

# HARRODSBURG & MERCER COUNTY

## Walking & Driving Tour

While this tour includes widely spaced areas in Mercer County, many of the Harrodsburg sites are most enjoyable on foot. You will be following a city plat laid out in 1786 which divided a one square mile area into 200 in-lots and 83 out-lots. Each city block was comprised of four one half acre in-lots, and the downtown area was bordered on all four sides by out-lots of 5 to 6 acres.



**1 Diamond Point: \*** (488 Price Avenue) Diamond Point is one of Kentucky's finest examples of Greek Revival architecture with its textbook Minard Lafever doorway. An unusual portico features two round columns flanked by two square piers and a narrow balcony accessed by three upstairs doors ornaments the façade on the second level.

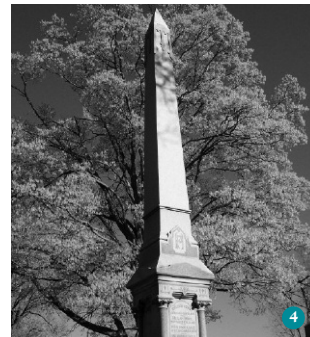


**4 Spring Hill Cemetery: \*** (Greenville Street) Spring Hill Cemetery was established in 1860. Prior to this the community used a cemetery

**2 Pulliam/Curry House:** (414 North Main Street) This circa 1857 house was built by Monroe Pulliam and completed by Kentucky legislator Daniel Curry and his wife, Martha Jane Forsythe. The Gothic Revival style is shown by the board and batten siding and lacy bargeboards.

**3 John L. Bridges House/ Burford Hill:** (North end of Greenville Street) This circa 1817 house was built for John L. Bridges and his wife, Anna Adair Bridges, the daughter of Governor John Adair. Bridges was a Mercer County Representative to the State Legislature and a circuit judge. Contains Matthew P. Lowery woodwork.

off Beaumont Avenue, known as the Harrodsburg Cemetery, on property given by the Magoffin family. The old stone vault was built in 1869 by J. O'Toole and served as a temporary tomb during severe weather. A walk through this cemetery is a walk through the history of Harrodsburg and Mercer County.



**5 Tewmey/Armstrong House:** (367 North Main Street) This circa 1850 house was built by John A. Tewmey, a descendant of the Low Dutch. Entablature above the door is carved with a honeysuckle motif. In the Armstrong family for almost 100 years, it was the home of artist Jestabell Armstrong Matherly.

**6 Courtview:** (362 North Main Street) Occupying out-lot 5, Courtview is so named for its view of the courthouse when this Federal brick residence was built in 1823 by Col. Richard M. Sutfield and his first wife, Elizabeth Thomas. Contains Matthew P. Lowery woodwork with unique mantel pieces for every room.

**7 Benjamin Passmore House and Hotel:** (111 West Broadway) The hotel was built circa 1843 and the house built circa 1853 by Benjamin Passmore, Harrodsburg blacksmith and entrepreneur. The house is a hall and parlor plan. During the era of stage coach travel, the hotel provided popular accommodations. It also served as a residential hotel for young married couples. The former hotel has housed the offices and presses of the Harrodsburg Herald since 1951.

**8 Cardwellton:** (103 East Broadway) Located on in-lot 86, this house of timberframe construction with brick nogging has a log nucleus which may be as early as 1786. Home to the Chenoweth, Slavens and Cardwell families, it was purchased circa 1863 by John and Sophia Taylor Cardwell and remains in that family. Contains woodwork by Matthew P. Lowery.

**9 Hogue/Williams House:** (224 East Factory Street) Wattle, daub and hewn log house built in the early 1800s by Samuel Hogue containing much of its original woodwork and cabinetry. Purchased as a residence in 1856 by John Augustus Williams, President of Daughters' College.

**10 Charles Ficklin/ Alexander Buchanan House:** (North East Street) Built circa 1830 by Charles Ficklin and sold in 1833 to Alexander Buchanan, this five bay, story and a half house with a façade laid in

Flemish bond, features Matthew P. Lowery interior woodwork. Lowery woodwork also framed the exterior front doorway and has been covered in modern times.



**11 Woodsland:** (129 North East Street) All materials for this Virginia style house came from the immediate property with the hand fired brick on the front wall laid in Flemish bond. It was built in 1810 by Archibald and Annie Adams Woods and still remains in the family.

**12 Muscoe Garnett House:** (506 East Lexington Street) Built by Harrodsburg tailor Muscoe F. Garnett and wife, Margaret E. Hunt Garnett, in 1852. This substantial brick home was subsequent-

ly owned by long time Mercer Circuit Court Clerk Ben C. Allin, and later by T. C. Bell, prominent Mercer County attorney. Contains a Matthew P. Lowery mantel.

**13 Isaac Hipple House:** (354 East Lexington Street) Built by Isaac Hipple circa 1845, the façade is divided into five bays by brick pilasters topped with Doric capitals. The windows have slightly pedimented wooden lintels that have an acanthus leaf motif. Later owned by the Garnett and Thompson families.

**14 Thompson/ Wickliffe House:** (344 East Lexington Street) Built in 1887 after his original home burned, this Italianate residence was the home of renowned criminal lawyer Philip B. and Martha Montgomery Thompson. Graced by exquisitely crafted cherry woodwork. Note Celtic cross on tower.



**15 Lucy Newton Cogar House:** (304 East Lexington Street) Built circa 1878 as the home of Jesse and Lucy Newton Cogar. This house is a fine example of Golden Age architecture with cherry and oak inlaid floors, intricate moldings, stained glass windows and pargeting.

