16th St.	START
01		1704 E. 15th Avenue	IN PROGRESS
02		1607 E. 18th Avenue	
03		1309 E. 17th Avenue	GARDEN
04		1210 E. Columbus Drive	
05		1019 E. 17th Avenue	WATER
06		2810 N. 10th Street	
07		1023 E. 22nd Avenue	
08		1004 E. 23rd Avenue	GARDEN
09		914 E. 23rd Avenue	
10		912 E. 23rd Avenue	
11		904 E. 22nd Avenue	

R Registration, Cigar Workers Park, 1530 E. Columbus Drive

P Parking



FEATURED STOP

J.C. Newman Cigar Company

2701 N. 16th Street

J.C. Newman Cigar Company's long history dates back more than a century to 1895, when Julius Caesar Newman rolled his first cigars in the family barn in Cleveland, Ohio. From humble beginnings as a one-man operation, the cigar family has survived and prospered through the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, two world wars, the Cuban Embargo, excessive taxes, smoking bans, and the rapid consolidation of the cigar industry.

The company joined the Tampa cigar manufacturing community in 1954 when Mr. J.C. Newman determined that the company's future lay in the manufacture of premium cigars. He resolved to relocate to Tampa, which enjoyed a world-class reputation for producing high-quality premium cigars. The move also brought him closer to his primary source of tobacco: Cuba.



J.C. Newman found his ideal manufacturing location at a landmark cigar factory in Ybor City. Built in 1910, the Regensburg factory was one of the last and largest cigar factories ever built in Tampa. Like every cigar factory in town, the Regensburg had a nickname: El Reloj, Spanish for “The Clock.” For generations, residents rose and retired to the hourly chimes ringing from its tall brick clock tower. After decades of silence, the landmark *El Reloj* rings again thanks to a loving restoration by the Newman family in 2002.

The Newman family’s work continues with the future development of the Sanchez y Haya building across Columbus Drive, which will become Elaine’s Restaurant and Stanford’s Cigar Club.

J.C. Newman is America’s oldest family-owned premium cigar maker and the last operating cigar factory in Cigar City.

This building is a contributing structure to both the Ybor City Local Historic District and the National Historic Landmark District.

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01 | 1704 E. 15th Avenue

IN PROGRESS

Ricardo Kraus and Devon Jester

Built in 1920, this home was first owned by Antonia Batalia, a widow. By 1925, cigar makers Giuseppe Guida and Antonio Cusumano and their families lived on either side of the duplex. Saved from demolition in 2002 when a joint civic effort relocated and rotated the building, it faced its greatest challenge in 2025, when a fire consumed nearly 75% of the interior.

Today, it stands as a model of sustainable historic preservation. Inside are Belleview Biltmore doors, heart pine ceilings from a local cigar factory, mahogany beadboard, replicated original trim, 1920s-style pushbutton switches inlaid with mother-of-pearl, leaded glass, and antique fixtures. In the kitchen, custom cabinets pair with historically inspired appliances.

This home is a contributing structure to both the Ybor City Local Historic District and the National Historic Landmark District.



02 | 1607 E. 18th Avenue

District Home Group, Jason Papi

Built in 1961, this cozy masonry home has a stucco exterior and a low hip roof, making it a prime example of the mid-century infill homes in the area. It has 875 square feet of living space, with two bedrooms and one bathroom, on a typical residential lot.

Located just one block from J.C. Newman Cigar Company, the iconic “El Reloj” is the backdrop for this quaint home. A short walk away stands the Perfecto Garcia & Bro. cigar factory at 2808 N. 16th Street. Built in 1914, this landmark is being restored as 36 apartments, a sign of the new life returning to the neighborhood.

The house has been fully remodeled, with new finishes, a modern kitchen and updated bath. The owner plans to make it a home and a workplace, living in it while also using it as an office.

This home is located within the National Historic Landmark District but is not a contributing structure.



