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The Blue Grass Trust  
for Historic Preservation



HISTORIC LEXINGTON TOURS



## THE TOUR ENDS

The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation hopes that you have enjoyed this tour.

The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit advocate for historic preservation that strives to protect, revitalize and promote the special historic places in our community to enhance the quality of life for future generations. The Trust is guided by three tenets – education, service and advocacy.

The Trust is completely supported by our membership and donations. For information please call (859) 253-0362, visit [www.bluegrasstrust.org](http://www.bluegrasstrust.org) or e-mail us at [info@bluegrasstrust.org](mailto:info@bluegrasstrust.org).

The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation  
253 Market Street  
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

### **Sources:**

- The Kentucky Heritage Council/  
State Historic Preservation Office
- Lexington-Fayette Urban County  
Government Division of Historic  
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## PROLOGUE

Exquisitely preserved in the heart of Lexington's urban core is a moment's refuge from the hustle and bustle of city life. A park surrounded by some of Lexington's finest examples of early architecture greets the visitor in Gratz Park. The Gratz Park Historic District is bounded on the south by the middle of Second Street, on the west by Bark Alley (between Mill and Broadway Streets), on the north by the middle of Third street, and on the east by the Byway (an alley between Market and North Upper Streets). This historic district was Lexington's first locally designated historic district (listed in the 1950s). It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

In 1781, at the order of the Virginia Assembly, surveyors prepared the town plat of Lexington. One of the many outlots of Lexington included Lot 6. In 1783, Lot 6 was purchased by a group of Lexingtonians for a seminary, later known as Transylvania University. A two-story building was constructed on the property. In 1818, a three-story Georgian style building, designed by Matthew Kennedy, Lexington's first architect, replaced the two-story building. The campus, according to past accounts, was an open green space with the main building standing at the north end of what is now Gratz Park. This building housed the university's academic classrooms and administrative offices. There were two buildings along each side of the main building that provided service support for the main building. The main building burned in 1829 and in 1833 the University moved the campus across Third St. and built Morrison Hall as its administrative



headquarters. Although one of the service buildings was destroyed by fire in the 1870s, the other building which fronts Market St. continues to stand in the park today. The office of the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation, a private non-profit historic preservation organization serving Central Kentucky, is now housed in this structure.

In 1875, Howard Gratz leased the old campus of Transylvania University as a centennial park for the city of Lexington. At a later date he had the park renamed for his father, Benjamin Gratz, who came to Lexington in the early 1800s and bought the house at the corner of New Street and Mill Street.

During the 25 years after the park was officially named, it was at the center of community activity. Horse shows, band concerts, public meetings, militia drills, and less formal gatherings were among the activities staged in the park. Gratz Park was enclosed with a wrought iron fence with high arched, four-corner gates that would occasionally be locked by Mr. Gratz to restrict public use of the park. The arch that you see today is an exact replica, but the attached gates are original.

Gratz Park contains a wide variety of architectural styles dating from the 1790s through the 1970s. The architectural gems surrounding Gratz Park are visual symbols of the gracious era when the most prominent families of the Bluegrass lived here; the Hunts, Morgans, Harts, Gratzs, Bodleys, Dudleys, Woolleys, and Roberts. Collectively, the structures in Gratz Park represent the development of the Downtown area of Lexington.

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**NOTE**

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The **Gratz Park Walking Tour** includes the properties within the boundaries of the designated historic district as well as a small number of properties of historic interest in the surrounding area.



**25. St. Paul's A.M.E. (circa 1827)**  
**253 Upper St.**

Around 1820, African-American members from the Hill Street Methodist Church decided to form their own congregation and rented a stable building on Upper Street to house the congregation. In 1827, the congregation bought the stable and land from Charles Wilkins, a banker, for less than three hundred dollars. By 1830, most of the stable had been demolished and a small brick structure constructed. This small brick building was remodeled in 1850, 1877 and 1906.

The main church building is eclectic in style. With each successive addition to the building, the structure was modified in the style popular at the time. The exterior sanctuary exhibits Greek Revival, Gothic, Italianate, Romanesque and Queen Anne features. The interior of the sanctuary has been altered very little in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Additions were constructed at the turn of the century and in 1986.



## 24. Ridgely House (circa 1794) 190 Market St.

Built about 1794, this is the oldest house around the park. The house has archaic architectural features not seen in this region after 1817, such as a molded brick water table one foot above the basement and a belt course of four projecting bricks between the first and second floors.

