



A Walking Tour of Historic Russellville, Kentucky




Logan County Tourist & Convention Commission
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31. Samuel Caldwell House Ca. 1820. One of several buildings constructed by Col. Thomas Grubbs in early Russellville, this was the home of Gen. Samuel Caldwell who was the town's first merchant and held positions among the earliest governmental leadership. The Grubbs home was two blocks east of this site.




32. Andrews House Ca. 1810. The wooden exterior of this house, which once sold for \$125 and a mare, resembles cut stone in the style of Mount Vernon.




33. Southern Bank of Kentucky Ca. 1857. Built by George Norton to serve as both a bank and residence. The bank was robbed by the Jesse James Gang in 1868 in their first documented robbery. During the Civil War, over one million dollars in currency was removed from the vault and hidden to avoid confiscation by soldiers.




34. Jones House Ca. 1810. Home of Walter Jones, Russellville's first doctor, and later owned by the Norton family who built the Southern Bank next door.




35. Governor Breathitt House Ca. 1820. This was the home of John Breathitt, governor of Kentucky from 1832-1834. Governor Breathitt is buried in Logan County and a monument to him was erected by the State of Kentucky in Maple Grove Cemetery. The two-story brick structure to the west was also built by Governor Breathitt as a one-story office. The second floor was added by Carter Harrison in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.




36. The Opera House Ca. 1903. This bldg. was constructed to accomodate traveling shows and operas. The original entrance was in the center of the building with a wide staircase to the second floor which housed a stage, boxes, balcony and dressing rooms. It was later converted to a movie house and businesses occupied the first floor.




23. Morehead House Ca. 1820. This was the home of Armistead Morehead, Russellville's first Postmaster and the father of James T. Morehead who served as Kentucky's Lieutenant Governor and became governor in 1834 upon the death of John Breathitt. There is a narrow crawl space tunnel under the street to the Edwards-Atkinson House, believed to be associated with the Underground Railroad.




24. Edwards-Atkinson House Ca. 1820. Originally built by Major Sherwood Atkinson, the outside circular staircase on the north side, the front porch and Greek Revival columns were added Ca. 1920.




25. The Methodist Temple Ca. 1854. The church was organized in 1808, the oldest congregation in Russellville. The building was constructed on this site in 1854 and extensively remodeled in 1917 when the columns and stained glass windows were added.




26. Browder-Waggener House Ca. 1850. Built in three stages featuring styles of each period, the interior of this house features of a magnificent stairway. At one time, Bethel College faculty lived here.




27. Curd-Coffman House Ca. 1814. Built by Richard Curd, this house has been owned by the Coffman family since 1865. The Rev. Edward Coffman Sr., a noted local historian and author, wrote "The Story of Logan County" in 1962 and his son, Rev. Edward Coffman Jr., updated and re-titled it "Through My Father's Eyes" in 2002.




28. Episcopal Parish House/ McCullough Hall Ca. 1885. This fine example of shingle style architecture was built by J. Cap Morton.




29. Trinity Episcopal Church Ca. 1891. Organized in 1836, it is one of the oldest churches in the Diocese of Kentucky. It is a modest but good example of a post-Civil War Gothic Revival Episcopal Church. The original cast iron fence is one of the many that were one numerous around town.




30. First Baptist Church Ca. 1899. The Victorian structure replaced an earlier Baptist Church built in 1816. The steeple was added in 2007.




17. Washington House Ca. 1820. Construction of the original house was begun by John Whiting Washington, a third cousin of George Washington. The house was purchased in 1880 by Thomas Clark.




18. Caldwell-Orndorff House Ca. 1820. This house, which was built by Christopher Orndorff, was later the home of General Samuel Caldwell, who was clerk of the first Logan County Court. General Caldwell died in 1835 and is buried in the backyard. This was the home of Tom Rhea when he ran for governor of Kentucky in 1935. The house was badly damaged by fire in 1988 and rebuilt.



