

Historical Downtown Mt. Sterling Walking Tour

ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Built around 1878. Wood for the interior was donated by members of the church. The walnut communion rails, alter, pulpit, choir railing and pews were carved by Fred Vischer and required more than three years to complete. The imported stained glass windows were the first memorial stained glass windows in Mt. Sterling. The pipe organ, was made in 1858 in New York. Originally purchased by a Lexington church, it was acquired by Ascension Church in the 1890's.



3

JOSEPH SIMPSON CABIN

One of the first and the only surviving cabin from the early Little Mountain Town. Restored by the Montgomery County Historical Society, it measures approximately 16 x 16 feet.



4

West High Street

West High Street

1 OLD FIRE STATION

Built in 1879, originally used as the station house for horse drawn and later motorized fire engines. Converted to a police station in 1974 and later served as police headquarters until 1999. After renovation, it is now the home of the Montgomery County Historical Museum.



1

8



OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The building served as the Presbyterian Church from around 1829 until a disagreement, during the Civil War, resulted in a split into the Northern Presbyterian and the Southern Presbyterian congregations. Both groups used the building for several years, on alternating Sundays. In 1884 the Southern Presbyterians built a new building on the north side of Main Street. Then in the early 1900's the two congregations reconciled and became a congregation again. A new façade hides the view from Main Street but the original roofline can be seen from the Alley on the west side of the building.



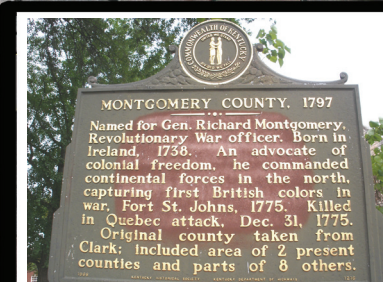
9

2 BRICK STREETS

Original brick paving remains on Court and Broadway, around the courthouse and on South Maysville Street, near the old train depot. Installed in 1911, these were the first truly all-weather streets in Mt. Sterling. At one time, Mt. Sterling had approximately 2 miles of brick streets. Many have either been taken up or covered with blacktop.



2



Bank Street

Broadway Street

N. Maysville Street

West Main Street

West Main Street

FARMERS BANK BUILDING

Robbed by a group of General John Hunt Morgan's troops on the evening of June 8, 1864, following the final Civil War battle in Mt. Sterling. The original iron vault that was robbed by "Morgan's Raiders" remains intact and can be seen today. The building, on Main and Bank Streets is now occupied by Dede's on Main & Bank, a unique gift shop.



10

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Picture 1 is the home office of the Montgomery County Historical Society. Established in 1975, the Society now operates a museum that features revolving exhibits. It is also the starting point for the walking tour.

OPEN 10:00 - 2:00 Tuesday - Saturday

CALL 859-498-1056 or 274-5465 for more information.

STARTS AT NO. 1 - 36 BROADWAY STREET (BESIDE COURTHOUSE)

BELL HOUSE

This house was built by William Bell, a local hat maker, around 1815. It was purchased in the 1870's by the county and became the jailer's residence. The jail was closed and the building abandoned in 1987. The building was given to the Montgomery Historical Society in 1988 and was completely renovated, as nearly as possible to original condition. It was rededicated in April 1992.



5

TYLER APPERSON (REDMOND) BUILDING

One of the first "big" office buildings in Mt. Sterling.



6

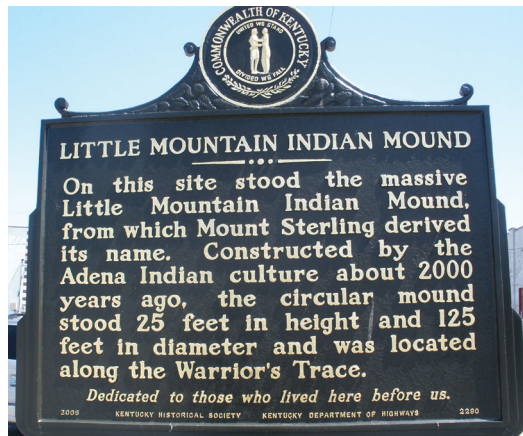
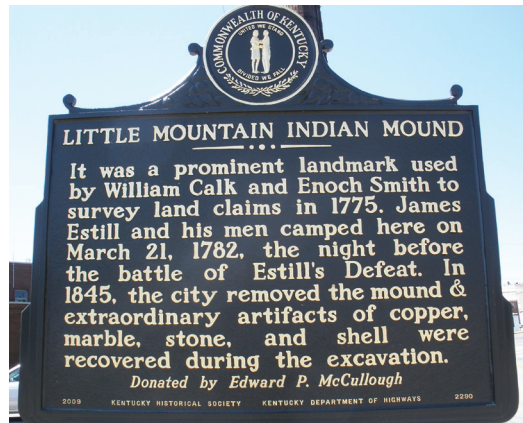
NATIONAL HOTEL BUILDING

Once considered the finest hotel in Mt. Sterling, complete with a restaurant, bar and banquet room. Originally the Coleman House, hotel and boarding house, it was purchased in 1881 by M.A. Weeden and Will Botts, renovated and expanded into the National Hotel. Hotels served an important function in Mt. Sterling at the time due to the railroad and our central location. Travelers would come to town by train, stay at the hotel and rent horses to go north, south or east to conduct business. The National Hotel was host to many elaborate banquets, parties and other social functions. It is now the home of the Gateway Children's Services.



7

So Much History....



INDIAN MOUNDS

The Gaitskill Mound located one half mile north of the city limits on the By-Pass, the Mound is of the Sugar-Loaf type of mounds. It is one hundred feet long, forty feet wide and thirty feet high. It has yielded some of the finest artifacts in Kentucky, including several tablets, copper bracelets and sheets of Mica.

...In Our Lovely Town!



KEAS TABERNACLE CME CHURCH

Built in 1878 and named for its first pastor, Rev. Samuel Keas. KEAS continues to provide a ministry to a loyal membership and remains one of the leading and oldest predominantly African-American congregations in Kentucky.



GATEWAY ARTS CENTER

Built in 1883 and served as the First United Methodist Church until 2000. The building was completely renovated and is now home to daily art exhibits, drama, musical performances and an Art Shop.



MAIN CROSS

A major renovation project involving 10 buildings. These beautifully restored historic buildings now house businesses on the main level and 51 senior citizens and handicapped apartments on the second and third levels.

Check out these additional points of interest in Montgomery County!



MACHPELAH CEMETERY (CIRCA 1800)

Both are located on East Locust Street east of KEAS Church.



LINCOLN VIEW CEMETERY (CIRCA 1929)



MORGAN STATION

The house pictured was built by Andrew Swearigin in 1796 on the site of Morgan's Station (Fort). Located on Harpers Ridge in Southeastern Montgomery

County this was the scene of the last significant Indian raid in Kentucky. Approximately 30 Shawnee attacked the station on April 1st 1793. Many were killed or captured and taken north to Ohio. Those who could not keep up were killed on the way.

Mount Sterling & Montgomery County Tourist Commission

126 W. Main Street • Mount Sterling, KY 40353

Toll Free: 1-866-415-7439

(859) 498-8732 • Fax: (859) 498-3947

email: mtourism@mis.net • www.mtsterlingtourism.com



Paid in part by the Kentucky Department of Travel and Tourism.

Designed and printed by Manley's Printing of Mt. Sterling, Kentucky (859) 498-6070.