**16 Hugh McGary House:** (123 South East Street) This house was owned by Hugh and Katie Yocum McGary in 1795 but construction methods indicate an earlier building date. The house is of timberframe construction with brick nogging. Much original woodwork remains. McGary was a pioneer in Mercer County and a Major at the Battle of Blue Licks. He married first the widow Mary Buntin Ray who was the mother of General James Ray. McGary was an extensive landowner and businessman in Mercer County and Harrodsburg. Among his properties was a tavern on Main Street.

**17 Maria Thompson Daviess House:** (122 East Poplar Street) This house has been the residence of two Mercer County literary figures. It was built in the mid 1800s



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Queen Anne building with Romanesque details built in 1887 by the Isenbergs serves as a commercial building. An upper floor theater is notable for decorative painting on walls and ceiling.

**19 Court House Square:** \* A 1786 plat of Harrodsburg designates a public square on which four courthouses have been located. A stone courthouse was built in 1788 followed by a brick structure and separate clerk's office in 1818. A larger brick building replaced these in 1912. It burned in 1927 and the present structure was built in 1928.

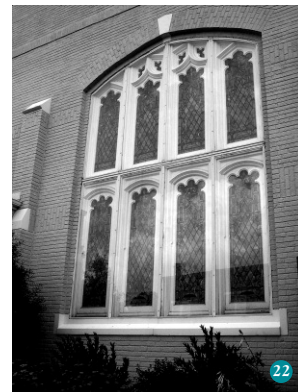


**20 Harrodsburg Christian Church:** (305 South Main Street) Located on in-lot 152, this was the site of Rev. Jesse Head's cabinetry shop and later the offices of the Bohon Buggy Factory. The 1928 church houses an historic Disciples of Christ congregation chartered in 1803.



**18 Blue Front Building:** (200 block of South Main Street) This

**21 Harrodsburg Baptist Church:** (312 South Main Street) This historic congregation was organized in 1839 by Dr. William Vaughn and worshipped in the Old Republican Meeting House located behind this structure and facing the Courthouse. The present building was completed in 1961.



**22 United Presbyterian Church:** (326 South Main Street) Built in 1853 and expanded in 1913, this Gothic Revival building houses a congregation which originally worshipped at Cane Run. They moved to Harrodsburg and built on this site in 1818. Differences

caused by the Civil War precipitated a split in the congregation. The Confederate faction continued to use this building until both factions reunited in 1913.

**23 The Academy:** (South Main Street) In 1847, under the supervision of Rev. John Montgomery, the Presbyterian Church hired James Curry to construct the Harrodsburg Female Academy on land purchased from Christopher Columbus Graham. Housed Civil War wounded from the Battle of Perryville.



**24 Old Mercer County Jail:** (320 South Chiles Street) Built in 1827, the large building served as a home for the jailer and his family and as jail cells for the prisoners. Most famous inmate was Lizzie Hardin, a Confederate



sympathizer, jailed for waving her handkerchief at John Hunt Morgan and his men as they rode through Harrodsburg. The ladies of the town emptied their larders to prepare a grand feast for Morgan and his men. A great celebration was held marking his visit as chronicled in "The Private War of Lizzie Hardin". The rear building served as the county jail from the 1870s until 1983.

**25 Morgan Row:** (220-232 South Chiles Street) "Built by Squire Joseph Morgan and extended by John G. Chiles for whom the street was named, who had stage contracts extending largely over Kentucky that kept Harrodsburg wide awake

with the rattle of the wheels and the echoes of the merry stage horn." Contains Matthew P. Lowery woodwork. Along with other commercial enterprises, it currently houses the Harrodsburg Historical Society and Research Library.

**26 St. Philip's Episcopal Church:** (NE Corner of Chiles and Short Streets) The church building cornerstone was laid in 1860, and the building opened for services in 1861 at the outbreak of the Civil War. This gem of Gothic Revival architecture was designed by the Right Rev. Benjamin Bosworth Smith, first Episcopal Bishop of Kentucky. Concerning the design source, legend maintains

that Smith provided a wooden model of a church in England he had visited as a boy; also, the only truly centered window is the one back of the altar, as Smith taught: "Only Providence is perfect, and man should ever be mindful of such."

**27 Lawyer's Row:** (Short Street) In 1810 the Trustees of Harrodsburg sold certain lots from the Public Square for the sites of workshops and offices and Lawyer's Row was born. This street was traditionally home to lawyers' offices due to its proximity to the Courthouse.

**28 William McBride House:** (Corner of West Poplar and Chiles) Built in 1822 by William and Jane Haggin McBride parents of Confederate General James Haggin McBride. Once the home



of Terah Templin Haggin, McBride's brother-in-law and father of James Ben Ali Haggin. Contains Matthew P. Lowery woodwork.

**29 Dr. A. D. Price House:** (115 West Poplar Street) Brick Italianate residence built in 1884 by Dr. Anselm Daniel and Caroline S. Henry Price. Dr. Price practiced medicine in Harrodsburg for 40 years. This house served as his medical office and operating room. Notable for its Victorian gingerbread and parquet flooring.



**30 United Methodist Church and Parsonage:** (120-128 South Chiles Street) Reconstructed in 1940 on the foundations of the 1840 and 1889 Methodist Church after a devastating fire. Has



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original bell from the first church. The congregation has been meeting here since 1828. The circa 1840 Greek Revival house is the oldest continually inhabited Methodist parsonage west of the Alleghenies. Church and parsonage housed the wounded following the Civil War Battle of Perryville.

