



Suddenly Hopkinsville

in 1839. It evolved from a home into a commercial building housing law offices. The third is the Chewning law office at 603 South Main, which was constructed as a two story building around 1850, but now has a three story facade that was installed in 1918. By the year 1882, Hopkinsville could begin to boast of a number of "cified" public and commercial buildings, most of which you will see on your tour today.

Grace Commons Labyrinth

In 2009 Grace Episcopal Church finished construction on the Grace Commons Labyrinth, and dedicated the facility for public use by the citizens of Hopkinsville and Christian County. The labyrinth concept originated in Greek mythology when Daedalus provided one for King Minos of Crete at Knossos. They have evolved as easy to navigate mazes to be walked while meditating, or just for fun. (Location #7 on walking tour map.)



Designed & Prepared for the
Citizens of Hopkinsville & Christian County
by the
Hopkinsville Carnegie Library
of Kentucky Architecture
YOUR Carnegie Library At WORK
270-719-9462

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Hopkinsville Kentucky

Pearl of the Pennyroyal



Downtown Walking Tour

The symbol of Hopkinsville since its erection in 1927, the Town Clock above the old Fire Station is a combination of Oriental and Classical motifs in the form of a three tiered steeple with a fanciful pagoda roof. Today the Woody Winfree Fire & Transportation Museum inhabits the first floor. Renovations are scheduled to begin soon on the second floor of the Museum.

History

Hopkinsville, KY, Pearl of the Pennyroyal, was settled around 1796 at the end of the 18th Century. In 1797 Christian County was formed (out of Logan County) and named for Col. William Christian, veteran of the American Revolution and brother-in-law of Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia. The town was initially named Christian Court House. A year later it was named Elizabeth (for town founder Bartholomew Wood's daughter). In 1804, by an act of the KY State Legislature, the name was changed to Hopkinsville - to honor General Samuel Hopkins. Surviving structures prior to 1800 are quite scarce, but by 1835 a small number of substantial homes had been built, a few of which survive to the present (See the Walking Tour of Hopkinsville Homes brochure).

Commercial Architecture

Surviving public and business structures date from about 1869 (the date of the old Christian County Court House), except for three notable exceptions. The first is the Planters Bank Building at 14th and South Main, which didn't start out life as a business, but as the private residence of Robert Dillard. Built in 1848 from plans by New York City architect Minard LaFever, Planters Bank is one of only three known Temple Form Greek Revival structures in Hopkinsville, the others being Lone Oak (extant) and the Col. Fidelia Sharp house, near Walnut & 12th (demolished). The second surviving business structure is a two story Federal brick house built on Weber Street by Jesse C. Wood



#01
The Sudden Service Station was built in 1919 and later relocated to its present site. It was originally on the north east corner of South Main & 12th Streets. The firm sold Indian Red gasoline and Havoline Oil. In 1935 the landmark was moved, with its brick veneer intact, to its present site. It was then operated by the Meador Bros. (Ralph & Tim) until 1978. The S. O. S. shop operated by University Heights Academy was the most recent occupant of the building. Plans are underway for its restoration.



#02
The L & N Depot ... began service in 1892. This substantial, turreted late Victorian structure originally featured beaded edge siding and decorative patterned shingles in certain areas of the exterior. It was remodeled in 1909 with the addition of a stucco building and a train shed two blocks long, which was removed in 1982. In use by the Railroad until 1971, it is currently home to the Pennyroyal Arts Council.



#03
The Coca-Cola building ... has survived from the 1930's when "Coke was King". Coca-Cola came to Hopkinsville with the opening of a bottling plant on West 11th Street in 1916. The facility was moved to the East 9th Street location in the early 1920's. The present building was built by Thomas E. Overshiner in 1931. It was the home of Coke bottling until 1965.



#04
Christian Co. Historical Society was organized in 1963 and has been located in the old Cayce Mill Supply Company building since 2003. Built in 1908, by S. Sacks, it now houses the document and photographic archives of the Society. The Woody Winfree Fire & Transportation Museum opened in 2008; it was the site of the main station of the Hopkinsville Fire Department from 1905 until 1964. Destroyed by fire in 1924, it was rebuilt along with a new town clock which features the 1887 town fire bell. The museum houses the Woody Winfree fire collection and community transportation artifacts.