Many interesting people have lived in this house. They include the first owner, Dr. Frederick Ridgely, who delivered the first medical lectures in the West at Transylvania University; Dr. Elisha Warfield, his colleague, who bought the house in 1806; John Wesley Hunt; and Mary Todd, President Lincoln's wife, who attended Ward's Academy here in 1831. In 1982, the house was renovated for use as professional offices.



## 1. Bodley-Bullock House (circa 1814-1815) 200 Market St.

In 1814, General Thomas Bodley, a former Indian fighter and a lively leader in Lexington, was looking for a place to live that would be suitable for a man of his stature, when he bought this Federal townhouse from Thomas H. Pindell for \$10,000. During the Civil War, Union officers took over the house for their headquarters and printed their newspaper, *The Mail Bag*.

Features of the original Federal facade include a fanlight doorway and a second floor Palladian window that are similar to the Hunt-Morgan House across the street. They were removed in 1834 when a Greek Revival front porch was added and the cornice was extended to form a pediment. A two-story portico was later added to the garden facade.

The house is named for early resident General Thomas Bodley and 1912 purchaser Dr. Waller O. Bullock, founder of the Lexington Clinic.



**2. Alexander Moore House** (circa 1836)  
**216 Market St.**

Alexander Moore built this Federal townhouse in 1836. Mr. Moore ran a stationery store on Main St. and sold the first school books to the city of Lexington. Notice the house's Flemish bond brick pattern.



**3. Peter Paul II House** (circa 1816)  
**220 Market St.**

This Federal house was built in 1816 for a stonemason from England, Peter Paul II. In 1838, Alexander Moore owned the house and rented it to a confectioner, Thornton Pierson. Wooden pegs rather than nails were used to join the window frames and shutters. The original window frames and shutters are intact and have been carefully preserved. The recessed Greek Revival doorway was added in the mid 1800s. Architectural historian, Clay Lancaster, designed the addition to the back of the house in 1984.



**23. Christ Church Cathedral** (circa 1848-1849)  
**166 West Second St.**

Christ Church, established in 1796, was the first Episcopal congregation west of the Allegheny Mountains. The church that you see today is the fourth on this site. This building was constructed in 1848-49 and significantly enlarged during the Civil War. Thomas Lewinski, a famous Lexington architect, designed the present church building and additions. The Gothic Revival style of this structure is evident in architectural details such as the large central, square tower topped by several large pinnacles, as well as the interior buttresses and arches.

Many prominent Lexingtonians have been members of this congregation including Henry Clay, John Bradford, Dr. Benjamin Dudley, General John Hunt Morgan and Mary Jane Warfield.



**22. The Lexington Public Library (circa 1902)  
251 West Second St.**

Andrew Carnegie, founder of Carnegie Steel Company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, used his wealth to initiate one of the most important philanthropic acts in the United States and other English speaking parts of the world. Between 1886 and 1917, he provided for the construction of 1,689 buildings for public libraries throughout the United States, as well as an additional 828 in other parts of the world. Carnegie provided funding for 27 libraries in Kentucky.

The Lexington Carnegie Library was constructed in 1902 in the Roman/Greek Revival style. Until the early 1990s, the main library for Lexington was housed at this site. Currently, the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning occupies this property.



**4. John Stark House (circa 1812)  
228 Market St.**

Robert Grinstead, a bricklayer, built this Federal townhouse and sold it to John Stark in 1813. It was leased to Transylvania President Horace Holley during the 1820s. In 1831, the house was purchased by Gideon Shryock, one of Kentucky's most notable architects. He completed Kentucky's old State Capitol and his residence during the construction of his masterpiece, Morrison Hall at Transylvania University. Shryock lived at 228 Market during the construction of Morrison Hall and his workmen may have constructed the rear wing along Mechanic Street.

During the Civil War, Professor of Medicine Robert Peter, lived in the house. His teenage daughter kept a diary of the war as she saw it. Her diary, "Window on the War" was published and copies are available for purchase at the Hunt-Morgan House.



**5. Henry Gilbert House** (circa 1871)  
240 Market St.

Henry Gilbert built this Italianate style house after the Civil War on the site of Dr. Robert Peter's former garden. The arched windows and oval attic windows are typical features of this style.



