

Historic EVANSVILLE

A WALKER'S GUIDE



Cover Photo 349 South First Street

Below 39 West Liberty Street



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*A Guide to Evansville's Historic Resources
Including Walking Tours of the Historic Districts*

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PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Today, Evansville has a reputation as an attractive “New England-like” small town that honors its past by preserving and protecting its historic buildings. The Wisconsin Historical Society has said that Evansville contains “the finest collection of 1840s to 1915 architecture of any small town in Wisconsin,” and architectural historians have written that downtown Evansville has one of the state’s “most intact historical streetscapes.” The city has four districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places—the original Evansville Historic District, the Grove Street Residential Historic District, the South First Street Residential Historic District, and the Leonard-Leota Park Historic District.

Resources in Evansville listed individually on the National Register are the Eager Free Public Library, St. John’s Lutheran Church, the Evansville Standpipe (water tower), and the Almeron Eager Funerary Monument and Plot at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Use this guide to become acquainted with the heritage architecture of this unique Wisconsin community. The guide is divided into the following sections:

- An overview of the original Evansville Historic District
- An overview of the Grove Street Residential Historic District
- An overview of the South First Street Historic District
- An overview of the Leonard-Leota Park Historic District
- An overview of the individually listed historical resources
- Detailed descriptions of significant resources, with key numbers for location on the map and on the suggested walking tours
- A map of Evansville’s historic resources
- Four suggested walking tours
- Descriptions of the architectural styles found in Evansville
- A glossary of architectural terms

We suggest that you read the overviews and sample the detailed descriptions to see which places you would like to explore. Consult the map to find locations of places that interest you. Then create your own walking tour, or follow one or more of the four suggested tours. Introductions to the tours provide additional historical context. The descriptions of architectural styles will help you appreciate the fine examples you will see, and the glossary of terms will aid you in understanding the detailed descriptions.

Evansville contains more architectural gems than a guide like this can fully cover. You may wish to consult the Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society for information on additional resources. <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS2834>

OVERVIEW OF THE ORIGINAL EVANSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

With the removal of native people from southern Wisconsin after the Black Hawk War of 1832 and establishment of the Wisconsin Territory in 1836, the glaciated oak savannas of southeast Wisconsin became very attractive to adventurous settlers from the east. The first to come to the Evansville area were mostly “Yankees,” who began arriving in 1839 from Vermont, Ohio, and western New York. By 1845, this small group of homesteaders called the site “The Grove” because of a large stand of timber located just northwest of the small settlement. On Allen Creek, just north of the settlement, Erastus Quivey built a sawmill in 1847, followed soon after by a grist mill in 1848. As more easterners came to the area in search of fertile farmland, the town grew to include several hundred residents who built wood frame homes, shops, and churches. The first town plat was recorded in 1855, more than 15 years after the first settlement.

The center of development in Evansville took place in the immediate vicinity of the intersection of Main and Madison Streets. It is no accident that this intersection is called “the four corners.” When the public land survey was made in 1833, the north-south and east-west Quarter Section lines met at this quadripoint, much as the intersection of the corners of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah is called

“The Four Corners.” Over time, the four Quarter Sections with that common point were purchased by different buyers, so it was natural that the principal roads were laid out on these original survey lines.

Initial development occurred gradually. After the Galena & Chicago Union Rail Road brought the first rail service to Evansville in 1863, the town continued to grow steadily, not explosively. Agriculture was the solid foundation of economic and social growth for Evansville and the surrounding countryside. Wheat was the main crop during the Civil War, soon supplanted by tobacco. As the region grew and prospered, manufacturing became important for the local economy. Most of the businesses were related to serving the agricultural and domestic needs of area residents. By the late 1870s, the pattern of city development was established. The residential, commercial and manufacturing districts and street grid from that period are clearly recognizable today.

In the last decade of the 19th Century, the town’s population grew to nearly 1900 inhabitants, and in 1896, Evansville was incorporated as a city. By 1920, most of the building in the historic district was completed. The pattern of gradual, continued economic development that began in the early 1840s was a constant in Evansville for the next 100 years. The emphasis on economic stability and social continuity that was established by Evansville’s Yankee founders and their descendants is reflected in the mostly intact residential and commercial streetscapes found today.

Evansville is a Wisconsin pioneer in the preservation of historic buildings. In 1976, in the early days of historic preservation in the United States, the leaders of the community commissioned a comprehensive survey of the historic buildings in town. Over 172 residential, commercial, public and manufacturing buildings were identified as having architectural or historic significance for the community. This survey led to the creation of the original Evansville Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

The original Evansville Historic District encompasses Main Street from Fourth Street on the west to the CCC Veterans Memorial Bridge on the east; Garfield Avenue between North Second Street and North Madison Street; Church Street from

College Drive to South Madison Street; Liberty Street from South Fourth Street to South Madison Street; South Fourth, Third, Second and First Streets from West Main Street to Liberty Street; North Second and North First Streets from Garfield Avenue to West Main Street; and Madison Street from Montgomery Court to Liberty Street.

