Look Up, Kentucky!

Walking Tours of 3 Towns in the Bluegrass State

A Walking Tour of Frankfort, Kentucky
from walkthetown.com

After Kentucky became a state, five commissioners were appointed on June 20, 1792, to choose a location for the capital. They had several communities jostling for the honor and presumably a list of criteria but most importantly the commissioners were looking for free land and free buildings. General James Wilkinson who had purchased this land on the north side of the Kentucky River in 1786 offered the use of one of his buildings for seven years, 10 boxes of window glass, 1,500 pounds of nails, a passel of locks and hinges plus the use of a sawmill, quarry, wagon and two good horses. And threw in $3,000 of gold. Frankfort, named for Stephen Frank who was killed in 1780 by Indians while making salt in a ford of the Kentucky River, became the capital of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

All was amicable enough in the early going but with a covetous and increasingly powerful town on either side, the capital never rested easily in Frankfort. Twice the state Capitol burned, in 1815 and 1824, and each time Louisville and Lexington made ominous noises about shifting the seat of government away from Frankfort. Even after a grand government temple was constructed to serve as Kentucky state capitol in 1830 the town continued with an eye out for the day when its capital status would be lost. The population grew by scarcely 200 people over the next ten years from 1,682 to 1,917. South Frankfort was annexed int he 1840s but 100 years later, in 1950, there were still fewer than 12,000 people in the capital city.

Economic growth was derailed by the coming of the railroads that shifted dreams from the Kentucky River to the ports of the Ohio River. At that Frankfort settled into the life of a prosperous town of manufacturing concerns of mostly local importance. There were distilleries, leather-makers, tobacco markets, pork processing, lumbering and hemp production. Today the streets of the business district, named by Wilkinson for family members and friends who were Colonial-era military leaders, are filled with souvenirs of the 19th century, as befits a town that was never in a rush to modernize and our walking tour will begin at the stateliest of those heritage structures...

1. **Old State Capitol**
   Broadway bounded by Madison, Clinton and Lewis streets

Lexington native Gideon Shyrock was 25 years old when got the commission to design his first building in 1830 and it was for the capitol of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He decided to construct the first Greek Revival building west of the Allegheny Mountains using Kentucky River marble, a local crystalline limestone. Shyrock emulated ancient Mediterranean temples with a colonnade of Ionic columns and no windows. A domed lantern on the roof brought sunlight into the rotunda that is highlighted by a self-supporting stone circular stairway. This was the third building to hold the Kentucky government and it remained in service until 1910.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE OLD CAPITOL TURN RIGHT ON BROADWAY. TURN LEFT ON WASHINGTON STREET.

2. **Thomas House**
   312 Washington Street

Landon Thomas, a successful lawyer, constructed this substantial brick home in 1840. In the 1870s the Federal-style building picked up an Italianate facelift, most noticeable at the bracketed roofline. This became the summer home of his sister Emily, who was encouraged by her merchant husband Richard Tubman to leave their Georgia plantation in the hot weather to avoid outbreaks of yellow fever. Emily Thomas Tubman was widowed in her early 40s in 1836 and after her husband's death she petitioned the Georgia legislature to free her slaves and let them live free in Georgia. When she was denied Tubman offered her 144 slaves the option of returning to Africa or remaining on the plantation. Sixty-nine chose to go and Tubman paid some $6,000 to cover the cost of the trans-Atlantic passage. In Liberia a town was named for Tubman and the grandson of one her emancipated slaves served 27 years as President.

3. The Church of the Ascension
311 Washington Street

The area's oldest church began in a small law office in 1835. While Bishop Benjamin Bosworth Smith, the first elected Episcopal Bishop of Kentucky, was in New York City seeking funds, the ladies of the Church of the Ascension in Greenwich Village gave him $1,000 for the establishment of an Episcopal Church in Frankfort. The money was used to construct a wooden frame Greek Revival meetinghouse on this site in 1836 and the congregation took the name of its New York benefactors. The cornerstone for the current Gothic Revival stone church was laid in 1848 and completed four years later with parishioners John and Mary Hanna picking up the entire $20,000 price tag.

4. Milam House
308 Washington Street

Jacob Swigert constructed the small core of this brick building as an office in the 1830s. As it expanded it took on more of an Italianate flavor with window hoods and bracketed eaves. The most famous owner associated with the house was John W. Milam. Milam took over the business of manufacturing the world famous "Frankfort Kentucky" fishing reel, a concern started by his father Benjamin. There is evidence of fishing reels in China a thousand years ago but no mechanical leaps forward in reel mechanics until George Snyder of Kentucky developed a reel that produced four turns of the spool with each turn of the handle. Snyder was a watchmaker by trade and made a few reels for himself and friends. In the 1840s two brothers, Jonathan and Benjamin Meek, also watchmakers began producing reels based on Snyder's reel as a side business. In 1837 Benjamin C. Milam joined the business as an apprentice. Not liking watchwork, Milam concentrated on perfecting the multiplying reel and in time was doing all the work of making reels that were stamped "J.F. & B.F. Meek." As Milam eventually developed his own business the celebrated reels won international awards and were favorites of Presidents Cleveland, McKinley and Roosevelt before Milam died in 1904.

5. Morehead House
326 West Main Street at northeast corner of West Main Street

Mark Hardin built this elegant seat, with bricks laid in a Flemish bond pattern, in 1810. It carries the name of Charles Slaughter Morehead who bought the house in 1847, which he also used for his law practice. Morehead didn't have time for too many cases. He was elected to Congress in 1848. served two terms and then won election as the 20th Governor of Kentucky as the only member of the Know Nothing Party to ascend to the executive office. After his term ended in 1859 Morehead moved to Louisville to return to private practice. During the Civil War he was a Southern sympathizer and outspoken critic of the Lincoln administration. Arrested for disloyalty, Morehead was imprisoned for six months although no charges were ever filed. After his parole Morehead refused to swear an oath of allegiance and fled to Canada, then to Europe and finally to Mexico until the war ended.

6. Swigert House
300 Washington Avenue on northwest corner of Main Street

This was a 25-year old, four-room house when Jacob Swigert purchased it in 1840. Swigert and his brother Philip had their fingers in almost everything going on in Frankfort from railroads to gasworks to schools. They owned a woolen mill and slaughterhouse. At one time they owned the largest herd of American Jersey cattle in the United States after importing 21 head from the Isle of Jersey. In addition to expanding the house, Swigert switched its orientation off Main Street to its present perch on Washington.

7. Crittenden House
401 West Main Street at southwest corner of Washington Street

This L-shaped late-Georgian style house was built around 1800 by Charles Sprole on property once owned by Aaron Burr. In 1819 the house was purchased by John Jordan Crittenden who, at the age of 32, had just resigned his United States Senate seat after two years because he found state politics more interesting. President John Quincy Adams nominated Crittenden for the United States Supreme Court in 1828 but he was not confirmed due this close ties to Henry Clay. Crittenden returned to national politics in 1834 as he became active in the organizing of the Whig Party from the remnants of the defunct National Republican Party. After that Crittenden would be elected three times to the United States Senate, serve as United States Attorney General under two Presidents, put in a stint as Kentucky governor and win a race for the United States House of Representatives. Through it all this is where he lived. Upon his death in 1863, John Crittenden was mourned by thousands in the Frankfort streets and eulogized as the town's leading citizen.

TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.

8. First Presbyterian Church
416 West Main Street

This is the second meetinghouse for the Frankfort Presbyterians, begun in 1849 on plans from Jacob Beaverson of Louisville. Beaverson based his design on the works of Andrew Jackson Downing, a champion of the Gothic Revival style, who published several influential architectual pattern books before his early death in a steamship boiler explosion at the age of 36 in 1852. The belltower soars 85 feet above Main Street.

9. Hoge House
302 Wilkinson Street at northwest corner of Main Street

Like several homes in the neighborhood a parade of notable Kentuckians have lived here since it was erected around 1810. But the 200-year old Federal-style house stands out for its construction of timbers filled in with brick and mortar and covered with clapboard, a practice seldom seen in central Kentucky.

TURN LEFT ON WILKINSON STREET.

10. Liberty Hall
218 Wilkinson Street

John Brown, who introduced the petition for Kentucky statehood while a Virginia Congressman, constructed this house in 1796. By then Brown was representing Kentucky in the United States Senate which he did until his defeat for a third term in 1805. Since he was away in Philadelphia for much of his time the house was not fully finished until his return. Brown remained here until his death in 1837 during which time he managed his large land holdings, owned a ferry on the Kentucky River, helped begin the Kentucky Historical Society and served as Sheriff of Franklin County.

11. Orlando Brown House
202 Wilkinson Street

John Brown's will provided an equal division of his property between his two sons. Elder son Mason inherited Liberty Hall and Orlando got the funds for this house. Brown the younger hired Gideon Shyrock, Kentucky's leading architect after his triumph at the State Capitol, to draw up plans for his new manor house. Shyrock delivered a trademark Greek Revival design that was executed by local builder Harrison Blanton who brought the project in for $5,000.

TURN LEFT ON WAPPING STREET.

12. Bibb-Burnley House
411 Wapping Street at southwest corner of Watson Court

John Instone built one of the first houses in town here in 1786. Instone named the street after his old neighborhood on the banks of the Thames River in his native England. John Bibb, a member of the Kentucky legislature, bought the property in 1856 and constructed the twenty-one room Gothic Revival house, marked by steep gables and bargeboards on the roof eaves. An amateur horticulturist, Bibb developed a a variety of butterhead lettuce with loose, delicate, and crisp but tender leaves that carries his name today.

13. Rodman-Hewitt House
404 Wapping Street

This brick house was constructed around 1817 and picked up a Greek Revival porch a little later on. In 1859 Hugh Rodman, the 15th American to achieve the highest rank of Four-Star General in the United States Navy, was born in this house. He was duty officer during the Spanish-American War but was promoted to Rear Admiral in World War I and commanded a battleship division in the Atlantic Ocean. After the war Rodman served as Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet.

14. Vest-Lindsey House
401 Wapping Street at southwest corner of Washington Street

This five-bay Federal brick structure is one of Frankfort's oldest homes, with roots possibly in the 18th century. The Commonwealth of Kentucky bought the house in 1965 and stripped it back to an approximation of its early 19th century appearance. The Lindsey was Thomas Noble Lindsey whose son Deaniel Weisiger Lindsey was Adjutant General and Inspector General, in charge of all Kentucky Union Army forces during the Civil War. Lindsey bought the house in 1846 from the Vest family, whose son George Graham Vest would represent Missouri in the Confederate Congress and in the United States Senate. As a young lawyer Vest once addressed the jury on behalf of his client, suing a neighbor who had killed his dog. Vest's speech has come to be known as "Tribute to the Dog:" *The best friend a man has in the world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or daughter that he has reared with loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has, he may lose. It flies away from him, perhaps when he needs it most. A man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads. The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he may be near his*

master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that come in an encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings, and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens. If fortune drives the master forth an outcast in the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him, to guard him against danger, to fight against his enemies. And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes his master in its embrace and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there by the graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad, but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true even in death.

