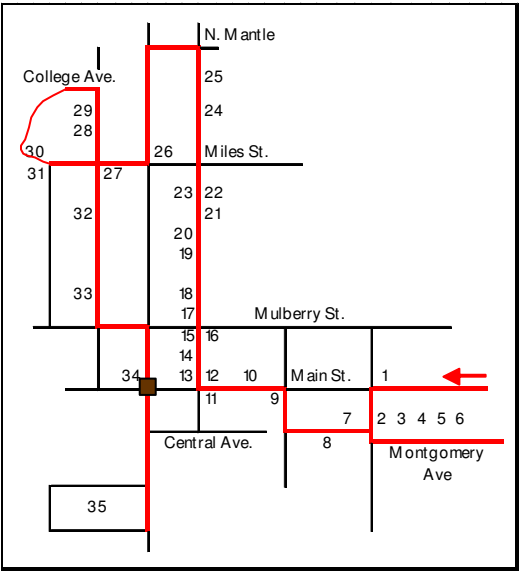


Historical Background

Kentucky was admitted to the Union as the 15th state June 1, 1792.

Hardin County, Kentucky's 15th county, was created from Nelson County by the first session of the Legislature in 1792. It was named in honor of Colonel John Hardin, a veteran of Dunmore's War (1787), the American Revolution, General Clark's Wabash Expedition (1787), and the Maumee Indian Campaign (1790); he was killed in Ohio in 1792 by Indians while serving as a peace envoy to them from the United States.

In 1793, Colonel Andrew Hynes laid off a tract of 30 acres of land from his plantation for public construction in Hardin County. In 1797, the Hardin County Court named this seat of government Elizabeth Town in honor of Elizabeth Warford Hynes, the wife of Colonel Hynes.



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Elizabethtown Tourism &
Convention Bureau

Historic Driving Tour of Elizabethtown



John B. Helm House

NRHP 24. Samuel Beale Thomas House

337 West Poplar Street. Occupied by the first millionaire of Hardin County, this house of 1842 is one of the purest in architectural design of any in Elizabethtown. It is Greek Revival style with columned and pedimented entrance and Greek window decorations. Traditionally, houses of this design were painted white to simulate the white marble of the Greek temples after which they were modeled.



25. Severns Valley Baptist Church

West Poplar Street. Built in 1955 with several subsequent additions. Severns Valley, constituted in 1781, is the oldest Baptist congregation west of the Alleghany Mountains.

Turn left onto North Mantle, then left onto West Dixie. At the next light, on your left will be St. James Catholic Church. You will turn right at this light, which is South Miles St.

26. St. James Catholic Church

This church, dedicated in 1971, replaced a former house of worship of this congregation which was built in 1884.

The new building is designed to reflect, in the words of Rev. John Spalding, "...the changes espoused by the Second Vatican Council which loosened the confining girdle of tradition, enabling us to question the meaning of rituals, architectural styles, religious art, and habits long formed..."

The church incorporates works of art by Jose Luis Sanchez, internationally renowned Spanish sculptor.



27. Conrad Hotopp House

115 South Miles. A cottage built on this site in 1882 was later enlarged to include a second story. Original features, such as the bay window on the main façade, are still visible.



Turn right onto Helm Street.

28-29. Cottages

306 (Pictured), 308 Helm Street. These two cottages, built in the latter half of the 19th century, have been tastefully renovated by their present owners.



Turn left onto College Ave and then left onto College St.

NRHP 30. J. Roy Bond House

317 College Street. J. Roy Bond built this Tudor-style house in 1914. It is a good example of the Craftsmanship style. W. Earl Gore was the architect. It remains unaltered, both inside and out.



31. Brown Funeral Home

306 College Street. This one-story building was erected by J. Hilary Bryan as a residence about 1880. It is now used as a funeral home and has had extensive additions to the rear.

Turn left at the 3-way stop onto South Miles, and then right onto Helm Street.

NRHP 32. Horace Bird House

238 Helm Street. One of the oldest and largest brick residences in Elizabethtown, this two-story house was built in 1812 by Major Benjamin Helm, a prominent Elizabethtown figure. It contains both Federal and Greek Revival design elements. The front porch is not original.



NRHP 33. John B. Helm House

210 Helm Street. This house was built about 1825 in a rural interpretation of the Federal style. Most evident of the style are two fanlight transoms over the doorways on the south and east facades of the house. The shed dormers are a 20th century addition.



Turn left onto Mulberry Street, then right at the light onto Dixie Avenue (31W). Along this section will be item #34. Proceed 1/2 way around the courthouse to the City Cemetery.