**31 White Hall:** (104 South Chiles Street) Situated on in-lot 37, portions of house built as early as 1840 by Robert and Priscilla Robertson. Purchased in 1891 by Thomas and Mary Grimes Hardin. Remained in Hardin family until 1959. Is presently owned and occupied by a financial institution.



**32 Clay Hill:** (433 Beaumont Avenue) Built circa 1814 by Beriah Magoffin, Sr. and his wife, Jane McAfee, on out-lot 40. It was the birthplace of Kentucky's Civil War Governor Beriah Magoffin,

Jr. and his equally successful siblings, including James Wiley Magoffin who founded El Paso, Texas. Another brother, Samuel Magoffin, helped open the Santa Fe Trail. His wife, Susan Hart Shelby, granddaughter of Isaac Shelby, was the first Anglo-American woman to travel west on the Trail. The Georgian style portico was added to the house in 1845. Notable for its handsome Matthew P. Lowery doorway and woodwork.

**33 Magoffin/Mills/Gaither House:** (464

Beaumont Avenue) Built by Beriah Magoffin, Sr., Beriah Magoffin, Jr. and his wife Anne Shelby, granddaughter of Isaac Shelby, first governor of Kentucky, resided here after 1839. Later owned by Benjamin Mills noted gunsmith and commander of Harper's Ferry at the time of John Brown's famous raid. Purchased by M. R. Gaither in 1870, the family held title to the property for over a century. Construction methods indicate a pre-1830 building date. Unusual tamped clay insulation is between basement and first floor living quarters.

**34 Tabler House:** (504 Beaumont Avenue) This Queen Anne style house built in the 1880s by Dr. Moshien Tabler was subsequently used as a parsonage for the Harrodsburg Presbyterian Church before reverting to private ownership in the 1940s.



**35 Poteet House:** (512 Beaumont Avenue) Located on out-lot 81, this Queen Anne style house was built by Benjamin Franklin Poteet in 1883. The home was designed by nationally recognized architect George Barber and is listed as design # 29 in "The Cottage Souvenir No. 2" design book.



**36 VanArsdall/Sale House:** (520 Beaumont Avenue) This Beaux Arts style home was built in 1905 for G. Alfred Curry. In 1919, it was purchased by Dr. Condit B. VanArsdall, Sr. whose daughter Elizabeth married Forest "Aggie" Sale. Mr. Sale was a Captain of the 1933 University of Kentucky basketball team and two-time All-America. The home continues ownership in the same family.

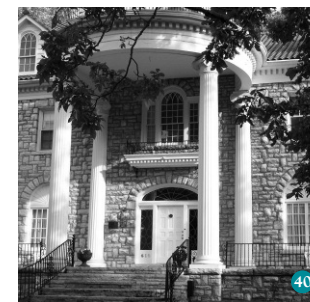
**37 Dedman House:** (528 Beaumont Avenue) Built in 1884 by Charles M. and Mary (Mollie) Curry Dedman,

this Queen Anne style Victorian house is notable for the parterring gable decoration. Mrs. Dedman chose the lot, plans and oversaw construction. Long time residence of the Ruby family.

**38 G. A. Curry House:** (538 Beaumont Avenue) Built in 1896 by G. A. and Zeletta Graveson Curry, this Queen Anne style house stayed in the Curry Family for two decades. It retains its original wrap around porch and beautiful leaded and stained glass windows. Under the ownership of Frank and Louise Forsythe Curry, this house was the scene of traditional southern living with balls, teas, and candlelight dinners. It later became a funeral home as Bruner and Sims, then McClellan, before reverting to a private residence.



**39 Aspen Hall/ Dr. James Shannon House:** (558 Aspen Hall Drive) Built on land originally part of Greenville Springs, this imposing Greek Revival house was built in 1840 by Dr. James Shannon, President of Bacon College. Later the residence of John Bryan Bowman, Mercer County farmer and crusader for higher education in Kentucky.



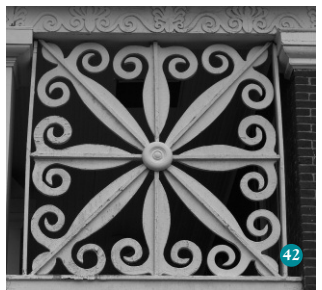
**40 Greystone:** (618 Beaumont Inn Drive) Greystone was built in 1931 by Mrs. A. G. Kyle, a niece of Eli Lilly of pharmaceutical fame. Hugh Meriweather, noted for his commercial and residential designs, was the architect.

Built of Kentucky limestone, it is now associated with neighboring Beaumont Inn.



**41 Beaumont Inn:** \* (638 Beaumont Inn Drive) Constructed in 1845, this building served for over seven decades as one of the South's leading female colleges, known in order as the Greenville Female Institute after the old Greenville Springs that occupied the same property; Daughters' College; and finally, Beaumont College. Since 1917, it has been owned and operated by five generations of the Dedman family as a country inn that is reminiscent of the Old South and which has attained an international reputation. Three auxiliary buildings – Goddard Hall, Bell Cottage, and Greystone – also house Beaumont guests, and the property contains several ancient trees of varied species.

**42 Honeysuckle Hill/Fair Oaks:** (712 Beaumont Avenue) Designed and built by Dr. Guilford Runyon in the early 1840s for his fiancé Kitty Ferrel who died of cholera. Runyon was an orphan reared by the Shakers at Pleasant Hill until he was expelled after announcing his intention to marry. Noted for its Minard Lafever style ornamentation.