TURN LEFT ON WASHINGTON STREET.

15. First Methodist Church
211 Washington Street

Methodist circuit riders began arriving in Frankfort in 1790, more than thirty years before an actual church was erected on Ann Street. This Gothic Revival meetinghouse is an 1858 creation.

16. Macklin House
212 Washington Street

This handsome brick townhouse was constructed in 1850 on the site of a blacksmith shop. In the back of the property is a two-story carriage house that is one of the few remaining in Franklin County. George B. Macklin, whose family ran one of the largest hog farms in Kentucky, settled in town here in 1867 where he operated a coal yard near the Louisville & Nashville Railroad bridge at the end of Broadway. In 1878 Macklin installed the first telephone in Franklin from his office to the coal yard.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO WAPPING STREET. TURN LEFT.

17. Paul Sawyier Public Library
319 Wapping Street at southeast corner of Washington Street

Lilian Lindsey founded the Frankfort Public Library in 1908 and was managed by the Frankfort Woman's Club until 1965. The collection has led a wandering life around town until settling into its first dedicated building here in 2006. Impressionist artist Paul Sawyier grew up in Frankfort from the age of five and is best known for his watercolor landscapes, many of which featured Frankfort. At the time of his death in 1917 at the age of 52 he was believed to have painted some 3,000 such works.

18. Thomas Todd House
320 Wapping Street

After mustering out of the Continental Army after the Revolutionary War Thomas Todd studied law and surveying and went the legal route when he followed his cousin Harry Innes to Kentucky after Innes got appointed to the federal court in Danville. Todd was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1788, clerked in the legislature and became chief clerk of the Kentucky Supreme Court in 1799. In quick order he was appointed to the Court, named Chief Justice and appointed by Thomas Jefferson to the United States Supreme Court in 1807 at the age of forty-one. In 1818, while serving on the U.S. Supreme Court, Todd purchased this house that was constructed in 1812. Todd and his wife Lucy, the sister of First Lady Dolley Madison, wouldn't recognize their home today beyond the fanlighted door - the Federal-style structure was given a Victorian makeover late in the 19th century.

19. Church of the Good Shepherd
310 Wapping Street

This was the birthplace of the Presbyterian church in Frankfort in the 1820s. They sold their small church to the new Catholic congregation in town, fueled by an influx of Irish immigrants, in 1849. This church was constructed around the existing building which was carried out through the door piece by piece when the job was completed.

20. Old United States Courthouse and Post Office
305 Wapping Street at southwest corner of Bridge Street

The federal government made an appearance in Frankfort in 1887 with this eclectic, unbalanced Victorian pile that contained the post office on the first floor and a courtroom on the second floor. The building expanded towards the river in 1910 which was sufficient until the 1960s when the post office moved to more spacious digs. After the courts departed the building held the Frankfort Library until it moved to the other end of the block in 2006.

TURN LEFT ON ST. CLAIR STREET.

21. First Baptist Church
201 St. Clair Street

With thirteen members in 1816, this became the second church in Frankfort. The first meetinghouse came along in 1827 which served the congregation until it went up in flames in

1867. The present building was raised the following year and picked up its picturesque front in 1904.

22. Franklin County Courthouse
218 St. Clair Street

This was the second courthouse constructed in Franklin County, on land donated by John H. Hanna, J. Dudley and J. J. Marshall. It is another Greek Revival building designed by Gideon Shyrock in 1832 and completed in 1835. Stone for the building was carted to the site from a quarry owned by Philip Swigert. In the three-stage cupola resides a bell imported from Philadelphia. Although the courthouse has undergone remodeling through the years the exterior remains much as Shyrock envisioned it.

23. McClure Building
306 West Main Street at northwest corner of St. Clair Street

With a steel-frame and classically-flavored Chicago-style design this is considered Frankfort's first skyscraper, owned by the McClure Realty Company. Completed in 1907, the main tenant in the seven-story high-rise at the time was R.K. McClure & Sons Dry Goods.

NEXT TO THE MCCLURE BUILDING ON ST. CLAIR STREET IS...

24. Grand Theatre
308 St. Clair Street

The Grand opened in 1911 as a 135-seat vaudeville house. It was part of a performance legacy in Frankfort that included five theaters downtown over the years but the Grand is the only survivor with its configuration intact. The Grand was converted into a full-time movie house in 1941 with 680 seats and operated until 1966. After that the building was put through a string of commercial paces until a multi-million dollar revival in 2009.

IF YOU HAVE CROSSED MAIN STREET TO SEE THE GRAND THEATRE, RETURN TO MAIN STREET AND TURN LEFT. IF YOU HAVE VIEWED IT FROM THE INTERSECTION, TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET, HEADING EAST.

25. W.A. Gaines Building
229 West Main Street

Massachusetts-born Arthur Loomis entered the office of Charles J. Clarke, one of the most prominent architects in Kentucky, in Louisville. The firm turned out many important buildings and residences, including this commercial structure of pressed brick and terra-cotta for W.A. Gaines & Company Distillers. William Gaines organized the company in 1867 and constructed the Old Crow distillery on the banks of Glenn's Creek that adopted the distilling practices of the old Scotsman James Crow in 1872.

26. Old Farmers Bank Building
216 West Main Street

Five years after its charter by the Kentucky legislature in 1850 the Farmers Bank took its first deposits in this building crafted by blocks of Kentucky River marble. Grey limestone blocks were used for trim and a corner quoin pattern. The building is still being used by a bank more than 150 ears later.

27. Old State National Bank
200 West Main Street at northwest corner of Ann Street

While the core of downtown Frankfort displays many examples of the Italianate style that was favored by most of America's downtowns for commercial buildings in the late 19th century, the fringes begin to show examples of the later Neoclassical style used by banks like this one in 1912.

28. New Capital Hotel
130 West Main Street at northeast corner of Ann Street

The original Capital Hotel was constructed by town leaders in 1853 as a means of anchoring the state capital in Frankfort amid grumblings it would inevitably be shifted to Louisville or Lexington. The stone showplace was designed by Isaiah Rogers and Henry Whitestone, Kentucky's most important architect of the day, and the Capital immediately became the gathering place of the state's rich and powerful when in town. That building burned down in 1917 and its successor, a grand Colonial Revival structure of brick and stone trim, was completed in 1922. The hotel closed in 1964 and was occupied by the State National Bank and renovated by the Whitaker Bank.

TURN LEFT ON ANN STREET.

29. Masonic Temple
308 Ann Street

This is another picturesque contribution to the Frankfort streetscape from the Louisville firm of Clarke and Loomis in 1893. The Romanesque stone building is marked by brad arches and square corner entrance tower with symbolic carvings of the Masonic fraternal organization.

30. First Christian Church
316 Ann Street at southwest corner of Broadway

Philip S. Fall was born in Keloden, England in 1798, the eldest of twelve children. His parents brought the brood to Kentucky in 1817 and died the following year leaving Philip as the head of the family. He became an educator and was ordained as a Baptist preacher in 1819. In Louisville, Fall organized the first church in Kentucky espousing the beliefs of the New Testament. This congregation was organized in 1932 and began worshiping here a decade later. The current sanctuary dates to 1924. Fall is buried in the Frankfort Cemetery, one of the most beautiful and important graveyards in the country, near the burial site of Daniel Boone on the cliffs overlooking the town.

31. Capital City Museum
325 Ann Street at southeast corner of Broadway

These two mismatched buildings are today joined as the Capital City Museum. The large limestone block building is the remains of the original Capital Hotel that burned in 1917. The diminuitive three-bay corner building is the former home of the Gayle Drug Store. The museum was organized in 2004.

TURN RIGHT ON BROADWAY.

32. Frankfort Union Station
405 High Street south of the tracks on Broadway

By 1900 Frankfort was served by the Louisville and Nashville, Chesapeake and Ohio, and Frankfort and Cincinnati railroads. In the sessions of the Kentucky General Assembly in 1904 and 1905 more money was earmarked for public buildings in Frankfort than had been spent in the entire town's history. This freight depot and passenger station was constructed to replace a station built by the Lexington & Frankfort Railroad in the 1850s. The last passenger train rolled through town on April 30, 1971.

TURN LEFT ON HIGH STREET.

33. Kentucky Historical Society
100 West Broadway at northwest corner of High Street

The Kentucky Historical Society was formed in 1836 to preserve the history of the commonwealth when there wasn't all that much of it. Now that history is contained in 167,000 square feet of modern space completed in 1999.

34. Old Governor's Mansion
420 High Street

One of America's oldest Executive Mansions, this brick Federal-style house was constructed in 1798. The second Kentucky governor, James Garrard, was the first of thirty-five governors to move his family into the mansion. The governor's office was also here until 1872. For most of that time Frankfort's future as continuing capital in a growing state was never certain and the building suffered from a lack of maintenance funding. After the last governor moved across the river in 1914 the building stood vacant most of the time and was facing the wrecking ball when it was saved through an initiative by Governor Simeon Willis. In 1956 the renovated Old Governor's Mansion became the official residence of Kentucky's Lieutenant Governors until 2002.

35. First Baptist Church
100 West Clinton Street at northwest corner of High Street

Black and white Baptists worshipped together in Frankfort until 1833 when the First Baptist Church was segregated into two congregations. In 1898 this lot was purchased by the black Baptists but construction of a church to replace its half-centry old meetinghouse was blocked by the City. It took the Court of Appeals in 1904 to declare that the opposition was "largely based upon race prejudice" before they could proceed. The current sanctuary that has stood for more than 100 years was completed in 1905.

TURN LEFT ON CLINTON STREET. TURN LEFT ON ANN STREET. TURN RIGHT ON BROADWAY TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT THE OLD KENTUCKY CAPITOL.

A Walking Tour of Lexington, Kentucky
from walkthetown.com

By 1820, before steamboats tamed the Ohio River and drew industry to its banks, Lexington was one of the largest and wealthiest towns west of the Allegheny Mountains. If you wanted to engage in commerce you came to Lexington. If you wanted an education you came to Lexington. If you wanted to keep up with the latest news or borrow a book you came to Lexington.