RESOURCES ADDED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER AFTER 1978

As the result of a resurvey of Evansville’s historical resources, funded by a grant-in-aid from the National Park Service in 2006, additional information was brought to light about buildings and structures in the original district, and several additional buildings, structures and sites were identified as potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Of these, the following have been listed on the National Register:

The Evansville Standpipe, 285 North Fifth Street (2008),

St. John’s Lutheran Church, 312 South Third Street (2012),

The Almeron Eager Funerary Monument, Maple Hill Cemetery (2012),

Leonard-Leota Park Historic District (2012),

The Grove Street Residential Historic District (2012) and

The South First Street Residential Historic District (2012).

[The Eager Free Public Library was individually listed on the National Register in 1976.]

OVERVIEW OF THE GROVE STREET RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Grove Street Residential Historic District is a small residential district that is located in the northwest part of the city of Evansville. The district contains nine very intact single family residences, all of which are considered to be contributing

resources in the district. Of these buildings, four were built between 1910 and 1919, and three are fine examples of the Bungalow and Craftsman styles. The rest of the buildings in the district, save for a single late Queen Anne-style example built in 1912, are excellent representative examples of the several Period Revival styles that were built in Evansville between 1920 and 1946. While these nine houses vary in size, plans, materials, and in the details of their construction, all of them are of high quality. They have been well maintained and are still occupied as single family residences today.

OVERVIEW OF THE SOUTH FIRST STREET RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

The South First Street Residential Historic District is a small residential district located in the south part of the city of Evansville. The district contains eleven very intact single family residences. Ten of these eleven buildings are contributing resources, five of which were built between 1885 and 1891 and another five of which were built between 1891 and 1910. Nine of these ten houses are very fine examples of the Queen Anne style and another is an early example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style. Of special interest are the five houses in the district that were designed by Evansville builder/architect Benjamin S. Hoxie between 1885 and 1900.

LEONARD-LEOTA PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

Leonard-Leota Park is Evansville's oldest and largest public park. The 8-acre "Upper Park," formally known as Leonard Park, was established in 1883. The "Lower Park," formally known as Leota Park, contains 51 acres, and was added in 1923. The bath house near the lake (now known as the Boy Scout house) was built in 1924. The remaining stone masonry buildings and structures, including the creek walls, were built during the Great Depression in the Rustic style as part of a series of work-relief programs. The combined park looks much like it did in 1940.

OVERVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL RESOURCES

The Evansville Standpipe, built in 1901 to provide water pressure for Evansville's then-new municipal water system, was constructed at Evansville's geographical high point. Once common, standpipes now are rarely found. The Evansville standpipe is believed to be the last extant Chicago Bridge & Iron Company standpipe in Wisconsin.

St. John's Lutheran Church, built in 1958, was designed by Wisconsin architect John Steinman in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright. Robert Torkelson designed the 1970 addition.

The Almeron Eager Funerary Monument and Plot is an excellent and unusually elaborate example of the turn-of-the-century monument maker's craft. Funerary monuments executed on this scale were very expensive to fabricate and they are very rarely found in even the largest cities in Wisconsin, let alone in smaller communities the size of Evansville.

The Eager Free Public Library was built in 1908, and was funded by a bequest from industrialist and philanthropist Almeron Eager. The library building was designed in the Prairie style by Madison architects Claude & Starck, who were known for their civic and religious projects. The Eager Free Public Library was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

DESCRIPTIONS OF SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

1) 39 West Main—1908

Prairie Style Eager Free Public Library



Madison-based Prairie style architects Louis Claude and Edward Starck designed several similar libraries

with a signature low pitched, wide-eaved red tile hip roof, symmetrical brick façade, and Sullivanesque foliated seasoned plaster frieze. The Evansville library was the first of eight libraries they built in Wisconsin. When he died in 1902, local

businessman Almeron Eager left \$10,000 to the city to build a new public library with the stipulation that the library be named after him and include a life-size statue. His likeness in bronze by Chicago sculptor Alice Cooper stands in a place of honor by the fireplace. The original colored leaded-glass windows, built-in bookshelves, and the librarian's office are still intact and in excellent condition. This is a very fine Prairie style public building that was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

2) 44 West Main—1881

High Victorian Italianate Campbell Residence



This ornately detailed home typifies the late 19th Century passion for complexity and opulence. The unusual three-story center gable and two-story curved glass bay are distinctive. Early owner Byron Campbell was a landowner and merchant, and wrote an early history of Evansville in 1915.

3) 103 West Main—circa 1858

Greek Revival Quivey Residence



The two-story, four-column pedimented portico is a hallmark of this true Greek Revival home. Classical detailing is evident in the street-facing gable end and simple rectilinear window and door trim. This is the finest Greek Revival home in Evansville and perhaps in the county. Dr. William Quivey came to Evansville with his parents in 1839; he later apprenticed with Dr. John M. Evans, Sr. and built this home. In the 1880s, a cooperative experiment in dining and laundry called the Evansville Cooperative Home was based here. Malcolm Allen opened a funeral parlor here in 1930, a business that continues today.