**43 Mercer County Fair and Horse Show:** (Linden Avenue) Recognized as the oldest continuous Fair and Horse Show in the United States, dating from 1828, the present location was purchased in 1904 having been the site of an African American Fair. The property was once a part of the Harrodsburg Springs. As Mercer County moved out of the settlement period and the threat of Indian depredations diminished, agricultural advance-



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ment and livestock breeding became a major focus. The Fair flourished with the exhibition of fine blood-stock exhibited by the likes of Henry Clay and the Shakers. The Mercer County Fair was not only witness to the creation of the American Saddlebred, but after the horse was no longer the primary means of transportation, venues such as this were responsible for the preservation and advancement of the breed.

contains Matthew P. Lowery woodwork. Haggin was a judge for the Kentucky New Court of Appeals during a tumultuous and volatile period of Kentucky politics that almost brought the state to civil war. The house was originally located on over 400 acres of farm land with its lawn sweeping down to what is now College Street. James Haggin was the son of the old pioneer, John Haggin, founder of the Kentucky Haggin family of note in the thoroughbred industry.

**45 Fort Harrod: \*** (College Street, US 127, and Lexington Street, US 68) Begun in 1774 by James Harrod and Company, the Fort was crucial to the settlement of Harrodsburg and Kentucky. Situated on the Wilderness Road, its importance as a refuge in times of Indian depredations cannot be underestimated. It was the site of many firsts: George Rogers Clark planned his northwest territory strategy in one of the original blockhouses; Mrs. William Coomes taught the first school in Kentucky within the Fort; Ann McGinty brought the first spinning wheel and made the first linen from the lint of nettles within the Fort. The present

replica was erected in 1927 on Old Fort Hill also known as Seminary Hill. President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the Fort in 1934 to dedicate the granite monument commemorating the first permanent settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains. Also on the park grounds are the Pioneer Cemetery, a relocated log cabin (now housed inside the Lincoln Marriage Temple), and the Matheny-Taylor House (Mansion Museum).

**46 St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church:** (NE Corner of Lexington Street, US 68, and College Street, US 127) This congregation was formed circa 1839. In 1885 they founded Wayman Institute to provide higher education for African American youth. The present Classical Revival building was erected in 1917 with much of the labor being provided by church members.

**47 West Side School:** (Intersection of Lexington Street and Magnolia) This African American School was erected in 1930 with a donation from the Julius Rosenwald Fund and became the only elementary and high school for African Americans in Mercer County. It is located near the site where Sally Ann Taylor, African American educator, conducted schools in her home after the Civil War. The three principals who served the school were Mrs. Maynette Elliott Sneed (1930-38), Miss Clara B. Clelland (1938-59), and Mr. Robert Jackson, Jr. (1959-61). Closed 1961 when Mercer schools desegregated.

**48 First Baptist Church:** (349 West Broadway) This rectangular brick structure has its principal three-bay façade in the gable end. Front façade consists of two equally-spaced doorways separated by a window. The doors and a stained glass transom are enclosed in a Gothic arc hood molding made of

brick. Building cornice has brick corbelling. Organized by white Baptists of South District during 1840s as African Baptist Church. Small brick building served as house of worship and a school. One of first pastors changed name to First Baptist Church. A new church by that name organized in 1897. Present sanctuary built in 1873; annexes added 1915 & 1983.

**49 The Maples:** (328 North College Street) This Gothic Revival house was built adjacent to his tanyard by Frederick Curry and Cornelia, his wife, in 1856. Curry was a descendant of a pioneer Mercer County family who came to the area with the McAfees. An original brick smokehouse is still part of the property. Prior to the construction of this house, in-lot 128 was owned by African American entrepreneurs Dennis and Diademina Doram whose portraits by Patrick Henry Davenport are housed in the Kentucky History Center.



**50 Rykon:** (338 North College Street) Built circa 1844 by partners Daniel Stagg and James Curry. Mr. Curry purchased Stagg's interest. Called Rykon for the Riker family who purchased it in 1861 and held title for a century. The Riker family were descendants of the Low Dutch.

**51 Forest Pillars:** (350 North College Street) Enlarged by Madison and Mary Worthington using timberframe construction, portions of this house were built as early as 1820 by Mary May. The house's name is derived from the solid poplar tree trunks forming the four Doric columns. Son of Edward Worthington, both served as early Trustees of Harrodsburg. Madison also served on the Board of Centre College.

**52 Dr. James Harrison Moore House:** (367 North College Street) This hall and parlor home was built circa 1848 as a town house by Dr. James Harrison and Mary Messinger Moore. Important in the early economic development of this community, Dr. Moore and his wife had extensive landholdings and banking interests in Mercer County and Mississippi.

**53 Bataan War Memorial: \*** (Veterans Park Road – off and beside U.S. Highway 127 North, immediately north of Warwick Road) Sixty-six men from Mercer County left San Francisco 27 October 1941 under sealed orders with the 192nd G.H.Q. Tank Battalion and arrived in Manila, Philippine Islands, 20 November 1941. They fought to defend Bataan and Corregidor during a critical battle of World War II. These brave men endured the battle, “The Bataan Death March”, and more than three years as prisoners of war before returning to Kentucky. Twenty-nine lost their lives. The tank is a World War II M-4.

**54 William McAfee's Station/ Round Ridge:** (1060 Industry Road) Part of a 1773 survey, the station was built by William and Rebecca Curry McAfee in 1779. He was with George Rogers Clark and the group who marched on Chillicothe and Piqua in 1781. McAfee was badly wounded by the Indians and was taken to Floyd's Station (near Louisville) where he held onto life until his wife arrived at his side, dying soon after. William McAfee's Station is the probable site of Fort Liberty. The land and station site later became the property of Joseph Morgan who built Round Ridge in 1817 for his bride, Ann Bryan.

