



A WALKING TOUR OF

JACKSON'S EAST MAIN STREET

HISTORIC DISTRICT



A Walking Tour of Jackson's East Main Street Historic District



Jackson's railroads, which provided much-needed supplies from the north, were key to U.S. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's plan's to take control of Mississippi and Louisiana. In the summer of 1862, Union troops occupied Jackson, taking control of the railroads. The neighborhood park documents one of the campgrounds.

Jackson's historic East Main Street encompasses a wide variety of stunning architectural styles, from Victorian, Italianate, Gothic, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman bungalows dating from the decade of the Civil War to the early 20th century. The district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The neighborhood also helps to document the impact of Reconstruction in Jackson. While some early settlers called this street home, many others came after the Civil War to chart a new future for Jackson. Prominent residents included local government officials, business leaders, and educators. The street earned the nickname "Bankers Row" because several residents were president of the First and Second National Banks, institutions that helped Jackson move out of Reconstruction to prosperity as a Victorian-era railroad hub.

After a devastating tornado in 2003 destroyed several homes and damaged many more, residents were determined to repair and start anew. Fifteen of the original 22 homes survived, and through the collective efforts of community members, the area was restored. The neighborhood group Preservation of East Main and Surroundings (POEMS) are the caretakers of this historic district.

This tour shares the history of each remaining home, with photos representing the homes that were lost. Included with the photographs is the documented history of each home, including information on the original owners and architectural descriptions.

Please remember that these homes are privately owned and should only be viewed from the public right of way.



1. Wisdom House (c. 1880)
535 East Main Street

John Wisdom, who was president of the First National Bank, built this impressive Queen Anne-style dwelling. Despite having no construction experience, Wisdom ended up building the house himself after local contractors argued the plans were too complicated. He was able to finish it in one year. The home featured the first telephone in Jackson and the first hardwood floors. It also had one of the first local running-water bathtubs. Members of the Wisdom family continued to occupy the home until 1990. Its Queen Anne style features a multi-gabled roof, tall corbelled brick chimneys, recessed porches, and bay windows.



2. Tomlin House (c. 1880) *Lost*
539 East Main Street

This Queen Anne style house was the home of Horace and Anna Pegues Tomlin. Both Horace and Anna's families are considered pioneer settlers of Madison County. Between 1852 and 1944, Anna lived her adult

life in this house, and she was born in the one that stood here before it. Her sister, Evelyn Pegues, lived next door. A prominent citizen, Anna helped establish the Johnson Memorial Presbyterian Church, and the Anna P. Tomlin Sunday School Class was named in her honor.



3. Pegues-Moore House (c. 1880)
543 East Main Street

Evelyn Pegues built this Queen Anne-style home; her sister Anna P. Tomlin lived next door. In 1920, Evelyn participated in the women's suffrage movement in Washington, D.C., advocating for the 19th Amendment that granted women the right to vote. In the 1940s, this was home to local photographer Robert Moore and his family, who founded the Moore Studio in 1906. The photography studio is still in business after 110 years. This house features a hipped roof with cross gables and encircling veranda with classic columns.



4. McKinnie House (c. 1878) *Lost*
549 East Main Street

This Italianate style house is named for John R. and Sallie Hancock McKinnie. The McKinnies were

another prominent family that helped settle Madison County. John was the president of First National Bank for a number of years until he died in 1909. Until she died in 1943, Sallie continued to live in the house with her daughter, Mamie Walker.



5. Robertson House (c. 1900)
553 East Main Street

This Shingle-style, two-story house was home to G.H. and Kate Robertson.

A charter member of the Jackson Elks Lodge, G.H. Robertson also founded the G.H. Robertson Clothing Co. one of west Tennessee's leading men's clothing companies. In 1911, Kate Robertson became the first president of the Tennessee branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, now known as the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). In 1981, the Kate Campbell Robertson Memorial Park opened in her honor. This home's Shingle style shines through the shingled walls, especially the prominent front gable, and the large porches with Tudor-inspired arches.



6. Curtiss House (c. 1906)
561 East Main Street

This grand Dutch Colonial Revival mansion was built for Lewis Lincoln (L. L.) Curtiss, his first wife Cornelia Raymond Curtiss, and son Lyle. In 1911, L. L. Curtiss served on the Tennessee State Highway Commission that chartered the Bristol-to-Memphis Highway, which passed through Jackson, and later

became the route for U.S. Highway 70. Isabelle Curtiss, L. L.'s second wife, served as the head of the music department for Lambuth University. In 2011, the house became Studio 561, an art studio and gallery that hosted renowned national artists such as Alan LeQuire of Nashville, who created the Athena Parthenos that now sits in the Parthenon in Nashville. Its full-height, semi-circular curved portico supported by Ionic columns dominates the symmetrical facade. The Dutch Colonial style roof is to accommodate the third floor ballroom.