#05
First Presbyterian Church This landmark structure in the neo Gothic style was completed in 1849, and has been in constant use as the Presbyterian church since that time. It served as a hospital for Confederate troops during the War between the States from October 1861 until February 1862. It has variously been known as the Presbyterian Church of Hopkinsville, the Westminster Presbyterian Church, and the Second Avenue Presbyterian Church, and currently First Presbyterian. (In 1910 the City Council led by Mayor Charles M. Meacham decided to give Hopkinsville a more cosmopolitan sound by renumbering the east-west cross streets.



#06
Hopkinsville Carnegie Library of Kentucky Architecture. Currently in the initial phases of restoration, this Greek Revival building was given to Hopkinsville by Andrew Carnegie in 1913. It functioned as Hopkinsville's public library from 1914 until 1977, when the Library outgrew the space. It will reopen as a Library devoted to Kentucky Architecture, and will also be a lecture center with gallery space. It will offer an outreach program to Christian County students of all ages who need help with their writing skills.

#07
Grace Commons Labyrinth - 8th & Liberty



#08
The Pennyroyal Area Museum was built in 1913 - 1914 as the U. S. Post Office. This neoclassical building (an example of the outgrowth of the Classical Revival movement coming directly from the Chicago Columbian Exposition [World's Fair] of 1893) was is use from 1915 until 1967. From 1968 - 1970 it was a in servicemens' center (successor to the USO) and subsequently the Museum.



#09
The Cumberland Telephone & Telegraph Company was built in 1903, and served as the office of the local telephone companies (Christian-Todd Tel. [1911]Co. & Southern Bell Telephone Co. in 1942) until 1953, after which it sat vacant for years. Perhaps the most sophisticated of all of Hopkinsville's commercial buildings, this Flemish Renaissance structure's gable end facade features finely carved stone scrolls, mythological fish, cherub heads and an elaborate shell. Fortunately it has been well preserved and remains in excellent condition.



#10
The Odd Fellows Building was built by 1902 by Green River Lodge #54 I.O.O.F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows.) The ground floor store front on the left was occupied by the following drug stores - Thomas & Trahern, L. A. Johnson, Howard & Southall, Major-Dray and Herb Brandt. The right storefront was the site of Kenner's Grocery, Stone Printing Company and First Federal Saving & Loan Association. Insurance & Medical offices occupied the second floor with the lodge hall on the third.



#11
The Princess Theater On this site, the first movie theater in Hopkinsville (1911) was called the Photoplay Palace. It burned in 1918 and was rebuilt the following year. It featured the first talking pictures shown in Hopkinsville in 1928. It burned again in January of 1942 and was rebuilt (in anticipation of the opening of Ft. Campbell in September of 1942) in a record breaking six weeks!



#12
The Garnett Building was built in 1884 to house the First National Bank, 1888-1902. Between 1902 and 1920, two different drugstores (Anderson-Fowler and later Campbell-Coates) occupied the spot. It opened in 1920 (and lasted until 1955) as the Higgins Drug Store & Tea Room. It was Burnett Shoe Store after Higgins and is now Southern Exposure, a photography and framing business.



#13
The Phoenix Building was built in 1812 (one of our earliest commercial buildings). It served as an Inn (American Inn & Foard House...among other names) and later a hotel, The Phoenix. Closed in 1903 (Phoenix), it then became the Commercial & Savings Bank (1905-1910) and later the Phoenix Drug Store (1910 to c 1953). Next, Cassity's Kiddie Corner clothing store was located at this site. It has since been consistently a political campaign headquarters for candidates of both parties, in local, state and national elections.



#14
The General Store The exact construction date of this four bay building is not known. The present facade was erected in 1920. It was Frankel's Busy Store, a department store, from the 1880's until 1920. It was the J. H. Anderson Department store from 1920 until 1942. From 1942 until 1970 the J. C. Penny Company operated here. From 1980 until 1995 it was Gardner's Wall Paper & Interior Accessories Store, known as the General Store. The two right bays (after Anderson closed in 1942) housed Hill's Firestone Store (tires) from 1942 until 1971.



#15
Four Bay Office Building These four bays have been occupied by (individually) The Hat & Dress Shop, McGowan's Men's Store & several attorney offices. In the 1980's this block of buildings were among the first to be restored in downtown Hopkinsville. Two of the four pediments have been preserved.