Early on the growing of hemp used in ropes on sailing ships drove the economy. The tobacco became a cash crop for more than a century. There were local distilleries and in recent years education and technology have been the economic engine. But hovering above it all in Lexington since its founding in 1775 has been horse breeding.

The men from Maryland and Virginia who settled the town rode their best horses over the mountains or floated them on flatboats down the Kentucky River. The first census in 1790 showed more horses in Lexington than people. Kentucky's first races had begun informally three years earlier. An early law in the county was passed that was designed to keep the blood of race horses pure. Stallions were imported from England and Arabia and the breeding of thoroughbreds, trotters and saddle horses came to infuse every aspect of life in Lexington. Today nearly 50,000 horses are bred each year on the Bluegrass Country farms around Lexington.

Lexington has sometimes been called "the city in a park" for all the surrounding horse farms but our walking tour of the historic town will uncover nary a reference to race horses. Even the golden stallion weathervane that once lorded over the city from the top of the Fayette County Courthouse is no longer seen (although it is inside the building) and that is where we will begin our tour...

1. Lexington History Museum
215 West Main Street

This is the fifth courthouse to stand on this site and after so much tinkering with its predecessors it has stood largely unaltered in appearance since 1898. The building is an interpretation of the brawny Richardsonian Romanesque style often favored for important civic buildings of the 1890s. The courthouse features such hallmarks of the style as prominent gables, bold arches and conical towers. On the lawn are commemorative statues of two Lexington natives, Confederate General John Hunt Morgan and John Cabell Breckinridge, America's youngest Vice President. Since 2003 the former courthouse has hosted the Lexington History Museum.

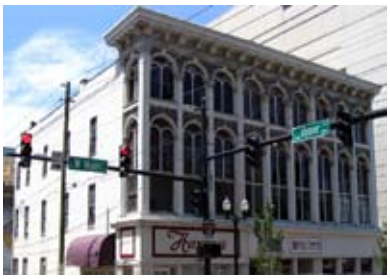
FACING THE COURTHOUSE, THE SKYSCRAPER TO YOUR RIGHT, OVERLOOKING THE SQUARE, IS...

2. Fayette National Bank
159-67 West Main Street at northeast corner of Upper Street

When the directors of the Fayette Bank, founded in 1870, decided to tear down their 1880s French Second Empire banking house on this corner in 1912 they went to New York City and came back with the greatest architectural firm in America - McKim, Mead and White. The New Yorkers were at the forefront of the move towards classically-styled buildings in the early 1900s and here designing partner William Mitchell Kendall applied the exuberant Beaux Arts style to this 225-foot tower. The skyscraper was intended as a symbol of the bank's success and it would be almost 60 years before another high-rise would be raised in Lexington to challenge it.

ACROSS FROM THE COURTHOUSE, CATTY-CORNERED FROM THE FAYETTE NATIONAL BANK IS...

3. McAdams and Morford Building
200-210 West Main Street at southwest corner of Upper Street



This three-story brick building was constructed in 1849. In the 1860s a cast iron facade was added and the appearance has remained virtually the same since. Cast iron enjoyed a brief wave of popularity in the mid-19th century as a quick and inexpensive way to bring high-style to commercial buildings and this is one of two such facades remaining in Lexington. In this case it was an Italian Renaissance look, punctuated with arched windows and Corinthian pilasters. As early as 1824 John Norton operated an apothecary on this site and it is that company that Harry K. McAdams and J.W. Morford purchased in 1898. While drugs were dispensed on the ground floor, the upstairs areas found various uses, including a theater and classrooms for the Commercial College of Kentucky University.

WALK WEST ON MAIN STREET (THE COURTHOUSE IS ON YOUR RIGHT).

4. Lexington City National Bank Building
259-265 West Main Street at northwest corner of Cheapside

Chartered in 1865, the Lexington City National Bank anchored this corner with a Beaux Arts-inspired building in 1905. Clarence E. Richards, partner in the top architectural firm in Columbus, Ohio, executed the design in brick, stone and glazed tile. Richards saved his most exuberant decorative flourishes for the top of the eight-story building. The City National name remains carved over the entrance but the bank went through a flurry of name changes and mergers after it set up shop here.

THE BUILDING NEXT DOOR, FACING COURTHOUSE SQUARE, IS...

5. Fayette Safety Vault & Trust Co. Building
111-113 Cheapside

Herman L. Rowe was the dean of Lexington architects in the late 19th century. Here he tapped the High Victorian Gothic style in 1891 for the three-story, four-bay commercial building. The cut-stone facade is the town's most festive remaining from the eclectic Victorian Lexington streetscape. The building was erected for a vault and trust company but its prominent location at the flank of the courthouse quickly made it a favorite office for lawyers and realtors.

CONTINUE WALKING WEST ON MAIN STREET.

6. Lexington Financial Center
250 West Main Street at southeast corner of Mill Street

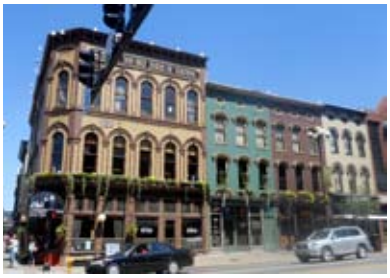
Sheathed entirely in blue-tinted plate glass, this 410-foot tower is Lexington's tallest building. It was completed in 1987 on plans from the Kentucky architectural firm of Sherman Carter Barnhart.

7. Rupp Arena
southwest corner of Broadway and Main Street

Since its opening in 1976, Rupp Arena has been the centerpiece of Lexington Center, a convention and shopping facility owned by an arm of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, and serves as home court to the University of Kentucky men's basketball program. It carries the name of Adolph Rupp who coached the Wildcats for 41 years beginning in 1930, winning 876 games and

four national championships. In that time only one Rupp-coached team ever lost more than ten games in a season.

8. Victorian Square
northwest corner of Broadway and Main Street



This block of picturesque commercial buildings have been fixtures at this prominent intersection since the 1880s. The Italianate-style buildings demonstrate familiar elements of the style - tall windows, decorative window hoods and bracketed eaves. The block of sixteen buildings has housed basket makers, greengrocers, casket sellers and an opera house. A 1985 make-over fused them all under a single roof, preserving as much ornamentation as possible.

TURN RIGHT ON BROADWAY. TURN LEFT ON SHORT STREET.

9. Lell's Opera House
410-414 West Short Street

Opera was never much on the entertainment menu here. J.W. Lell operated a beer parlor on the first floor and a theater on the second floor where stage acts typically consisted of a "girlie" show with a male performer in the lead. The 3-bay brick building was constructed in 1882. Herman L. Rowe provided the ornate Italianate design with a center pediment for the one-time burlesque house.

RETURN TO BROADWAY AND TURN LEFT.

10. Lexington Opera House
145 North Broadway

"Opera House" was a catch-all phrase for a town's main stage in the 19th century and this one was constructed in 1886 to replace an earlier opera house that had just burned down. Oscar Cobb, a Chicago architect who specialized in theater design, drew up plans with a Turkish theme and the results were satisfactory enough for the *Kentucky Leader* to gush that the Lexington Opera House was the the "costliest, handsomest and most convenient Thespian temples in the South, an object of cherished pride in the city." The biggest stars of the day beat a path to the Opera House until its final live performance on October 1, 1926. After that the Opera House made the transition to a movie house, screening the new "talkies" of the day until it went the way of most downtown theaters and closed in the onslaught of competition from television and suburban malls. The Lexington Opera House was one of the lucky ones, however, as it dodged the wrecking ball and re-opened for live performances again in 1976.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO SHORT STREET AND TURN LEFT, HEADING EAST.

11. Security Trust Building
271 West Short Street at northeast corner of Mill Street

This is another heritage high-rise contributed to the Lexington streetscape from Richards, McCarty and Bulford of Columbus, Ohio. Here they used thin bricks to decorate the facade and create the illusion of pillars. When it was completed in 1903 it was the second tallest building in Lexington.

TURN LEFT ON MILL STREET.

12. Lexington Arts Place
161 North Mill Street at northwest corner of Church Street

Down the street another Richards, McCarty and Bulford building began life in 1904 as a YMCA, constructed of brick atop a rusticated base. The Beaux Arts facade boasts a classical entrance and is wrapped in broad quoins at the corner. In 1979 the space was transformed by the Lexington Arts and Cultural Council to an art center.

13. First Presbyterian Church Lexington
170 North Mill Street

Scotch-Irish settlers founded this congregation in 1784 as the Mount Zion Church. Cincinnatus Shyrock, whose brother Gideon championed the Greek Revival style and was the architect for the Old State Capitol in Frankfort, drew up the designs for this meetinghouse in 1872. Architecture was a sideline for Shyrock who studied medicine at Transylvania and was an amateur astronomer as well. The Gothic-style First Presbyterian is highlighted by a 150-foot copper spire that retains a place of honor in the surrounding streetscape.

14. Henry Clay Law Office
176 North Mill Street

Henry Clay, one of America's most powerful politicians never to become President, although he tried three times, began his law practice in this building in 1803 when he was 25 years old. Clay was a Virginian by birth but followed his mother out to the frontier in 1797. He constructed this

simple Federal-style structure of brick and launched his political career here by winning successive terms to the Kentucky Legislature. In 1830 the building was expanded into a two-story commercial block which was purchased by the State in 1969 and restored to its original appearance as one of the earliest professional buildings standing in Kentucky.

15. Hunt-Morgan House
201 North Mill Street at northwest corner of Second Street

John Wesley Hunt arrived in Lexington in 1795 and opened a store, engaged in horse breeding, manufactured hemp and started a bank while building one of the first fortunes west of the Allegheny Mountains. In 1814 he constructed this fine Federal-stye brick house that he called Hopemont. Hunt's maternal grandson, John Hunt Morgan became a revered Confederate raider during the Civil War when he carried the fight into Ohio and Indiana before being captured and killed in 1864. Hunt's great grandson, Thomas Hunt Morgan was born in this house in 1866. He grew up to be an American evolutionary biologist, geneticist, embryologist and science author who won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1933 for discoveries about the role the chromosome plays in heredity.

16. Maria Dudley House
215 North Mill Street

This picturesque Victorian townhouse was constructed in the garden of the Hunt-Morgan house in the 1870s. Swedish architect-builder Phelix Lundin blended the Italianate style for the block of the house with a High Victorian Gothic corner tower.

17. Goodloe Houses
239, 243, 247 North Mill Street

This cluster of three Queen Anne brick houses were constructed by Mrs. William Cassius Goodloe, the widow of a former United States minister to Belgium, for her three daughters around 1901. Each house has the same floor floor plan, but different exteriors.

