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J.T. Hukle House (1905)
200 East Bell Ct.

J.T. Hukle built this 2½ story brick house in 1908, which remained in the Hukle family until it was sold in 1999. The house features an asymmetrical facade with one-over-one double hung windows, a hipped roof with a pedimented gable, and a single door entryway with a paneled sidelight on the right side of the door only.

26



Wilder House (1920)
130 East Bell Ct.

This two-story brick house was built for C. Yancy Freeman, an assistant cashier for the Lexington Banking and Trust Company. The house has cut stone lintels and sills, a hipped roof with a large center dormer, and originally had a full-width front portico.

27



D.C. Hunter House (1921) 621 Sayre Ave.

This brick and shingle Dutch Revival cottage features a gambrel roof, cut stone lintels, arched windows, and a corner porch supported by large columns. The house was built by George R. Curran for Dr. Kelley, a Lexington physician.

29



Yancy House (1912)
620 Sayre Ave.

Similar in appearance to the house at 622 Sayre Avenue, this two-story brick house features a pyramidal roof with a double window dormer, one-over-one double hung windows flanked by shutters, and a porte-cochere on the right side of the building. This house was the first home in the Bell Court Neighborhood of Hogan Yancy and his wife Estelle des Cognets, who later moved to 136 Forest Avenue.

28



Rounsavall House (1914)
622 Sayre Ave.

This American Four Square style house features a pyramidal roof with a double window dormer, one-over-one double hung windows, and an entry door flanked by multi-paned sidelights. The house was the first home in the Bell Court Neighborhood that belonged to R.W. Rounsavall, who later moved to 600 Sayre Avenue.

24



Lowenthal House (1924)
136 East Bell Ct.

Manuel Lowenthal of Lowenthal's Furriers and Clothiers lived here from 1925 to 1951. The two-story brick house features two pairs of double windows on the second floor with a small three-over-three window in the center, stone lintels, and a large, single-story porch with brick piers.

23



Skinner House (1916)
146 East Bell Ct.

The first owners of this one-story brick house were Harry O. Skinner, Treasurer of Skinner and Green Transportation Company, and his wife. The house has a low-pitched gable roof that extends forward to form the full-length brick, columned porch. A large gable dormer is centered on the roofline and contains three two-over-two windows.

22



Rogers House (1920) 150 East Bell Ct.

This one-story brick house sits on a stone foundation and features a pyramidal roof with four chimneys and a large double window dormer. A single story front porch with Corinthian columns spans across the structure's facade and is anchored by a large centered pediment. Fon Rogers II, son of Fon Rogers, President of the Rogers Brothers Coal Company, owned this house as early as 1977.

21



Shipp House (1916) 154 East Bell Ct.

Henry Craig Shipp, President of Shipp & Company, a dry goods and ready-to-wear store on Main Street, lived in this house for over twenty years. The two-story brick house has stone lintels, one-over-one double hung windows, and a one-story front porch that spans the length of the facade.

25



McClure House (1920)
132 East Bell Ct.

This two-story brick house features a side gabled roof with four interior chimneys, a deep overhanging eave with decorative brackets, a small, columned front porch, and an elliptical fanlight above the door. The house was the first home in the Bell Court Neighborhood of Kentucky historian and author, John W. Townsend, who later moved to 539 Russell Avenue.



BELL COURT

Bell Court was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 as the "Bell Court Neighborhood Historic District." Ten years later, in 1990, Bell Court became Lexington's 11th local historic district, or H-1.



Bell Place
545 Sayre Avenue

BGT

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 BGT, founded in 1955, is the 14th oldest preservation group in the United States.



BLUE GRASS TRUST'S
HISTORIC LEXINGTON WALKING TOURS
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PROLOGUE

The Bell Court Neighborhood Historic District is located just southeast of downtown Lexington. The neighborhood was developed around the turn of the 20th century on the former estates of James B. Clay and Henry Bell. The quiet residential neighborhood is set around the grand Bell Place and features a range of architectural styles from large Queen Anne, Richardson Romanesque, and Arts and Crafts style structures to smaller, more modest cottages and bungalows. The neighborhood was developed as a middle-class residential district, where downtown business owners and white-collar workers could live within walking distance to the commercial center. At present, the popular suburb remains a quiet, tree-lined neighborhood situated just adjacent to Lexington's bustling downtown. Notable are the neighborhood's speed humps, which require vehicles to travel slower through this quaint neighborhood.