4) 104 West Main—1884

High Victorian Gothic Evans Residence



This is the second home on this site of Dr. John M. Evans, Sr. (1819–1903), the city's first physician, first postmaster, first mayor, and namesake of Evansville. The

unpainted brick, 2.5-story home with a steep center gable, Palladian-type window, and ornate white hoodmolds is unique in Evansville. It was the most elaborate home of its day. The interior of the home features fine woodwork, including hardwood cornices. Dr. John M. Evans, Jr. lived here until he died in 1918, and the property was acquired by the Evansville Masonic Lodge in 1920. In 1921, the Masons replaced a north wing with a two-story dining and lodging space. In 2019, a law firm began to carefully renovate the building, aided by a restoration and renovation design by Dan Stephans.

5) 111 West Main—1903

American Foursquare Baker Residence



This substantial cream brick two-story home was built by John T. Baker, the second member of the Baker family to serve as president of the Baker Manufacturing Company. Classical

Revival elements include a nearly cubic mass, glazed-tile hip roof with ornately capped dormer, symmetrical façade, and open porch with fluted Ionic columns. Note the evenly spaced decorative modillions under the eaves. This popular classical ornamentation is repeated under the porch eaves. The Baker Manufacturing Company, a builder of pumps and windmills in the early years, has been a foundation of the Evansville economy for over 140 years. Three generations of Bakers lived here from 1903 until the 1980s.

6) 114 West Main & 120 West Main—1893

Picturesque Evans and Porter Residences



These two fine homes were built at the same time by a master carpenter, William Libby. Sometimes called Late Picturesque, both of these grand homes display elements of several styles popular at the end of the 19th Century. The

asymmetrical massing, steep roofs, gable-end cladding, and cut-away bays are typical of the Queen Anne style. But aspects of Stick and Neo-Classical are seen in the window trim, porch pediment, and Palladian attic window. The clipped gable on the west side of 114 West Main is also known as a jerkin head. The home at 120 West Main has an unusual four-story, cross gabled mass and second story veranda over the entry.

Dr. John M. Evans, Jr. (114 West Main) grew up in his father's house and moved back there in later life. John P. Porter (120 West Main) was the secretary/treasurer of the highly successful Evansville Mercantile Association, known commonly as "The Grange Store."

7) 117 West Main—1896

Queen Anne Richardson Residence



This home was built for Thomas Richardson and his family at the height of the popularity of this grandiose architectural style. Thomas C. Richardson (1847–

1931) was born in Scotland and came with his parents to farm in the Evansville area. T.C. managed The Grange Store for many years, and both he and his wife Amy were active in community and civic affairs. This is the finest (though not the largest) Queen Anne style home in Evansville. Of special interest are the triple-arched second story veranda with small Doric columns and the white floral motif panels above the street-facing gable ends. Members of the Richardson family have owned the property for over 100 years.

8) 128 West Main—1863

Italianate Spencer Residence



This was the home of Henry Spencer (1813–1889), a pioneer settler who came to the area with five of his brothers

in 1844. Spencer was a very successful farmer who bought and sold land and encouraged settlement of the area. His principal businesses were lending and real estate. He also assisted investors who brought the first rail service to Evansville in 1863. The two-story cubic shape with low pitched hip roof, single brackets under the eaves, and tall first floor windows with plain lintels is typical of the early Italianate style. Note the plain column-like corner pilasters and side lights around the door. The side-gabled wing to the west may pre-date the main house and likely was also an office for Dr. E. W. Beebe, Henry Spencer's son-in-law.

9) 137 West Main—1886

Stick Pullen Residence



This home was built for George Pullen (1860–1938), who moved to Evansville as a child, attended the Evansville Seminary, and was a classmate of Robert M. La Follette,

Sr. He later partnered with his father and brother to found the Bank of Evansville in 1880; he also was one of Evansville's leading financiers and the first City Treasurer. The Pullen home is one of the best examples of the highly ornamented Stick style that features elaborate spindle work under the eaves and on the porches. The decorative gable-end truss work is a hallmark of the Stick style, often seen in variations on simpler vernacular homes from the later 19th and early 20th Centuries. The family name is found in the stained glass transom window above the front entry. George Pullen installed the first domestic running water system in Evansville in this home in 1894.

10) 138 West Main—circa 1865
Greek Revival Leonard Residence



This home was built by pioneer settler Levi Leonard (1815–1908) who came to “The Grove” in 1840. Leonard was a prosperous farmer and

landowner who sold an 8-acre parcel to the municipality that became Leonard Park. He was the community’s first school teacher and cultivated a life-long interest in education and local history. This is a rather plain, two-story painted brick home with typical Greek Revival elements including simple, unadorned entablature under the eaves and modestly detailed window lintels. The open porch roof extension is a 20th Century modification.