18. Hope House
304 West Third Street at southwest corner of Mill Street

Caleb Ford constructed this Greek Revival house in 1841 but his history here was short. The handsome home was purchased in 1845 by Reverend Edward F. Berkley who presided over the funeral of Henry Clay in Christ Church in 1852. When Mrs. J. Hull Davidson owned the property in the 1890s she enlarged the house and switched the entrance to face Third Street from its original orientation on Mill Street, causing locals to sometimes be remark that it was "the house that turned its back on Gratz Park."

AT THE END OF MILL STREET CROSS ONTO THE CAMPUS OF TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY AND TURN LEFT. A HALF-BLOCK DOWN IS...

19. Patterson Cabin
Transylvania University
Third Street opposite Bark Alley

Colonel Robert Patterson, who had a hand in the founding of Lexington and Cincinnati and Dayton in Ohio, constructed this log cabin in the late 1770s. It may have been the first dwelling in Lexington. Patterson was born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania in 1753 and traveled west when he was 21 years old. He constructed the cabin to stake a claim to thousands of acres outside the blockhouse then standing at today's Broadway and Main. The Pattersons sold the cabin in 1804 and after eleven different owners the property came into the hands of John H. Patterson in 1901 who disassembled his ancestral home and shipped to Dayton. It was returned to Lexington in 1939 and presented to Transylvania University.

TURN AND WALK BACK TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY AND TURN LEFT, WALKING UP THE CIRCULAR DRIVE.

20. Old Morrison
Transylvania College
Third Street between Mill and Market streets

With vast tracts of confiscated British land during the American Revolution, the Virginia Legislature authorized 8,000 acres in its County of Kentucky for "a public school or seminary of learning." Three years later in 1783 that school became the first west of the Allegheny Mountains, destined to be at the forefront of educational facilities in America in the early 1800s. Henry Clay taught here and future luminaries such as Jefferson Davis, Albert Sidney Johnson and John Cabell Breckinridge studied here. After the main building on campus burned in 1829 the school used a $30,000 bequest from the will of James Morrison to finance the construction of this magnificent Doric temple from local architect Gideon Shyrock, anointed as the "Father of Greek Revival architecture in Kentucky." Morrison was a Pennsylvanian who fought in the American Revolution and came to Lexington with statehood in 1792. In short order he became a state representative,

quartermaster-general of the local militia, president of the branch of the United States Bank, and chairman of the board of Trustees of Transylvania University. The building was gutted by fire in 1969 but restored to its original appearance which graces the city seal of Lexington.

WALK BACK DOWN THE CIRCULAR DRIVE AND CROSS THIRD STREET INTO THE PARK.

21. Gratz Park
bounded by Third and Second street and Mill and Market streets

This slender slice of greenspace was where Transylvania Seminary settled when it moved from Danville in 1789. Matthew Kennedy designed a three-story education building with single-story wings here in 1816 but it perished in a fire in 1829. The space was eventually dedicated as Centennial Park in 1876 and now carries the name of early Lexington businessman Benjamin Gratz whose family lived at the corner of Mill and New streets for 160 years and whose son Howard, publisher of the *Kentucky Gazette*, spearheaded the improvement of the park. The fountain at the head of Gratz Park is a gift from James Lane Allen, a Transylvania graduate who moved to New York in 1893 and became a popular novelist and short story writer drawing on Kentucky themes. New York sculptor Joseph Pollia crafted the fountain that was dedicated in 1933.

WALK THROUGH THE PARK. HALFWAY DOWN ON THE LEFT IS...

22. The Kitchen
Gratz Park, 253 Market Street

This is the only souvenir from the original Transylvania College campus as envisioned by Matthew Kennedy in 1816. The building served as classrooms and offices - the name “Kitchen” was a derogatory one from students mocking its inadequacy as a classroom. For most of the past 100 years the Kitchen has served as a gathering spot, first by the gentile card playing of the Ah-Sin Club and then as a community center when the Lexington Parks and Recreation department acquired the low slung rectangular building with a hipped roof.

WHEN YOU REACH THE BACK OF THE BUILDING AT THE END OF THE PARK, WALK AROUND TO THE FRONT.

23. The Carnegie Center
251 West Second Street

When Andrew Carnegie got his first raise as a teenager working in the offices of the Pennsylvania Railroad - to $35 a month - he wrote years later, "I couldn't imagine what I could ever do with so much money." In 1901, when Carnegie sold his U.S. Steel Corporation to banker J.P. Morgan for $480 million Morgan shook his hand and told him, "Congratulations, Mr. Carnegie, you are now the richest man in the world." This time, Carnegie had an idea what to do with the money. He spent a large chunk of his fortune establishing more than 2,500 public libraries around the world. The gift to Lexington was $60,000 and helped construct this Beaux Arts structure of Bedford limestone in 1906. Herman L. Rowe, who embraced the classical style late in his career, contributed the design. When the Lexington Public Library moved to larger digs in the 1980s the Carnegie morphed into the home of the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning.

FACING THE CARNEGIE CENTER. TURN TO YOUR RIGHT AND WALK TO THE CORNER OF MARKET STREET.

24. Bodley-Bullock House
200 Market Street at northeast corner of Second Street

Thomas Pindell, a partner in a distillery and a Lexington mayor, built one of the most substantial seats in early Kentucky with this brick mansion in 1814. Samuel Long, a local contractor, assembled the brick house. General Thomas Bodley, returning from a stint as deputy quartermaster during the War of 1812, purchased the house in 1814 for $10,000 as a statement of his standing in the community. Unfortunately by 1819 financial reversals forced Bodley to dispose of the property. Through the years the residence picked up numerous additions and alterations, including Greek Revival porticos to the Federal-style building that characterize the house today.

TURN RIGHT ON MARKET STREET.

25. Christ Church Cathedral
166 Market Street

This is the fourth meetinghouse for Christ Church Cathedral, founded in 1796 as the oldest Episcopal church in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Despite various facelifts the church looks essentially the same as it did to parishioners in 1848 when it was raised. There were some 1,800 worshipers at that time, the largest flock in the state. Christ Church was designated a cathedral in 1897.

26. Northern Bank Building/Dudley Square
259 West Short Street at northwest corner of Market Street

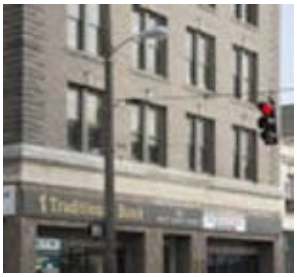
The first bank in Kentucky was established in 1802 in Lexington as the Kentucky Insurance Company, which had initially formed to insure boats. In 1834 the banking system in Kentucky was re-organized with two banks and their branches. One of the two was the Northern Bank of Kentucky with headquarters in Lexington. In 1889 the Northern Bank constructed one of the finest buildings in town as an anchor to Market Street at the rear of the courthouse. The intervening years have seen the loss of its conical roof and corner turret and an unsympathetic remodeling of the ground floor but the old bank still retains visual interest.

TURN LEFT ON SHORT STREET.

27. Old First National Bank Building
215 West Short Street

Herman L. Rowe left scarcely an inch of the facade on this Beaux Arts three-story building undecorated. Look up to see engaged Corinthian columns and pilasters beneath a bold, projecting pediment.

28. McClelland Building
northeast corner of Upper Street and Short Street



If it is a heritage high-rise in Lexington it is likely to have come from the drawing boards of Richards, McCarty and Bulford of Columbus, Ohio and this building, the first high-rise in town, is no exception. The original five stories were completed in 1895 and, as you can see by looking up, two more floors were added a decade later.

TURN LEFT ON LIMESTONE STREET. TURN RIGHT ON BARR STREET.

29. United States Post Office and Court House
101 Barr Street at northeast corner of Limestone Street

The federal government favored building grand Neoclassical civic temples after passage of the Public Buildings Act of 1926 and this one came courtesy of architects John T. Gillig and Howard A. Churchill. Rendered of Bedford limestone on a granite base and enclosing 95,000 square feet, the 4 1/2-story building was completed in 1934. This was the town's only large-scale building project during the Depression and the exterior has remained unaltered since its completion.

30. St. Peter Roman Catholic Church
143 Barr Street

Pioneer Catholics in Lexington worshipped in their homes and in a log chapel until the first meetinghouse, Saint Peter, was erected on Third Street in 1812. Popular missionary priest, Father Stephen Badin, was responsible for building the church. The site, with its own cemetery, was then on the outskirts of town. The current sanctuary, with a belltower on the rise of a hill, was constructed in 1929 on plans drawn by Crowe and Schulte of Cincinnati.

TURN RIGHT ON MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD.

31. Central Christian Church
205 East Short Street at northeast corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard

Erected in 1893-94, this building is Lexington's best example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, executed by brothers Edwin and Frank Smith. Henry Hobson Richardson was the most influential American architect of the post-Civil War era and the Smiths were faithful adherents to his design theories, to the point that they imported the maestro's favorite building material - brown Longmeadow puddingstone from Massachusetts - for the church building. The contrasting stone, the arches grouped in sets of three, the polished columns, the prominent gables, the patterned terra-cotta are all signatures of the Richardsonian style. Considered the direct descendant of the Cane Ridge Christian Church founded by Robert W. Finley in 1790, this congregation organized in 1816.

32. Nunn Building
121 North Martin Luther King Boulevard at southwest corner of Short Street

The core of this building was constructed in 1917 to house the offices and presses of the *Lexington Herald*. The ancestral editions of the *Herald* hit the streets in 1870 as the *Lexington Daily Press*. A descendant of that paper was published in 1895 as the *Morning Herald* which later swapped in "Lexington." In 1937 the owner of the rival *Lexington Leader* purchased the *Herald* and after years of independent publication in the morning and evening the papers merged to from the *Herald-Leader*.

TURN LEFT ON SHORT STREET. TURN RIGHT ON ESPLANADE ALLEY. TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.

33. Kentucky Theatre
214 East Main Street

In 1921 the Lafayette Amusement Company offered $20 in gold to name their planned "palatial new photoplay house" and wound up with probably the most obvious winner in name contest history. They hired Louisville architects Alfred and Oscar Joseph to design the new Kentucky Theatre and the brothers created a Beaux Arts movie palace that looked an awful lot from the outside like the a movie house they had just designed back in their hometown - also called the Kentucky Theatre. No matter. The enterprise was such a success that Lafayette opened a 950-seat theater next door, called the State Theatre, in 1929. And unlike its Louisville cousin this Kentucky Theatre is still going strong.