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The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation

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The Blue Grass Trust's series of historic Lexington walking tour brochures are made possible, in part, thanks to a grant from the Virginia Clark Hagan Foundation; LFUCG's Department of Historic Preservation, the Kentucky Heritage Council, and VisitLex.



1 a. Bell Place (1890) 545 Sayre Ave.

Designed by architect Thomas Lewinski in 1842, the original house on this property, built for David Sayre (and purchased by Henry Bell shortly after) was destroyed by a fire in 1855. The house was reconstructed circa 1890 by architect William Stewart, combining Greek Revival and Romanesque architectural styles and elements. The two-story brick structure features a hipped roof with four ornate chimneys and a front parapet, a decorative cornice, and double corner pilasters. A large two-story portico with Corinthian columns, a pediment, and entablature decorated with dentil cornice shades a bay window located above the center entry. Henry Bell was a businessman and financier, who served as the director of the Northern Bank of Kentucky in the 1840s. Bell's granddaughter, Clara Bell Walsh, eventually inherited the house and gifted it to the City of Lexington upon her death in the 1950s. Clara is credited with inventing the cocktail party and was one of the first permanent residents of New York's Plaza Hotel, where she lived for over 50 years.



1 b. Bell Place Carriage House (1890) 154 W. Bell Ct.

This is the original carriage house for Bell Place, built at approximately the same time as the house. Unchanged exterior-wise, the interior has been transformed into a theater. It has been the home to Lexington's Studio Players, a local theater group, since 1959.



2 Rounsavall House (1909) 600 Sayre Ave.

This 2½ story Colonial Revival style house features a side gable roof with three dormer windows, fifteen-over-one double hung windows, and a small entry porch with square columns and dentil molding around the entablature. R.W. Rounsavall, a notable retail grocer in Lexington, resided here from 1919 to 1941. Rounsavall was also the director of the First and City National Bank and the curator of Transylvania College.



3 Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd (1925) 533 East Main St.

The local architecture firm of Frankel and Curtis designed this late Gothic Revival structure on the corner of East Main and Bell Court. The exterior of the building was constructed using local stone and features a bell tower with a castellated roof. The shape of the large lancet arch stained glass window is repeated in the recessed entryway, which features a set of wood batten doors with iron hinges.



4 Louis de Cognets House (1907) 509 East Main St.

This large Colonial Revival style house, built by the Combs Lumber Company, features a side gable roof with three pedimented dormer windows, an overhanging eave decorated with dentil molding, and ten-over-one double hung windows with stone keystones. The doorway features a paneled wood door with an elliptical fanlight and is situated under a one-story columned porch that has a widow's walk above. The house was built for Louis des Cognets, an influential businessman in Lexington who made his fortune in coal. Louis des Cognets also served as the Police and Fire Commissioner in Lexington, a director of the First and City National Bank, and as the President of the Lexington Electric Light Company, the Lexington Street Railway Company, the Lexington Gas Company, and the Lexington Ice Manufacturing Company.



5 Pulliam House (1897) 505 East Main St.

Kiel W. Pulliam, a prominent Lexington merchant, City Commissioner, and President of the Board of Alderman, had this Richardson Romanesque style house built circa 1897. The 2½ story brick house features rough stone lintels, a two-story circular tower, and a grand two-story portico with Corinthian columns. Originally, the house had a smaller one-story front porch, which was replaced by the portico.



6 Clay Villa (1846) 125 Forest Ave.

Designed by architect Thomas Lewinski circa 1846 for James B. Clay, this Italianate style house was one of the three original estates that now make up the Bell Court Neighborhood. As the son of Henry Clay, James became a lawyer and practiced law with his father in Lexington for many years before being appointed as Charge d'Affaires to Portugal. He served on the 35th Congress of the United States from 1857 to 1859 and later moved to Missouri, where he worked as a farmer, before returning to Lexington and settling at Ashland (his father's estate). Clay Villa, which originally faced East Main Street, is a two-story brick structure that has a hipped roof with four interior chimneys. The house features three recessed segmental arches set between wide pilaster-like forms.

8 Skain House (1910) 137 Forest Ave.

John Skain, Mayor of Lexington from 1908 to 1911, owner of the Leland Hotel, manager of the Phoenix Hotel, and director of the Phoenix and Third National Bank, lived in this charming Queen Anne style house. The two-story house features a pyramidal roof, decorative fish scale shingles on the second story, and a quaint front porch with delicate wood spindles.



9 Joseph McCormick House (1900) 141 Forest Ave.

This 1½ story stucco house features a tall pyramidal roof with a small double window dormer with carved pilasters and a larger front facing gable. The eaves are decorated with dentil molding, and the wrap around porch is supported by Doric columns and a classical balustrade. Joseph McCormick of the McCormick Lumber Company built the house and lived here for five years.