19. Crittenden house Ca. 1810. This unique frame and brick house was the home of John J. Crittenden. He served in the Kentucky House of Representatives, fives terms in the U.S. Senate, as U.S. Attorney General under three presidents and as Governor of Kentucky from 1848 to 1850. He is probably most well remembered as the author of the "Crittenden Compromise" which attempted to prevent the Civil War. Two of his sons fought against each other in the Battle of Shiloh.



20. Wallace-Byrne House Ca. 1811. Originally a two-room log house built by Judge William Wallace, this building once served as a tavern and stagecoach inn. It was reconstructed in 1822 and again remodeled in the late 1800s. In 1822, the property was acquired by Byrne, whose son was in a line of four Doctors Walter Byrne who practiced medicine in Russellville for close to 150 years.



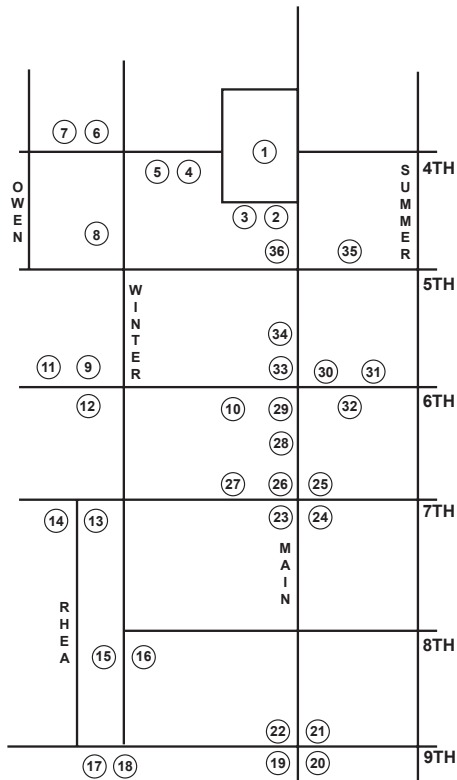
21. O'Bannon House The original section of this house was built Ca. 1811 by Presley N. O'Bannon. O'Bannon launched a political career based on his heroism in the Barbary Wars during which he planted the American flag at Tripoli, the first time the flag was planted on foreign soil. The house was later owned by Richard Bibb Jr., who extensively remodeled it, adding the front section.



22. Courts Hall Ca. 1890. This Victorian house was built by banker C. Winn Courts. It was five floors and was extensively remodeled in the 1970s by noted journalist Albert P. "Al" Smith.

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The Walking Tour Route



Welcome to Russellville, KY, the county seat of Logan County. Known as “Rogues’ Harbor” and “Big Boiling Spring” to the early settlers, it has held the name of Russellville since 1798 in honor of Revolutionary War General William Russell. The majority of the early settlers came from Virginia and North Carolina. As one of Kentucky’s oldest counties, Logan’s long and colorful history includes four Kentucky governors, famous and infamous heroes and a legacy of historic sites and events.

It is where the Second Great Awakening of 1800 began, where the Confederate Government of Kentucky was organized, where Andrew Jackson fought a duel, where the most southwestern Shaker community was established. Today, a balance of agriculture, industry and opportunities for education and recreation make it a desirable place to live.

Sources of additional information may be found in the Logan County Archives, the Public Library, and Logan County Tourism Center. We hope you enjoy your visit.



1. Public Square

Site of two courthouses from 1801-1904. An earlier courthouse was a cedar log building in east Russellville where Andrew Jackson appeared in 1794. The Square today contains several historical markers, a Confederate memorial, a cast iron fountain and military memorials including a cannon.



2. The Harrison-Hite Building

Ca. 1887. Carter Harrison (who built a number of the downtown buildings) and his son operated a casket factory, a grocery and a furniture store in this building. In

the mid 1920s, W.T. Hite purchased the building and converted it to Russellville’s first gasoline station. It now houses the Logan County Chamber of Commerce and the office of Logan Economic Alliance for Development (LEAD).



