

# HISTORIC WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN BARDSTOWN

**1. OLD NELSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE** - 1892 — It replaced a 1790's stone courthouse of Georgian design. This chosen design from an advertised competition has some of the original courthouse stones in the foundation. It cost \$33,000 which included the furnishings.

**2. McLEAN HOUSE** - 105 E. Stephen Foster Ave., Circa 1814. — Built by brothers, Samuel and Hector McLean, to be used for office and rental purposes. In 1840 the Post Office, a newspaper office and later a chair manufacturer would use the building.

**3. JOHN FITCH MONUMENT** - 1927 — Erected by the U.S. Government to honor the inventor of the steamboat, John Fitch. A native of Connecticut, he came to Kentucky as a land surveyor. His successful invention operated on the Delaware River in New Jersey in 1788. Unable to get financial backing he returned to Bardstown where he died in July 1798. In 1927 his remains were removed from the Pioneer Cemetery to this monument.

**4. HARRISON-SMITH HOUSE** - Court Sq., Circa 1790 — The western section is stone, the eastern part is brick and added about 30 years later. Dr. Burr Harrison, who assisted Dr. Walter Brashear in the history making hip-joint amputation, was one of the many doctors who lived and worked here. It was a union recruiting site during the Civil War.

**5. SISCO CARRIAGE SHOP** - 108 S. Third St., Circa 1835 — The retail outlet for a carriage factory located nearby, it also sold tombstones made by the family.

**6. KINKEAD-WICKLIFFE** - 114 S. Third St., Circa 1830 — Different additions mask the early age of this house. In the back is a beehive-shaped smoke house with original wooden finial on the roof. Walk north on Alley.

**7. PIONEER CEMETERY** - Circa 1785-1856 — In 1789, when the original town map was laid out, John Fitch Avenue was called Grave Street because of the cemetery. The stone boxes are called sarcophagi and protect the graves from digging animals.

**8. OLD NELSON COUNTY JAIL** - 111 W. Stephen Foster Ave., Circa 1820 — Built of stone with three rooms and a hallway on each floor, the prisoners were shackled to rings in the wooden floors. The two-story jail cell building and stone-walled work yard were constructed in 1874. The dimples on each of the stone blocks were placed to be used to raise the stones with tongs and a block and tackle.

**9. OLD TALBOTT TAVERN** - Court Square. This building has been in use since 1797 — first as a mercantile business then in the early 1800s as an ordinary (tavern). George Talbott operated it as the Newman House from 1885 until his death in 1912. Thereafter it was known as Talbott Hotel - the Tavern. Visited by famous and infamous, it still welcomes travellers to Bardstown.

**10. JOHNSON BUILDING** - 100 N. Third St., Circa 1900 — This commercial building supplied retail space on the first floor, offices on the second and apartments on the third floor. Storms and time have removed most of the original roof line balastrade and chimneys. A drugstore has occupied this corner since 1900.

**11. CRYSTAL BUILDING** - 109 N. Third St. Built in 1911 for commercial use as a furniture store, skating rink upstairs, in the 1930s the Crystal Movie Theatre.

**12. MAIN STREET BLDGS.** - Some date from the 1820s with Victorian facades added at the turn of the century.

**13. GRIGSBY HARDWARE STORES** - 105-111 West Flaget Ave., Circa 1830-90 — These former hardware store buildings were renovated in the 1980s for modern day use. The drugstore building was designed to store and sell buggies and wagons.

**14. MARY MAY HOUSE** - 110 W. Flaget Ave. — Mary Meredith May was the niece of Gov. Patrick Henry of Virginia. The east portion of this home existed in 1821. The Colonial doorway and cornice brackets were added in a later remodeling.

**15. SAMUEL HORINE** - 201 W. Flaget Ave., Circa 1797 — The oldest brick building still standing in Bardstown. Note the string course of brick between the first and second stories, and the "molding style" window sills, an 18th century design feature. Horine, a shoemaker, lived here until his death in 1840.