34. Lafayette Hotel
200 East Main Street at southeast corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard

The Lafayette Hotel was named for French General Marquis de Lafayette, who stopped in town in 1825 during a celebrated 50th anniversary tour of the United States. The hotel was constructed in 1918 on plans drawn by Cincinnati architects Christian C. and E.A. Weber who had worked across northern Kentucky and designed the Governor's Mansion in Frankfort. Here they delivered an elegant interpretation of the Italian Renaissance style with a base of pink Rockport granite and buff Bedford limestone shipped from Indiana. For a long time the 12-story Lafayette marked the eastern boundary of high-rise construction in Lexington. The hotel closed, top shelf until the end, in 1963 and was converted into government office space.

35. Graham Building
141 East Main Street

This four-story building is another commercial downtown structure attributed to Herman L. Rowe from the turn of the 20th century. The Neoclassical style is representative of his later work. It now does duty as the Downtown Arts Center featuring a theater, gallery and rehearsal space. Next door to the west at #139 is a splash of Art Deco constructed in 1929 for the Lexington Laundry Company.

36. Central Public Library
140 East Main Street

Books had been lent in Lexington as early as 1795 on a subscription basis to well-heeled members. It is the oldest such institution in Kentucky. The library started with 400 books that supplemented a collection on the campus of the Transylvania Seminary. It was not until 1898 that the town established a free public lending library. Today the collection resides in this five-story granite-and-marble repository created in 1987.

37. Phoenix Park
100 East Main Street

This site was occupied by a hotel for 180 years beginning with the Postlewhait Inn in 1797, the oldest occupied hotel site in Kentucky. Since 1833 that hotel was the Phoenix, the type of guest house Presidents and celebrities would check into when in town. The Phoenix shuttered in 1977 and a town institution demolished in 1982. Today that space is occupied by a landscaped park with fountains, benches and tables.

38. Oddfellows Temple
115-119 West Main Street

Cincinnatus Shyrock created this elongated French Second Empire home for the Oddfellows fraternal lodge in 1870. Look up to see one of the few mansard roofs in Lexington.

39. Higgins Block
145-151 West Main Street

John McMurtry was a noted architect and builder in Lexington through most of the 1800s with many important buildings to his credit including Floral Hall and the Lexington Cemetery gates. When he constructed the Higgins Block in 1872 the cast-iron facade was hailed as "the handsomest of any building in Lexington." At the time the three-story commercial block boasted 15 full bays of which you can still see six today. The street level has been compromised but the Corinthian columns and keystoned arches remain up above.

LOOK TO YOUR LEFT ACROSS THE EMPTY LOT TO SEE...

40. D. Adler & Co.
113-119 South Upper Street

Here is another creation of John McMurtry. For this 12-bay brick commercial building in 1860 McMurtry employed a Greek Revival style.

WALK A FEW MORE STEPS TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN COURTHOUSE SQUARE.

A Walking Tour of Louisville, Kentucky
from walkthetown.com

In its entire 981-mile run in Colonial times there was only one barrier to navigation on the Ohio River, a series of dangerous rapids known as the Falls of the Ohio. Since travelers in either direction were forced to stop here it was pretty certain that a town would be settled beside the Falls eventually. The reality came in 1780 when George Rogers Clark was campaigning in the then Northwest during the American Revolution. As a token of appreciation for his assistance in the struggle for independence Clark's settlement was named after King Louis XVI of France.

Early growth was spurred by the loading and unloading of boats but Lexington outpaced Louisville as Kentucky's first town after statehood came in 1792. That changed forever in 1811 when the steamboat *New Orleans* chugged into port, the first successful steamer on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Soon travel time from New Orleans to Louisville was cut to 12 days, less than half the time it took keel-boats to float down the river. In 1830 the two-mile Louisville and Portland Canal became the first artificial passage to be completed in America on a major river and the town boomed. By 1850 Louisville was one of America's ten most populous cities.

Louisville officially became a major league city in 1876 when the Louisville Grays became of charter member of baseball's National League. The Grays finished fifth in professional baseball's debut season. A year earlier Aristides outran 14 other horses to claim the winner's purse of $2,850 in the first contesting of a little race called the Kentucky Derby.

The town hugged the Ohio River for the better part of its first 100 years, spreading out from east to west first along Main Street and then one block further south on Market Street. In the 20th century development sprinted south along Fourth Street giving Louisville a T-shaped footprint. Our walking tour will mimic the historical development of the town and we will begin at the banks of the Ohio River where the historical waterway is its widest...

1. Riverfront Plaza
Ohio River between 3rd and 6th streets

This combination park, plaza and public gathering place became a reality in the 1970s after being kicked around for more than forty years. Riverfront Plaza was developed on top of I-64 that had recently sliced through the town. The bronze sculpture of Kentucky patriarch George Rogers Clark was executed by celebrated Hungarian-American sculptor Felix Weihs de Weldon who completed some 1,200 public works on display on seven continents.

WALK OVER TO THE OHIO RIVER AND LOOK TO YOUR RIGHT, UPSTREAM.

2. *Belle of Louisville*
Ohio River at 4th Street

In an earlier life this was the *Idlewild*, built by James Rees & Sons Company in Pittsburgh, for the West Memphis Packet Company in 1914 and first put into service on the Allegheny River. Constructed with an all-steel superstructure and asphalt main deck, the steamboat is said to hold the all-time record in her class for miles traveled, years in operation, and number of places visited. The *Idlewild* operated as a passenger ferry and also hauled cargo such as cotton, lumber and grain. She came to Louisville in 1931 and ran trips between the Fontaine Ferry amusement park near downtown and Rose Island, a resort about 14 miles upriver. The boat was restored by marine architect Alan L. Bates in the 1960s and began an Ohio River tradition racing against another competing steamboat, usually the *Delta Queen*, on the Wednesday before the Kentucky Derby in The Great Steamboat Race. Today, the *Belle* is recognized as the oldest river steamboat in operation, being placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989.

3. George Rogers Clark Memorial Bridge
Second Street over the Ohio River

Paul Philippe Cret, a noted French-American architect and industrial designer, handled the architectural details on the approaches and the American Bridge Company of Pittsburgh built the four-lane cantilevered truss bridge in 1929. The price tag was $4.7 million which was financed by bonds. The Louisville Municipal Bridge, as it was then called, operated as a toll bridge until 1946 when enough money was collected to redeem the bonds.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE RIVER, WALK TO YOUR LEFT, STAYING ON THE UPPER LEVEL.

4. Galt House
140 North Fourth Street

The first Galt House back in the early 1800s was W.C. Galt's actual house at the corner of First and Main streets. In 1835, a 60-room hotel was opened as the Galt House across the street from the Galt family home. America's most famous travelers in the early 19th century came to sign the guestbook including Jefferson Davis, Stephen Douglas, Edwin Booth, Charles Dickens, P.T. Barnum, Tom Thumb, and presidents Lincoln, Grant, Taylor, Hayes and Buchanan. In 1864, Union generals Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman planned the military campaign that broke the back of the Southern cause in rooms at the Galt House, which burned shortly after the Civil War ended. Master architect Henry Whitestone orchestrated the rebuilding in 1869 with an unheard-of price tag of $1.5 million. The Galt House operated another 50 years until the building was razed in 1921, closing an illustrious chapter in the history of Louisville hospitality. The book opened once again in the 1970s with the construction of this 25-story, 1,300-room hotel, the largest in Kentucky. The Galt House Hotel is the official hotel of the Kentucky Derby and outside you can see handprints of winning jockeys from America's most revered horse race.

WALK OVER TO 4TH STREET AND WALK AWAY FROM THE RIVER OUT TO MAIN STREET. THE TALL BUILDING DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU, A BLOCK AWAY, IS...

5. Aegon Tower
400 West Market Street at Fourth Street

This has been Kentucky's tallest building since 1993, topping out at 549 feet. The last 80 feet feature a distinctive Romanesque-style dome. Post modern architect John Burgess, in consultation with his long-time partner Philip Johnson, created the tower in the image of pioneering skyscrapers from a century earlier with a defined base, shaft and capital that mimicked the form of an ancient column.The building is constructed of reinforced concrete, not the steel-frame configuration typically used in buildings of this height. The statue in the plaza is of Alysheba, winner of the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes in 1987 and the Breeders' Cup Classic and Horse of the Year in 1988.

TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.

6. American Life Building
3 Riverfront Plaza (425 West Main Street)

Architectural legend Ludwig Mies van der Rohe abandoned his native Germany in 1937 to become a master of Modern architecture and a major player in the re-shaping of the skylines of America's major cities in the mid-20th century. This is the only Mies building in Louisville and the last one he designed before his death in 1969. His sleek, glassy style was executed by his design firm in 1973. It was the only time Mies specified the use of cor-ten steel, a material that oxidizes naturally to produce a weathered finish.

7. Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts
501 West Main Street

Begun in 1980 as a joint public-private partnership the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts has evolved into three theaters and the state's finest venue for music and dance. The Center is the home for the Louisville Orchestra, Kentucky Opera, Louisville Ballet, and others.

8. Louisville Area Chamber of Commerce
600 West Main Street at southwest corner of 6th Street

Henry Whitestone got his architectural training in Ireland. After coming to Louisville for business in the 1850s he stayed and became the town's leading architect for forty years. Most of Whitestone's creations have been demolished but this Romanesque-styled structure, which was his first project, has survived. Louis Seelbach, who would open the town's first grand hotel, got his start here with the Seelbach Bar & Grill after emigrating from Germany in 1869 when he was 17. The eatery was a smashing success which enabled Louis to pay for his brother Otto to join him and the Seelbachs opened their first hotel here in 1891.

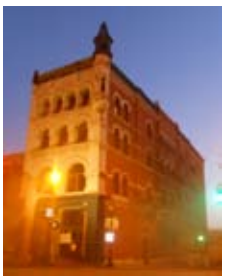
9. Louisville Science Center
727 West Main Street

The state's largest hands-on museum traces its origins to a "cabinet of curiosities" in the Public Library System of Kentucky in 1871. The current home is in a 150,000 square foot facility built in 1878 as a dry goods warehouse. It boasts a festive cast-iron facade, a popular choice for quick, low-cost commercial buildings at the time.

10. Hillerich & Bradsby Company
800 West Main Street

It seems that Pete Browning, "The Gladiator," was in a slump. The celebrated hard-hitting batsman for the Louisville Colonels went in search of a new bat. He stopped by the small woodworking shop of J.F. Hillerich, then noted for its wooden butter churns. Hillerich's teenage son Bud turned a piece of white ash while Browning tested it every few turns until just right. Browning went 3-3 the next day and publicly gave credit to the bat. Baseball players are a superstitious lot and after the game the rest of the Louisville team showed up at the Hillerich shop for a bat. It was 1884. Until that time players bought bats already formed by woodturners or tried to carve their own. Hillerich's first custom-made bats became all the rage. He called them "Louisville Sluggers" after the power-hitting Browning. Soon Hillerich was turning out only baseball bats, and the wooden churns that had been the shop specialty were forgotten. When Hillerich died in 1946 at the age of 80 the "Louisville Slugger" trademark had been burned on over 100,000,000 baseball bats and Pete Browning, the original Louisville slugger, was forgotten. Outside the company headquarters is a six-story bat touted as the the "world's largest." Unlike the white ash bats Bud Hillerich would have turned, this one is made of steel.

