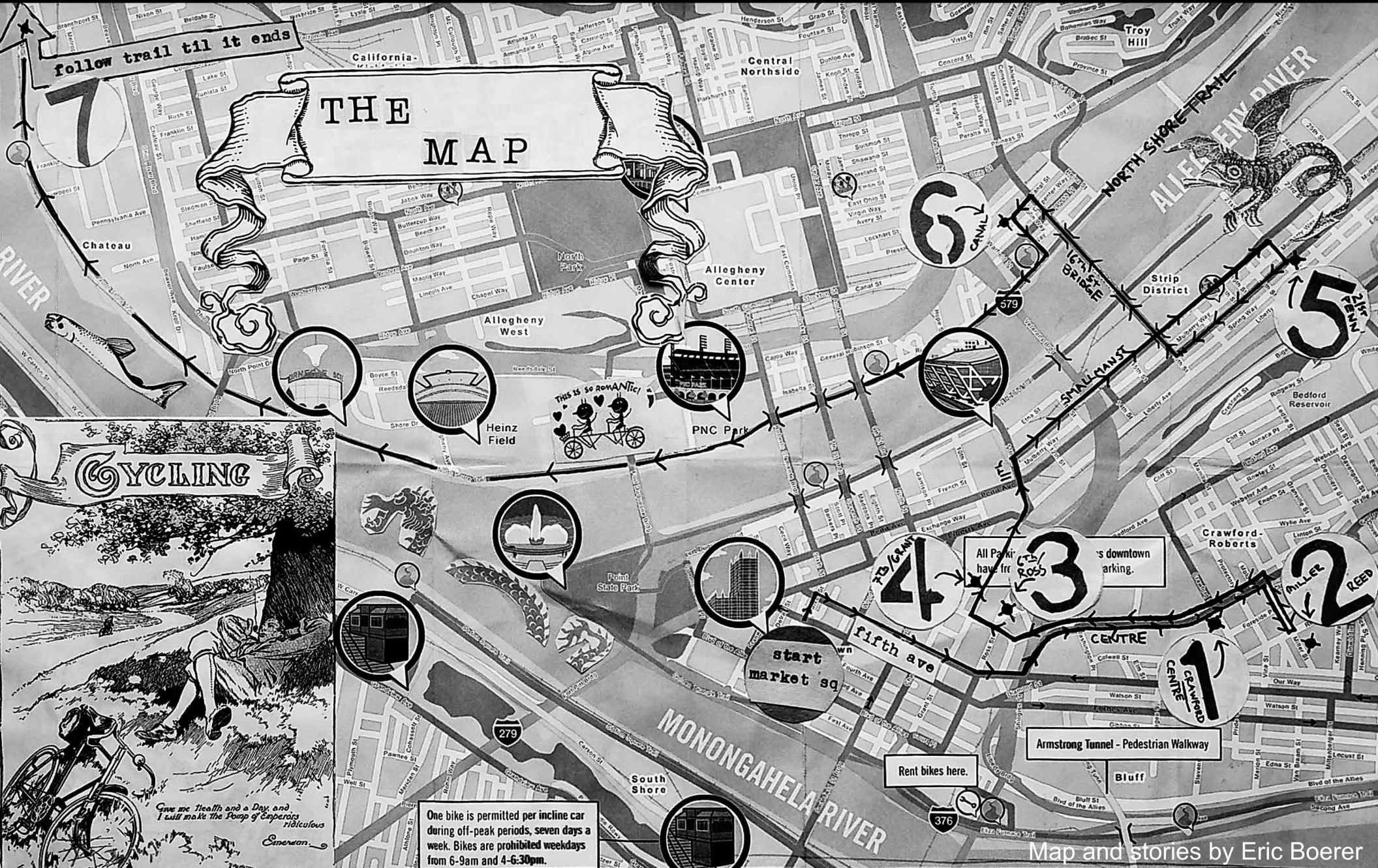
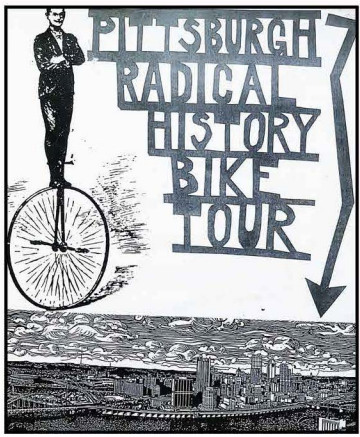


