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Owensboro, Ky. 42301

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Downtown Owensboro, Inc.  
224 Allen Street  
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

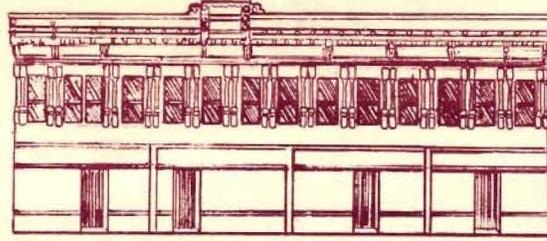


# Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Owensboro, Kentucky

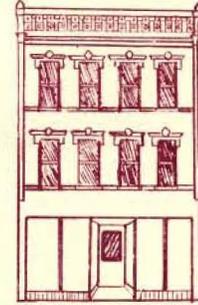
# Walking Tour of Historic Down



**1. Walgreen Building**  
1888  
Built on the site of an early City Hall building, the brick and stone Bank of commerce is best remembered as the site of Walgreen's Drug Store.



**2. Smith-Werner Building**  
1850  
Main Street's architectural landmarks were probably built around 1850 with iron-fronts added in the 1880's. The impressive facade was manufactured by George L. Mesker and Co. and two of the original storeowners' names appear over the cornices.



**3. Arnold Building**  
1888  
This Italianate Commercial building with a pressed metal cornice and hood mould over each window has changed little over the years.

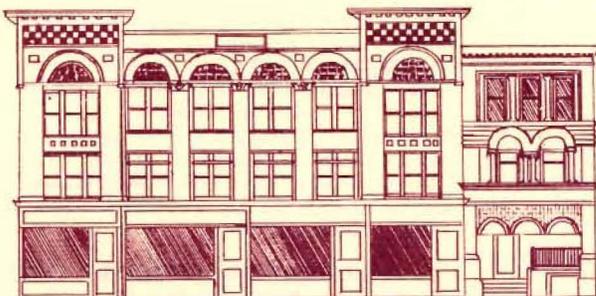
The Main Street Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 to provide recognition for its architectural and historical significances.

The district includes the area of 2nd Street between St. Ann and Lewis Streets because of the high concentration of 19th Century commercial buildings.

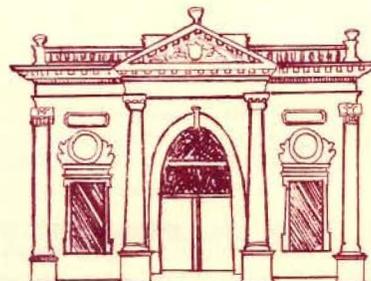
National Register listing identifies properties for a wide range of planning purposes and insures that these properties will be taken into account in the planning of federally-funded projects. Owners may qualify for tax benefits for rehabilitation work which meets preservation standards.



**15. National Deposit Bank**  
1923  
\$250,000 in damages was caused by a 1965 fire to this structure which was constructed in 1923 by the National Deposit Bank, a forerunner of the Owensboro National Bank. It has been extensively remodeled and found a new use as an insurance company office.



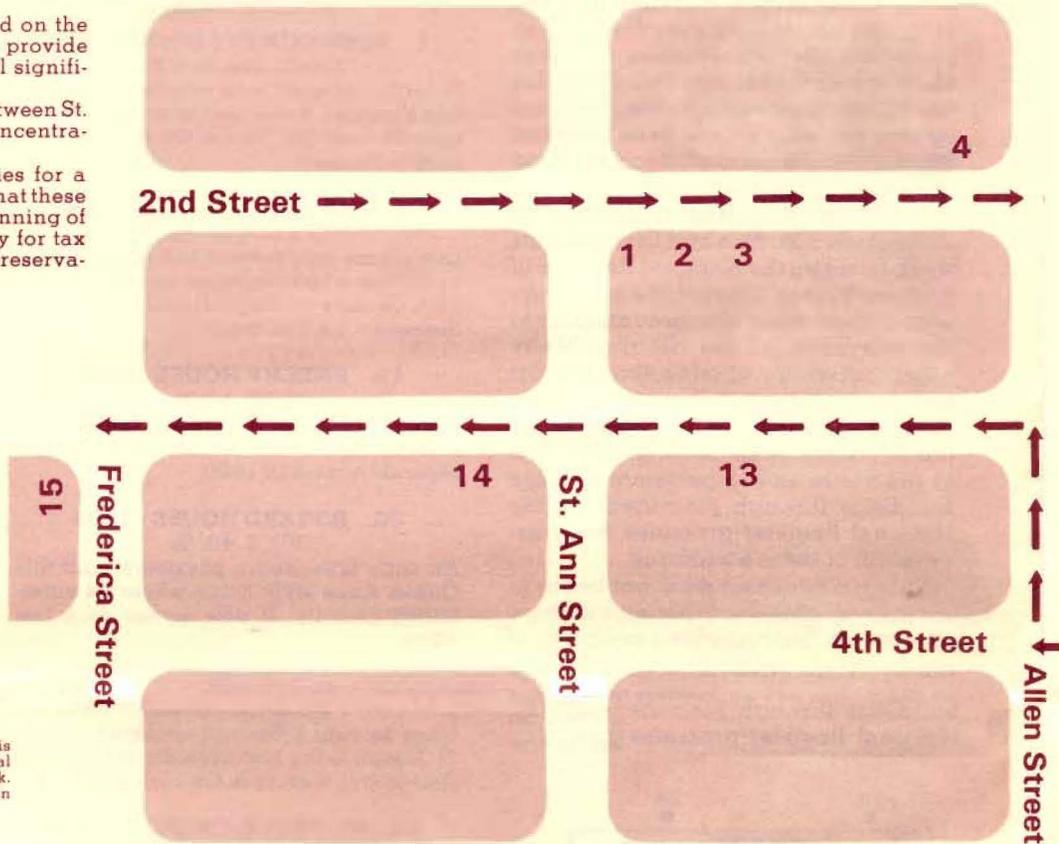
**14. Oddfellows & Breedenback Buildings**  
1895 and 1890  
This early lodge hall is Romanesque Revival with terra cotta clay tiles in a verigated pattern under the eaves. It adjoins the Breedenback building which was constructed in 1890.