**16. McMEEKIN TENEMENT** - 205 W. Flaget Ave., Circa 1840 — This double dwelling house was built to be rented. One of two in town built by John G.W. McMeekin, a local lawyer and businessman.

**17. BASILICA OF ST. JOSEPH PROTO-CATHEDRAL** - 310 W. Stephen Foster Ave., 1816 — The first Catholic Cathedral built west of the Alleghenies. Architect John Rogers used native trees and clay for the bricks and pillars. Paintings given by nobles of France and Italy are displayed on the walls. The term "Proto" refers to being the first. Today the diocesan Cathedral is in Louisville.

**18. FLAGET HALL OF ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE** - 110 N. Fifth St., Circa 1852 — The Jesuit Brothers were operating St. Joseph College when they built this building for a natural science museum and classrooms.

**19. SPALDING HALL OF ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE** - 114 N. Fifth St., Circa 1826 — Designed by John Rogers and built by Bishop Flaget as a boarding school for young men. It has served as a school, seminary, Civil War hospital, orphanage and preparatory school.

**20. SHADOW LAWN** - 216 W. Flaget Ave., Circa 1820 — Designed by architect John Rogers for John G.W. McMeekin. Built as a Georgian Town House, it was extensively remodeled in 1899 with the addition of a Greek-Revival porch and art glass windows.

**21. McCUE-GOODLETT HOUSE** - 208 W. Flaget Ave., Circa 1838 — It is a simple Federal-style brick with elegant interior woodwork.

**22. HARRELL-ATKINSON HOUSE** - 206 W. Flaget Ave., Circa 1815 — This Federal-style brick has been added to at least five different times since it was built.

**23. JACOB RIZER HOUSE** - 204 W. Flaget Ave., Circa 1805 — Gunsmith Jacob Rizer occupied this log and brick structure from 1806-1859. Surviving examples of his work indicate he was one of the premier long rifle craftsmen in Kentucky.

**24. JOHN CALDWELL HOUSE AND SHOP** - 206 N. Fourth, Circa 1815, and 208 N. Fourth St., Circa 1798 — The 1-1/2-story brick house was used by Caldwell as a shop when he lived in the log house next door.

**25. SAUNDERS-WELLER HOUSE** - 210 N. Fourth St., Circa 1805 — Original first floor is wood framed with brick noggin infill. Original poplar floors. The second floor was added some years later. David Weller, gunsmith, owned the house in 1818.

**26. BEALL-TUCKER HOUSE** - 209 N. Fourth St., Circa 1830 — The present 2-story brick house is Georgian with Federal trim. Built by Benjamin Tucker, a saddle maker, on the same site of a log house built by W. Beall.

**27. DAVID WELLER** - 218 N. Fourth St., Circa 1802 — Weller was a respected gunsmith of the community. This log house with masonry chimneys is typical of the early homes.

**28. JAMES SMILEY** - 116 W. Broadway, Circa 1800 — This

2-story log house started out with one room on each floor. Three additions over the years changed the look.

**29. RUTH McQUOWN** - 113 W. Broadway, Circa 1820. The McQuown family worked as chair makers. This log house was later covered in clapboard.

**30. PROTZMAN-HYNES HOUSE** - 110 W. Broadway, Circa 1797 — Jacob Protzman was a house joiner of the 1790s. W.R. Hynes, who built the Talbott Tavern, acquired it about the time of his marriage in 1816 and it probably was the residence of his large family.

**31. IMAGINATION** - In the middle 1800s a market house and a fire house stood on opposite sides of Third Street in the middle of Broadway. The market house on the west had a covered area for the farmers to bring their produce for trade. The county provided the scales, the city kept the area clean. The brick fire house on the east housed the pumpers, hose and other firefighting equipment.

**32. SYLVESTER COOK HOUSE** - 105 E. Broadway, Circa 1820 — A log shop was attached to this brick structure in 1834.

**33. ROBERT ABLE HOUSE AND SHOP** - 110 and 112 E. Broadway, Circa 1820 — Able was a cabinetmaker and this building was described in 1831 as "Brick, Frame and irregular." Cabinet makers made chests, bureaus, blanket boxes, corner cupboards, etc.