7. Hays-Arrington House (c. 1860) *Lost*
569 East Main Street

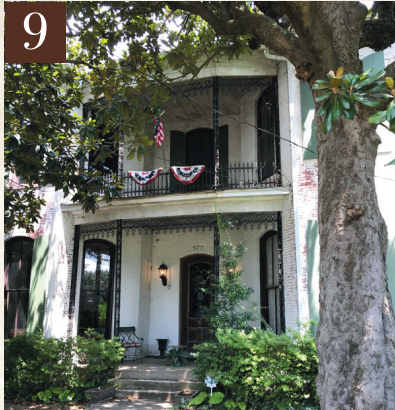
Circa 1860, the Rev. Benjamin A. and Nancy Tennessee (Tennie) Hays built this Italianate-style brick house. Rev. Hays organized the East Jackson Methodist Church in 1869. The couple's daughter and son-in-law, Sallie and John Arrington, lived here as well. Dr. John Arrington was mayor of Jackson in 1874 and also a very prominent dentist.



8. Kinzie-Jamison House (c. 1900)
571 East Main Street

In the mid-20th century, this house was home to civic leader Mrs. King Jamison. In 1953, she organized

Unit One of the League of Women Voters here. She also worked with other local women to improve local schools and child welfare. She is quoted as saying, "I know what my mission is. It is to spend my life working with people to improve the lot of mankind." This house is an example of the American Foursquare style with a symmetrical hipped roof and extended porch featuring large, square brick porch supports.



9. Irby House
(c. 1880)
577 East Main Street

This home was built for H.C. Irby, a professor of mathematics and Bible studies at Southwest Baptist University (now Union University)

in 1883–1923. It is said that he was beloved by his students and left a lasting impression on those he taught. The Irby House is an excellent example of Italianate architecture. The inverted entryway, elaborate cast-iron, two-tiered porch, and paired shutters are rare for this style and borrow more from the French tradition popular in New Orleans at the time.



10. Polk House (c. 1895)
583 East Main Street

Banker and civic leader Thomas Polk built this magnificent Queen Anne mansion in 1895. Polk was president of the Second National Bank from 1907 to

1928 and mayor of Jackson from 1909 to 1910. The house has many exquisite details, including a domed tower, half-timbered front gable, colorful octagonal balconies, and Eastlake or "gingerbread" spindle work.



11. Snider House and Payne House
(c. 1910, 1915) *Lost*
619 and 621 East Main Street

John and Anna Bond Snider built their Queen Anne cottage in the first decade of the 20th century. Their daughter, Nettie, and her husband, Robert Payne, a veteran of the Spanish-American War and a railroad conductor, lived with them for a number of years. Nettie returned home after Robert died in 1914.

In the 1920s, Bruce and Nell Edenton lived in this bungalow. The Edenton family established the J.C. Edenton Wholesale Grocer Co. and operated it for three generations between 1896 and 1957. Their son, Bruce Jr., was a World War II veteran and entrepreneur who built the first Holiday Inn outside of North America.



12. Tucker House (c. 1910) *Lost*
624 East Main Street

Winston and Mary Tucker lived in this bungalow house with their family in the 1920s. Winston bought

the Curtiss Plumbing Co., Jackson's oldest plumbing firm. He was very active in the Elks Club and served as the Exalted Ruler between 1916 and 1920 of the Jackson Lodge, No. 192. He then served two terms as the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks Club between 1920 and 1921.



13. Burk House (1910)
620 East Main Street

The Burk House is a Craftsman bungalow built by A.P. and Grace Kinzie, granddaughter of the Rev. B.A. and Tennie Hays of the Hays-Arrington House. A.P. Kinzie was a furniture dealer and a partner in the Kinzie-Patton Furniture Store. He served on the original board of directors for Jackson's Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) when it was first built on Lafayette Street in 1908.



