21. ORLANDO BROWN HOUSE
c. 1835, 218 Wilkinson St.
The Greek Revival house was built from plans designed by Gideon Shryock, for the second son of Senator John Brown. It is one of the only known residences designed by him. It remained in the Brown family until it was bequeathed to the National Society of Colonial Dames. It contains many of the original furnishings, including paintings by Robert Burns Wilson.

22. SOUTH-WILLIS HOUSE
c. 1875, 505 Wapping St.
It was once the home of Dr. John Glover South, the U.S. Minister of Panama. Former Governor Edwin Porch Morrow died here unexpectedly of a heart attack while visiting J.G. South in 1935. Simeon S. Willis, Justice of the Court of Appeals and Governor of Kentucky (1943-47), also lived here.

23. SITE OF THE WILKINSON-LOVE HOUSE
c. 1786, 503 Wapping St.
The second log house in Frankfort was erected here by James Wilkinson for his own residence. A large two story building, it was the meeting place of Kentucky's second legislature. As a tavern, the house's guests included Louis Philippe of France and Aaron Burr. The log house was torn down in 1870 to make way for the present frame structure.

24. VREELAND HOUSE (VAUXHALL)
c. 1913, 417 Wapping St.
Modern in comparison with its large neighbors, the house was the home of Graham Vreeland, founder and publisher of the *Frankfort State Journal*. The architect, D. X. Murphy, also built the twin spires of Louisville's Churchill Downs

25. BIBB-BURNLEY HOUSE
c. 1857, 411 Wapping St.
John Bibb, an amateur horticulturist, developed Bibb lettuce here in his garden. The lettuce has since won worldwide acceptance as a salad delicacy. Bibb served in the War of 1812, was a Representative and Senator in the Kentucky General Assembly, and was the younger brother of George Mortimer Bibb (see #2). Authors Robert Burns Wilson and John Fox Jr. visited Bibb's niece, Pattie Burnley, a supporter of the arts in Frankfort.

26. CARNEAL-WATSON HOUSE
c. 1854, 407 Wapping St.
This one story Greek Revival house was built in 1854. The original owner was Thomas Carneal, one of the founders of Covington, Ky. During the Civil War, John Watson, brother-in-law of Phillip Swigert (see #10) owned the house which served as the headquarters for the Military Board of Kentucky.

27. IDA LEE WILLIS GARDEN
Wapping St. next to the Vest-Lindsey House
Ida Lee Willis was the wife of Governor Simeon Willis. She was the first Executive Director of the Kentucky Heritage Commission, responsible for saving many of Frankfort's historic landmarks.

28. RODMAN-HEWITT HOUSE
c. 1817, 404 Wapping St.
The birthplace of Admiral Hugh Rodman, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet after World War I. Gen. Fayette Hewitt of the Orphan Brigade in the Confederate Army lived in this house during the late 1800s.

29. VEST-LINDSEY HOUSE
C. 1800, 401/403 Wapping St.
Boyhood home of George Graham Vest, Senator, lawyer, member of Confederate Congress. Thomas Noble Lindsey, legislator, Confederate Mayor of Frankfort during Civil War, president of Farmers Bank, also owned the house.

30. LETCHER-LINDSAY HOUSE
c. 1835, 200 Washington St.
Robert P. Letcher was Speaker of the House of Representatives, Governor of Kentucky (1840-44), and Minister to Mexico. Senator William Lindsay bought the house in 1880. He was Chief Justice of Kentucky Court of Appeals and U.S. Senator. The house contains meeting rooms for the Frankfort Women's Club, the group responsible for what we know today as the Paul Sawyier Public Library. This building was Frankfort's library from 1925-1965.

31. THOMAS TODD HOUSE
c. 1812, 320 Wapping St.
A Revolutionary War soldier, Todd became Chief Justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals and Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Lafayette was entertained here. Justice Todd became brother-in-law to President James Madison when he married Lucy Paine, the sister of Dolly Madison, in the first wedding performed in the White House.

32. FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
c.1858, 211 Washington St.
Methodists have worshipped in Frankfort since 1790. First Methodist Church was organized in 1821 by Rev. William Holman. Present building completed 1858. Stone front added 1886. Church houses a 38 rank Dyer pipe organ.

33. CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD/THE ELIZABETH
c. 1850, 310 Wapping St.
Beginning in 1823, a small Presbyterian church occupied this lot. When that congregation moved to a new edifice, the Catholic parish bought the church and held services in it while the present building was being built around it. Most of the work was done by members of the parish, under direction of contractor John Haly. Currently an event center.