**34. JOHN D. NICHOLSON** - 111 E. Broadway, Circa 1840 — Nicholson operated a steam powered cotton spinning, wool carding and flour mill on the lot west of his home through the 1860s. The mill burned down in the early 1900s.

**35. STEPHEN CAMBRON HOUSE** - 113 E. Broadway, Circa 1828 — Cambron, a cabinet maker and s joiner, had a ware room on Main Street.

**36. JOHN C. AUD HOUSE** - 115 E. Broadway, Circa 1830 — Aud, a blacksmith, probably added the back section in 1832. It is a Federal style brick.

**37. UNION CHURCH** - 315 N. Second Street, Circa 1812 — The home of the Afro-American First Baptist church since the 1860s, it is the oldest church in Bardstown. First home of early Protestant congregations. The sanctuary is on the second floor.

**38. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** - 209 N. Second St., Circa 1827 — A simple log cabin in the Presbyterian Cemetery on Templin Ave. was replaced by this structure in 1827 on land sold by Charles A. Wickliffe for \$200 and "Free Pew Rent." The interior pillars are solid wood.

**39. BARDSTOWN METHODIST CHURCH** - Second and Flaget Ave., Circa 1856 — A congregation organized in the 1820s lost their first two churches to fire. This building was built on this site after the fire of 1856. In 1892 the Gothic windows and belfry were added.

**40. JACOB YOCUM HOUSE** - 203 E. Stephen Foster Ave., Circa 1792 — This hewn-log house illustrates the most popular early way of erecting a substantial dwelling house. Notice the central chimney, found in Pennsylvania German houses of the 17th century.

**41. DANIEL LINEBAUGH HOUSE** - 205 E. Stephen Foster Ave., Circa 1805 — Linebaugh, a tailor, probably had his shop on the same lot as his home.

**42. NARCISSA HOUSE** - 213 E. Stephen Foster Ave., Circa 1815 — Bequeathed by Austin Hubbard to the Mulatto slave, Narcissa, whom he had raised from childhood. Funds from his estate purchased her freedom and at her death the property was sold to purchase the freedom of her two sons.

**43. JOSEPH QUEEN HOUSE** - 215 E. Stephen Foster Ave., Circa 1835 — Queen, a blacksmith and merchant, built this house on one of the original settled lots. Notice the delicate tracery window gracing the pediment at the second level. The wooden ball trim used under the cornice is also unique. (You may wish to look across the street at the next two homes.)

**44. BENJAMIN DOOM HOUSE** - 216 E. Stephen Foster Ave., Circa 1820 — This house has interior woodwork equal to Wickland and a fanlight window above the main entrance. Ben Doom, a poor boy, was apprenticed to a tanner. He was very successful at the trade of tanning and built a large tannery down the hill from his home.

**45. SWEETS-McCOWN HOUSE** - 212 E. Stephen Foster Ave., Circa 1810-1840 — Thomas Sweets built the back section, later added to by Dr. Harrison McCown. Tradition says Elizabeth Doom McCown presented a Confederate unit, the Nelson Greys, with a silk flag on these steps.

**46. GEORGE WASHINGTON HITE LAW OFFICE** - 119 E. Stephen Foster Ave., Circa 1857 — After the great Bardstown fire of 1856, which started in the two-story log tavern which stood on this lot, Hite constructed this building to be used as law offices.

**47. ADAM ANTHONY HOUSE AND SHOP** - 114 and 116 E. Stephen Foster Avenue., Circa 1800 and 1810 — Anthony, a coppersmith, made stills for local farmer distillers. In 1811, he used 3,000 gallons of whiskey to purchase the brick building as his residence.

**48. CHAPEZE HOUSE** - 107 E. Stephen Foster Ave., Circa 1803 — This building stands back from the street because a 2-story log section once in front was torn away in the 1920s.

*(Information provided by Dixie Hibbs, local historian)*