11. Fort Nelson Building
801 West Main Street



This cast-iron, limestone and brick structure dates to the 1870s. The Romanesque-influenced building takes a step forward from its similarly appearing Victorian neighbors with its conical barbican piercing the roofline at the corner. In recent years Michter's Distillery, descendants of America's first distillery company, has targeted the building to be home to a downtown distillery.

12. The Frazier History Museum
829 West Main Street at northeast corner of 9th Street

Owsley Brown Frazier, heir to the spirits and wine business started by his grandfather in 1870, became a leading businessman and philanthropist in northern Kentucky. Frazier was a life-long collector of historic guns and knives, with some objects dating back 1,000 years. In 2001, he purchased two former warehouses downtown and bankrolled the lion's share of the $32 million in start-up funds to create a museum for his collection. This transformed 100,000-square-foot, facility was a Doerhoefer tobacco warehouse. German-born Peter Doerhoefer came to America in 1851 and opened a butcher's shop in New Albany. Later he engaged in the manufacture of plug tobacco, an enterprise that blossomed into a multi-million dollar business after Doerhoefer moved to Louisville in 1861 and his sons joined him in the venture.

TURN LEFT ON 9TH STREET. TURN LEFT ON MARKET STREET.

13. Louisville Glassworks
817 West Market Street at northeast corner of 9th Street

In 1850 the first glass bottle- and jar-making firm, known as the Kentucky Glass Works was formed in the town and within a few years was being referred to as the "Louisville Glass Works." Over the next 50 years a half-dozen bottle houses operated in Louisville. Today Louisville Glassworks is a multi-use facility with three working glass studios, two glass galleries and living space housed in the Snead Manufacturing Building. This was the site of the Market Street Architectural Iron Foundry in the 1840s which was bought by Samuel Snead in 1849. Through five generations of the Snead family the ironworks became one of the country's leading manufacturers of ornamental and structural cast iron (look down to see the Snead name on many of the city's manhole covers). The Snead Iron Works burned in 1898 and by 1909 Dennis X. Murphy had designed a fireproof replacement, thought to be the earliest use of reinforced concrete on such a large scale in Louisville and the Midwest.

14. Louisville Trust Bank Building
200 South Fifth Street at southwest corner of Market Street

When this landmark building was completed in 1889 the *Louisville Courier* was moved to write, "The Louisville Trust Company is certainly to be congratulated upon the success of their building from an artistic standpoint, and to be commended for their liberality in thus adorning the city." A prominent Chicago architect was quoted as calling it the best example of commercial architecture in the West. The architects responsible for these accolades were Mason Maury and William J. Dodd, among the town's most celebrated designers of the late 1800s. The design blends the arches of the Romanesque style with the stirrings of the new Chicago Style of high-rise construction. The building that was acclaimed as the finest constructed south of the Ohio River when it was completed is still in use as a bank.

15. Louisville Home Federal Building
150 South 5th Street at northwest corner of Market Street

One of Louisville's best Beaux Arts buildings was constructed in 1914 for the German Bank. With the coming of the first World War institutions with a German association quietly changed their names. The limestone structure came from the pen of Dennis Xavier Murphy who was the successor to Henry Whitestone, Louisville's best known architect of the 19th century. Murphy brought his brothers into the firm in 1890 and several years later one of the firm's draftsmen, Joseph D. Baldez, sketched out the iconic twin spires of Churchill Downs racetrack. An addition came along to the north in 1924 which matched the Market Street facade with Ionic pilasters and duplicate windows.

16. National City Tower
101 South Fifth Street at northeast corner of Market Street

This skyscraper, designed by architects Wallace Harrison and Max Abramovitz in the image of the crisp modernism of Ludwig Mies van der Roh, began a twenty-year run as the the tallest building in Kentucky in 1972. The 512-foot tower is constructed of steel columns on concrete piles of caissons with an anodized aluminum and glass curtain wall.

17. Almstedt Brothers Building
425 West Market Street

Alfred and Oscar Joseph began designing buildings in Louisville in 1908 and today Joseph & Joseph is the oldest continuously operating architectural firm in town. This small, three-story limestone building, graced by a monumental classical arch, is a 1931 creation. The clients were Henry and Arthur Almstedt, prominent moneymen and investment brokers in Louisville since 1880.

18. Louisville Trust Company
421 West Market Street

Architects Nevin, Morgan and Kolbrook blended traditional classical elements with sleek art moderne styling to craft this four-story home for the Louisville Trust Company in 1929. The bank did not survive the Great Depression and a parade of subsequent banks set up shop in the marble-encrusted interior beyond the grand gilded entrance. Look up to see bas relief seals of the United States, Kentucky and Louisville carved above the third floor.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO 5TH STREET AND TURN LEFT.

19. First National Bank
214 South 5th Street at northwest corner of Court Place

This prime location on the shoulder of the county courthouse was most prominently occupied by the First National Bank, organized in 1863 as the first nationally chartered bank south of the Ohio River. The three-story red brick, classically-inspired banking hall has most recently been occupied by Stock Yards Bank and Trust.

20. Kentucky Home Life Building
239 South 5th Street at northeast corner of Jefferson Street

This heritage skyscraper was constructed in 1913 on plans drawn by Brinton B. Davis. In 1922 a matching full-height addition was added by D.X. Murphy, completing one of the finest examples of early 20th century high-rise architecture remaining in town. The twenty-story tower features buff brick walls rising from an imposing four-story stone base.

TURN RIGHT ON JEFFERSON STREET.

21. Louisville Metro Hall
527 West Jefferson Street

When he visited Louisville in 1948, Frank Lloyd Wright referred specifically to this building when he said, "Louisville's architecture represents the quality of the old South; we should not build this type of building anymore but we should keep those we have left." It was not the first time a prominent architect expressed mixed feelings about this government building that began life as the county courthouse. Designer Gideon Shryock had intended in 1835 for the courthouse to have a six-column Doric portico, a cupola, and additional porticos on the wings. Shryock resigned from the project in 1842 and it was not completed until 1860, with Albert Fink, a bridge engineer, and Charles Stancliff in charge. Fink reduced the number of columns for the Doric portico, and did not build the additional porticos and cupola. The *Louisville Daily Journal* said it was a "elephantine monstrosity."

22. Louisville City Hall
601 West Jefferson Street at northwest corner of 6th Street

Architect John Andreartha, who won a design competition in 1867, tapped the era's two most popular architectural styles - Italianate and Second Empire - for this government home. Limestone from White River quarries near Salem, Indiana was used in construction and the confection was completed in 1873 at a final cost of $464,778, even though the building was planned to be three times as large. The original clocktower burned in 1875 and Henry Whitehouse directed the mansard-roofed replacement the following year. Up close, the building is generously appointed with stone carvings honoring the importance of agriculture in the early history of the town.

23. City Hall Annex
603 West Jefferson Street

A Greco-Roman annex building was built just west of City Hall in 1909 from the pen of Cornelius Curtin. Curtin was known mostly for his church work but here he was able to decorate at will and he covered the facade with eight giant fluted Corinthian columns.

24. Fire Station No. 2
617 West Jefferson Street

Fires in Louisville were handled by volunteers, or nearly so, until formal appropriation was approved by the legislature in 1856. By the 1890s the town was in full firehouse-building mode with six new stations under construction. This one from 1891 features the brawny Richardsonian Romanesque style with such hallmarks as prominent gables, powerful arches, rough-faced stone and corner tower, which has since been removed. The architects were the McDonald brothers. When the old firehouse was incorporated into the city government complex it became known as the Sinking Fund Building where the tax collectors toiled.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO 6TH STREET AND TURN RIGHT. TURN LEFT ON LIBERTY STREET.

25. Old Jail
514 Liberty Street at southeast corner of 6th Street

Before Kentucky became a state in 1792 the sentencing of criminals was a simple matter - commit a felony and you get hanged, commit a lesser offense and you get whipped or spend time in the stocks out in the courtyard. This castle-like jail was constructed in 1905 and was considered one of the most modern in the country at the time with four spaces for prisoners segregated by race and gender. A tunnel connected the jail with the courthouse across the yard. Constructed of red stone on a limestone base, plans for the jail were drawn by D.X. Murphy and Brother. After 70 years of service the jail was reconstituted for office use.

TURN RIGHT ON ARMORY PLACE.

26. Jefferson County Armory
525 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard at northwest corner of Armory Place

This Beaux Arts stone-and-brick structure was erected in 1905 to be the headquarters for the Louisville Legion. Designed by Brinton B. Davis, the armory was the largest building in Kentucky at the time. Although the militia drilled here until the 1940s the building came to be used as a multi-purpose arena and convention center. Tommy Dorsey, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan and Stevie Wonder all performed here. Harry Truman and Martin Luther King, Jr. gave speeches here. The Southeastern Conference men's basketball tournament was held here for a decade and the Kentucky Colonels, who won more games than any other franchise in the history of the American Basketball Association, played their home games here when it was known as the Convention Center. Since 1975 it has been known as Louisville Gardens.

TURN LEFT ON MUHAMMAD ALI BOULEVARD AND WALK THROUGH ARMORY PLAZA OVER TO THE CHURCH.

27. Cathedral of the Assumption
433 South 5th Street

This is the mother church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville. In 1811, a small group of Catholics formed Saint Louis Church at 10th and Main streets. Previously, Father Stephen Theodore Badin, the first priest ordained in the United States, called the "circuit rider priest," had served the Louisville area, along with much of the American frontier. By 1830, a larger Saint Louis Church was built five blocks south of the Ohio River on Fifth Street. In 1841, the diocese was moved from Bardstown to Louisville, and Saint Louis Church became Saint Louis Cathedral. In 1850 a new church building was begun, a nearly identical but larger version of the existing St. Louis Cathedral. The new Cathedral was built around St. Louis Church, and once completed, the old church was disassembled and carried piece by piece out the front doors.

TURN RIGHT ON 5TH STREET AND WALK TO THE CORNER OF MUHAMMAD ALI BOULEVARD.