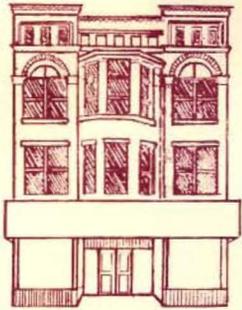
**13. Central Bank & Trust**  
1900  
A Beaux Arts Classicism facade was applied to the old Presbyterian Church in 1900 when it was converted to a bank. It is all that remains of the older structure.



**12. Camden Riley House**  
1882  
An early Owensboro attorney built this Italianate style home on 4th Street which was lined with elegant homes in the 19th Century.



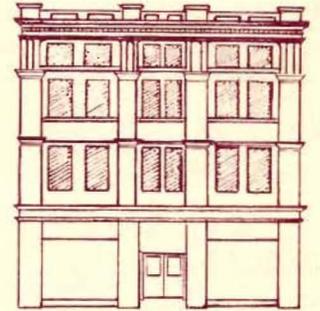
# town Owensboro, Kentucky



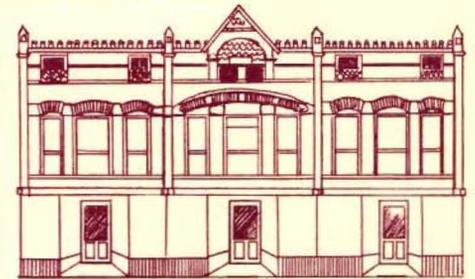
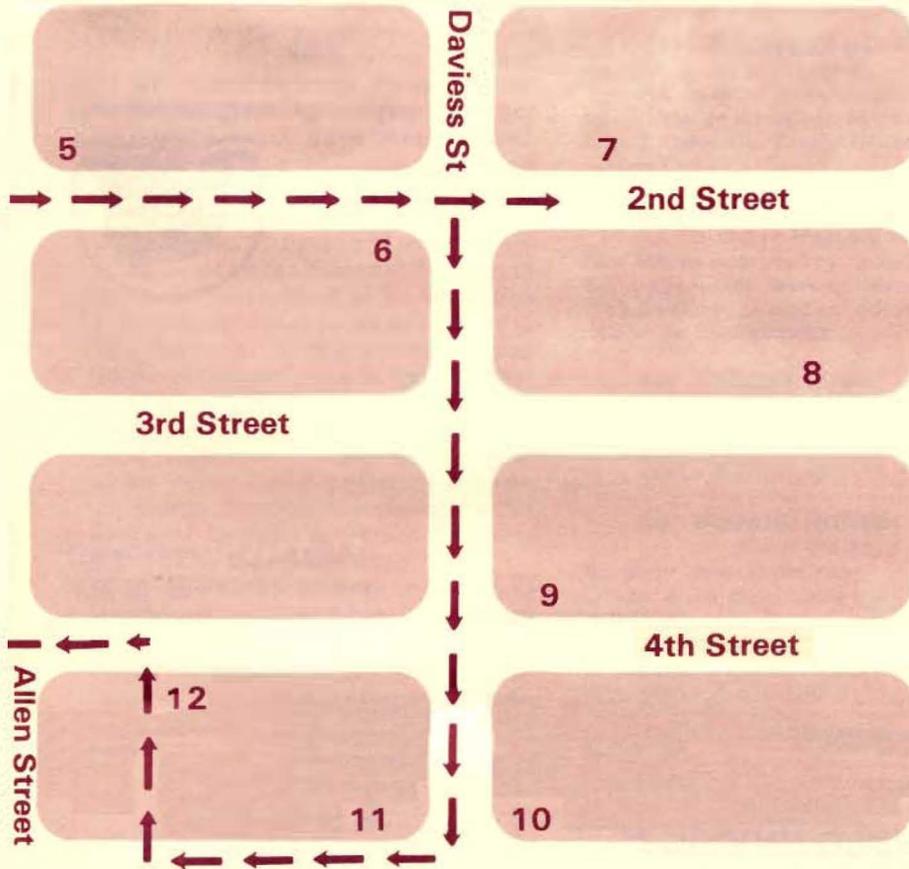
**4. Bates Building**  
1895  
The Owensboro Savings Bank was built in the Moorish Revival Style in 1895 for \$15,000 and considered one of the finest buildings in the West. A third floor was added in the early 1900's.



