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HISTORIC LEXINGTON TOURS



## THE TOUR ENDS

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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  
Preservation

### **Research, Development & Text:**

**Zanne Jefferies**

BGT Director of Preservation & Education Programs

### **Photography:**

**Zanne Jefferies**

BGT Director of Preservation & Education Programs

**Don Morgan**

Preservation/Education Committee Member



## PROLOGUE

For 180 years, Mulberry Street was an important residential location that was associated with the leaders of the Lexington community. Some of these residents included Adam Rankin, an influential although controversial early Presbyterian minister; John Bell, an early state representative from Fayette County and the county representative at the 1801 State Constitution Convention; Thomas Pindell, a banker and former Mayor of Lexington; W.C.P. Breckinridge, an attorney and member of Congress, known as Kentucky’s “silver tongued orator”; and John Wesley Hunt, Lexington’s first millionaire, who gave his property to his son Charelton Hunt, Lexington’s first mayor.

Mulberry Street, officially renamed Limestone in 1887, was one of the two major streets in early Lexington. Mulberry Street and Main Cross Street, renamed Broadway, were the only two north-south streets that extended the full length of the inlots and outlots when the town plat was laid out in 1781. Mulberry Street was the main road leading to the town of Limestone, later renamed Maysville, located on the Ohio River.

The National Register of Historic Places listed this district as the Northside Residential Historic District Expanded in 1982. In 1985, it was designated locally as Mulberry Hill Historic District. It includes



part of the 300 and the entire 400 block of North Limestone. The district is bounded on the south by Salem Alley, on the north by Fifth Street, on the west by Morris Alley and on the east by Limestone Street. When the town of Lexington was laid out in the 1780s, these two blocks were originally four outlots. The properties within this district date from the early 1800s to the early 1900s.

As you enter this neighborhood, you can expect to experience the architecture of a cross section of the people of Lexington's past. Not only were the early residents attorneys, congressmen and mayors, but they were also craftsmen, such as brick masons and carpenters, as well as clerks and ministers of the time. One of Lexington's first African American ministers lived in the 300 block and one of its most prominent African American churches, Antioch Christian Church, was located around the corner on Fourth Street. This was one of the finest African American churches built in Postbellum Lexington. Later known as the Episcopal Mission Church, it remained an active part of the area until the 1950s when a new building was constructed nearby.



Thomas Hart and brother-in-law of Henry Clay, bought the property. He lived here while operating a ropewalk, part of a hemp factory, before his death in the War of 1812. In 1814, his executors sold the property to Thomas H. Pindell, a banker and at one time mayor of Lexington. The history of ownership and occupancy of this property includes many other prominent 19<sup>th</sup> century Lexington citizens. Significant architectural details include the molded stringer above the basement level and the brick belt course at the second floor level which was recently uncovered and restored. Clay Lancaster, a well-known architectural historian, referred to the console cornice as an exceptionally fine example.



**26. 400-402 North Limestone St. (circa 1890)**

In 1883, Z. F. Elkin bought this lot. The structure that you see today is illustrated on the 1890 Sanborn Insurance Map. The building is late Italianate in style and is an example of a typical corner store with a residence above.



**24. 408 North Limestone St. (circa 1860)**

This small plain brick Greek Revival style house was probably built during the Civil War for Dr. John P. Henry. John Henry was elected mayor of Lexington in 1847. It was later the home of Judge Watts Parker, a distinguished attorney and political figure.



**1. 339 North Limestone St. (circa before 1871) & 341 North Limestone St. (circa before 1896-1901)**

A Civil War era African American business enterprise once occupied these two buildings. The properties are some of the few remaining elements of a small African American neighborhood that was concentrated at the intersection of Salem and Morris St. The properties were associated with the Thomas family from after the Civil War until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to the Thomas family members, a prominent African American dentist, Dr. W.T. Dinwiddie, was also involved in a transaction of these properties.



**25. 404 North Limestone St. (circa 1797-1803)**

This structure, late Georgian in style, was built sometime between 1797 and 1803 by and for John Leiby, a brickmaker and layer. In 1809, Nathaniel G. S. Hart, son of Col.