28. Republic Building
429 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard at northeast corner of 5th Street

This 1913 Renaissance Revival tower from early in the career of the local architectural firm of Joseph & Joseph has landed on the National Register of Historic Places for its rich sense of color and textural contrast of the terra-cotta and glazed brick building material.

TURN LEFT ON MUHAMMAD ALI BOULEVARD.

29. Business Women's Club
425 Muhammad Ali Boulevard

Jennie Benedict was a Louisville native who studied cooking with the famous Fannie Farmer in Boston. When she came home she opened a tea room and soda fountain in 1893 which operated for more than thirty years. Benedict was also the town's most in demand caterer, serving her trademark Benedictine cheese in finger sandwiches. She seasoned her cream cheese with cucumbers and mild onions and injected the confection with green food coloring. When she wasn't in the kitchen Benedict helped co-found the Business Women's Club in 1899. George Herbert Gray designed the Classical Revival building in 1911.

30. Fourth Street Live
between Liberty Street and Muhammad Ali Boulevard

Fourth Street Live opened in 2004 as the latest attempt to integrate entertainment and retail businesses into a 350,000 square foot destination complex. Fourth Street has historically been known as the place to shop and find a show and there had been talk of converting it into a pedestrian mall as early as the 1940s. In the 1970s, with the decline of downtown, traffic was blocked off from Liberty to Broadway to create the River City Mall. After an initial burst of success blocks were gradually re-opened and the mall scaled down.

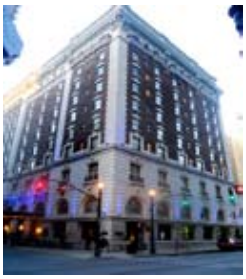
31. Starks Building
455 South 4th Street at northeast corner of Muhammad Ali Boulevard

About 1890, two brothers, John Price and Isaac Starks opened a fine men's clothing store named Crutcher & Starks at the corner of Fourth & Jefferson Streets in downtown Louisville. In 1911, John Price Starks commissioned the prestigious Chicago architectural firm of Daniel H. Burnham and Company, pioneers in the building of modern skyscrapers, to design an edifice for his growing retail concern. Burnham & Company turned out one of Louisville's outstanding examples of turn-of-the-century commercial architecture with Beaux-arts details in cream-colored brick. It was originally a "U" shaped structure, but a 1926 addition designed by the firm Graham, Anderson, Probst & White, Burnham's successors, added a new wing to create a rectangular shape with a central sunlight well. The building was owned by the Starks family until the 1980s.

32. Stewart's Dry Goods
501 South 4th Street at southeast corner of Muhammad Ali Boulevard

For generations of Louisvillians no Christmas shopping excursion was complete without a stop at Stewart's and perhaps a bite to eat at the Orchid Tea Room. This was Durkee and Heath's New York Store when it opened its doors on Market Street in 1846. Louis Stewart became president of the operation in 1893. Like another 19th century retailer, Richard Sears of Chicago, Stewart started out as a railroad freight agent. Stewart's settled on this corner in 1907 where it became the town's leading department store. The Beaux Arts building designed by Alfred Joseph picked up expansions in 1946 and 1959 as the company established branches in Lexington and Evansville. Stewart's was absorbed by L.S. Ayres in 1985 and in 1990 the flagship store was closed forever.

33. Seelbach Hotel
500 South 4th Street at southwest corner of Muhammad Ali Boulevard



Louis Seelbach and his brother Otto came from a family in a small, rural town in Bavaria. Upon settling in Louisville the Seelbach boys harbored a dream of building a hotel with the old-world grandeur of European guest houses. They started in the hospitality game down on Main Street and by 1902 were ready to build their dream hotel. The Seelbachs selected this plot of ground that at the time was surrounded by nothing. In short time, as the Seelbach became nationally known for its quality, the French Renaissance hotel would preside over the area's busiest shopping and business districts.

TURN RIGHT ON 4TH STREET.

34. Wright and Taylor Building
617 South 4th Street

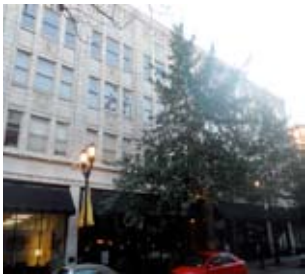
The best use for glazed architectural terra-cotta in Louisville is here on this modest Tudor-Gothic style commercial building. The Wright and Taylor Building was considered a marvel in its day for its imaginative use of stylistic motifs in a variety of colors and shapes.

35. Louisville Palace
625 South 4th Street

When this movie palace opened on September 1, 1928 it was acclaimed as "the finest Theatre of the

South." Architect John Eberson, who specialized in creating "atmospheric" theaters that transported patrons to exotic lands for an evening used a Spanish Baroque motif exploding with deep reds and golds for Loew's United Artists Theatre as it was known. Theater-goers could pass the time identifying the 139 sculpted faces of historical figures in the curved ceiling (one is Eberson himself). The theater has received four renovations over the years and continues as a live performance venue. This block was the town's Theatre Row in its heyday but all but the Palace are gone today and most of their buildings torn down.

36. Theatre Building
629-631 South Fourth Street



John Eberson stuck around town long enough to design a companion piece to his splendid Palace Theater. The four-story structure was designed as retail and office space but was also intended by Eberson to screen the view of the auditorium of the Palace from the street. Eberson faced the brick structure with smooth beige tile applied to resemble stone and splashed with terra-cotta decoration. Today the building boasts Louisville's most substantial intact use of terra-cotta. Although designed in a Beaux Arts style Eberson gave the Theatre Building one of the town's best Art Deco spaces with the entryway finished in red marble.

37. Kentucky Theater
651 South Fourth Street

The Kentucky Theater opened in 1921 and traveled a familiar American arc of packed houses to losing battles with television and suburban flight in the 1960s to closure in the 1980s. The Classical Revival building from architects Joseph & Joseph graced with patterned orange brick work and carved stone escaped the wrecking ball, however, and found new life as upscale shops.

38. Ohio Theatre
655 South Fourth Street

This historic stage is no more but the facade and front entrance still stand as the space has been converted to retail use. The Art Deco style theater opened in 1941 and stopped screening movies in 1965.

39. Brown Hotel
335 West Broadway at northeast corner of 4th Street

When James Graham Brown, who made his money in lumber, built the town's largest hotel on this corner in 1923 it ignited a charge to Broadway and 4th Street that led the *Herald-Post* to call this intersection the "Magic Corner." Preston I. Bradshaw provided the Colonial Revival design for the 600-room hostelry whose Crystal Ballroom came to be regarded as the go-to romantic destination in town. In 1926 the hotel chef Fred K. Schmidt introduced the Hot Brown sandwich, consisting of an open-faced turkey sandwich with bacon with a delicate moray sauce tat became a Louisville favorite. The Brown closed in the 1970s and was acquired by the city and used to house the school system. The city redeveloped the historic hostelry, however, reconfiguring the 16 stories into 293 rooms and it has been operated by various chains since then.

TURN LEFT ON BROADWAY.

40. Heyburn Building
332 West Broadway at northeast corner of 4th Street

By the 1920s the best buildings in Louisville were being raised along the Broadway corridor. In 1928 William R. Heyburn, president of Belknap Hardware and Manufacturing Company, jumped into the fray by hiring the esteemed Chicago firm of Graham, Anderson, Probst & White to design one of the most modern and commodious office buildings in the country. The successor firm of D.H. Burnham and Company delivered one of the town's most attractive skyscrapers in the Renaissance Revival style. The 250-foot Heyburn Building was the tallest in Kentucky when it was completed and remained unchallenged until 1955.

41. Weissinger-Gaulbert Apartments
709 South 3rd Street at southeast corner of Broadway

This is the only building of a group of three that comprised Louisville's most elegant apartment complex in the early 20th century. The Weissinger-Gaulbert Real Estate Company, which owned and operated the apartments, was organized in 1901 by Harry Weissinger, the president and principal stockholder, George Gaulbert and J.W. Gaulbert. Weissinger made his money in tobacco and the Gaulberts in paints and varnishes. The complex was started in 1904 and demand for apartments was so great that an additional building was constructed in 1907 and this lively Beaux Arts structure, known as the Third Street Annex, opened in 1912. Architects Kenneth McDonald and William J. Dodd used reinforced concrete faced with brown brick and white stone to fashion the eye-catching facades. Rising from the third story through the ninth are columns of oriel windows before reaching a prominent cornice. The other two buildings were flattened into parking lots in the middle of the 1900s but rents are still being collected in this building.

42. YMCA Building
227-229 West Broadway on northeast corner of 3rd Street

The Louisville Young Men's Christian Association formed in 1853, less than a decade after the movement began in England. The YMCA moved into this handsome red-brick home in 1913, designed by top Louisville architect Kenneth McDonald and William J. Dodd. The duo was known for Beaux Arts style structures like this one which they infused with Baroque-influenced design elements. The YMCA stayed here until 1976 and the building was adapted for other uses.

TURN LEFT ON 3RD STREET.

43. The Henry Clay
604 South 3rd Street at southwest corner of Chestnut Street

Originally built as an Elks Athletic Club in 1924 on drawings by Joseph & Joseph, this ornate eight-story Georgian Revival structure was converted into the Henry Clay Hotel in 1928, and its pool became the first in Louisville for hotel guests. The lettering on the top used to read "Elks Club" in a more organic rendering. The building was later purchased by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and eventually redeveloped as multi-use space in the 2000s with retail on the first floor, event space on the second and fourth floors and residential space on floors five through eight. On the third floor the old gymnasium was converted into a 140-seat theatre as the home of the Bunbury Repertory Theatre Company that was founded in 1985.

44. Madrid Building
545 South 3rd Street at southeast corner of Guthrie Street

The Madrid Ballroom was billed as "The Place to Dance" when a reported 5,000 people showed up for opening night on September 23, 1929. There wasn't so much to dance about a month later when the stock market crashed but the Spanish-flavored operated into the 1950s. The Classical Revival brick building with stone trim, completed on plans drawn by E.T. Hutchings, featured commercial shops on the ground floor, a bowling alley on the second floor and the 7,000 sqaure-foot dance floor - large enough for 800 couples - on the third.

45. Bosler Fireproof Garage
423 South 3rd Street

In the days when automobiles still shared the streets with horses the mechanical marvel was still held in such reverence that parking garages demanded the same architectural attention as other commercial structures. Architect J.J. Gaffney outfitted the utilitarian building, the oldest known parking garage in Louisville, with prominent Romanesque-styled arches with beaded decoration.

