



JOIN US FOR A WALKING TOUR IN DOWNTOWN LEEDS. Together we will walk the story of our past and explore the history of the first 100 years of the Leeds Jane Culbreth Library. Learn about the people who transformed the buildings into libraries and how their passion for literacy created a legacy for our city that continues today.

The first Leeds Public Library began in 1924 when the Leeds High School PTA approached the Jefferson County Free Library asking them to create a book wagon station on what is now 9th Street in Leeds. The Leeds High School PTA secured a second-floor site for the library at the station to house donated books in addition to those from the book wagon. The library remained at that site until moving to the Leeds High School Ashville Road site in 1931 and moving with the high school when it moved to the former Stadium School on Whitmire Street in 1954. A branch of the library was also created at Moton High School in 1956.

At the urging of Leeds City Council member Jane Culbreth, the Public Library was formally established at Leeds City Hall in 1966. As the library grew under its new Board of Trustees, the library was moved to a new, larger space in the building that now houses Vick's Accounting on Parkway Drive in 1971. It remained at that site until moving to the much larger current location at the corner of 8th Street and Parkway Drive in 1981.

HOSTED BY



LEEDS JANE CULBRETH LIBRARY
in partnership with
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This QR code will take you to the Leeds Jane Culbreth Library website that includes a copy of all the presentations made at the library sites on this Tour.

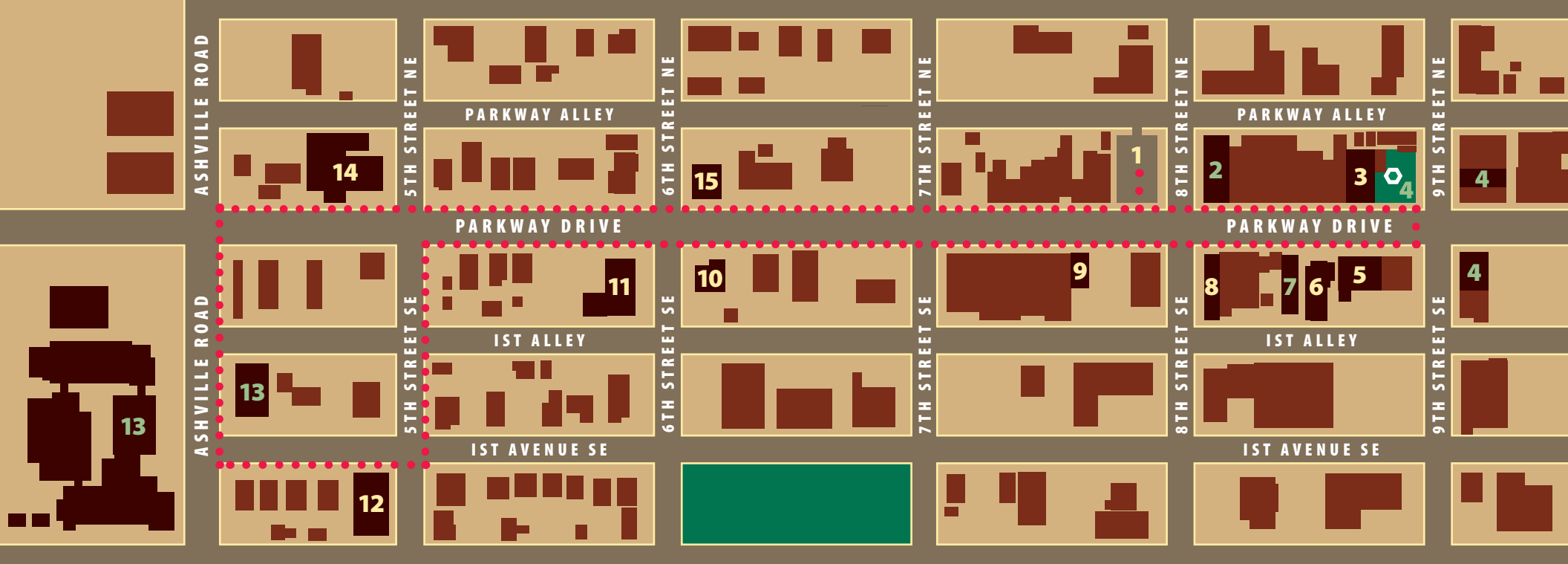


LEEDS
WALKING
TRAIL

WALK THE STORY
OF OUR PAST

Explore the Historic Library Locations
of the first 100 Years of the Leeds
Jane Culbreth Library

Hosted by Leeds Jane Culbreth Library
in partnership with Leeds Historical Society and
Leeds Area Chamber of Commerce



The Leeds Library Walking Tour hosts, reenactors, and displays will only be in place on the Walking Tour date of April 15, 2023 (rain delay date of April 29). Use the QR Code on the back panel to access the library site storyboards and additional information about the Leeds Jane Culbreth Library.