 **2. 343 North Limestone St. (circa 1797)**

Late Georgian in style, this house appears to be the only surviving antebellum house on this block and may be one of the oldest houses in the city. The structure is a unique two-story brick hall and parlor plan house. It is believed that the house was built for Adam Rankin in 1797 and sold to John Bell in 1817. Records indicate that John Bell was an early State Representative from Fayette County. Previous to that Bell represented the county at the State Constitution Convention. The Bell family owned the house until after the Civil War. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century John S. Hutsell, a prosperous grain miller owned the house.



 **22. 416 North Limestone St. (circa 1855-71)**

Although the date of construction cannot be confirmed, it is believed that this small irregular frame cottage may date from the middle to the late 1800s. The Tingle family acquired this property in 1867 and was identified with it throughout the rest of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



 **23. 414 North Limestone St. (circa 1880)**

This tall, narrow brick townhouse is late Italianate in style with some Eastlake trim. Architectural details of particular interest include the “keystone” incised with fleur-de-lis motif above the original door and the paired brackets on the front cornice.



**21. 422 North Limestone St. (circa 1840s)**

This Greek Revival townhouse has windows that have been altered and an entrance with a modern fan doorway with what are believed to be original narrow side panels. It was probably built in the 1840s for hemp manufacturer William Wiseman. He was one of the most prominent citizens of Lexington involved in the antebellum hemp industry. In the 1850s the ropewalk, part of a hemp factory, was behind this building in the center of the block.

General Samuel Woodson Price, a former Confederate officer as well as a notable Kentucky artist and chronicler of other Bluegrass painters, was among the late 19<sup>th</sup> century owners and occupants of this house.

*Looking Southeast toward the corner of Fourth Street and North Limestone, looking at 404 North Limestone St. taken 1893*



**3. 353 North Limestone St. (circa 1860-70)**

Designed by Cincinnatus Shryock, the younger, more prolific brother of the famous Greek Revival architect, Gideon Shryock, this structure was probably built shortly after the Civil War by Garrett D. Wilgus, a well known, successful mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Lexington builder. Take note of the handsome architectural details including the occasional Flemish-bond brick courses on the front and the oval cast-iron filigree attic vents as well as the variation in the segmented arches in the window surrounds.



#### 4. 355 North Limestone St. (circa 1862)

With both Greek Revival and Italianate elements, this two-story central-hall passage house was probably built for Jacob Ott about 1862. Ott was the manager of a sewing machine outlet. His son, George B. Ott, one of the owners of Fayette Furniture store, a member of the city council, and a police clerk, owned the property later.



#### 5. 359 North Limestone St. (circa 1863)

Plain Greek Revival in style, this house was one of a pair that includes the house at 355 North Limestone, built for Jacob Ott. After the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was occupied by Ott's widow and perhaps other members of this mercantile and political family.



#### 20. 436 & 430 North Limestone St. (circa 1860)

An integral element of this block of mostly 19<sup>th</sup> century houses, this plain Greek Revival house is probably one of a pair, including #430 next door, that were constructed by builder William H. Ellis in 1860. The frame second story on #430 was added in 1890. In 1902, the house located at 430 North Limestone was occupied by Zachariah J. Phelps, a prominent attorney who was listed in Levin's *Lawyers and Lawmakers of Kentucky*.

known to be a brilliant but controversial pastor who was relieved of his pastoral duties at the Second Presbyterian Church because he was considered to be an intellectual and not entertaining as a pastor.

Joseph Cabell Breckinridge, a distinguished attorney, who lived with his family next door, apparently loaned this property to McChord. The history of ownership of the house includes the family of prominent veterinary surgeon, E.T. Haggard, who specialized in the treatment of Bluegrass thoroughbred horses; members of the famous John Wesley Hunt family; and Dr. John C. Lewis, a radiologist, and his wife Mrs. Emma Offutt Lewis. Mrs. Lewis renamed the house “Llangollen” and in 1925 had it remodeled. Robert McMeekin, a well-known local traditionalist architect, obtained and installed woodwork and other architectural elements from early 19<sup>th</sup> century Bluegrass homes. Many of these elements, including the fanlight entrance, were from Harrodsburg, Kentucky.



