

PROLOGUE

Formally platted in 1815, the Western Suburb is an epicenter of Lexington history. It is one of Lexington's oldest suburban neighborhoods with structures dating as far back as 1795. Its varied architecture reflects more than 200 years of housing styles, economics, and the lifestyles of merchants, craftsmen, and laborers.

Land constituting the Western Suburb was originally part of a large tract belonging to Colonel John Todd, a Revolutionary War officer and Virginia legislator (and Mary Todd Lincoln's great uncle). When Colonel Todd was killed in 1782, his daughter, Mary Owen, inherited his vast estate, including the land that would become the Western Suburb. Perhaps the wealthiest woman in Kentucky at the time, Mary married James Russell in 1799 but was widowed just three years later.

Early residents of this area included merchants who found it convenient to live close to their downtown businesses. Many carpentry shops, liveries, blacksmith shops, lumber yards, and coal yards were located on or next to the owners' residence. Later, these commercial areas became sites for new houses, which contributed to the eclectic range of architectural styles in the district. This was also the neighborhood where the venerable madam Belle Brezing (1860-1940) conducted her business as the queen of Lexington's red light activities at the turn of the century.

The Western Suburb continues to be the home of Lexington citizens of all races, professions, and income levels. With property owners that value these historic buildings and landscapes, this special neighborhood is sure to remain a treasured place for generations to come.



WESTERN
SUBURB
HISTORIC DISTRICT



- | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. 501 West Short Street | 10. 609 West Short Street | 18. 651 West Short Street | 27. 715 West Main Street |
| 2. 511 West Short Street | 11. 616 West Short Street | 19. 146 Old Georgetown Street | 28. 719 West Main Street |
| 3. 520-522 West Short Street | 12. 623 & 625 West Short Street | 20. 170-172 Old Georgetown Street | 29. 727 West Main Street |
| 4. 534 West Short Street/
535 West Main Street | 13. 628 West Short Street | 21. 159 & 163 Old Georgetown Street | 30. 733 & 735 West Main Street |
| 5. 563 West Short Street | 14. 632 West Short Street | 22. 151 Old Georgetown Street | 31. 614 West Main Street |
| 6. 578 West Short Street | 15. 636 & 640 West Short Street | 23. 720 West Short Street | 32. 611 West Main Street |
| 7. 579 West Short Street | 16. 643 West Short Street | 24. 728 West Short Street | 33. 609 West Main Street |
| 8. 591 West Short Street | 17. 646-648 West Short Street &
118 Old Georgetown Street | 25. 735 West Short Street | 34. 601 West Main Street |
| 9. 601 & 603 West Short Street | | 26. 707 West Main Street | |



The Blue Grass Trust
for Historic Preservation

253 Market Street, Lexington, KY 40507
Tel 859-253-0362 Fax 859-259-9210
info@bluegrasstrust.org www.bluegrasstrust.org



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.



HISTORIC LEXINGTON TOURS



1 501 West Short St (c.1868)

St. Paul's Catholic Church was the tallest structure in town when it was built and had the first church-clock in Lexington.



8 591 West Short St (c.1928)

Few old gas stations in this style remain. In the 1970s, this building was used for racehorse bookmaking, but has been remodeled into a retail shop.



15 636 & 640 West Short St (c.1814-40)

Rhoda Vaughn, called the "first female child born in the savage wilds of Kentucky," died here in 1863, at age 87.



21 159 & 163 Old Georgetown (c.1830-2008)

The structure at 159 Old Georgetown was standing in 1831 – and probably long before. It is an outstanding example of adaptive reuse now serving as the offices for ARTEK condos.



28 719 West Main St (c.1846)

James C. Butler, a partner of John McMurtry in several large real estate transactions, built this house. It was originally a one story, 3 bay brick house.

2 511 West Short St (c.1870)

The Parker House, Italianate in style, was built by John Wilgus, an art lover and self-made businessman. At one time, Elizabeth Parker, Mary Todd Lincoln's grandmother, owned the property.



9

601 & 603 West Short St (c.1840)

Warren Gotten, or perhaps his associate Robert King, built this Greek Revival house.



16 643 West Short St (c.1843)

This house was built for Robert Wickliffe, possibly by John McMurtry, a well known Lexington architect and builder.



22 151 Old Georgetown (c.2006)

Built on part of the old garbage truck lot, this copper-clad house was designed and largely built by architecture and historic preservation students in the UK's College of Design, with input from local architects.



29

727 West Main St (c.1846)

This residence was occupied for many years by the Oots family who operated a coeprage on Main Street.