34. THE CUSTOMS HOUSE
c. 1887, 305 Wapping St.
This building originally served as a U.S. Post Office and Federal Building. In the mid 1960s, when the Post Office outgrew this space, it served as the library, named in honor of well-known Frankfort artist, Paul Sawyier. The building now belongs to Kentucky State University.

35. SINGING BRIDGE
c. 1893, St. Clair/Bridge St.
A covered bridge spanned the Kentucky River here which measured 408 feet in length and was the longest single-span structure in Kentucky. The present bridge was opened to traffic in 1894, and the "singing" open-grate deck was installed in 1938.

36. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
c. 1868, 201 St. Clair St.
Paul Sawyier's maternal grandmother, Penelope Wingate, built a brick chapel in 1886 and gave it to the church. The present front of the church was added in 1904. The first sermon was preached by Rev. Silas M. Noel, a founder of Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky. Henry Clay's brother, Porter, served as minister here.

37. FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
c. 1835, St. Clair St.
The original design was by Gideon Shryock, who developed this structure at about the time he was planning the Orlando Brown House. It was remodeled in 1909, and an addition was made in 1949. The clock was purchased in Philadelphia. The annexes were removed and new construction was begun in 2011.

38. SITE OF "THE GEM" AND "THE CRYSTAL"
St. Clair St.
Across the street from the Courthouse were Frankfort's first "picture shows', silent film theatres. Admission was $.25 for adults and $.15 for children.

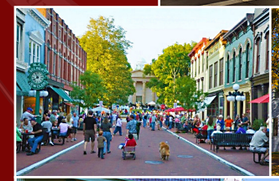
39. MCCLURE BUILDING / VISITOR CENTER
c. 1907, 300 St. Clair
Richard Knott McClure and son, Albert H. built Frankfort's first "skyscraper." It was home to their large department store. Home of **Frankfort Tourist Commission** office. (visitfrankfort.com)

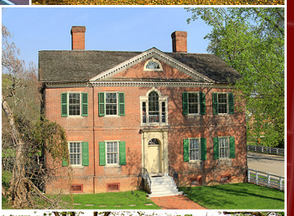
40. GRAND THEATRE
c. 1911, 308 Saint Clair St.
The historic Grand Theatre, originally constructed as a vaudeville house in the heart of downtown Frankfort, was restored by a local non-profit organization into a multi-purpose performing and visual arts center in 2009. The Grand Theatre hosts live performances, streams live-broadcasts such as the Metropolitan Opera and classical music, and shows critically acclaimed and classic films throughout the year. For more information contact the ticket office weekdays from 10am - 3pm at 502-352-7469.

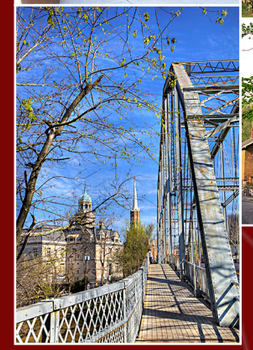
41. CAPITAL CITY MUSEUM
c. 1854, 325 Ann St.
Originally part of the Capital Hotel, The museum opened in 2004. Explore more than 200 years of politics, architecture, enterprise, misbehavior, and everyday life in Frankfort. Hours are: Mon. - Sat. 10am - 4pm.

42. THOMAS D. CLARK CENTER FOR KENTUCKY HISTORY
100 West Broadway St.
Journey through time in the permanent exhibition *A Kentucky Journey,* reflecting over 12,000 years in Kentucky history. Trace your family's roots in the KHS Genealogical Research Library. Take home something unique from the 1792 Store. Hours are: Tue. - Sat. 10am - 5pm.