Library site numbers are GREEN. Walking Route is RED ●●●●

1. Start/End Point—City Parking Lot at the corner of 8th Street and Parkway Drive.

2. 8104 Parkway Drive—Leeds Jane Culbreth Library (1981–present). The current library building was built in 1924 for Lambert Furniture Company. Later tenants included H. Evans Department Store, Bon-Ton Billiards, and V. J. Elmore 5 & 10 Cent Store. The library is open Monday–Thursday 10–6, Friday 10–12 and Saturday 10–2. The library is closed on Sunday. The Friends of the Leeds Library and a Miss Jane Culbreth reenactor will be the Walking Tour hosts at this site.

3. 8140 Parkway Drive—The Leeds Arts Council will be open and will also have restrooms available on the day of the Walking Tour, April 15, 2023 (rain delay date April 29).

4. 8146 Parkway Drive—Leeds Gazebo Park—View the site of the first Leeds Public Library (1924–1931) on the second floor of the 1505 9th Street building and the City Hall (1400 9th Street) library location

(1966–1971). The Leeds Historical Society and a Mrs. Harriett Cason reenactor will be the Walking Tour Hosts at this site.

5. 8135 Parkway Drive—Franklin Insurance/Miller Drug (1920).

6. 8125 Parkway Drive—Koplon Implant & Family Dentistry—Formerly the Thomas McLaughlin House (1903) and later the site of the Clayton Medical Clinic, which became the Fendley Dental Clinic in 1949. Koplon Dentistry assumed the dental practice in 1990.

7. 8121 Parkway Drive—Vick’s Accounting & Tax Service—Formerly Citizens Bank of Leeds and the site of the Leeds Public Library (1971–1981). The Leeds Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors will be the Walking Tour Hosts in the driveway of Koplon Implant and Family Dentistry.

8. 8101 Parkway Drive—Three Earred Rabbit—In 1925, the Powers Café opened on this site and served the area on the busy Hwy 78 for 50 years. It was a regular campaigning spot for those seeking statewide political office and served celebrities, including Elvis Presley.

9. 8033 Parkway Drive—Bud’s Place Games—Formerly the fourth site of Leeds Telephone (1926–1955). The first floor housed the operations, and the second floor housed the owner’s family, the Olivers.

10. 7901 Parkway Drive—Imogene Wright Falletta Visitors Center/Leeds Chamber of Commerce Office. Open Monday–Friday

9–5 and on the day of the Walking Tour. Restrooms are available. The Leeds Literary Club is the Walking Tour host.

11. 7833 Parkway Drive—Leeds First Methodist Church (1925).

12. 429 1st Avenue South—Leeds Presbyterian Church (1891). Organized as Shiloh Presbyterian Church in 1821, the church moved to this site in 1891.

13. 8300 1st Avenue—Former site of Church on the Way/Children on the Way Early Learning Center—For the Walking Tour Day, this is the Leeds school viewing site. Learn the history of the Leeds Public Library when it was in Leeds school buildings on Ashville Road and later at the Leeds High School stadium site and at Moton High School from 1956 until 1966. The former church will be open and restrooms are available. Students from Leeds High School, and Mrs. Winnie Carlisle and Mrs. Roselyn McTier reenactors will be the Walking Tour hosts.

14. 7710 Parkway Drive—Standard Furniture—Formerly Ford Automobile dealerships including Summerlin, Stringfellow, Perry Moore and then Sonny Moore Ford (1913–1966).

15. 8000 Parkway Drive—Frank E. & Florence D. Little House (1924). One of the first homes of the Idaburg Development, named for the wife of real estate developer and Leeds promoter, J. B. Elliot.