11) 143 West Main—1880
Italianate Wilder Residence



This home belonged to Charles H. Wilder, an early Evansville businessman who built the first cheese factory in town and operated a lumber yard. In the 1880s, the cheese factory

was converted to a tobacco warehouse to service the growing tobacco industry in the region. This home is an excellent example of the later Italianate style with double brackets and dentils under the eaves, ornamental hooded lintels and tall narrow windows. The double door entry with bracketed portico and repeated cornice detail is distinctive.

12) 228 West Main—1874
Italianate Eager Residence



This two-story gable ell wood frame home was built by prominent early businessman Almeron Eager (1838–1902). Eager was a partner in the Smith and Eager Dry

Goods and Grocery, was a founder of the Baker Manufacturing Company, and owned many of the prime commercial and industrial lots in town. He willed large sums of money to educational and religious organizations, including money for a new city library. Italianate details include unusual rope-beaded window hoods, bracketed cornices on the porch and bay, and tall, narrow windows.

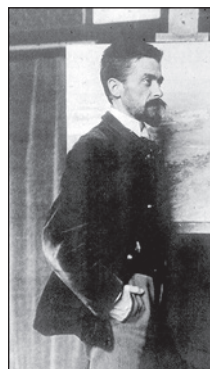
13) 250 West Main—circa 1855
Greek Revival Coleman Residence



Moses Vervalen was Evansville’s only brick mason in the 1850s and 1860s. He built this rectangular two-story home with local brick in the simple, utilitarian manner of the period. Greek Revival details include

cornice returns on facing gables and the porch pediment, plain entablature under the eaves, and flush stone lintels over the windows. The single-story addition with fireplace on the east side dates from the mid-20th Century. This home is also known locally as the Colman house after Rev. Henry Colman, who was the director of the Evansville Seminary from 1867–1876.

14) 340 West Main—circa 1856
Vernacular Robinson Residence



This modest two-story wood frame home shows some Greek Revival influence, especially the cornice returns. It was built by Elijah Robinson, a Methodist minister who came to Evansville from Vermont in 1856. His son Theodore (1852–1896) grew up in this house and attended the Evansville Seminary. An artist, Theodore later trained and worked in Chicago, New York City, and in France, where he became a friend of Claude Monet

and his family. Theodore became an internationally known impressionist painter whose work is exhibited today in major museums in the United States and France. Perhaps Evansville’s most famous resident, he died in New York City and is buried in Evansville’s Maple Hill Cemetery.

15) 347 West Main—circa 1890

Queen Anne Snashall Residence



This large 2.5-story home with numerous additions shows mostly Queen Anne elements, with a Classical Revival Palladian window, cornice returns, and pedimented porch. The highly decorative shingle-like cladding in the gable ends and along the upper story is typical of late Queen Anne style. Other distinctive details are the sunrise

motif in the street-side gable end, two-story curved double bay, and the classically ornamented open porch with railing. Local builder and hardware merchant Caleb Snashall constructed many of the fine Victorian buildings in Evansville.

16) 100 College Drive—1856–1884–1917

Evansville Seminary/Wyler School



The Methodist-Episcopal Church and later the Free Methodists operated this co-educational preparatory school that influenced the moral and cultural flavor of Evansville for over 50

years. Illustrious graduates of the classical curriculum offered here include Senator Robert “Fighting Bob” La Follette, Sr. and University of Wisconsin President Charles R. Van Hise. These two men were key advocates of Progressive Era reforms that transformed civic affairs in Wisconsin and across the U.S. at the turn of the 20th Century. The seminary later became the Wyler School, a “semi-military” boys’ preparatory school.

The oldest (1856) and most architecturally significant building is the three-story red brick main building with Italianate-influenced flattened hip roof, symmetrical façade, and paired brackets. The 8-over-16 windows with plain lintels and sills show some Greek Revival influence. The original four corner chimneys, central tower, and roof balustrade were removed nearly 100 years ago. The cream brick two-story building to the south (now attached) was built in 1884 and shows later

Italianate influence in the decorative window hoods and brick string course. The original bell tower has been removed, but the pedimented gables remain. The third building, a three-story dark red brick classroom/gymnasium shows some early modern influence and was built in 1917. The entire complex was converted to apartments by The Gorman Company in a very successful and appropriate “adaptive re-use.”

17) 262 West Church—1864

Italianate West/Andrews Residence



This home was begun in 1864 by Jacob West, an early settler who was instrumental in starting the first school, the first church, and the first mail route in Evansville. In 1868, the home was purchased by John Andrews, who

moved from Argyle with his wife, Sarah, and children so that his three sons and two daughters could attend the Evansville Seminary. Although the boys moved away from Evansville as adults, Eleanora and Marilla Andrews spent many years in the home and were civic leaders in Evansville. Eleanora served as postmistress, and rural free delivery was begun during her administration. Marilla succeeded her sister, but also found time to edit two newspapers, teach grade school, and serve on the first library board in Evansville. This home is an excellent representative of the early Italianate style with square massing, low pitched hip roof, scroll brackets and corner pilasters. Early 20th Century alterations, including a relocation of the front entry, were made in an architecturally appropriate manner.