46. Old U.S. Customshouse and Post Office
300 West Liberty Street at southwest corner of 3rd Street

Louisville was established as a customs collection district within the Commonwealth of Virginia by an act of Congress in 1789. The distinction brought with it no building and the tax collector and postmaster made do where they could, operating from home or in rented quarters around town. The nomadic existence ended in 1858 with the first federal building constructed in Louisville. The building with a blend of Romanesque, Byzantine and old English elements housed the government until 1896. Through the years the venerable structure has done duty as a newspaper building and headquarters for the Chamber of Commerce in an effort to stave off demolition.

47. Levy Brothers Building
235 West Market Street at northeast corner of 3rd Street

Architects Charles Julian Clarke and Arthur Loomis dropped a splash of rich, red sandstone on an otherwise grey limestone Louisville streetscape with this commercial building in 1893. Clarke and Loomis were eager practitioners of the brawny Richardsonian Romanesque style based on the works of influential Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson and popular in the 1880s and 1890s. Here they adapted the style with trademark powerful arches and corner tower for shopkeepers Moses and Henry Levy. Moses Levy had emigrated from Germany and opened a clothing store in 1861. He moved to this location in 1866 and was later joined in the business by his younger brother, Henry. You can look up and see the additions that were made in 1913 by the Louisville firm of Joseph and Joseph down 3rd Street. The same material was used but the decorative flourishes toned down a bit.

TURN RIGHT ON MARKET STREET.

48. German Insurance Bank
207 West Market Street at northwest corner of 2nd Street

The German Insurance Company organized in 1854 to tend to the financial needs of the Bavarians pouring down the Ohio River at the time. In 1872 the state mandated the separation of banking and insurance functions in institutions like this one and the German Insurance Bank became its own concern. In 1887 architect Charles D.Meyer created a Baroque-flavored banking house that depositors might recognize on the banks of the Rhine. Indiana limestone was turned into arches, fluted columns and pilasters, balustrades and a central clock tower. Scarcely an inch of the three-story facade went undecorated.

TURN LEFT ON 2ND STREET.

49. Trade Mart Building
131 West Main Street at northeast corner of 2nd Street

The original Galt House stood on this spot in 1835 until it burned to the ground in 1865. This more substantial stone building replaced it in 1877, designed by Henry Whitestone for the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. As was his wont the English architect used the Italian Renaissance Revival style for the three-story structure which came to be called the Trade Mart. It is one of the few Whitestone buildings remaining in Louisville.

TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET. LOOK UP TO YOUR RIGHT TO SEE LIGHTHOUSES ON THE ROOF OF...

50. Waterfront Plaza
321 West Main Street

The Coast Guard maintains hundreds of aids to navigation on the Ohio River but none in Kentucky qualify as lighthouses. These twin 25-story buildings, completed in 1991, are each crowned by a lighthouse. The lighthouses are active but do not function as aids to navigation.

51. KFC Yum! Center
1 Arena Plaza; Main Street between 2nd and Third streets

Opened in 2010, this is the fifth largest college basketball arena in America with seating for 22,000 University of Louisville supporters. The project is part of a $450 million project that includes a 975-car parking structure and floodwall.

52. Income Life Insurance Building
300 West Main Street at southwest corner of 3rd Street

Brothers Harry, Kenneth and Donald McDonald began designing buildings in Louisville in 1878 and soon gained a reputation as go-to architects for courthouses. They traveled as far afield as Georgia to build county house of justice. Here they erected a commercial building in the Romanesque style in 1890 for the Lincoln Income Life Insurance Company. Lincoln remained in Louisville until 1991 when they moved to Frankfort and were merged out of existence a year later.

53. Old Bank of Louisville
320 West Main Street

This sophisticated piece of Greek Revival architecture appeared on the Louisville streetscape in 1837, courtesy of James Harrison Dakin. Dakin did most of his work in New Orleans but sketched the plans for the bank while in the employ of Lexington native Gideon Shyrock. The symmetrical vault is constructed around a pair of massive Ionic columns, executed in brick and limestone. There was a bank inside until the 1930s; since the 1970s it has served as the lobby for the Actors Theatre of Louisville.

CONTINUE TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN THE NEXT BLOCK.

Identifying American Architecture

Recognizing Early American Architecture:

Postmedieval English Colonial (1600-1700)
* steeply pitched, side-gabled roof
* small casement windows with many small panes (restored often)
* massive chimney
* vertical board (batten) door
* little or no eave overhang, no cornice detailing
* one room deep

Dutch Colonial (1625-1840)
* side-gambreled roof
* usually one story
* batten door, most divided into upper and lower halves
* little or no eave overhang

French Colonial (1700-1830)
* steeply pitched roof, either hipped or side-gabled
* one story
* tall, narrow door and window openings
* doors and windows typically divided vertically into pairs
* walls of stucco (over half-timbered frame)

Spanish Colonial (1660-1850)
* low-pitched or flat roof
* normally one story
* few small windows
* multiple external doors
* walls very thick in stucco over adobe brick or rubble stone
* long, narrow porches opening to courtyards

Georgian (1700-1780)
* windows with double-hung sashes, typically nine or twelve small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
* paneled door, normally with decorative crown (most often pedimented but at times broken-pedimented) and supported by decorative pilasters
* row of small rectangular panes beneath door crown
* cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
* windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked

Adamesque (Federal) (1780-1820)
* windows with double-hung sashes, typically six small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
* semi-circular or eliptical fanlight over paneled door, typically accompanied by sidelights, elaborated crown and surround, and/or extended as small entry porch
* cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
* windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked
* while similar to Georgian, features are often "lighter"

Greek Revival (1825-1860)
* gabled or hipped roof of low pitch
* entry porch or full-width porch supported by square or round, prominent columns
    - Doric: plain capitals
    - Ionic: capitals with scroll-like spirals
    - Corinthian: capitals shaped like inverted bells decorated with leaves
* narrow line of transom and sidelights around door, usually incorporated into elaborate door surround
* cornice lines emphasized with wide, divided band of trim

Recognizing Victorian Architecture:

General Victorian Features (1840-1910)
* roof ornaments
* bay (protruding) windows
* three-part Palladian (rounded in middle) windows
* gingerbread porch trim

Gothic Revival Style (1835-1875)
* high-pitched center gables
* pointed arch windows and doors
* pendants and finials extending from roof

Italianate Style (1840-1885)
* brackets under roof cornices
* cupolas on the roof
* narrow, square porch posts with chamfered corners
* tall, slender windows

Second Empire Style (1855-1885)
* mansard roof, concave or convex, with dormer windows on steep lower slope
* molded cornices bound lower roof slope above and below
* eaves normally with decorative brackets below

Stick Style (1860-1890)
* stick-like bracketing on porches, often diagonal or curving
* stick-like grid on wall surfaces
* Jerkin-Head (cut-off triangular) roofs and dormers
* pent (or shed) roofs on dormers, porches and bays
* decorative trusses in gables; often steeply pitched gross gables
* wooden wall cladding (boards or shingles)

Queen Anne Style (1880-1910)
* asymmetrical facade
* patterned shingles
* turned porch posts and trim
* corner towers and turrets
* wraparound porch
* steeply pitched, irregular roofline

Shingle Style (1880-1900)
* shingled walls without interruption at corners
* multi-level eaves above asymmetrical facade
* extensive porches
* walls and roofs covered with continuous wood shingles

Richardsonian Romanesque (1880-1900)
* based on the innovative designs of Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson
* round topped arches over windows, porch supports or entrance
* most have towers, usually round with conical roofs
* always masonry walls, usually with rough-faced, squared stonework
* facade usually asymmetrical
* elements grouped in sets of three

Recognizing 20th century Architecture:

Colonial Revival (1885 and beyond)
* accentuated front door with fanlights and sidelights
* symmetrical facade around centered entrance
* windows with double-hung sashes
* large dormers
* round, smooth porch columns, often clustered

Neoclassical (1895-1950)
* facade dominated by full-length porch supported by classical columns, typically Ionic or Corinthian
* facade shows symmetrically balanced windows and center door
* revivals may have curved porticos, two-story entrances, paired or tripled windows and/or bays not seen on originals
* often very large

Tudor (1890 -1940)
* massive chimneys, commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots
* facade dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, usually steeply pitched
* decorative half-timbering often present
* steeply pitched roof, usually side-gabled
* tall, narrow windows, commonly in multiple groups with multi-pane glazing
* walls of brick, stone, wood, stucco or in combination

French Chateauesque (1890-1930)
* busy roof line with many vertical elements (spires, pinnacles, turrets, gables, shaped chimneys)
* steeply pitched hipped roof
* multiple dormers, usually wall dormers extending through cornice line
* walls of masonry, usually stone

Beaux Arts (1890-1930)
* wall surfaces with decorative garlands, floral patterns or shields
* masonry walls, usually of light-colored stone
* facade with corner quoins and columns, oftne paired with Ionic or Corinthian capitals
* first story typically rusticated (stonework) with exaggerated joints
* facade symmetrical

Spanish Mission Style (1890-1930)
* shaped Mission dormer or roof parapet
* porch roofs supported by large square piers, commonly arched above
* commonly with red tile roof covering
* widely overhanging eaves, usually open
* wall surface usually smooth stucco

Pueblo Revival (1910-present)
* flat roof with parapeted wall above
* stucco wall surface, usually earth-toned
* projecting wooden roof beams (vigas)
* wall and roof parapet with irregular, rounded edges
* unpainted wood porch columns - maybe just tree trunks
* tile or brick floors

Prairie Style (1900-1920)
* low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves
* two stories with one-story porches or wings
* massive square porch supports
* detail emphasizing horizontal lines
* hipped roofs are more common than end or side gables
* one of few indigenous American styles developed by Chicago architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright and built only during first two decades of century

Craftsman (1905-1930)
* low-pitched gabled roof with wide, unenclosed eave overhang
* roof rafters usually exposed
* porches supported by square columns
* decorative braces or false beams under gables
* columns frequently continue to ground level without a break at porch level
* generally one or one-and-a-half stories

Art Deco (1920-1940)
* zigzags and other geometric and stylized motifs
* towers and other vertical projections
* smooth stucco wall surface
* decorative motifs: geometric floral; chevron with lozenge; reding and fluting, often around doors and windows; sunrise pattern

Art Moderne (1920-1940)
* streamline, curved corners
* smooth stucco wall surface
* asymmetrical facade
* flat roof, usally with ledge at roof line
* horizontal grooves, lines, balustrades
* windows can turn corners and can be roundly shaped
* glass-block windows or sections of the wall

International (1925-present)
* no decorative detailing at doors or windows
* smooth, unornamental wall surface
* asymmetrical facade
* flat roof, usually without ledge at roof line
* windows usually metal casements set flush with outer walls