**6. Noah McClelland House** (circa 1850s)  
248 Market St.

This three-bay Greek Revival house was later “modernized” with the addition of a bracketed cornice and two-story bay window. This remodeling enhanced the architectural variety on the square.



**21. Wickliffe House** (circa 1841)  
226 West Second St.

Robert Wickliffe, a land lawyer, built this antebellum home around 1841. Referring to the house as his “mansion house,” he loaned it to his daughter, Sally and her husband, Judge Aaron K. Woolley in 1844. Rosa Vertner Jeffrey, a Bluegrass poet, lived here from 1874 to 1894 and after 1907, it was the home of Samuel J. Roberts, founder of *The Lexington Leader*.

The elegant Doric columns of the classic porch readily confirm the Greek Revival style of the house.





**20. J.C. Carrick Houses (circa 1898)**  
**234 & 238 West Second St.**

An eagle perches on the gable of the Queen Anne style house at the corner of Second and Mill Streets. This house (238) and the Victorian one next door (234) were built in 1898 for Dr. J.C. Carrick. Notice the interesting window arrangement of the corner dwelling. Decorative triple windows with sections divided by stone trimming reflect a medieval touch.



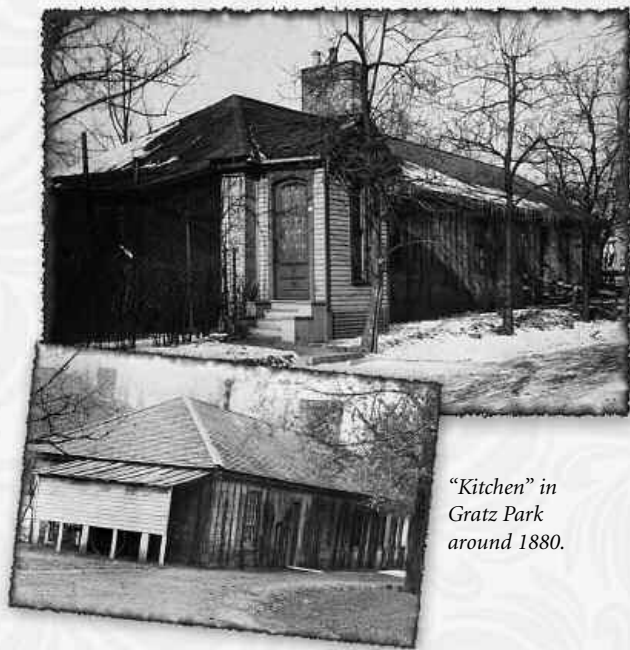
**7. Shropshire House (circa 1890s)**  
**252 Market St.**

Typical of the Queen Anne style, this house has contrasting materials of brick on the first floor and wood shingles on the second. The house was built around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century for Mrs. James Shropshire. Henry Howard Gratz, editor of the *Kentucky Gazette* and son of Benjamin Gratz, resided in the house for a period of time.



Bullock Photographic Collection, Transylvania University Library, Lexington, KY

Mr. H.H. Gratz in Gratz Park with horse and female friend.



Bullock Photographic Collection, Transylvania University Library, Lexington, KY

*"Kitchen" in  
Gratz Park  
around 1880.*



## 8. "The Kitchen" (circa 1818) 253 Market St.

Although this structure is known as "The Kitchen," it is unlikely that it was one because its fireplaces are too small for large-scale cooking. The building is the last of the original Transylvania University buildings. The main building and another structure identical to this one burned in 1829. According to legend, a servant of Cassius M. Clay, a student at the time, fell asleep with a burning candle on the steps while polishing his master's boots.

General Marquis de Lafayette may have been Dr. Horace Holley's guest at a reception in "The Kitchen" in 1825. In 1865, James Lane Allen, who later became a famous Bluegrass author, recited Hamlet's soliloquy when "The Kitchen" was a prep school for the Kentucky University, which was the name of Transylvania at the time. A memorial fountain bequeathed in his will to the children of Lexington is located near Third Street to the north of this building.



## 19. Henry Clay's Law Office (circa 1803) 176 North Mill St.

This building, restored in 1971, is one of the few early professional buildings surviving in Lexington. Henry Clay, an important 19<sup>th</sup> century political figure, studied with Chancellor George Wyth, professor of law and classics at the College of William and Mary. Wyth also taught Thomas Jefferson and John Marshall. After following his mother to Kentucky, Clay eventually settled in Lexington and began his law practice at this site in 1803. He continued to practice law at this location until 1810 when he was elected to two consecutive terms in the Kentucky Legislature as well as filling unexpired terms in the United States Senate. Clay also served as a United States Congressman, Senator, Secretary of State, and ran for the presidency three times. In 1844, he lost his run for the presidency by a very slim margin.