14. Stegall House (c. 1900) *Lost*
618 East Main Street

Elbert and Rhoda Flake Stegall built their East Main Street home with a mix of architectural elements, such

as the second floor bay window, classical columns of the porch, and prominent tall chimney. Elbert and Rhoda had had three sons, Elbert Jr., Walter, and Arthur, and all three men operated shoe businesses. Walter and Elbert Jr. founded Stegall shoes in downtown Jackson in 1906. Arthur Stegall became one of Jackson's most prominent merchants and operated the Bond Shoe Company. Bond's was considered a leading pioneer in the nation's shoe industry for its approach to both sizing shoes and using cartons instead of tying pairs together by their shoestrings.



15. Anderson House (c. 1880)
606 East Main Street

Hu C. Anderson Sr. originally owned this charming Folk Victorian-style dwelling. He was mayor of Jackson from 1894 to 1908 and Speaker of the State Senate in 1915. His son, Hu C. Anderson Jr., also resided here. He served as a Tennessee State senator and was later appointed by the governor as a judge for the Tennessee Court of Appeals. After World War II, Judge Anderson presided over the Krupp Tribunal at the Nuremberg trials. It was one of 12 U.S. military tribunals in which lawyers from Allied countries tried 24 Nazi officials for war crimes. After the trial, Anderson returned to Jackson to spend the rest of his career with the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

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16. Smith House (c. 1911)
600 East Main Street

Built in 1911, this Craftsman-influenced American Foursquare dwelling was home for Fred and Mable Smith and their son, Goff, a World War II veteran. Goff Smith later became CEO of both American Steel Foundries and its holding company, Amsted. What sets this house apart are the bracketed eaves rather than exposed roof rafters. The Smith House also boasts features such as a hipped roof with a Palladian dormer and a full-width, single-story porch with square supports. American Foursquare house plans also were commonly offered by mail-order catalog companies like Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Ward.

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17. Hurt House (c. 1860)
586 East Main Street

The Hurt House was first home to another founding family of Jackson. Major Robert Bailey Hurt was

a state legislator who played a prominent role in bringing the railroad system to Jackson. In 1873, he served as chair for a convention held in Jackson that lobbied to create a new state out of west Tennessee, western Kentucky, and northern Mississippi. His son, M.B. Hurt, who resided in this home, was circuit court clerk for a number of years. The home was later sold to John J. Hurt, president of Union University from 1932 to 1945. This house exemplifies Greek Revival architecture and showcases slender Roman Doric columns.

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18. Walter and Georgia Stegall House (c. 1915)
564 East Main Street

The Walter and Georgia Stegall House is one of the finest examples of the blending of Prairie and Craftsman styles in a West Tennessee domestic setting. In 1906, Walter and his brother Elbert opened the Stegall Shoe Co. in downtown Jackson. In the 1960s, Elbert's son, "Buddy" Stegall, moved Stegall Shoes to Jackson's Old Hickory Mall, where it was the first locally owned store. The store later expanded to Memphis. The business remained in the family for over 80 years.



19. Watters House (c. 1900)
554 East Main Street

The Watters House takes its name from Dr. Henry E. Watters, who served as president of Southwest Baptist University (Union University) in 1918-1936. He also was a pastor at the historic Woodland Baptist Church, where he spearheaded the completion of the current sanctuary. Watters authored several books, including *Youth Makes the Choice*, which was included in a class curriculum at East Carolina Teachers College. The house has a combination of elements, with its elegant Colonial Revival entrance, the classical columns of the porch, and the Italianate brackets of the cornice.



20. Williams-French House (c. 1915)
548 East Main Street

John J. and Eliza Williams built this bungalow. Their son, John L. Williams, was the city engineer of Jackson. Their grandson, John L. Williams Jr., was founder and president of the John Williams Steel Co.

During World War II, the company built torpedo and submarine net floats and pontoons for the U.S. Navy. Purchased by the Campbell family in 1963, the company is now known as Williams Steel and continues to be a successful nationwide steel fabricator based in Jackson.



21. Murdoch House (ca. 1880)
546 East Main St

Merchant Millard F. Murdoch built this brick Victorian home, situating its entrance at a prominent street corner. Millard and his brothers, John and Bardwell, established the Murdoch Brothers Grocery Store in Jackson in 1892. Later bought by Will Hearn, it became known as the Hearn Grocery Store and continued to operate as a local independent grocery for over 70 years. The house is an example of Queen Anne style, highlighted by a corner tower and ornate spindle work detailing along the porch and upper balconies.



The neighborhood's park was part of the Union Army's base in Jackson during the Civil War.

This walking tour is a public service project of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University at the request of local property owners in Jackson. Erin Kelly and Annabeth Hayes carried out research and developed the initial text.

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