**55 FontaineBleau/ Hite's Station:** (Highway 390 1.6 miles west off US 127) Site of the famous boiling blue spring, this cabin/station was located on land occupied by Isaac Hite but later assigned to Peter Casey. Here James Harrod's surveyors, John Cowan and James Hamilton, were killed by Indians in 1774 while tending their corn crop. This caused Harrod and Company to leave Kentucky and join the Virginia troops fighting Lord Dunmore's War.





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**56 James McAfee Cemetery:** (West .8 mile on Kentucky Highway 1160 off US 127 then right .65 mile on Man O'War Drive) Pioneer cemetery of James McAfee and his wife Agnes "Nancy" Clark McAfee. He was the head of the McAfee Company of 1773 and was the founder of McAfee Station for whom this area was named. The cemetery includes many unmarked graves. One of the first burials here may have been that of Isaac Clunendike who was killed in an Indian attack while with Samuel McAfee a quarter of a mile from McAfee Station on 9 May 1781.



during times of Indian attack. Before the end of the eighteenth century, the stone house, modeled after the family home in County Armagh, Ireland, was built northeast of the station.

**58 James McCoun's Station/Millwood:** (493 Garriott Lane) James and Margaret Walker McCoun located their station on land which was part of the 1773 surveys made by the McAfee Company of which he was a member. Not a strongly fortified station, the McCouns lived at James McAfee's Station during times of danger. James McCoun helped to organize and was one of the first elders of New Providence Presbyterian Church. Portions of McCoun's home, Millwood, were built in 1790. The house is ornamented with Matthew P. Lowery woodwork.

**59 John Meaux's Station:** (592 Garriott Lane) Leaving a life of ease in New Kent County, Virginia, the widowed John Meaux settled this station in 1784. It became the seat of his vast landholdings and farming operation. Meaux may have been an early abolitionist, making provisions for freeing his slaves in

his will. He died in 1828. Young Joseph McCoun was captured by Indians near here and later killed.

**60 Nathaniel Burrus House:** (955 Vanarsdall Road) A veteran of the Revolutionary War where he participated in the 1781 siege of Yorktown, Burrus and his wife Mary Threlkeld, built this transitional Federal brick home circa 1830. The kitchen is of hand hewn walnut logs. Burrus amassed a fortune with his extensive farming operations and produce trading conducted on nearby Kentucky River. This 1830 house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the site



contains many original outbuildings. An early log house has been moved and reconstructed from its near-by location on the Salt River. All are situated on the George McAfee settlement and preemption.

**61 New Providence Presbyterian Church:** (East side of US 127, 7 miles north of Harrodsburg) This 1862-64 house of worship is a Greek Revival building serving one of the oldest Presbyterian congregations in Kentucky. Begun in 1784 by the Rev. David Rice, first Presbyterian minister in the state, the historic religious body erected this fourth church building on a prominent crest site along the Old Wilderness Trail. The Civil War greatly slowed its construction, and the steeple (non-characteristic of the building's historic style) is a somewhat recent addition. The initial church was named "New Providence" in gratitude for certain providential interventions in the early settlers' behalf. See historical highway markers.

**62 Ambrose Burton House:** (560 Unity Pike) In 1797 Revolutionary War veteran Ambrose Burton constructed this two story 18 by 24 feet single pen log house. Burton's construction of the east limestone chimney on the inside rather than the outside is unusual for this area. An early addition on the west side of the house was built of mortise and tenon beams filled with wattle and daub. Burton's initials are incised in the east fireplace surround.

**63 Walnut Hall/ David W. Thompson House:** (664 Munday's Landing) David W. and Sara M. Thompson built this five bay Greek Revival house circa 1840 on the northwest corner of his grandfather's, David Williams, original preemption. The west and north facades are laid in Flemish bond, and a two story pedimented portico supported by four Ionic columns graces the central entrance. The massive limestone foundation and basement alone took almost a year to build.

**64 David Williams' Station:** (North on Warwick 3.5 miles from its intersection with 127 By-Pass) David Williams achieved distinction in the American Revolution, fighting under George Washington and General LaFayette. He survived Valley Forge and was an original member of the Society of Cincinnati. He was with the party who first surveyed the site of Harrodsburg 16 June 1774, and later established his station on the waters of Shawnee Run.

**65 Hugh McGary's Station:** (North on Warwick 2.6 miles from its intersection with 127 By-Pass) Hugh McGary brought his wife Mary Buntin Ray McGary and family to Kentucky in 1775 with Daniel Boone. McGary and his stepson, James Ray, established this station around 1779 on McGary's 400 acre settlement at Shawnee Springs. McGary purportedly led the charge that began the ill-fated Battle of Blue Licks. Draper



and Robert B. McAfee indicate a first McGary's Station was within sight of Fort Harrod. He was a justice in Kentucky's first court, was promoted from Captain, to Major, then Colonel in the Kentucky Militia, and was a trustee of the town of Warwick.

**66 Thomas Denton's Station:** (986 Curry Pike) Established by Thomas and Sarah Denton as early as 1776 on the waters of Shawnee Run. The land belonged to Diana

Denton, widow of John Denton who had been killed by Indians. Among the first women to settle in Kentucky were the Dentons, McGarys, Hogans, and Boones. This is the family for whom Denton, Texas was named.

**67 William W. Goddard House/Wildwood:** (388 Curry Pike) This handsome Italianate villa with its three story tower was built by William W. and Sarah Eliza Goddard circa 1870. W. W. Goddard's life and deeds are recorded in "Uncle Will of Wildwood". Goddard was a tobacco grower, cattle breeder, horseman, and fervent supporter of the southern cause during the Civil War. He named one of his children Rebel to commemorate the conflict. The family lived in a log structure located to the rear of this house prior to the building of their home.