Historic Frankfort Walking Tour







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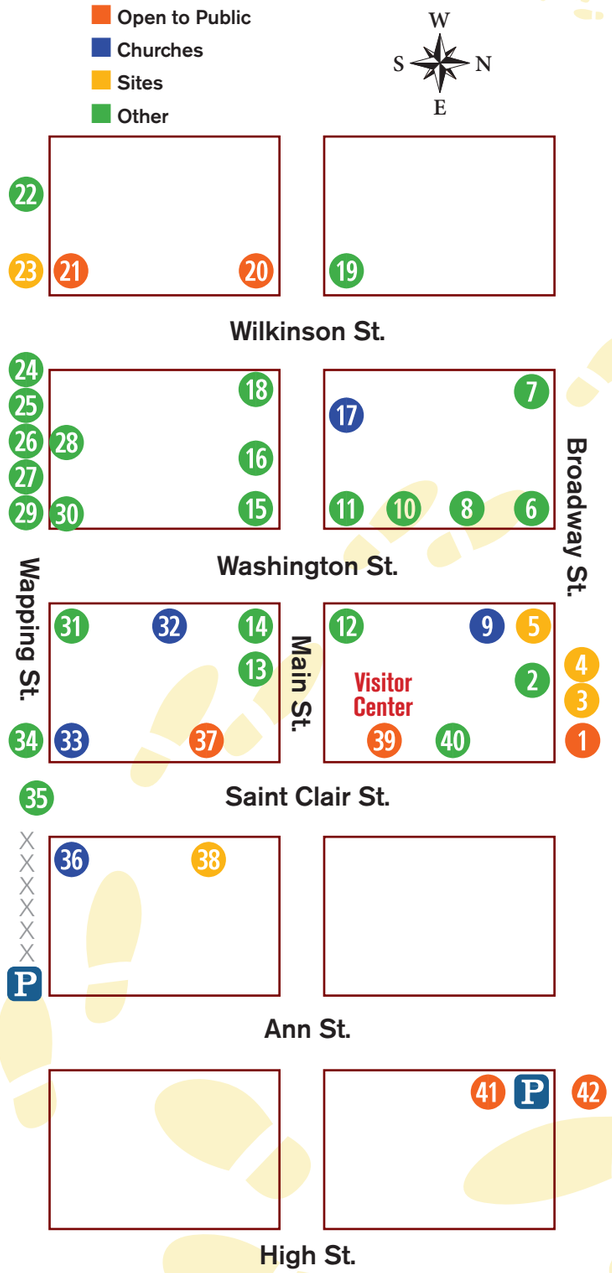
Historic Frankfort Walking Tour

Historic Frankfort Walking Tour Site Map



Starting Point - Old State Capitol

1. OLD STATE CAPITOL

c. 1827-30, 300 Broadway & Lewis St.

Built over the ashes of two earlier Capitols, this Greek-Revival building was the first public work of Gideon Shryock. Its self-supporting circular stairs, under the temple-like dome, stand entirely independent of the rest of the structure. An Assassin in the office building next door shot Governor William Goebel, Kentucky's "martyr governor," on February 3, 1900. His statue stands on the grounds, and a brass plate in the brick walkway marks the spot where he fell. Seasonal hours. Tours begin at Thomas D. Clark Center.

2. GEORGE MORTIMER BIBB LAW OFFICES

c. 1824, 333 W. Broadway

Jurist, U.S. Senator, Chief Justice of Kentucky, Secretary of Treasury during President John Tyler's term, and the last Representative to wear knee britches at the National Capitol. George was a brother of John Bibb, the developer of Bibb lettuce.

3. SITE OF THE SHARP HOUSE

Before 1799, Southwest corner of Old Capital Square.

Home of Col. Solomon P. Sharp, who was murdered here by Jeroboam Beauchamp in 1825. A crime of politics and passion which inspired Robert Penn Warren's novel, *World Enough and Time* and Edgar Alllen Poe's *Politician*, an unfinished blank-verse drama.

4. SITE OF THE MADISON-HARLAN HOUSE

c . 1800, Across from 333 W. Broadway

Built by George Madison, fifth Governor of Kentucky. It was later the home of John Marshall Harlan, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court for nearly 34 years (1877-1911). Harlan's only previous judicial experience was a year as Franklin County Judge in 1858. On the Supreme Court, he was known as the Great Dissenter, especially in the area of civil rights.

5. FRANCIS PRESTON BLAIR, SR.

Site of home, Vacant lot on corner of Broadway & Washington.

Editor of the *Congressional Globe* Newspaper in Washington, D.C. His home there, the Blair House, is now the official guest house for the White House. Part of a politically influential family.

6. MCCLURE-FOSTER HOUSE

c. 1814, 318 Washington St.

Mrs. John M. Foster, daughter of Gov. John Adair, lived here. Mr. Foster was Registrar of the Land Office. Later, the home be longed to merchant Richard McClure.

7. AMOS KENDALL HOUSE

c. 1810-1820, 413 Broadway

Kendall was a noted journalist and tutor to the family of Henry Clay, who supported Andrew Jackson against Henry Clay for President and served as Postmaster General during Jackson's administration. Helped found School for the Deaf and Mute, now known as Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. He became a millionaire while serving as a business agent to Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph.

8. THOMAS HOUSE

c. 1840, 312 Washington St.

The home of Landon Thomas, attorney and member of the State House of Representatives. At the death of her husband, Thomas's sister Emily Thomas Tubman, inherited a fortune. She endowed schools in Kentucky and when the First Christian Church burned in 1870, she donated funds to build a new sanctuary.

9. CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION (EPISCOPAL)

c. 1850, 311 Washington St.