NRHP 34. Elizabethtown Courthouse Square and Commercial District

In 1793, Colonel Andrew Hynes gave 30 acres of land which was divided into lots for public buildings and dwellings. This became the center of government and commercial activity for Hardin County and remained so for the next 150 years.

The courthouse square and the area along Dixie Avenue from Mulberry Street east to Quince Alley contain a collection of some 40 buildings of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries comprising the historic core of the city.

35. Elizabethtown City Cemetery

East Dixie Avenue. This cemetery was established in 1806. The front corner was the site of the Severns Valley Baptist Church (1807-1834). Numerous influential citizens of Elizabethtown are buried here, with many stones dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Some sections were designed by Benjamin Groves, noted cemetery engineer.

The hill was used by the Confederate forces under General John Hunt Morgan to shell the town during the siege of December 27, 1862.

There is a panoramic view of the city from the top of the hill.

West Dixie Avenue was formerly the heart of Elizabethtown. Most of the churches and many beautiful homes with large tree-shaded lawns were located along this street.

However, because of growth and change, most of these structures no longer exist.

This street has been omitted from this tour because of traffic hazards.

The research for this brochure was prepared by Mary Josephine Jones, with the assistance of Col. James R. Pritchard, David Willmoth, Laurie Layman Clark and David H. Overall; and published by the Elizabethtown Tourism and Convention Bureau in cooperation with the Kentucky Department of Travel Development. Revised 2005

Elizabethtown Historic Driving Tour



Follow the arrows on the map, enjoy the tour and please drive carefully.

Begin your tour at 604 North Main, then take an immediate left onto Williams Street, then left onto Montgomery Ave.

NRHP Listed in National Register of Historic Places.

NRHP 1. Kerrick House

604 North Main Street. Built in 1895, this house has a striking vertical appearance because of its central gable roof tower. The main façade has a one-story porch with original milled posts, verge board brackets and a spindled frieze.



NRHP Montgomery Avenue Historic District

This Street is a small but important collection of late 19th and early 20th century architecture in Elizabethtown. It is located adjacent to the Seaboard Line Railway tracks; the street dead-ends in front of 624 Montgomery Avenue.

NRHP 2. C.C. Fairleigh House

606 Montgomery Avenue. Typical 1920 bungalow style seen throughout the United States in all cities and towns, this widely popular style is found in many examples in Elizabethtown. It is characterized by a one-and-a-half story façade with an attached covered porch and some slight porch décor in columns and banisters.



NRHP 3. John Sprigg House

610 Montgomery Avenue. In 1882, John Sprigg, prominent county official, built this one-story frame house with Italianate detailing. The original porch has been removed and replaced with a low iron railing.



NRHP 4. Kate Montgomery House

614 Montgomery Avenue. Built in 1880, this residence retains its original exterior detailing, including the porch with milled posts and verge board decoration. Beneath the gable roof is an eave with paired brackets.



NRHP 5. A.B. Montgomery House

616 Montgomery Avenue. Built in 1872 for Alexander Brooks Montgomery, this Victorian Italianate style home is characterized by bracketed overhanging eaves, decorative window pediments, and long narrow proportions and windows. Its front porch was removed in the 1930's. Descendants of the original owner occupy the home.



NRHP 6. James Montgomery House

624 Montgomery Avenue. This house, built in 1872 for James Montgomery, is a very sophisticated design in the Victorian Italianate style. It is reminiscent of an actual Italian villa and employs many architectural features of this design. They include fanlight transom light over the front door, one story enclosed entrance with circular medallion accents, keystone detail over the front door, and long narrow windows. The large open porte-cochere is a 20th century addition.



Turn right onto Williams Ave then left onto Central Ave.

NRHP 7. William Montgomery House

414 Central Avenue. This Victorian Italianate style house was built in 1890. Note the wide overhanging eaves with large brackets and the prominent quoins at the corners of the house. The main entrance has an original glass and frame door with transom and sidelights.



8. Matthis House

407 Central Avenue. This Victorian Italianate style house, ca. 1880, in clapboard has floor-length windows, wide overhanging eaves and decorative corner details.



Turn right onto Crutcher, then left onto Main.

9. North Main Street Houses

219, 217, 215 (Pictured) North Main Street. These houses are examples of the Queen Anne style of Victorian architecture. Characterized by many angled exterior walls, shaped shingle decorations, and decorative bracket work plus varied rooflines, this style is often found in large cities in very grand homes.



10. Holbert House

206 North Main Street. Ca. 1881, this simple clapboard one-story home in a rural Victorian cottage style is typical of many of the late 19th century "in town" homes found in Elizabethtown. It was built by the German immigrant ancestor of the present owner.