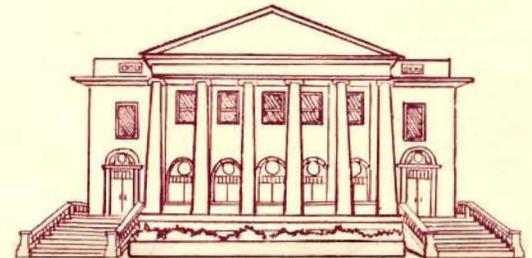
**5. Solomon Wile and Sons Complex**  
1881 - 1889  
While the brick Sol Wile building has been simplified in front, the Allen Street side retains the original windows of alternating red and yellow bricks.  
The two smaller buildings have round headed windows and free - standing colonnettes between the bays to make them some of the best examples of iron-front buildings in Kentucky.



**6. S.W. Anderson Building**  
1888  
Anderson's is the biggest 19th Century building on Main Street having been built as the Temple Theater in 1888 and remodeled for the growing Anderson Department Store in 1908.



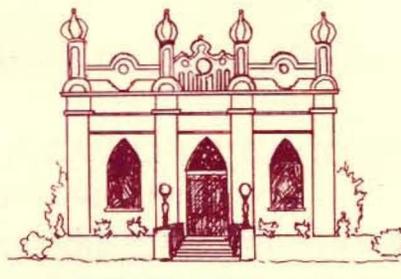
**7. Miller Building**  
1887  
This three story brick Romanesque Revival Commercial building is trimmed with stone and pressed metal. The iron columns on the eastern building indicate the existence of a metal storefront.



**8. First Baptist Church**  
1924  
The Neo-Classical Revival sanctuary was constructed in 1924 to serve as the third building for this congregation.



**11. Birkhead House**  
1896  
The corner multi-sided tower is distinctive for this Queen Anne home which also features a "necklace" theme in the stained glass throughout the house.



**10. Temple Adath Israel**  
1878  
The temple's exterior is stone with extreme Gothic windows, classical pilasters and Moorish ogee domes on the top.



**9. Settle Memorial Chapel & Church**  
1881  
Settle Memorial Chapel was built of tan brick with stone dressings in 1881 and the English Gothic sanctuary in 1907. The figures in the stained glass were painted by Lewis Millet, nephew of the famous French Impressionist.

# A VICTORIAN TOWN

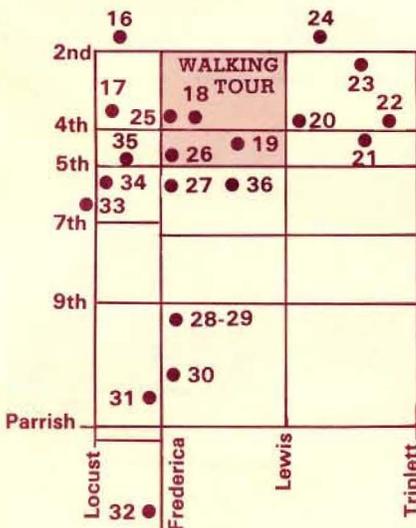
Downtown Owensboro contains the major concentration of 19th & 20th Century buildings which reflect the city's development as a manufacturing, trade, transportation, and service center. The finest residences of the time as well as all of the early churches were built in the blocks surrounding the downtown.

Downtown commercial buildings have been subjected to the trend of the last thirty years. In an attempt to replace the 19th Century image of 2nd Street with a modern appearance, the rich ornament and architectural details have been covered or replaced. Grand old residences have been demolished, divided into apartments, or converted into offices. Some churches have been vacated as congregations moved to the suburbs.

Downtown Owensboro, Inc., a non-profit organization working to redevelop the central business district, has promoted the preservation of these once lovely buildings. False facades have been removed to reveal original storefronts which have been restored accurately using old photographs and drawings of the downtown.