18) 251 West Church—circa 1900

Dutch Colonial Revival House



The unusual cross-gambrel roof suggests that this house, built for an unknown initial owner between 1891 and 1914, may have been built from a pattern book popular in the first two decades of the 20th Century.

The square shape, narrow wood siding, and pedimented central porch entry are typical of the Colonial Revival style. The gambrel roofline adds the

Dutch influence. Described as “house, 8 rooms and a bath—all modern,” this home was offered for a “quick sale” for \$6,000 in 1924.

19) 227 West Church—1886

Stick Biglow Residence



Benjamin Hoxie, one of Evansville’s foremost carpenter/architects, built this fine late Victorian era home for English immigrant and widow Ellen Biglow. Ellen and her children resided here

until 1898 when Charles J. Pearsall, manager of the D. E. Wood Butter Company of Evansville, purchased the property. The Wood Butter Company owned several creameries in southwest Wisconsin and was a major employer in turn-of-the-century Evansville. It is said that Pearsall and his neighbors enjoyed racing their horses up and down Church Street. The former horse barn is to the rear of the home. The steep gable roofs, asymmetry, and elaborate scrollwork on the porch and balconies are typical of the Stick style. Note the single brackets and tall narrow windows often associated with the Italianate style and the multi-gabled hip roof common to the Queen Anne style.

20) 127 West Church—1868/1889

Italianate Finch/Gray Residence



For over 100 years, this rambling two-story dwelling has been home to three prominent Evansville families related by blood and or marriage. The Rowley, Gray, and

Waddell families all have connections to this home. The house was originally built by Joseph R. Finch in 1868–69. A “mother-in-law” addition was built on the west side of the house in 1889 by Alonzo C. Gray, a prominent banker and civic leader. This addition shows some Queen Anne influence in the chamfered, or cut-away, façade and steeper pedimented roof. The main section of the home shows the mid-19th Century Italianate

influence with low pitched hip roof, rounded window hoods, and ornate bracketed veranda. The hexagonal projecting bay on the east side is often seen on later Italianate homes and was likely added during an 1878 exterior remodeling.

21) 113 West Church—1884

Late Picturesque Sawtelle Residence



The highly accented exterior shows a mix of influences that were popular in the late 19th Century. The emphasis on vertical and horizontal detail, especially around the windows and entry in

this home, is often seen in the Stick style. The multi-gabled steep hip roof is typical of the Queen Anne style, and the window hoods and iron-crested balustrade on the main and entry roof are reflective of Italianate influence. This home was built by local designer/builder William Libby for Elnathan Sawtelle. It was subsequently sold to Dr. Fred Colony, who kept his 1903 Rambler in the carriage house behind the residence. Dr. Colony was an early advocate for oil surfacing the streets in town, a matter of great controversy in Evansville during the years before road pavement.

22) 101 West Church—1903

Romanesque Revival First Baptist Church



Evansville’s Baptist congregations had a strong influence in the city’s social and community affairs. By 1903, the First Baptist Congregation had outgrown a smaller wood frame structure, and the congregation voted to construct a larger building that could accommodate more than 500 worshippers.

The cornerstone was laid that year. Church member and pioneer hardware merchant Caleb Snashall was the architect and superintendent of construction. He died two months before the church was completed in April 1904. This red

brick Romanesque Revival church building features a three-story, hip-roofed tower that projects at a 45-degree angle from the mass of the building. The heavy brownstone foundation and entry with arched windows and doors are typical of the Romanesque Revival style. The church building, for a time, served as home to the Oak Grove Church.

23) 102 West Church—1857

High Victorian Gothic Congregational Church



The original brick church built on this site in 1857 was remodeled extensively in 1896 and 1902, resulting in the current white-painted brick-faced Gothic Revival appearance. Local builder and architect Benjamin Hoxie was in charge of the 1896 project. This building provides another anchor to the architectural integrity of Church Street. The decorative brick frieze and bracketed hip roof distinguish the three-story bell tower. The single, double and triple arched windows are typical of the High Victorian Gothic style seen in many 19th and 20th Century churches. The office and classroom addition on the west side was built in 1964.

24) 23 West Church—1854

Greek Revival Free Will Baptist Church



This building is the oldest and most historically significant church in Evansville. Early photographs show a classic “New England-style” church with front-facing pedimented gable, central bell tower with spire and columns flanking the entry. The Free Will Baptist congregation met here from 1854 until 1914, and was a leader in the temperance movement in Evansville. In 1899, a major remodeling altered the appearance of the church by removing the original steeple, adding a square bell tower and placing an addition with rounded windows facing the street to the north in the Romanesque Revival style. The original Greek Revival elements can be seen in the rear section of the building. They include the low pitched gable roof with broad frieze under the

eaves, vertical corner pilasters, and simple rectangular windows. Also note the wide horizontal siding in back and narrow siding in front. Since 1970, this building has been the home of the Grace Independent Baptist Church.