03 | 1309 E. 17th Avenue

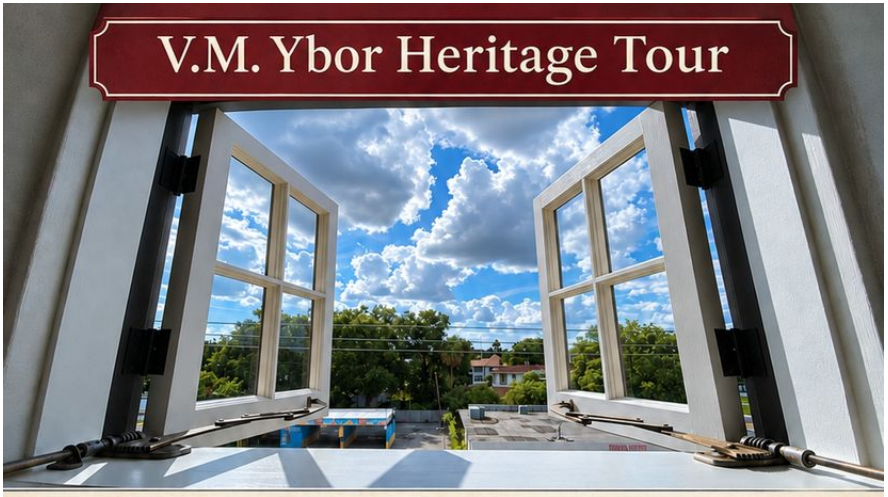
GARDEN

Chrissy Gesmundo

Built in 1948, this home is a fine example of the post-war houses that rose in the V.M. Ybor neighborhood in the late 1940s. Its concrete block construction and large backyard are hallmarks of the period. It was built by Antonio and Bertha Echevarria. Antonio worked as an operator for the city's streetcar line.

The garden is a private oasis. Step through the gates and leave the city behind. As you enter the yard, soothing sounds from the fountain greet you. Areca and foxtail palms create a lush, tropical canopy, while walkways of Tennessee flagstone and pavers lead to several distinct spaces, including a fire pit and seating areas, each intentionally arranged for relaxing or gathering. A continual work in progress, this urban jungle is almost complete, with maturing greenery poised to surround the entire space in absolute secluded privacy.

Guests are asked to enter the garden through the side gate.



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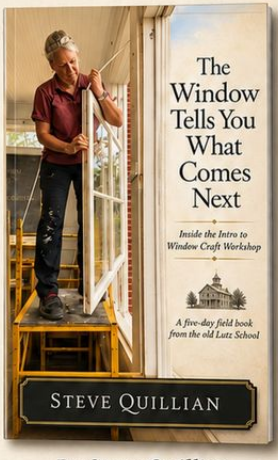

By Steve Quillian

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04 | 1210 E. Columbus Drive

Jerel McCants Architecture

Built in 1903, this is one of the oldest homes remaining in the neighborhood. Its original owners were Louis Domeck, a cigar maker, and his wife Margaret. Once in poor condition, it was restored in 2005 by attorney Dale Swope of Swope Rodante through Save Tampa History, LLC.

Jerel McCants purchased the house in 2020 and filed to rezone it from YC-2 to YC-9 for a small office; the Barrio Latino Certificate of Appropriateness was granted in 2022. Today it is the office of Jerel McCants Architecture, a local award-winning firm.

Restored details include rope-and-pulley wood windows, 2-inch pine floors, hand-laid tile, spring-hinged doors with decorative glass lites, an operable transom, foyer wainscot, and a 5V-crimp metal roof.

This home is a contributing structure to both the Ybor City Local Historic District and the National Historic Landmark District.



05 | 1019 E. 17th Avenue

Jamie and Amy Remp

This home was built in 1925. Its original owner was Angel Martinez, and it stayed in the same family for almost a century.

The home retains much of its original character, with high coved ceilings, custom moldings, and decorative medallions gracing the three front rooms. Original heart pine floors extend throughout, while two-panel doors with glass doorknobs, tall beveled baseboards, and 4-over-1 wood windows preserve the home's period charm. The original solid wood front door, flanked by sidelights and topped with a transom, features elegant beveled glass. Thoughtful updates to the kitchen and bathroom complement the home's historic character, while a restored and freshly painted exterior, new roof, and refreshed backyard landscaping complete the property.

This home is a contributing structure to both the Ybor City Local Historic District and the National Historic Landmark District.



06 | 2810 N. 10th Street

Adam Hohlt and Kerilyn Fox

This Folk Victorian home was built in 1925. Its original owner, Mack Boehning, was a bookkeeper at the Model Clothing store, and he lived here with his wife, Marie. Charles and Adolfina Cuervo, owners of Nebraska Printing, also called the house home.