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**68 Abraham Chapline Plantation/Rufus Henry Vandarsdall House:** (1561 Lexington Road) Abraham Chapline at 19 was the youngest of the original settlers to accompany James Harrod to Kentucky. This is the site of his 1400 acre settlement and preemption. He married Elizabeth Higgins in 1793, and their restored pioneer cemetery is located near here. Another pioneer settler Azariah Davis was buried here as well. The present house, an exquisitely detailed late Victorian mansion, was built circa 1900 by Rufus Henry Vanarsdall of Low Dutch descent.



**69 Matthias Yocum's Station:** (East on US 68 – Lexington Road – 3 miles from 127 By-Pass on right) The Yocum family lived on the edge of the frontier in Virginia, North Carolina, and finally Mercer County, Kentucky. Matthias Yocum established the station on his excellent and well watered settlement and preemption. His daughters married into the Ray and McGary families. Son Jesse Yocum survived the Battle of Blue Licks.

**70 Fairview:** (2408 Lexington Road) Located on the land of Gabriel Slaughter, Governor of Kentucky 1816 – 1820, the present Carpenter's Gothic house was the home of Robert E. Coleman who, along with Crit Davis, were among the first to develop Mercer's reputation for prize-winning trotters and pacers. William Jennings Bryan was entertained here in the 1890s.



**71 Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill: \*** (Off U.S. 68 at junction of KY 33, 7 miles northeast of Harrodsburg) The restored community of nineteenth century buildings surrounded by rolling bluegrass farmland features structures of stone, brick and frame constructed between 1809 and 1859. Notable are the 1820 Meeting House with its interlocking cantilever-type trusses; the 1839 Trustees' Office with its twin spiral staircases; and the massive Center Family Dwelling (1824-34). The Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill was the third largest community established by the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing,

commonly called "Shakers" because of their ritualistic religious dances. Since 1961, the village has been owned and operated by a nonprofit corporation committed to preserving and interpreting the Shaker experience in Kentucky. The entire acreage is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is designated a National Historic Landmark District.

**72 John McMurtry's Station:** (4170 Lexington Road) John and Elizabeth McCoun McMurtry established this station around 1780, and the log house presumed to be part of the station still exists

within this structure. Post molds indicate that it may have been a stockaded fort. Captain McMurtry survived the Battle of Blue Licks but was captured, required to run the gauntlet several times, and ransomed at Detroit. He made his way back to Kentucky only to be killed by Indians at Harmar's Defeat in 1790. He is noted for building the first water powered grist mill in Kentucky.

**73 John Gordon's Station:** (1490 Shakertown Road – Kentucky Highway 33) This is the site of John and Elizabeth Grayson Gordon's second station, with the first station becoming the property of Stephen Trigg. John

Gordon was killed at the Battle of Blue Licks, and his land was inherited by his son Ambrose Gordon. The site for Shawnee Run Baptist Church, organized in 1788 under Reverend John Rice, was deeded from this property. This was the parent church to many area congregations.

**74 Stephen Trigg's Station:** (1305 Handy Road) Trigg's Station (settled by Stephen and Mary Christian Trigg) was also Haggins Station, Gordon's Old Station and Viney Grove. Trigg had risen to prominence in Virginia as a member of the House of Burgesses and was appointed Commissioner of the

Kentucky County Land Court in 1779. He died within three years of coming to Kentucky at the Battle of Blue Licks and was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Militia at the time of his death.

**75 Jacob Froman's Station:** (532 Bailey Pike) Built by Jacob and Barbara Mercer Froman on his settlement and preemption, a log house presumed to be part of the station still exists inside the present residence. Froman was a member of the Convention of 1792 which drew up the first Constitution of Kentucky, and was elected a state representative in that year.

**76 George Corn's Station:** (960 Shakertown Rd.) Established by George Corn on a branch of Cane Run around 1780. The Corn Family proved invaluable in guarding theirs and other early Mercer County stations. George and Edward Corn were survivors of the Battle of Blue Licks.

**77 Lewis Rose's Station:** (West Main St., Burgin) Lewis Rose was born in Germany and served in the Pennsylvania Militia prior