Clay probably interviewed Aaron Burr in this important building. The building is currently owned by First Presbyterian Church.





### 18. First Presbyterian Church (circa 1872) 171 North Mill St.

First Presbyterian Church, founded in 1784 to serve the spiritual needs of the many Scotch-Irish who had migrated to the area before Kentucky's statehood was established, is one of the oldest congregations in Lexington. Before this church was constructed the congregation met in several other locations. Cincinnatus Shryock, a member of the famous family of Kentucky architects, designed this Gothic Revival style church.

The 180-foot tall tower is the church's most striking exterior feature. Fortunately, the historic integrity of the exterior as well as the interior has remained intact. During a recent renovation workers uncovered the original stenciling on the facade pipes of the organ. The pipes were restored to their original splendor. The single arched doors that flanked either side of the pulpit during the 1870s were discovered and returned to their original location during the recent renovation as well.



### 9. John Anderson Houses (circa 1840 & circa 1834) 262 & 258 Market St.

Before this site was purchased by John Anderson in 1834, the Tibbatts Soap and Candle Factory occupied this site. Mr. Anderson, a grocer and house joiner, built the Federal style house at 262 Market St. in 1834 and in 1840, he built the Greek Revival style house next door at 258 Market St.



**10. Morrison Hall (circa 1831-33)  
301 West Third St.**

One of three National Register Landmarks in Fayette County, Morrison Hall is so important to this community that it can be found on the seal of our local merged city-county government. This Greek Revival structure is an outstanding example of classical architecture featuring a raised main floor and massive Doric columns beneath a pediment. Gideon Shryock, credited with the design of the Old Capitol building in Frankfort and the Courthouse in Louisville, designed this structure. The building was seized by Union troops during the Civil War and used as a hospital. Union and Confederate soldiers alternately bivouacked on the campus of Transylvania University as the course of the war shifted.

Interred in one of the crypts flanking the steps to the structure are the remains of Professor Constantine Rafinesque who was considered to be the greatest scientist of his age. In the spacious hall beyond the main entrance to the building hang priceless portraits of the many distinguished trustees, professors and alumni including Gen. George Rogers Clark, Gov. Isaac Shelby, Hon. Henry Clay, Cassius M. Clay, Gen. John H. Morgan, James Lane Allen and many others.



*Built in the late 1790s by Colonel Thomas Hart on the southwest corner of Second and Mill streets, this house was purchased by John Bradford who lived here until his death in 1830. This historic building was razed in March 1955 to create a parking lot.  
– Photo courtesy of University of Kentucky.*



**17. Thomas Hart / John Bradford House  
Corner of North Mill St. & Second St.  
(circa 1798) Demolished 1955**

The property that was built on this site in 1798 by Thomas Hart was demolished for a parking lot in 1955. Hart, a businessman, moved to Lexington from Maryland and launched many businesses including nail and rope manufacturing. John Bradford, another resident of the house, was Lexington's first newspaper publisher.

With the destruction of this property in 1955 and the potential demolition of the Hunt-Morgan House for another parking lot looming on the horizon, the catalyst for the formation of the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation surfaced. The birth of this organization initiated the beginning of the historic preservation movement in Lexington.



## 16. Hunt-Morgan House (circa 1814) 201 North Mill St.

This house was built for John Wesley Hunt, one of the earliest industrialists and merchants to come to Lexington. Mr. Hunt, Kentucky's first millionaire, made his fortune in the hemp business. Confederate General John Hunt Morgan and Nobel Prize winning geneticist Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan also have ties to the house.

Features of this Federal style house include the elegant fanlight above the front door, a Palladian window, and an arched window in the pediment. Commonly found in the Deep South, the porch along the south wall of the structure is the only example of this architectural feature in Lexington.



*Hunt-Morgan House  
historic postcard*



## 11. Patterson Cabin (circa 1783) Broadway at Third St.

Patterson Cabin was built by Robert Patterson, one of Lexington's early founders, on a 400 acre tract of land, south of West High and Broadway. Referred to as Lexington's first mobile home, it was moved to Dayton, Ohio in 1901 and in 1939 was returned to Lexington and given a site at Transylvania University where Mr. Patterson had served as a trustee.