25) 20 South First—1884

Italianate St. John’s Episcopal Church Rectory



This well preserved two-story, wood-frame residence was built by William Morgan as the rectory for St. John’s Episcopal Church. This denomination was

never as strong as the other protestant groups in Evansville, and the rectory was rented out when there was no resident pastor. The church building, formerly located just to the north of the rectory, was purchased by the Lutherans in the 1930s, who retained the name, but tore the church down in the late 1950s when a new church was built on South Third Street. The Evansville Post Office was then located on the church site from 1959 to 2018. The rather simple and sparsely ornamented former rectory shows some late Italianate influence in the window lintels and bracketed eaves. The porch shown in an early photo has been removed.

26) 23 South First—1889

Queen Anne Shurrum and Lee Residence



This large 2.5-story home was built for two colorful Evansville citizens, Caleb Lee (1835–1912) and Mary “Belle” Shurrum. “Captain” Lee worked on riverboats and steamships as a young man and had a 15-year career in the U.S. Navy that included service throughout the Civil War (he received his commission as an engineering officer days before the attack on Ft. Sumter). He later owned a harness shop in town. Belle Shurrum (1849–1925) was born nearby in Cooksville and was a leader in women’s social and service clubs in Evansville. They married rather late in life and combined their resources to build a “showcase” home designed by popular

local architect Benjamin Hoxie. This is a fine example of the late 19th Century Queen Anne style with multiple gables, cladding, bay windows and wrap-around open porch.

27) 307 South First—1921

Prairie style Grade School/1939 Early Modern High School



The cream brick elementary school and high school were built to replace older buildings on this site that were considered overcrowded and obsolete. The grade school to the south was designed by

Claude & Starck in the Prairie style, and the high school to the north was designed by Law, Law & Potter in the Early Modern style. Both of these buildings have stylized geometric exterior ornamentation. The grade school has Sullivanesque elements, and the high school has some Art Deco ornamentation. The two school buildings have been joined and expanded as the J.C. McKenna Middle School. In 2020, Bray Architects teamed with the school district and community to complete a substantial addition that honored the historic integrity of the building. A grade school, intermediate school, and high school now occupy a campus on the southwest side of town that was once the Rock County fairgrounds, where the CCC encampments were.

28) 349 South First—1885

Picturesque Gillies Residence



This distinctive home, located in the South First Street Historic District, was designed by local architect/builder Benjamin Hoxie and shows a number of late 19th Century stylistic influences. The cross-gabled roof, pedimented open

wrap-around porch, and extensive cladding are typical of the Queen Anne style. The window trim and vertical corner trim lend a Stick-style look, and the three-story tower has a mansard roof seen in the Second Empire style. Note the garage with dormered mansard roof. Both the tower and garage are recent additions. Real estate investor James Gillies and his wife, Elpha,

had this house built for them by Hoxie, who was their neighbor. They sold the house in 1895, and moved to Colorado, hoping for an improvement in Elpha's health. After her 1897 death, James returned to Evansville.

29) 409 South First—1885

Queen Anne Hoxie Residence



This very intact, cruciform plan, two-story-tall house was designed and built by Benjamin Hoxie as his own home and it is an excellent example of Hoxie's early Queen Anne style designs.

The Hoxie house occupies a large corner lot and has principal elevations that face onto both South First Street and Highland Street. Its asymmetrical main façade faces east onto South First Street. A one-story veranda spans almost the full width of the main façade and wraps around the house's northeast corner. It has an almost flat roof that is supported by slender turned Tuscan Order wood columns.

30) 408 South First—1900

Dutch Colonial Revival Hoxie Investment House

Like most architects of his time, Benjamin Hoxie kept abreast of the changes that were occurring in architectural fashions and while he is most closely associated with buildings designed in the Queen Anne style, this house shows that he was ready to adapt to changes in fashion as necessity dictated. This 1.5-story-tall house, which Hoxie designed and built for himself as an investment property in 1900, just one year before his death, is in many ways still almost a Queen Anne style house that has been given a gambrel roof.

31) 443 South First—1910

Queen Anne Holmes Residence/Leota School for Girls



Vivas C. Holmes was a partner with T.C. Richardson and John Porter in the Evansville Mercantile Association, better known as The Grange Store. Holmes purchased a seven-acre site on the south edge of town

in 1904 and six years later built one of the most elaborate and spacious homes in Evansville. In 1934, the home was sold to William and Jenny Bone, who taught at the Evansville Seminary and later at the Wyler School for Boys. In 1934, they opened the Leota School for Girls and created dormitory and classroom space for as many as 50 students. In 1959, the Leota School closed and the home became a residence again. The house shows a striking complexity of architectural detail that typifies the late Queen Anne period. The southeast-facing octagonal tower and north/south gable recesses with Palladian windows are distinctive. The narrow clapboard façade is punctuated with a variety of multiple windows and bays. The full-width, pedimented Classical Revival porch with Ionic columns provides a grand street-side entry.