#### 6. 363 North Limestone St. (circa 1870)

One of a group of three finely executed Italianate houses, it still retains many of its stylistic elements such as the oval cast-iron filigree attic openings located between the finely crafted paired brackets and the segmented arched hoodmolds. In 1870 Reverend Ryland T. Dillard bought this house. It was probably designed by Cincinnatus Shryock and built by Garrett D. Wilgus, in 1870. Dillard was the pastor of the historic David’s Fork Baptist Church and an early Superintendent of Public Instruction. William Winder Monroe owned the house from 1879-1892. Monroe, after serving with General John Hunt Morgan’s Confederate cavalry during the Civil War, became a local agent for a number of railroads that had offices in Lexington. Members of the family of former Mayor Fred Fugazzi owned the property from 1892-1939.



### 7. 367 North Limestone St. (circa 1870)

A second Italianate house, located next to the previously described Italianate house, was also designed by Cincinnatus Shryock and built by Garrett D. Wilgus.

George W. Didlake purchased the house in 1883. Didlake served under Samuel D. McCullough in the historic “Lexington Old Infantry-Cavalry” when it was called up in the Kentucky State Guard in 1861. Didlake’s daughter, Mary, was a notable entomologist and early scientist, writer, and educator at the University of Kentucky.



### 18. 456 North Limestone St. (circa 1905)

First occupied by William J. Monaghan, a bookkeeper, this house remained in the Monaghan family until 1945. The Monaghans that owned the property were descendants of the successful self-made Irish farmer and grocer William Monaghan who came to Lexington in 1846 and worked his way up from a day laborer to a successful businessman.



### 19. 450 North Limestone St. (circa 1814, remodeled 1925)

Recognized as one of the more refined small-scale Federal style houses in Lexington, this house was constructed in 1814 for the Reverend James McChord. McChord was



**17. 460 North Limestone St. (circa 1905)**

This incredibly intact pyramidal-roof cottage was owned and occupied by members of the same family, the Muirs, from the time it was built in 1905 until the mid-1940s. The corner porch, on the southwest side of the house, with Tuscan columns, is part of the original structure. This house, and the one nearly identical to it next door, were the last two residences constructed on this side of the block until the apartment complex was built.



**8. 371 North Limestone St. (circa 1870)**

The final property in this group of Italianate houses was owned by several families through the years, including members of the Edmund H. Bacon family who were connected to the Northern Bank, and William M. Kenney, who owned at least part of the what is now the famous Normandy Farm on Paris Pike.



*The corner of Fourth Street and North Limestone looking South taken in 1893.*



*Looking to the Southwest on 300 North Limestone in 1893.*



## 9. 417 North Limestone St. (circa 1890)

Anchoring the west side of the block, this Eastlake style house was first occupied by Henry K. Kinkead, a banker and member of a leading Lexington family. From 1897-1899, the property belonged to William B. Wilkerson whose family was associated with prominent livery stables in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Because this property is similar to others in the area that were attributed to John McMurtry, a local architect and builder, it is believed that he was the architect for this property.



addition to the tour. The house was built in 1810, as the name indicates, by William Morton. Because of his grand manner and style of living, the community referred to him as “Lord Morton.” William Morton was one of early Lexington’s most successful merchants. He was the largest contributor to the first and second Episcopal churches and he donated \$10,000 towards the construction of a city school. The school was named for him.

Morton died in 1836 and the house was sold to Cassius Marcellus Clay. Clay, well known for leadership in abolitionist matters, published the abolitionist newspaper, the *True American*, while residing in this house. Although Clay suffered substantial opposition among local citizens for his political views, he was able to gain enough support to be elected as a Whig to the State Legislature in 1840. In addition, President Abraham Lincoln appointed him as Minister to Russia.