When originally built, the square hewn logs would have fit together tightly, and the large amounts of "chinking" shown today would not have been necessary. While the chimney materials are modern, the construction method is typical of the period.



## 12. Hope House (circa 1841) 304 West Third St.

When originally built in 1841 by Caleb Ford, this Greek Revival house fronted on Mill St. The Reverend Edward F. Berkley of Christ Church purchased the house in 1845. He baptized Henry Clay in 1847 and conducted his funeral in 1852.

Around 1897, Mrs. J. Hull Davidson had the house enlarged, remodeled, and reoriented toward Third Street. She wanted the columned porch and fanlighted doorway for her daughter's coming-out party, but she did not live to see the work completed. If you look closely, you can detect the break between the original three bays and the fourth that was added to the south.



## 15. Dudley House (circa 1879) 215 North Mill St.

Maria Dudley built this house in 1879 in what had been the side yard of the Hunt-Morgan House. In contrast to the Federal style houses standing on either side, this house is a fine example of Victorian Eclectic. Features of this castle-like structure include the octagonal tower with mansard roof and iron cresting, varied styles of hoodmolds over the windows, and the ornate columns of the porch.



#### 14. Mt. Hope (circa 1819) 231 North Mill St.

Benjamin Gratz, a successful hemp manufacturer, bought this house in 1824. It was originally built around 1819 for General John M. McCalla, attorney and editor of the *Kentucky Gazette*, the first newspaper west of the Alleghenies. An often-told legend tells that Rebecca Gratz, Benjamin's sister and frequent visitor to the house, was so charming that when her friend, Washington Irving, described her to Sir Walter Scott, he made her the model for Rebecca of York in *Ivanhoe*.

The front door with its semi-circular fanlight has been called "the finest in America." The Flemish bond design of the front wall shows the outstanding work of early Kentucky brickmasons. The fluted windows with carved corner blocks are unusual for the area.



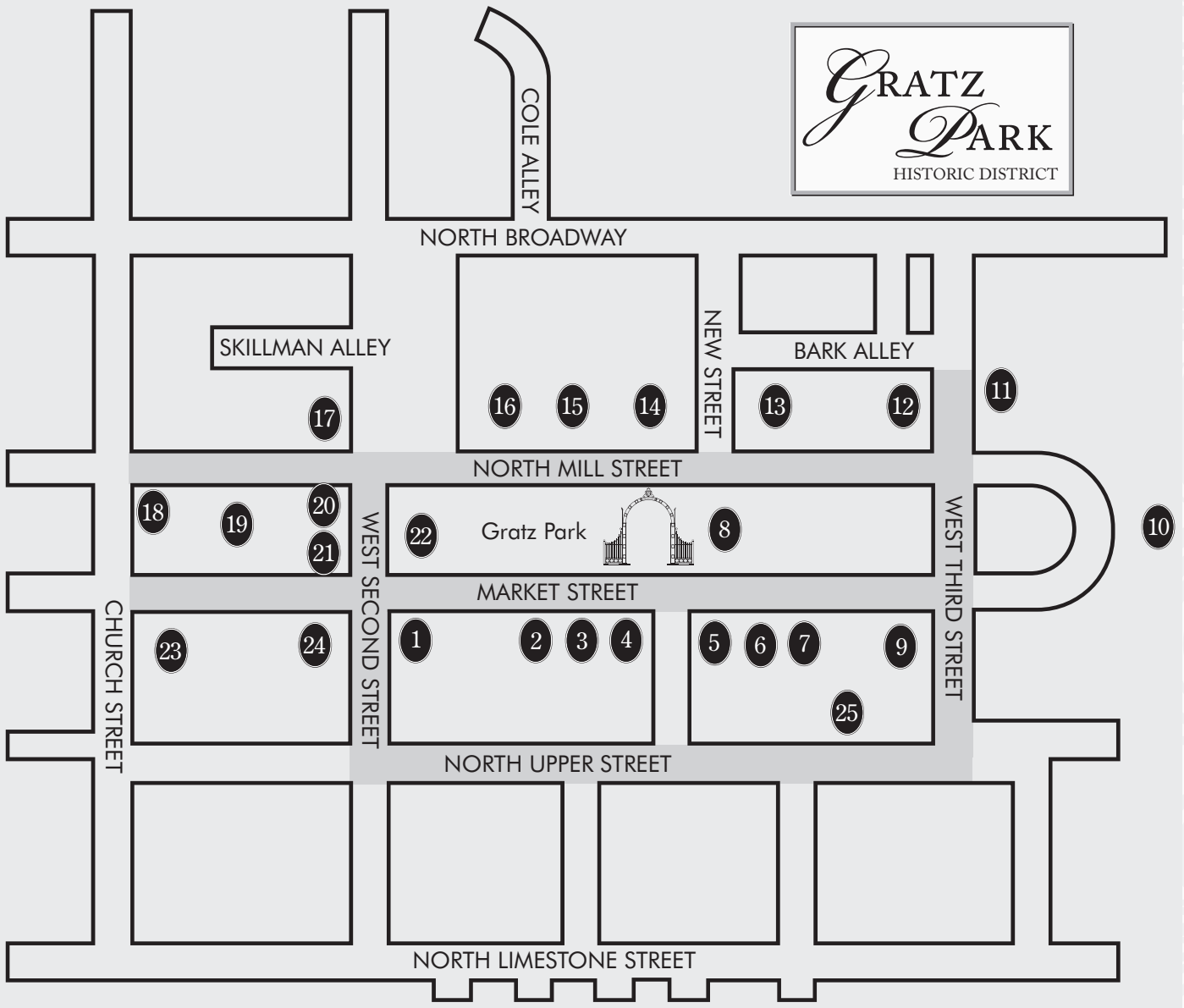
#### 13. Goodloe Houses (circa 1901) 239, 243, 247 North Mill St.

