ROUTE ONE

The first route is two miles long and encompasses 1440 steps. You can park near the intersection of South 21st Street and Josephine, then walk east on Josephine Street to the first street (Greeley Street) and turn right. The first steps are part way down Greeley Street on your left (S1). This flight of steps, built in 1947, contains 93 steps that are four feet wide. They start at Greeley Street and end at Leticoe Street. At the top of the steps go straight up Sterling Street to Mission Street where you will notice the second set of steps.

The first steps on Sterling Street are sidewalk steps (S2). They extend from Mission Street to Wellington Street and were constructed in 1951. They are also four feet wide and consist of 202 steps. At Wellington Street, the Sterling Street steps change from sidewalk steps to street steps and now constitute a legal street. These street steps were also built in 1951 and extend to Patterson Street. Although the total number of steps is 99, the route traverses only 53 of these steps to the intersection with Berg Street.

The route turns left onto the wooden steps (S3), which are Berg Street. These relatively new street steps were built in 1997 and they number 40. Continue walking along the paved portion of Berg Street and walk the nine sidewalk steps on the left side down to Eleanor Street. Turn left at Eleanor Street and continue to Codben Street where the route continues down the sidewalk steps on the right side of Eleanor Street (S4). These sidewalk steps contain the fewest number of steps—exactly one—of any in the city, although due to the steep slope of the street you will notice a sometimes much needed handrail.

Turn right on Holt Street and walk on the left sidewalk. Although technically not sidewalk steps, there are three steps along this walkway. Cross Holt Street to the flight of steps to the right (S5). These 87 steps, built in 1947, are Sumner Street. At the top of the flight of steps, the Sumner Street steps divide into left and right sidewalk steps. The route traverses the left-hand sidewalk steps. Although these continue all the way to Niles Street, the route turns left onto Oakley Way (S6).

Walk down the 48 sidewalk steps to Mission Street. You might notice the wooden sidewalk steps on Stromberg Street, as you pass. Turn left at Mission Street (S7) and take the 86 sidewalk steps down to Barry Street (S8). These four foot wide steps were built in 1950 and afford one of the most scenic views on the route. Although the route turns right onto Barry Street, notice the sidewalk steps on both sides of Barry Street to the left. Turning right, the route traverses 75 sidewalk steps on the left side of Barry Street. These were built in 1947 and are five feet wide.

At the bottom of Barry Street walk east along Josephine Street for a short distance until you encounter the Oakley Way steps on the right (S9). These 285 street steps, built in 1928, reach back to Mission Street. However, the route traverses only 248 of these steps (equivalent to 12 floors) to Stella Street. The route turns right along Stella Street and crosses Barry Street to the Leticoe Street steps (S10). These three foot wide wooden street steps were built in 1990 and there are 44 of them. At the bottom of the steps continue west along Leticoe Street until you reach the Eleanor Street steps (S11).

These street steps were built in 1934, number 284, and reach to Holt Street. At the top of the steps the route turns right on Holt Street and traverses five cement sidewalk steps to the wooden steps (S12). The Holt Street wooden sidewalk steps are very recent, built in 1999. These 47 steps connect down to Sterling Street where the route crosses to the mid point of the Sterling Street sidewalk steps (S2). Turn right onto Sterling Street.

There are 63 sidewalk steps on Sterling Street from this point to the end of the steps at Mission Street. The last set of steps is the first set of steps (S1) and they end at Greeley Street. The route turns right at the bottom and continues to Josephine where it turns left, back to the starting point.

In this route one traverses a 780 foot elevation change, traveling up 950 steps (515 feet) and down 490 steps (265 feet). This is equivalent to climbing up 43 and walking down 22 stories in a building.