Farmers Bank President, John Hanna, is said to have traveled to Europe to see the traditional design of churches there before he funded the erection of this building and gave it to the parish. The building was enlarged in 1868. The Parish House and the Chapel were added in 1899. The church started one of the first libraries in Frankfort.

10. SWIGERT-MILAM HOUSE

c. 1835, 308 Washington St.

Jacob Swigert built two rooms to serve as his office when he was clerk of the Kentucky Court of Appeals. Later enlarged (1865-67), the house was the home of Benjamin Cave Milam and his son, John Milam, whose Milam fishing reels were prized possessions. of presidents and other dedicated anglers throughout the world.

11. BROWN-SWIGERT-TAYLOR HOUSE

c. 1815, 300 Washington St.

Known as a "house within a house," this four-room dwelling was built by Dr. Preston Brown. (Note the original entrance and outline of the building on Main St.) In the mid 1840's, Jacob Swigert, one of the two brothers who were influential citizens of early Frankfort, built the major portion of this house, adding it to the original four rooms facing on Main St. It later was the home of Col. E. H. Taylor, Jr., the "Old Taylor" of whiskey fame

12. MOREHEAD HOUSE

c. 1810, 326 W. Main St.

Built by Mark Hardin, Registrar of the Kentucky Land Office, it was for 13 years the residence of Charles S. Morehead, US Congressman and Governor of Kentucky (1855-59). Franklin County gave Morehead such a majority in his governor's race that he named his fourth child Franklin C. While serving in the Kentucky Legislature, Henry Clay stayed here rather than making the arduous trip back to his home in Lexington.

13. JOHN GOODMAN HOUSE

c. 1820, 329 W. Main St.

Here was the home, workshop, and music school of John Goodman, the musician and cabinetmaker, who built the first piano in Frankfort for the daughter of Gov. James Garrad. The instrument is now in Liberty Hall. (see #20)

14. CHAPMAN COLEMAN TODD HOUSE

c. 1808, 333 W. Main St.

Rear Admiral Todd, great-grandson of Justice Thomas Todd, received an appointment to Annapolis when he was 14 years old. He served in the Spanish-American War.

15. CRITTENDEN-WATSON HOUSE

c. 1800, 401 W. Main St.

John J. Crittenden was five times U.S. Senator (author of the Crittenden Compromise), twice Attorney General of the U.S. and Governor of Kentucky (1848-50). Daniel Webster and Zachary Taylor were guests under his roof. Two sons were generals in the Civil War—one Union and the other Confederate. A grandson, John Crittenden Watson, was a rear admiral of the US Navy. Another grandson was killed with Custer at Little Bighorn.

16. RODMAN-BENNETT-HAZELRIGG HOUSE

c. 1866, 407 W. Main St.

The home of two justices of the Kentucky Court of Appeals: Judge Caswell Bennett in 1894 and Judge James H. Hazelrigg in 1897. Hazelrigg swore in Gov. Goebel and then Gov. Beckham, following Goebel's death by assassination. The home was built by Dr. William Barbour Rodman, who was credited with being the first to realize that pneumonia was contagious.

17. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

c. 1849, 416 W. Main St.

A noteworthy example of English Gothic architecture, the church was first opened (while still under construction) for a reception in honor of President Zachary Taylor when he stopped in Frankfort on his way to Washington D.C.

18. LABROT-TAYLOR HOUSE

c. 1854, 421 W. Main St.

This Greek Revival house, completed in 1854, was the residence of Leopold Labrot and later of Kenner Taylor, both prominent in Kentucky's distilling industry. The historic Labrot & Graham Distillery, now Woodford Reserve, has been restored to its past glory and can be visited on McCracken Pike in Woodford County.

19. CRITTENDEN-GARRARD HOUSE

c. 1795, 302 Wilkinson St.

A Federal-style building and former home of Thomas Crittenden, U.S. Consul at Liverpool. The son of John J. Crittenden, he was a Major General in the Union army. His son died with Gen. George Armstrong Custer and is buried at the Little Bighorn Battlefield in Montana. James H. Garrard, grandson of Kentucky's second governor, was Kentucky State Treasurer for four terms and was elected to his 5th term, just twelve days before his death in 1865.

20. LIBERTY HALL

c. 1796, 218 Wilkinson St.

This Georgian-style house served as the home of John Brown, Kentucky's first U.S. Senator. It was the site of the first Sunday school west of the Alleghenies. John Brown, was one of the two U.S. Senators to represent Kentucky, immediately after it joined the Union. In 1819, President James Monroe dined here with his aides, Zachary Taylor and Andrew Jackson. Lafayette and Aaron Burr also visited here.