Constructed in 1901 by Mrs. William C. Goodloe for her three daughters, these three Victorian houses are often referred to as "The Three Sisters." While they share identical floor plans, the facades have been varied by using different elements of the Queen Anne style. These were the last houses built in Gratz Park.

Before the Goodloe houses were built on this property, Fayette County deed books list Henry and Laura Britton as the owners in 1863. Their house is shown on the 1886 and 1890 Sanborn Insurance maps. Henry Britton was listed as a free black man owning this property as well as two other lots in Fayette County. He was a barber by profession and his wife, Laura, was a seamstress. The family relocated to Berea, Kentucky so that the children could attend Berea College. Their daughter, Julia, was enrolled in 1869 and became the first African-American female graduate in 1872. While a student, she also was listed as a faculty member who taught instrumental music. Another daughter, Mary E. Britton, was a teacher and then became a physician in 1902.

Isaac Murphy, a free black man purchased a portion of this property, a long narrow lot on the corner of Mill and New St., in 1890 but he and his wife, Lucy, did not build a home there. Isaac Murphy is considered by many to be the greatest American jockey of all time. He was the first jockey elected to the hall of fame and the first jockey to win three Kentucky Derbys. He won with more than a third of his mounts year after year.

*GRATZ*  
*PARK*  
HISTORIC DISTRICT



- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1. Bodley-Bullock House<br>200 Market St.  | 8. "The Kitchen"<br>253 Market St.                 | 15. Dudley House<br>215 North Mill St.  | 21. Wickliffe House<br>226 West Second St.              |
| 2. Alexander Moore House<br>216 Market St. | 9. John Anderson Houses<br>258 & 262 Market St.    | 16. Hunt-Morgan House<br>201 North Mill St.                                       | 22. The Lexington Public Library<br>251 West Second St. |
| 3. Peter Paul II House<br>220 Market St.   | 10. Morrison Hall<br>301 West Third St.            | 17. Thomas Hart/John Bradford House<br>Corner of North Mill St.<br>and Second St. | 23. Christ Church Cathedral<br>166 Market St.           |
| 4. John Stark House<br>228 Market St.      | 11. Patterson Cabin<br>Broadway at Third St.       | 18. First Presbyterian Church<br>171 North Mill St.                               | 24. Ridgely House<br>190 Market St.                     |
| 5. Henry Gilbert House<br>240 Market St.   | 12. Hope House<br>304 West Third St.               | 19. Henry Clay's Law Office<br>176 North Mill St.                                 | 25. St. Paul's A.M.E.<br>253 Upper St.                  |
| 6. Noah McClelland House<br>248 Market St. | 13. Goodloe Houses<br>239, 243, 247 North Mill St. | 20. J.C. Carrick Houses<br>234 & 238 West Second St.                              |   |
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