3 520-522 West Short St (c.1836)

Elzy Harney and Benjamin Ford built this double house on the site of an old log Catholic Church. In 1854, 520 was leased to Lewis Robards as the office for his notorious Slave Jail where his "choice" female stock was displayed.



10

609 West Short St (c.1818-80)

John Shrock built the rear in a Federal style in 1818. Charles Thompson built the Greek Revival main mass of the building in 1840. The DeLong family added the 2-bay Italianate addition on the front in the 1870s.



17 646-648 West Short St & 118 Old Georgetown (c.1825-80)

The McConnell family, early pioneer settlers of Lexington, built this house that was used as a grocery and later a tavern in the early 20th century.



23

720 West Short St (c.1900)

Originally a shotgun style cottage, it was one of two shotguns built next to each other. It has since been altered and added to.



30

733 & 735 West Main (c.1901)

After the 1901 fire, the two shotgun cottages here were built to replace the coeprage that had burned.



4 534 West Short St (c.1913)

The First Baptist Church is located on the site of the congregation's original 1789 log meetinghouse. John Gano, a Revolutionary War chaplain who is said to have baptized George Washington, was its first pastor. It is also the location of Lexington's earliest burying ground. The current building was said to cover the largest square footage of any Baptist church in the world in 1915.



11

616 West Short St (c.1837)

This house was built by Benjamin Ford, a brick maker, bricklayer, and builder. The Italianate brackets were added after the Civil War.



18

651 West Short St (c.1855)

This Italianate building was originally used as both a grocery store, known as Gill's Grocery, and a residence.

24

728 West Short St (c.1790)

The Matthew Walker house is perhaps the oldest structure in the Western Suburb. The front part, possibly built before 1789, is a rare half-timber house.



31 614 West Main (c.1849)

Originally the Harrison School, this building was one of the first public school structures in the city and was in use until 1906. After that time, it was used as a residence and then as offices.

32

611 West Main (c. pre-1833)

John Dillon, who originally subdivided and owned much of the surrounding land starting around 1813, built this frame house.



5 563 West Short St (c.1806)

The James Eades House is one of the oldest houses in Lexington. The house was originally built in a Federal style, but the windows have been altered over the years to reflect an Italianate style.



12

623 & 625 West Short St (c.1844)

These houses were built by well-known Lexington architects John McMurtry and Cincinnatus Shryock. Shryock also designed Lexington's First Presbyterian Church on North Mill Street.

19

146 Old Georgetown (c.1810)

Originally thought to be a log structure with a clapboard covering, during renovation in 2003 this house was found to be of half-timber construction.



25

735 West Short St (c.1902-08)

This Victorian house was once the operational headquarters of the Lexington Garbage Collection and Sanitation Department, conveniently located near to the garbage trucks that surrounded it.



33

609 West Main (c.1855)

This residence was built by carpenter/builder John D. Milbourne who resided in it until 1868.

34

601 West Main (c. late 19th century)

This Victorian building once housed one of Lexington's most popular eateries, Roger's Restaurant, before they relocated in the mid-20th century. It has also served as a neighborhood saloon and grocery.



6 578 West Short St (Vacant)

Though this lot is vacant now, it was once the site of a shotgun cottage belonging to Charles Mooney, a man described in his 1900 obituary as "one of the best known men in Kentucky."



13

628 West Short St (c.1836)

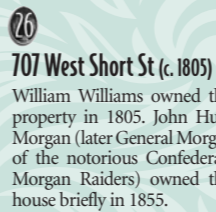
Gus Jaubert lived here from 1874 to 1920. He was known as the "Burgoo King" and is said to have invented the famous stew out of necessity when campaigning with John Hunt Morgan's troops during the Civil War.



20

170-172 Old Georgetown

In 1953, Dr. Harriett Marble inherited this house. Proprietor of the Marble Drug Store and member of the executive boards of the National Negro Medical Association and the Blue Grass Medical Society. She was one of the most successful African-American businesswomen in Kentucky.



26

707 West Short St (c.1805)

William Williams owned this property in 1805. John Hunt Morgan (later General Morgan of the notorious Confederate Morgan Raiders) owned this house briefly in 1855.



27

715 West Main St (c.1850)

This Greek Revival house with "eared" doorframe was built for Andrew Gilmore in 1850 and it remained in the family until about 1890.



7 579 West Short St (c.1812)

William "Billy" Mabon, who rode with John Hunt Morgan during the Civil War, lived here in the 1880s. Mabon handled business matters for Belle Brezing, the famous madam.



14

632 West Short St (c.1836)

This half-timbered, or brick-filled frame, cottage was built by John W. Russell.