32) 19–27 West Main—1904
Neoclassical The Grange Store



As commodity prices dropped after the Civil War, farmers across the country felt the need to organize and pool their economic and political resources. The Grange, formally known as the Patrons of Husbandry, is a nationwide organization of farmers who joined together to buy and sell cooperatively for their mutual benefit. The Evansville Grange was organized in 1872, and opened a store on East Main Street in 1874. The Evansville Mercantile Association, the official name of The Grange Store, became the leading retail business in Evansville under the leadership of several shrewd and industrious managers. The “new” Grange Store opened in 1904 with 50,000 square feet of retail space, over 50 sales clerks, eight separate retail departments and a bank. In 1910, a local booster touted The Grange Store as the largest retail store under one roof in the state of Wisconsin outside of Milwaukee,

quite an accomplishment for a city with a turn-of-the-century population of less than 2000! The straightforward and largely unornamented Neoclassical style building is anchored by round bays at each end. The Neoclassical bays and central entry are decorated with cut stone cornices and entablature supported by fluted Ionic columns. The superintendent for the construction was popular local builder/architect William Meggott. The exterior remains mostly intact, and the interior space is currently used for retail sales, offices and apartments. The Grange Store is the most architecturally and historically significant commercial building in Evansville.

33) 26 West Main—circa 1920
Contemporary Hyne Automobile Showroom

Constructed between 1914 and 1928 as an auto showroom, this building is fondly remembered by most Evansville residents as the Rex Theater, established in 1932 as a movie theater.

34) 18 West Main—1871
Boomtown Style Van Hise Building

Although resided, this building retains much of its historical character.



35) 17 West Main—1903
Queen Anne Libby Brothers Building

A disastrous fire in 1896 destroyed all of the buildings from here east to the Madison Street corner, with the exception of the Winston & Sons Store on that corner. Nineteen businesses were lost. Thus all of the buildings from here to the corner date from 1897 or later. Handsomely restored, the Historic Libby Brothers Building now houses Palace Meets, a co-working space with a name that plays off an earlier business. In 2020, Dan Stephens did restoration and renovation design work on this project.

36) 16 West Main—circa 1870

Boomtown Style Campbell Building



A fire in 2005 prompted serious consideration for demolition of this building. New owners resolved to save the structure, built prior to 1871, and restored it in a historically-sensitive manner. A brick addition to the front of the structure was removed to reestablish the original street-front. The restoration won a historic preservation

award from the Evansville Grove Society in 2010. The building now houses Lovegood's Coffee & Cocktails.

37) 15 West Main—1897

Queen Anne Hoxie Commercial Building

Least intact, yet historically significant, is the building at 15 West Main. This was once the office of the Evansville Review newspaper, with a rental unit on the second floor. During June of 1900 the apartment was the home of Belle Boyd, the notorious former Confederate spy, who was then making a speaking tour of the Northern states. Ms. Boyd died unexpectedly while on tour out of town in Kilbourn (now Wisconsin Dells) and is buried there. Some historians have mistakenly written that Ms. Boyd died in Evansville.



38) 11–13 West Main—1897

Queen Anne Eager's Block

Architecturally the most significant of the “replacement” buildings on this block is Eager's Block. The upper level features two stamped metal bays and projection cornices that are mostly

intact. Note the name and date in the central gable on the parapet wall. This was the site of the original Economy Store, a department store operated in competition with The Grange Store. The business was so successful that it moved to a much larger building on East Main Street, constructed in 1904. (See photo for #37)

39) 7–9 West Main—1897

Commercial Vernacular Johnson-Campbell Commercial Building

Of the “replacement” buildings on this block, 7–9 West Main is the only one not built in the Queen Anne style. (See photo for #37)

40) 5 West Main—1897

Queen Anne Dr. Smith Building

Dr. Charles Smith was a pioneer physician in Evansville who, like Dr. John M. Evans, Sr., served as a surgeon in the 13th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. After the war the two practiced medicine together, and conducted various commercial enterprises. (See photo for #37)

41) 1 West Main—1856

Greek Revival Winston & Sons Store Building



The gable-roofed building at the southwest corner of West Main and Madison Streets is known locally as the Corner Store; it was in business for over a century as a typical general store first operated by the John Winston family. Egbert H. Winston, one of the sons who clerked for the

family business, became a surgeon in the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry during the Civil War, and was involved in the capture of ex-Confederate president Jefferson Davis. Built in 1856, shortly after the city was platted, this store survived a fire in 1896 that destroyed the adjacent buildings to the west. The original Greek Revival style is evident in the front facing triangular pediment with decorative dentil along the cornice. The rear portion of the building was added in 1899. Upstairs spaces were occupied

at various times by professional offices, by the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and by living spaces. The restoration of the Winston Store received a historic preservation award from the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation.