NRHP 11. Haycraft House

201 North Main Street. On this site was erected Elizabethtown's first brick residence in 1803. The house burned in 1882, and four years later, this one-story Victorian house was built. The house has a hipped roof with iron cresting.



12. The Lasley House

202 North Main Street. This house was built about 1820 and although extensively remodeled, is architecturally significant, not for its exterior, but for its internal construction. It is mortise and tenon framing with brick nogging between the studs. This is an unusual method of building and probably unique in Elizabethtown.

NRHP 13. Brown-Pusey House

Built in 1825 by John Y. Hill as his residence, this early house is one of the best examples of rural Federal architecture in the town. With its reeded door jams and oval fan paterae in its door surround, it is one of the most stylistically sophisticated homes in Elizabethtown. The curved bricks used in the eave of the house are most unusual.



This house has seen many uses. Originally the residence of the Hill family, it was later converted by them into a boarding house and hotel. General George Armstrong Custer and his wife lived here during their stay in Elizabethtown in the 1870's.

In 1923, Drs. William A. Pusey and Brown Pusey purchased the property and gave it in trust to the town. It houses a very excellent genealogical library, and its public rooms are used extensively for meetings and social events.

Turn right onto West Poplar.

NRHP 14. Church

110 West Poplar Street. This simple brick church has stood since 1834 when it was built by John Y. Hill for the Severns Valley Baptist congregation. Architectural details include brick dentil molding and an arched doorway with integral Doric pilasters of brick.



It has undergone extensive remodeling; the steeple is a later addition. It was used as a hospital during the Civil War. In 1897, it was sold to the First Baptist Church, and in turn, to the Riasok Shrine Club in 1971.

NRHP 15. Masonic Temple

125 North Mulberry Street. The Morrison Lodge of Masons was chartered in 1823 by Henry Clay, Grand Master of Kentucky. The Masons met at various places in Elizabethtown before constructing the three-story building in 1913 at a cost of \$20,000. In addition to its use by the Masons, it has been used for offices and as the first movie theater in Elizabethtown.

It features brick inlays, stained glass windows and large brackets under the eaves. At the roofline is a projecting hipped-roof skylight with clerestory windows.



NRHP 16. Larue-Hayes House

115 West Poplar Street. Ca. 1831, a small brick residence was built on this lot for Jacob Warren Larue, whose wife was Eliza Helm, sister of Governor John L. Helm. In 1863, the house underwent extensive additions. Note eaves and window treatment.



!! CAUTION !! Continue straight through the light. The next section of West Poplar can be very busy at certain times of the day. It is recommended that you turn on your caution lights, stay to the far right and go slowly. This will enable you to enjoy this section of the tour.

NRHP 17. Christ Episcopal Church

202 West Poplar Street. The Christ Episcopal Church was built in 1850 and is virtually unchanged except for the addition of the bell tower in 1878. This Victorian Gothic Church represents the only example in town of this popular church style. With decorative faciaboard trim, decorative brick work around the windows, and its steep roof, this church possesses the charm of many small town Gothic churches throughout the United States. The pews within the church were made from the original benches. The parish hall is a recent addition.



NRHP 18. Eliza Vertrees House

206 West Poplar Street. This small brick residence was built ca. 1840. The double front door, dentil work in the brick cornice and wooden window lintels are all late interpretations of the Federal style. The side porch is a 1910 addition. It was the home of Mrs. Eliza Vertrees, the first music teacher in Elizabethtown. After the death of her husband, she supported herself and her two daughters by giving music lessons.



NRHP 19. Matthis-Robertson House

214 West Poplar Street, Ca. 1872. This is another sophisticated example of the Victorian Italianate style with its slender proportions, original inset doorway with decorative surround, and pedimented windows. Built by J.W. Matthis, it was occupied for many years by the S.R. Robertson family.



NRHP 20. McKinney-Helm House

218 West Poplar Street. Judge Armistead H. Churchill supervised the building of this house ca. 1820 for his sister, Mrs. Eliza McKinney. It was later acquired by Mrs. Emilie Todd Helm, widow of Confederate General Ben Hardin Helm and sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

NRHP 21. Wintersmith House

221 West Poplar Street. This home was built about 1820 for Elizabethtown merchant Horatio Gates Wintersmith. John Y. Hill was the builder. It illustrates sophisticated architecture for a small community of the early 19th century, particularly its Ionic columns and fanlight detail in its pedimented porch.



22-23. Claude Brown and J.B Pierce House

227 West Poplar. The Claude Brown House was built in the 1920's, with modern features. 232 West Poplar (Pictured) was built by James B. Pierce in the early 1920's. At the time it was built, it was the most modern house in Elizabethtown. These two houses signaled a change away from the big two-story frame houses that had for so long been a mark of affluence.