Sometime after 1850, Henry T. Duncan, former mayor and city council member, bought the house. He maintained the grounds and gardens so beautifully that the property became known as Duncan Park which it is still named today. The last owner of the house, Lucy Duncan Draper, sold the house to the city for a park in 1913.

This house is considered to be one of Lexington’s finest examples of the early town residences. The tall arched doorway with Palladian windows on each side are reflective, according to Clay Lancaster, of the geometric phase of architectural design which was, after 1820, replaced by the effects attained through the use of the classic orders, pediments, and arcades.

With this success Brand expanded his business and purchased the entire block between Fourth and Fifth and Limestone and Upper Streets. He built “Rosehill”, his residence, and set up a large ropewalk. After Brand’s financial success in Lexington he returned to Scotland and settled his debts.

Brand invested in the progress of this community as well. He was a major stockholder in the Lexington and Ohio Railroad; he became a charter member of the Board of Directors of the Northern Bank of Kentucky, as well as the Lexington Cemetery. Brand was on a committee to advance a road connecting Lexington with the Ohio River. This road became the first macadamized road in Kentucky. Brand was also one of the first importers of Durham cattle and Southdown sheep into Kentucky. This property remained in the Brand family for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



 **16. 530 North Limestone St.** (circa 1810)

Although the William “Lord” Morton House is outside of the boundaries of the Mulberry Hill Historic District, it is an important



 **10. 421 North Limestone St.** (circa 1900)

Eastlake in style, this pyramidal-roof brick cottage is relevant in style and detail to other late Victorian houses of the 1890s on this block.



 **11. 425-27 North Limestone St.** (circa 1887)

Late Italianate in style, this large brick double house was one of the few built of its type in Lexington. The house, one of the earliest built on this side of the block, was occupied by a number of well-known tenants during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Some of the tenants included Frank A. Harrison; a prosperous coal dealer, George S. Shanklin, president of the Fayette Home Telephone Co. and one of Lexington's most prominent attorneys; and the well-known horseman, Benjamin Smith Gentry.



**12. 431 North Limestone St. (circa 1900)**

This plain two-story pyramidal-roof structure was one of the last built on this block. It was originally the home of James E. Fitzgerald, manager of the Broadway Coal & Feed Company's Main St. yard. He was the city auditor at the time of his death at the age of 45.



**15. 461 North Limestone St. (circa 1812)**

The John Brand House, known as "Rosehill", is a Federal style house with a noteworthy entranceway including an exceptionally well executed leaded fan door and sidelights, and a later Greek Revival portico, integrated nicely with the earlier elements of the structure. The architectural details of the portico, built in 1837, are believed to have been copied from the Temple of Minerva at Nimes. The beautifully designed wrought iron gates, with cast-iron rosettes, are considered to be contemporary with the portico. This house, built two years after the "Morton House" which is located diagonally across the street on the corner of Fifth and North Limestone Streets, resembles, in plan, though reversed, the "Morton House."

After suffering financial failures in Scotland, John Brand and his wife moved to America. They moved to Lexington in 1802. He and John Wesley Hunt established a hemp factory and manufactured the first piece of hemp bagging in the United States. Hunt became the first millionaire in the West and Brand nearly equaled Hunt's accomplishment.





 **14. 449 North Limestone St. (circa 1900)**

This house, an elaborate pyramidal-roof cottage, was built for A.M. Heidl and his wife. Heidl was a saloonkeeper and his wife was a sister of William A. Klair, who was a saloonkeeper and successful politician at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