3. Russellville City Hall

Ca. 1887. These buildings have been extensively remodeled and have housed various businesses including a dry cleaning establishment.



4. The News Democrat & Leader Building

Ca. 1873. The News Democrat & Leader is successor to The Mirror, western Kentucky’s oldest newspaper, established in 1806. The building was formerly a hardware store that had several owners.



5. Convention House of the Confederacy

Also known as the Clark Building, the center section of this building was constructed ca. 1820 by an Englishman named Forst. It was the site of

the Confederate Convention held in November, 1861. Delegates from forty-three Kentucky counties met to form a provisional government for the Confederate State of Kentucky. The building now houses the law offices of the great-grandson of the “keeper of the door” during that convention.



6. Logan County Courthouse

Ca. 1904. This is Logan County’s fourth courthouse. On top is a reproduction of the first weathervane originally on the courthouse located in the Public Square. The original fish has three bullet holes, allegedly

shot by either a member of the James Gang or a drunken Union soldier during the Civil War. Many of the offices moved one block west upon the completion of the Logan County Justice Center in 2010.



7. The Old Jail

Ca. 1869. Notable for the cut stone cell block salvaged from the previous jail at Fourth and Summer, the Old Jail houses county records and archives under the auspices of the Genealogical Society.



8. The Old Armory

Ca. 1930. Built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Tom Rhea Armory was the home of Company M National Guard that was active during WWII. It now houses the city parks and recreation department.



9. Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Ca. 1963. Notable are the stained glass windows added in 1990 which are the work of Logan County Industry Strickler Stained Glass. The original white frame church building, located immediately north of the present church, was built in 1872

with the assistance of L&N Railroad employees during non-working hours.



10. The Presbyterian Church

Ca. 1878. This church was partially funded by the United States Government after an earlier building located on Blakey Street was destroyed by Union soldiers during the Civil war.



11. The Sandidge House Ca. 1894. This was the home of Judge W.P. Sandidge. It is an outstanding example of Queen Anne architecture and at one time was a school of osteopathy.



12. deGraffenried Building Constructed ca. 1967 for Logan County Public Library, it was financed with a combination of federal, state and local matching funds from the Thomas P. deGraffenried legacy to the citizens of Russellville. The library

moved to new facilities on Armory Dr. in 2014 and the Senior Citizens Center, Community Action of Southern Ky. Inc, and Adult Education Program are located here.



13. First Christian Church Ca. 1871. This building was extensively remodeled in the early 1900s at which time the stained glass windows were added and the front was moved from east to north.

This lot was the original location of the blacksmith shop of Major Richard Bibb.



14. The Morton-Loving House

Ca. 1810. This fine example of early architecture was the home of both Dr. H.T. Loving and William J. Morton. Morton was a close friend of Governor John Breathitt and conducted the governor’s funeral service in 1834.



15. Slaughter-deGraffenried House

Ca. 1820. Built by Thomas Slaughter, a son-in-law of Major Richard Bibb, this was the boyhood home of Thomas P. deGraffenried. Mr. deGraffenried was a prominent New York

attorney who left Russellville a bequest of one million dollars for the “education of the citizens at large therein.” The small building behind the house was used as a private school from 1887 until 1908.



16. Bibb House

Ca. 1820. This home was built as a town house by Major Richard Bibb, a Revolutionary War officer, who freed 29 of his slaves in 1829 and paid for their passage to Liberia. Bibb also

provided for the liberation of his remaining slaves in his will at this death in 1839. One of Major Bibb’s sons, John, developed Bibb lettuce. Another son, George, became Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court, a U.S. Senator and a member of President Tyler’s cabinet. Also known as “The Agnes Davis House,” it is currently operated as a part of the SEEK Museum.