A Historic Bike Tour of Radicals and Subversives in and around Downtown Pittsburgh



Map and stories by Eric Boerer

For complete descriptions, see: pghradhistorytour.wordpress.com



A brief tour of select sites important to the history of radicals, subversives, and rebellions in and around downtown Pittsburgh

The seven stops over 12 miles are meant to be taken at your own pace, and there is no need to do the tour in order, it just makes for a pleasant bike ride. Some of the places on the tour no longer exist, but being on location allows you to imagine what it was like to live through these tumultuous times. Originally accompanying the tour was a zine, or homemade magazine, assembled with images taken from newspapers, library archives, and the *Pittsburgh Bike Map*, in a traditional cut and paste style.

It's recommended to read the full descriptions of the sites online: pghradhistorytour.wordpress.com

You can also view and download a gpx file of the route here: ridewithgps.com/routes/32665330

Start. Market Square Welcome to the tour! While you're in Market Square, be sure to check out the Martin R. Delany Historical Marker, on 3rd St, PPG Place. Delany was an important African-American journalist, abolitionist, physician, and soldier who worked alongside Frederick Douglass in Rochester, New York to develop and publish the *North Star*. The marker says that Delany was a "promoter of African-American nationalism, [and] published a Black newspaper, *The Mystery*, at an office near here. He attended Harvard Medical School, practiced medicine in Pittsburgh, and was commissioned as a major in the Civil War.

- 1. Centre Ave and Crawford St - *Arthursville Abolitionists and the Uprising in the Hill District*** - An important hub of the Underground Railroad, slavecatchers knew to stay away thanks to the militant abolitionists of the Pittsburgh Vigilance Committee. Events a century later, that would raze this neighborhood for the Civic Arena development, would lead to one of the largest insurrections in Pittsburgh's history.
- 2. Miller St and Reed St - *Jewish Labor Lyceum and the Stogie Strike of 1913*** - A building that worked with the flood of Jewish Immigrants to the Hill District, with a broken cornerstone that read "...of the World Unite" on the facade. Labor activists and the International Workers of the World (IWW) also led a stike for better working conditions for the mostly Jewish, immigrant stogie factory workers.
- 3. 6th Ave and Ross St - *The Free Speech Fight of the No Conscription League*** - A local chapter of an Emma Goldman founded organization gets raided by the federal government for sending postcards promoting a resistance to the World War I draft.
- 4. 7th Ave and Grant St - *The Weather Underground Attacks the Gulf Building*** - A splinter group of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in the early 1970s set off dynamite on the executive floors of the Gulf Building, targeting Gulf "for their enourmous crimes" and "racist policies in Angola."
- 5. 21st St and Penn Ave - *The Great Railroad Strike of 1877*** - One of the largest strikes in American history comes to Pittsburgh and, fueled by whiskey looted from train cars, leaves the Strip District and railroad property in ruins. Pittsburghers fought off federal troops from Philadelphia, and spurred a near general strike in the region, winning much needed reforms.
- 6. Canal St and Chesbro St - *The Pittsburgh Conference*** - A veritable "who's who" of US anarchists and socialists of the 1880s assembles in Pittsburgh to draft a document trying to mend fissures in the far left, and unite under a set of shared principles.
- 7. Western Terminus of the Northside Trail - *Alexander Berkman attempts to escape from Western Penitentiary*** - The attempted assassin of Henry Clay Frick ends up in Western Penitentiary for his deed in retaliation for Frick's role in the Homestead Steel Strike and the death of the striking workers. The famous anarchist, also one of Emma Goldman's lovers, formulates a plot to escape that involves renting a house across the street from the prison, and digging a tunnel under the prison walls, while a piano player attempts to hide the noise of the digging.