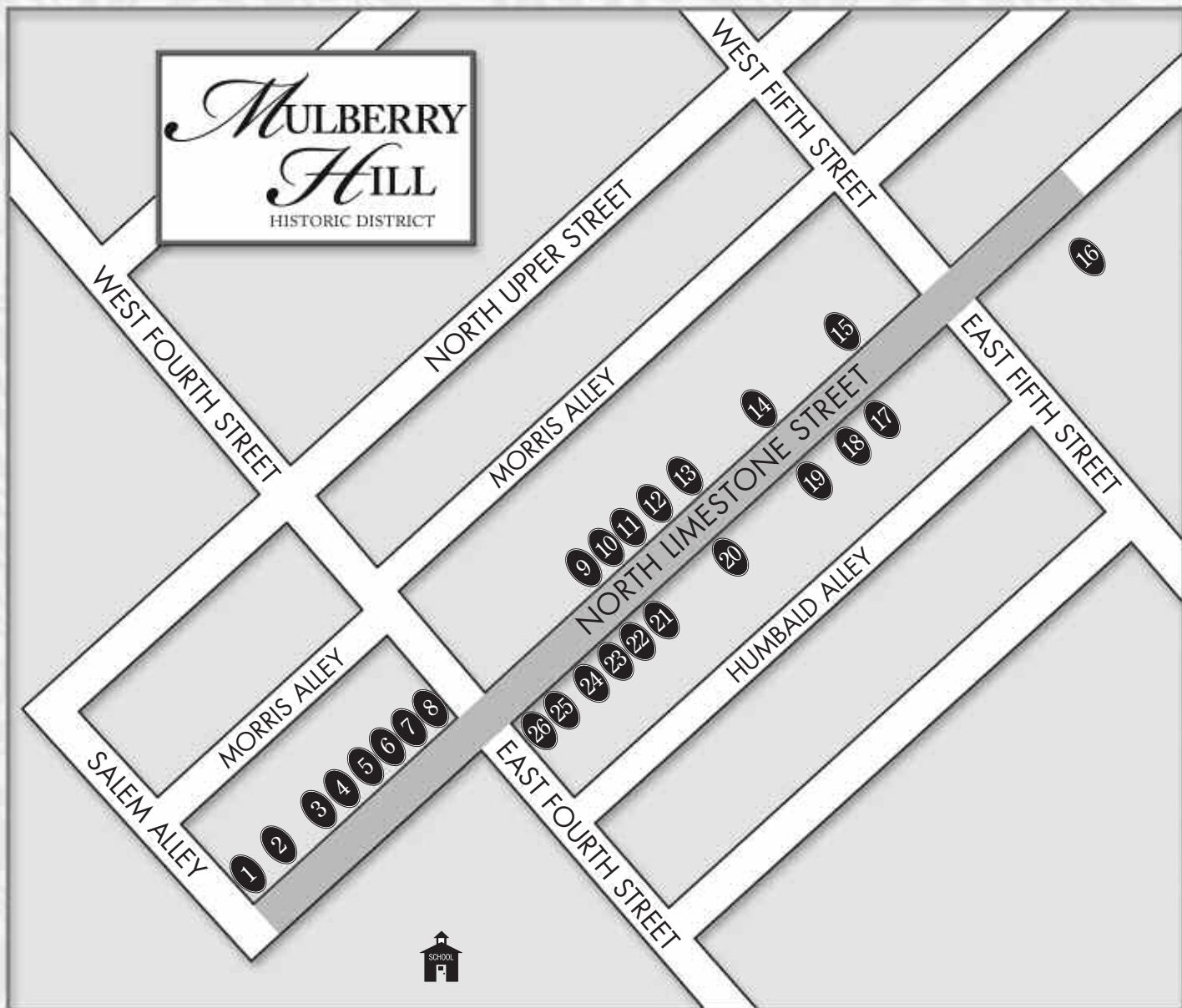
The house, which was built in the early 1900s, sits very close to the grounds of “Rose Hill”. This property was ostensibly reserved by the owner of “Rose Hill”, George W. Brand, at the main sale of the Brand’s Subdivision in 1887. The property was connected to the Brand family until 1898.



**13. 435 North Limestone St. (circa 1890)**

Several notable tenants occupied this late Italianate townhouse in the 1890s including the Honorable W.C.P. Breckinridge, a member of one of central Kentucky’s most distinguished families. Breckinridge was a prominent attorney and a popular, but sometimes controversial, member of Congress. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Matt Benckart owned the property. Benckart was a saloonkeeper and city councilman.





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9. 417 North Limestone St.
10. 421 North Limestone St.
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