

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 the 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

		N. Mantle		
	College Ave.			
	28		24	
29	27	25	23	Miles St
30		22	21	
	31	19	20	
	32	18	17	
		16		Mulberry St.
		15		
		14	9	
	33	13	11	Main St. 1
		12	10	8
			7	6
				2 3 4 5
	Central Ave.			Montgomery Ave.
	34			

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Elizabethtown Tourism & Convention Bureau



Historic Driving Tour of Elizabethtown



John B. Helm House



NRHP 23. 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 stimulate the white marble of the Greek temples after which they were modeled.

24. 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.**

25. St. James Catholic Church- This church, dedicated in 1971, replaced a former house of worship of this congregation, which was built in 1884. The church incorporates works of art by Jose Luis Sanchez, internationally renowned Spanish sculptor.



26. 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.**

27-28 Cottages- 306, 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.**

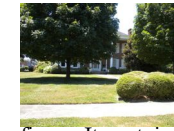
NRHP 29. J. Roy Bond House- 317 College St. J. Roy Bond built this Tudor-style house in 1914. It is a good example of the Craftsmanship style. W. Earl Gore was the architect. It remains unaltered both inside and out.



30. Brown Funeral Home- 306 College St. 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 31. Horace Bird House- 238 Helm St. One of the oldest and largest brick houses 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 32. John B. Helm House- 210 Helm St. 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 St. then right at the light onto Dixie Ave. (31W). Along this section will be item #34. Proceed 1/2 way around the courthouse to the City Cemetery.**



NRHP 33. Elizabethtown Courthouse Square & 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 Ave. from Mulberry St. east to Quince Alley contain a collection of some 40 buildings of the 19th and 20th centuries comprising the historic core of the city.

34. Elizabethtown City Cemetery- East Dixie Ave. 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 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 Ave. 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.

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 St. 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. Farleigh 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. 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 6. William Montgomery House 414

Central Ave. 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.



7. Matthis House 407 Central Ave. 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.

8. North Main Street Houses 219, 217, 215

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.



9. Holbert House 206 North

Main St. 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 home.



NRHP 10. Haycraft House 201 North Main St. 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.



11. The Lasley House 202 North Main St. 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 noggin between the studs. This is an unusual method of building and probably unique in Elizabethtown.

NRHP 12. 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 the 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 13. Church 110 West

Poplar St. This simple brick church has stood since 1834 when John Y. Hill built it 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 14. 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 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 15. 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 treatments.



!!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 16. 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



faciabord 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 parish hall is a recent addition.

NRHP 17. 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 supporter herself and her two daughters by giving music lessons.



NRHP 18. Matthis-

Robertson House- 214 West Poplar Street. Ca. 1872. This is another 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 19. 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 20. 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.



21-22. Claude Brown and J.B. Pierce House- 227

West Poplar. 227 West Poplar, The Claude Brown House was built in the 1920’s with modern features. 232 West Poplar was built by James B. Pierce in the early 1920’s.