Behind a white picket fence and under mature live oaks, the front porch features a swing and wood-turned columns, a simple yet elegant detail typical of the 1920s. Inside, the foyer has built-in storage, French doors open to a first-floor den, and a wood-turned staircase leads to the bedrooms above. High ceilings and hardwood floors run through the main living areas. Out back, a rooftop terrace overlooks a yard with tropical plantings, a quiet pond, and a chicken coop.

This home is a contributing structure to both the Ybor City Local Historic District and the National Historic Landmark District.



07 | 1023 E. 22nd Avenue

Austin and Zoie Gouveia

This new Modern Craftsman was designed to fit in with the historic homes of V.M. Ybor. It stands across the street from the “Old People’s Home,” a National Historic Landmark, and its front and rear porches borrow from the older houses nearby, with traditional columns and true tongue-and-groove ceilings.

The house is built of concrete block with hurricane-impact windows, and Shaker-style Hardie shingles trim the eaves. Inside, high ceilings and solid-core, three-panel doors give the open plan a crisp, simple look. The great room flows into an urban farmhouse kitchen with a nine-foot island, white oak cabinets, and glazed subway tile, and French doors lead out to the back porch. New infill like this adds housing to the neighborhood while respecting its character.

This home is located just north of both the Ybor City Local Historic District and the National Historic Landmark District.







08 | 1004 E. 23rd Avenue

GARDEN

Jason Joseph and Justin Chen

Welcome to Gay Gardens, a little urban farm and rescue. This 106-year-old bungalow was built on a large, 130-foot-deep parcel. The current owners moved in in 2021 and soon began an urban farm with eight chicks.

Today, it is home to chickens, quail, a small rabbit and guinea pig sanctuary, and two tortoises named Neptune and Pluto. By day, the farm provides fresh eggs, herbs, fruits and vegetables, from a pineapple patch and dragon fruit to fig, olive, lemon and lychee trees. By night it becomes an outdoor oasis for relaxing and enjoying the evening.

This home is located just north of both the Ybor City Local Historic District and the National Historic Landmark District.

Guests are asked to enter the garden through the side gate.



09 | 914 E. 23rd Avenue

Tarik Hamilton

This home was built in 1920. Its original owners were Homer Ashbaugh, an electrician, and his wife, Tillmar. It is a unique example of an “airplane bungalow,” a style that grew out of the Arts and Crafts movement and its love of simple lines, honest materials, and handcrafted detail.

Thoughtful updates keep this home true to its original roots and full of natural light. This year, thirteen steel columns and a new steel beam stabilized the sagging floor framing, the crawl space was encapsulated, and a standing seam metal roof with copper gutters replaced a roof that hid water and termite damage. Future plans include rebuilding the original windows while saving their wavy glass, adding careful finishes, and a new irrigation-free front yard with native landscaping.

This home is located just north of both the Ybor City Local Historic District and the National Historic Landmark District.



10 | 912 E. 23rd Avenue

Rafael Vazquez

Built in 1920, this two-story bungalow was the home of A.M. Schanz, a prominent local businessman who owned the Schanz Insurance Agency at 305 Cass Street in downtown Tampa. In 1925, it was one of the few homes with a telephone, listed as 74-897.

Rafael Vazquez bought the house in the spring of 2010 and went to work rehabilitating it. He installed period light fixtures, painted, and refinished the staircase and the second floor. Outside, he replaced the roof and completed the restoration of a historic fountain in the back garden. Thanks to his care and dedication, the home is a stunning example of how modern amenities can fit into a beautiful historic structure.

This home is located just north of both the Ybor City Local Historic District and the National Historic Landmark District.



11 | 904 E. 22nd Avenue

Kevin and Brandon Tydlaska-Dziedzic

This classic bungalow was built in 1928 with three bedrooms and one bath. After extensive fire damage, it sat vacant for several years and was cosmetically updated before Kevin and Brandon bought it.

Since then, Kevin and Brandon have remodeled the entire home, stabilizing the structure and restoring its 1920s bungalow character with modern updates. Inside, the open plan has a new kitchen, beadboard ceilings, shiplap walls, and an electric fireplace, while a new roof, impact windows, air conditioning, and tankless water heater bring the home's systems up to date. Outside, beadboard now lines the front porch ceiling, and brick veneer is back on the columns. A new driveway leads to the backyard, where a patio, deck, fire pit and stock tank pool invite gathering.

This home is located just north of both the Ybor City Local Historic District and the National Historic Landmark District.

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Perfecto Garcia & Bro. cigar factory, 2808 N. 16th Street, 1936. Courtesy, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System.

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