#16
The Bassett Building (1885) was built by Col. E. B. Bassett, who operated the building as a clothing business until about 1943, when it became Buster Brown Shoe Store. It has been a number of other businesses & is now a law firm.



17
The Christian County Courthouse was built in 1867 - 69. It was designed by Evansville Architect J. K. Frick, and is an impressive example of Victorian neo classicism. Its original cupola, and a second larger one have both disappeared. At the turn of the 20th Century, the interior was extensively remodeled. The pressed tin ceiling of this alteration is still intact above a dropped ceiling in the main courtroom.



#18
The Alhambra Theater was built just as sound came to motion pictures - in 1928, and was a part of a larger building complex - still intact today. It featured a primitive air-conditioning system and clouds that moved across the painted sky ceiling. Almost a decade after construction, in 1937, the entrance was moved to the corner (as you see it today) and the style upgraded to Art Deco. In 2008 the lobby was redesigned and refurbished, which is part of an ongoing restoration. The movie theater closed in 1978 and it has been a center for the performing arts since that time, currently administered by the Pennyroyal Arts Council.



#19
608 South Main C. 1885 Two drug stores occupied this building, L. L. Elgin & Crawley's Drug Store. Elgin came about 1900 and stayed into the mid 1930's. It was Crawley's from the late 1930's until the mid 1950's. Later it became the law office of Ben Wright, and is now an office on the first floor and a new residence on the second.



20
612 South Main The City Bank Building The present neoclassical facade was added in 1919, but the City Bank Building dates back to 1880. From 1919-1931 City Bank was there. From 1931 - 1953 it was the E. P. B. (Electric Plant Board) From 1953 until 1965 it was the HES (Hopkinsville Electric Service) office. In 1966 it became Hopkinsville Federal Savings & Loan Assn. until the early 1980's. Since that time attorney offices have been located here.



#21
The Fletcher Building was constructed around 1882. The prior building burned in 1977, but the recessed stone porch facade was not damaged in the fire, and was miraculously saved and reinstalled. The Bank of Hopkinsville was at this location from 1865 until 1930, and then it became Hopkinsville Federal Saving & Loan Assn. Law offices now occupy the space.



22
The Old Planters' Bank Building was occupied by Planters Bank & Trust Co from 1902 until 1987. After 1987 it became a family court facility. Its current facade is a contemporary rendition of a neoclassic building.



#23
The First City Bank & Trust Co. occupied this structure, from 1931 to 1975, at which time the Art Deco facade you see was added. When the adjacent building (left) was acquired by the Bank, the facade was altered to match the main Art Deco building - an appropriately sensitive touch. Its predecessor was constructed in the mid 19th century and housed the Royal Saloon. After 1975 it has sat vacant until its current renovation, with apartments upstairs and Probation & Parole offices on the first floor.



24
The Racket Store was built in 1894. It was a department store chain out of New York City. From 1907 to 1950 it was the Cayce Yost Hardware Co. In 1951, and until the late 1960's, Jim Noland's Auto Store was located at this site. Since 1979, several restaurants, the most popular long running and best known of which was Bartholomew's, have been located here. It is currently being refitted to open as a restaurant again.



25
The J. H. Anderson Store was built in 1892 and operated as a department store from 1892 until 1920, when it moved up the hill to the J. C. Penny location. From 1921 until 1954 it was the E. P. Barnes Department Store. Two department stores, John Green Stores (chain) and P. N. Hursh occupied this location from the mid 1950's until the 1980's. Later J. Schrecker's jewelry store was at this location.



#26
The Montgomery Ward Building was built in the Mission Style in 1935 by two local developers, John L. Thurmond & S. Pettus White. Notice the unusual painted terra cotta tile that crowns the facade. The building was Montgomery Ward from 1936 until 1971 when it moved to the mall. It was vacant until the Bridge of Hope occupied the space within the last 5 years.



27
The Forbes Office Building, constructed in 1907, and originally displayed hardware on the second and third floors. During World War I the Browning brothers (Louie & Will) leased the floors for their Buck Brand Overall Co. In 1930, the Buick dealership was located here briefly. From the late 1930's to the late 1940's, Planter's Hardware was located on the first floor. Professional offices now occupy the ground floor. The two upper floors were occupied by the Hopkinsville Clothing Manufacturing Company from the 1940's until the 1960's. Professional offices and a restaurant now occupy the first floor.