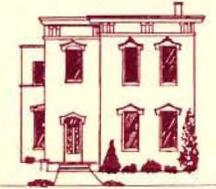
The Main Street Historic District on 2nd between St. Ann and Lewis Streets was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most of the buildings within these three blocks contribute to the character of the district. Many other buildings outside this district are on the National Register or have been designated Ky. Landmarks by the Ky. Heritage Council. Recognition of the value and importance of these buildings through placement on the National Register promotes the preservation of these structures.

This walking tour does not begin to include all of the notable architecture downtown, but includes a sampling of commercial, residential, and religious buildings within easy walking distance. Others which may be seen on longer walks or by car are listed below.



**16. DAVIESS COUNTY JAIL - 1886**  
110 St. Elizabeth St.

The jailer's residence was built in the Second Empire style of architecture with a central tower and mansard roof. The old jail in the rear is limestone with a medieval look popular for 19th Century.



**17. MONTGOMERY HOUSE - 1870**  
326 St. Elizabeth St.

Recently restored to its original elegance, this Victorian home serves as the Owensboro-Daviess Co. Tourist Office and Information Center.

**18. THACKER BUILDING - 1880**  
209-211 West 4th St.

Law offices now occupy two of the row of buildings which were constructed in the 19th Century for medical offices with residences on the 2nd floor.

**19. SWEENEY HOUSE - 1856**  
120 E. 4th St.

Built in 1856 for a wealthy family, this Eclectic style house was divided into two separate houses in 1900.

**20. BOGARD HOUSE - 1894**  
301 E. 4th St.

An early Owensboro physician built this Queen Anne style home where he entertained grandly. It now serves as a law office.

**21. ST. JOSEPH CHURCH - 1877**  
4th at Clay Streets

Once serving a German-speaking parish, St. Joseph is the best example of Victorian Gothic architecture in Owensboro.

**22. ST. PAUL'S CHURCH - 1886**  
4th at Bolivar Streets

St. Paul's, whose magnificent spire is the tallest in Owensboro, was constructed for an Englishspeaking congregation of wealthy distillers with Irish roots.

**23. MISCHER BUILDING - 1878**  
412 E. 2nd St.

This limestone facade is appropriate for a building which has housed the George Mischel monument business for over 100 years.

**24. PROGRESS BUILDING - 1886**  
319 E. 2nd St.

One of the first downtown buildings to be restored, this former wholesale produce building has full iron columns on the storefront.

**25. THORP BUILDING - 1893**  
335 Frederica St.

Once surrounded by three-story commercial buildings, this brick and metal structure is the only one from the 19th Century left at the intersection.

**26. FEDERAL BUILDING - 1919**  
423 Frederica St.

The United States government building is Second Renaissance Revival in style and is the site of federal court and the Post Office.

**27. GILLIM HOUSE - 1880**  
517 Frederica St.

This Second Empire brick residence with mansard roof and central tower has been converted to a private dining club.

**28. CARNEGIE LIBRARY - 1909**  
901 Frederica St.

The Owensboro Museum of Fine Arts utilizes the former public library building which is Beaux-Arts Classical in style.

**29. HAMPDEN SMITH HOUSE - 1860**  
909 Frederica St.

Constructed before the Civil War, this outstanding residence has Greek Revival and Federal features. The hipped roof is crested with ironwork, influenced by the design of widow's walks on seaport houses.

**30. UNION STATION - 1905**  
1035 Frederica St.

Owensboro's old train station has a tile roof and is constructed of brick and stone with timbering for visual emphasis. It has undergone major renovations and houses a shopping center development company.

**31. THOMPSON HOUSE - 19th Century**  
1220 Frederica St.

This unique 19th Century home with an abundance of ironwork can be described as Vernacular Victorian.

**32. TRIPLETT HOUSE - 1868**  
1540 Frederica St.

A captain's watch tops this Steamboat Gothic style house which has copied after steamboat cabins by its builder Capt. Robert S. Triplett.

**33. ST. STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL - 1924**  
614 Locust St.

Intricate brickwork is the most unique feature of this Romanesque Revival church which also has a fine bell tower.

**34. STIRMAN'S FOLLY - 1860**  
519 Locust St.

This Italianate style pre-Civil War residence has an original Tuscan Tower, enclosed porch added during the Colonial Revival era, and low modern additions that facilitates its use as a mortuary.

**35. OLDE TRINITY CHURCH - 1875**  
407 W. 5th St.

Erected in 1875, Old Trinity is the first brick church in Owensboro and the oldest example of Gothic architecture in Western Kentucky. It is the home of Theater Workshop of Owensboro.

**36. THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH - 1896**  
527 Allen St.

The most notable features of this Richardsonian church are its pyramidal roof and the multitude of stained glass windows.