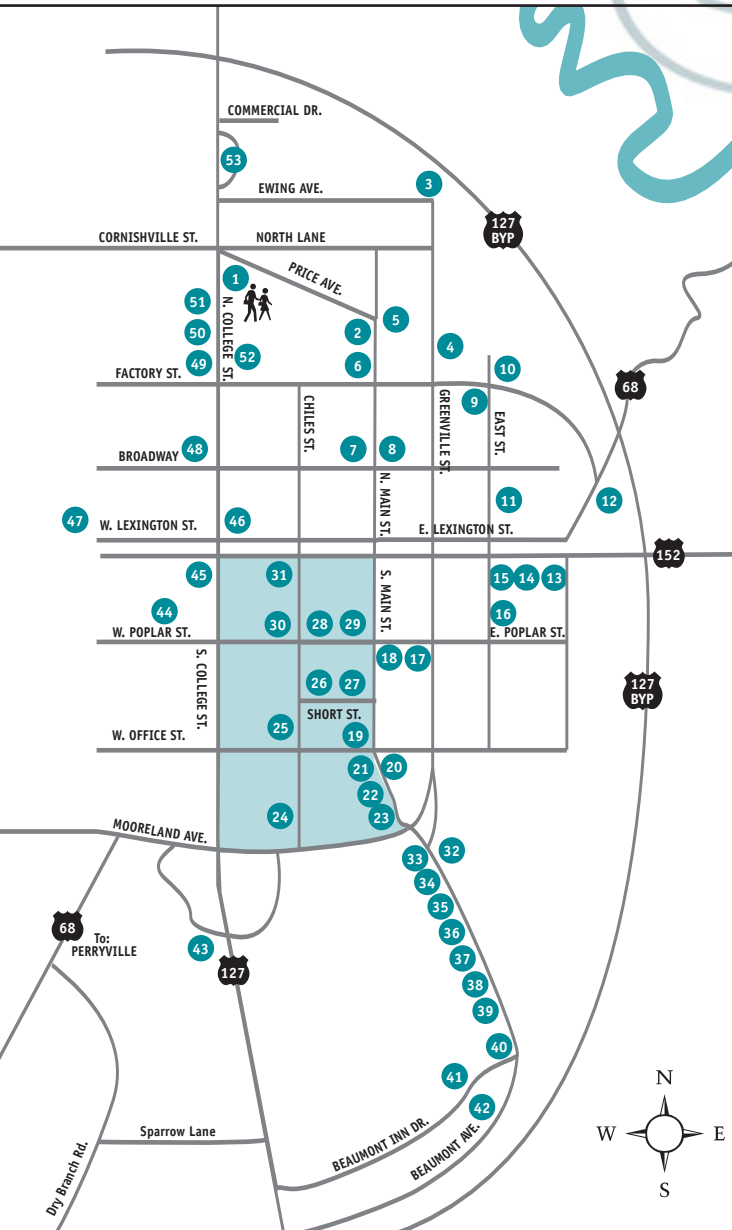
to coming to Kentucky in 1779. Lewis and Barbara Fair Rose located their station on 400 acres assigned to them by Stephen Trigg. Rose was captured at the Battle of Blue Licks where his brother Matthias was killed. While a prisoner after the battle, he was required to run the gauntlet several times on the march to Detroit. He was ransomed there and returned to Kentucky a year later. During that time, his wife, assuming him dead, probated his will and inventoried and sold his property. He became a ruling elder in the Cane Run Church.

**78 Alexander Robertson's Station:** (Intersection of Highway 33 and 152) In 1778, Alexander Robertson and his wife Margaret Robinson established their stockaded station near here. Robertson was the first Sheriff of Mercer County and father of famous Justice George Robertson. Their daughter Charlotte married Robert P. Letcher who became Governor of Kentucky.



# HARRODSBURG & MERCER COUNTY

## Walking & Driving Tour



**79 John Bowman's Station:** (See State Marker near intersection of Highway 33 and 152) Established the winter of 1779 by Colonel John Bowman and his wife, Elizabeth Bryan. Bowman was the first County Lieutenant and Military Governor of Kentucky. The station grew to accommodate around thirty families and served as an important destination and refuge for early Mercer County settlers.

**80 Azor Rees' Station:** (750 Buster Pike) Rees came to Mercer County with James Harrod's Company in May 1774. He and his wife, Dinah, located their station near here on their 1400 acre settlement and preemption. The western section of this land, under the later ownership of John Haggin, became the site of Cane Run Presbyterian Church. It was one of the first Presbyterian Churches founded in Kentucky by Reverend David Rice.

**81 Glenworth/Robert Mosby Davis House:** (781 Buster Pike) Built in 1848 by Robert Mosby Davis and Sarah Harris, his wife, this beautifully situated Greek Revival house features a façade laid in Flemish bond, a central two story portico with four Ionic columns, and a widow's walk accessible by an attic stairway. The attic walls bear the names of Civil War soldiers. Retains many of its original out-buildings including ice house, servants' quarters, three bay hen house, octagonal summer kitchen, weather boarded log smoke-house, and a nineteenth century horse breeding barn.

**82 John Bunton's Station:** (1236 Buster Pike) One of the early settlers in Kentucky, this station was erected by John Bunton around 1781 on a 400 acre settlement. The land was later assigned to William McBride, and Bunton removed to a 400 acre tract near the Kentucky River on present day McAfee Lane.