7 Yancy House II (1939) 136 Forest Ave.

This Arts and Crafts/Dutch Revival style house features a stone foundation, rough stone lintels, a gambrel roof with dormers, and a columned wrap around porch with a flared-eave roof. Hogan Yancy, a Lexington attorney, former star athlete at Kentucky University (Transylvania University), professional baseball player, and the athletic director and coach for the football and baseball teams at Transylvania University, lived in this house with his wife Estelle des Cognets (daughter of Louis des Cognets of 509 East Main St.). Yancy posed for the Confederate General John Hunt Morgan monument, which sits downtown on the lawn of the former courthouse, and served as Lexington's mayor from 1924 to 1928.



10 Benjamin F. McCormick House (1891) 147 Forest Ave.

This Queen Anne/Eastlake style brick house is notable for its unique latticework porches and "gingerbread" detailing. The house features stone lintels and a front facing shingled gable, which originally displayed the house's construction date of 1891. Benjamin F. McCormick of the McCormick Lumber Company built this house and resided here for fourteen years before deeding the house to his daughter Alice McCormick Combs.

11 Benjamin F. McCormick House II (1905) 149 Forest Ave.

After deeding the house at 147 Forest Avenue to his daughter, Benjamin F. McCormick constructed this house and resided here until his death in 1912. The 1½ story brick house features tall, corbelled chimneys, a double window dormer with a modern variation on the diamond pane casement window, and a small front porch with decorative wood spindles.



12 Owens House (1895) 157 Forest Ave.

Edward Owens, an engineer for C&O Railroad, and his family resided in this 1½ story Queen Anne/Shingle style house for more than seventy years. The house features a tall pyramidal roof with a small double window dormer, decorative chimneys, and a round one-story tower clad with ornate shingle work.

13 Butner House (1910) 154 Forest Ave.

This 2½ story brick house has a small double window dormer, a pedimented gable, and bracketed eaves. The single story porch features double columns situated atop square brick piers, which are connected by a spindle railing. The house was built for William Butner, owner and President of the Butner Produce Company.



14 Ades House (1911) 170 Forest Ave.

Representing a variation on the American Foursquare style, this two-story house features a hipped roof, one-over-one double hung windows flanked by narrow shutters, and a full width, one-story porch topped with a standing seam metal roof. David Ades, owner of the Ades Lexington Dry Goods Company, lived in this house with his family from 1915 to 1920.



15 Cockrell House (1890) 509 Russell Ave.

Benjamin F. McCormick (of 147 and 149 Forest Ave) built this 2½ story brick house for his daughter and son-in-law, Fannie and W.R. Cockrell. The Richardson Romanesque style house has a small double window dormer, a large pedimented gable, rough-cut stone lintels, and a canted corner.



16 Congleton House (1910) 525 Russell Ave.

William T. Congleton, founder of W.T. Congleton & Co., which specialized in building highways, street grading, and excavation work, and former Mayor of Lexington, resided in this house with his family for more than fifty years. The brick house has a side gabled roof with a large continuous dormer, featuring seven six-over-six double hung windows. The entryway is centered on the house's facade underneath a small covered porch and between two sets of three nine-over-one double hung windows.



17 John W. Lancaster House (1914) 531 Russell Ave.

Designed by architect John V. Moore, this brick and stucco bungalow style house features a side gabled roof with flared eaves and an oversized dormer with a set of three arched windows and a small round vent above. The deep overhanging eave on the front of the house forms the roof of the one-story full width porch, which features double columns atop a brick and concrete wall. The house was built for John W. Lancaster, father of Clay Lancaster, a distinguished architectural historian and author.

18 Dr. A.D. Kirwin House (1914) 535 Russell Ave.

Dr. A.D. Kirwin, professor and head football coach at the University of Kentucky from 1938 to 1944, Southern historian and author, and seventh president of UK, purchased this house in 1955. The two-story tan brick house has a Spanish style ceramic tiled roof, a large pedimented gable with a half-circle window, stone lintels, and a columned porch over the entryway.



19 Townsend House (1930) 539 Russell Ave.

This one-story brick house has a side gabled roof and an eight-over-one double hung window on either side of the center entryway. The classical entryway features a paneled wood door, flanked by carved pilasters and topped by a pediment with a small fanlight window. The house was the second home in the Bell Court Neighborhood to Kentucky historian and author, John W. Townsend, who formally lived at 132 Bell Court East.