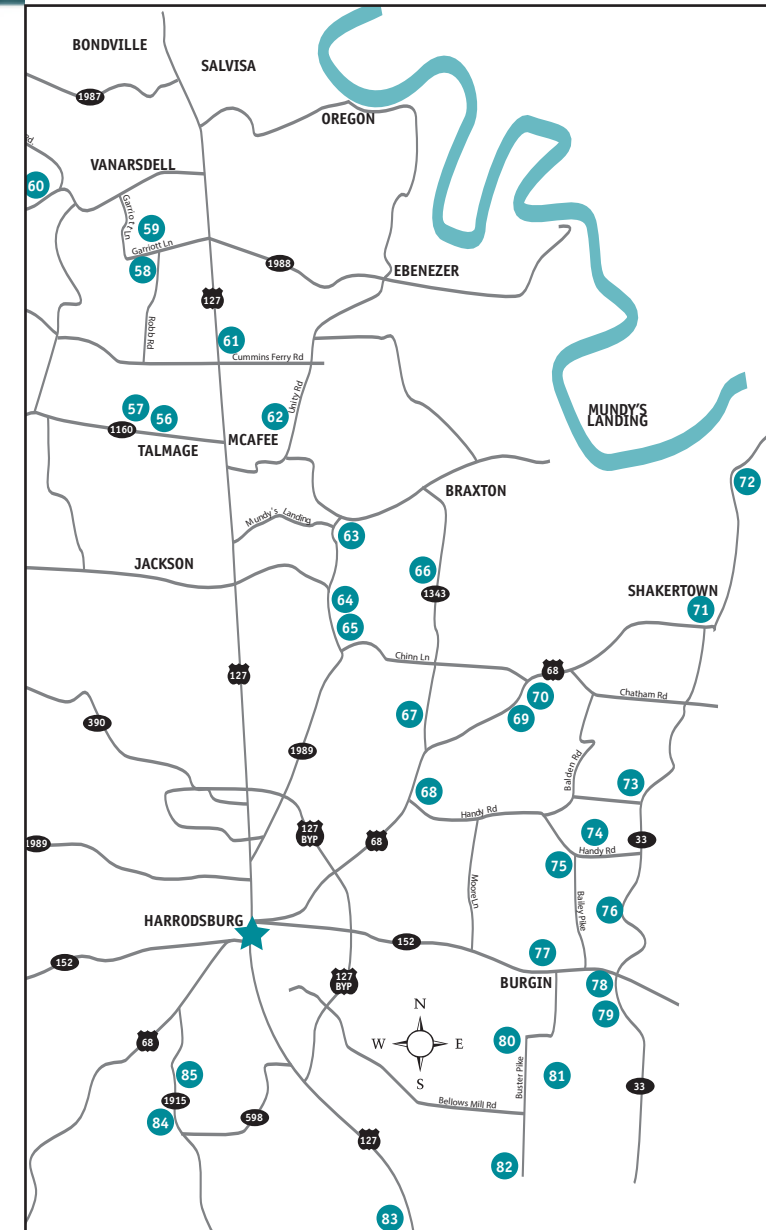
**83 Gabriel Madison's Station:** (Danville Road) Site of a cabin/station built on land settled by Gabriel and Mariam Lewis Madison. Madison, a cousin of President James Madison, survived the Battle of Blue Licks. Captain Joseph Bowman and the militia fought the Battle of the Corn Cribbs here in 1778. Noted for its cove spring.



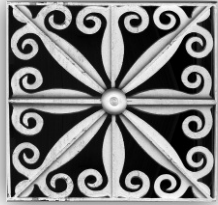
**84 Old Mud Meeting House:** (Dry Branch Road, 3 miles southwest of Harrodsburg) A celebrated house of worship, this building was erected in 1800 to serve as the first Low Dutch Reformed Church building west of the Allegheny Mountains. A colony of Dutch settlers came to Kentucky from

Pennsylvania in 1781, organizing a church in 1796 and erecting this building four years later. The structural framework is of hewn oak timbers, with the walls being a mixture of packed mud, straw, and other material. This historic landmark has been owned and maintained by the Harrodsburg Historical Society since 1927. The Society also maintains the adjacent cemetery where numerous early Dutch settlers are interred. The history of this Church goes back well over 400 years from Holland to New York to New Jersey to Pennsylvania and finally to Kentucky.

**85 Henry Wilson's Station:** (627 Dry Branch Road) Henry Wilson was one of the fortunate members of the militia to survive the Battle of Blue Licks. He and his wife, Elizabeth Mahan, built their circa 1779 station large enough to accommodate the first Kentucky land court and George May's surveying office.







# HARRODSBURG KENTUCKY

Historic Harrodsburg  
Kentucky's First Settlement – 1774  
Harrodsburg/Mercer County  
Tourist Commission  
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Harrodsburg, KY 40330  
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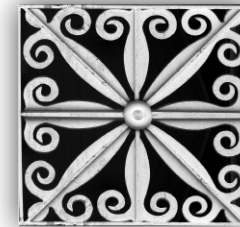
## Harrodsburg & Mercer County

### Walking & Driving Tour



# HARRODSBURG & MERCER COUNTY

## Walking & Driving Tour



### Welcome to historic Harrodsburg and Mercer County.

Harrodsburg was named for Captain James Harrod (1742-92), a native of Pennsylvania who learned of Kentucky – then part of Virginia – through Daniel Boone. Leading a party of 32 men in 1774, he founded Fort Harrod, now Harrodsburg, on June 16 of that year. Importantly, Harrodsburg historically ranks as Kentucky's oldest town, as well as the first permanent English settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains. Mercer County was named for

General Hugh Mercer (1725-77) who was killed in action while leading American forces in the Revolutionary War's 1777 Battle of Princeton. General Mercer was never to lay eyes on the place named in his honor.

The historic homes and attractions of this locale play a tremendous role in the heritage of its people and serve as a lesson book in the changing modes of American architecture—from Kentucky's pioneer days of the late 1700s, up to the Great Depression of the 1930s. Where possible we have mentioned the architects and craftsmen responsible for creating these wonderful homes such as Matthew P. Lowery, a Mercer County woodworker, who produced the intricate carvings which embellished the interiors and exteriors of fine Central Kentucky homes until his death in 1835.

We have also included in this tour historically significant sites located throughout Mercer County. These encompass the majority of early stations located within our borders during the earliest period of Kentucky's settlement. A station was considered a place of refuge for settlers and travelers during Indian raids. It could be an actual stockade or simply a fortified cabin where the populace would remain during an attack. From these forts and stations came the volunteer militia who protected the frontier and formed the backbone of the fighting force at the Battle of Blue Licks, the last battle of the American Revolution. Nearly every family in this area suffered the loss of a relative or close friend in the 1782 Battle. As one views the area designated, envision a land yet undeveloped with high cane breaks and forests. The log structures and stockades are long gone, but the springs and fertile land that enticed us across the Appalachians still remain.

**Again, welcome.** We are truly gratified by your interest in our historical and architectural treasures. Also, we request that you respect the matter of private ownership: unless otherwise indicated with an asterisk (\*), the properties described herein are privately owned and are not accessible to the public.