42) 1 East Main/8 South Madison—1866
Commercial Vernacular Dr. Evans Drug Store



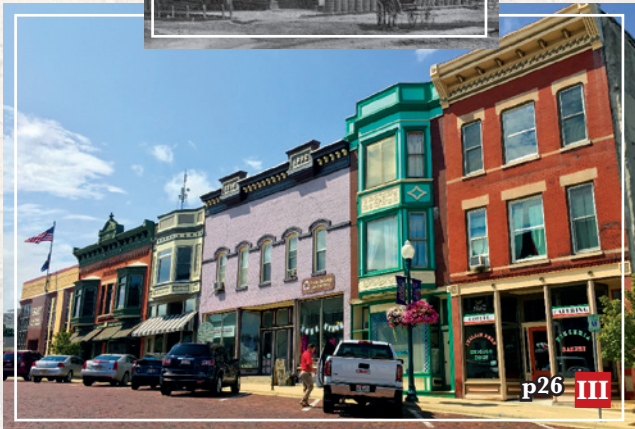
This two-story painted brick building extends deeply to the south along Madison Street. These early commercial structures are associated with notable Evansville pioneer Dr. John M. Evans, Sr., who operated a drug store here for

several decades in the late 1800s under the name “Pioneer Drug Store.” Medical offices were located on the second floor. The extension at 8 South Madison, built in 1883, originally was a hospital. It later housed Evansville’s first telephone exchange, installed by Dr. Evans. The brackets, simple projecting cornices and ornamented lintels are Italianate features incorporated by the unknown local builder. The building at 1 East Main was the subject of a recent historic restoration, and received a historic preservation award from the Evansville Grove Society in 2012.

43) 2–4 East Main—1952/1967
Contemporary Union Bank & Trust Company Building



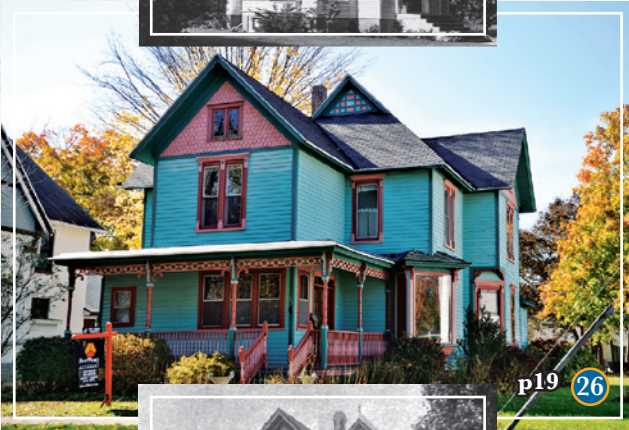
Designed by Minneapolis architects A. Moorman & Company, the flat-roofed granite and cream brick Union Bank and Trust Company at 2 East Main dates from 1952, and is of compatible



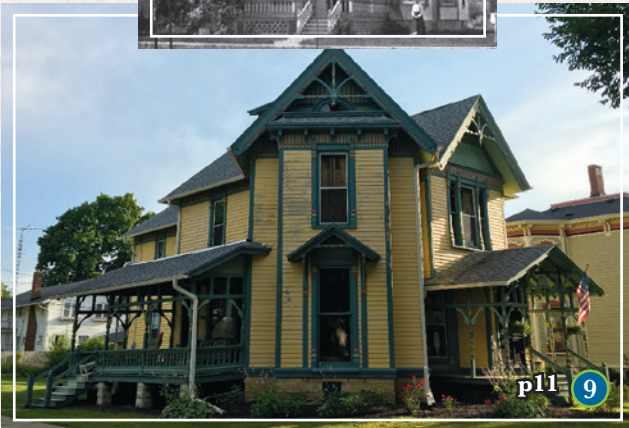




p17 21



p19 26



p11 9

scale and setback in the block. The ornamentation on the brick frieze and symmetrical inset windows indicate some holdover influence of the Art Deco style. A 1967 addition to the east used the same design and materials, and doubled the bank's street frontage. The tower on the corner is gone, and the bank is now known as Lake Ridge Bank.

44) 6-8 East Main—1897

Queen Anne Snashall & Mygatt Block



The date plates along the parapet on this block of buildings indicate a strong local economy in the 1890s. The S&M (for Snashall & Mygatt) Block, once a hardware store, was the subject of a recent historic restoration by the Union Bank & Trust Company, which has put the interior to an adaptive reuse as an expansion of its banking facilities. The restoration received a Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation award.

45) 5-9 East Main—1904

Neoclassical Eager Economy Store



This two-story cream brick commercial block is divided into five bays separated by single-story pilasters. The façade is defined by similar corner pilasters and simple horizontal brick cornice. Note the nameplate in

the center of the parapet wall. The Eager Economy Store is another commercial building designed by Evansville architect William Meggott in the Neoclassical style, and built at the same time, and by the same builder, as The Grange Store. The building was seriously damaged by fire on two occasions, and was the subject of an extensive historical restoration after the second of the fires under the direction of Madison

architect Melissa Destree. The restored building received a historic preservation award from the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation, and now contains historical displays in the common areas of the lower and main floors, including two preserved and restored Baker Manufacturing Company “Monitor” Brand wooden windmills.

46) 10 East Main—circa 1870

Queen Anne West/Biglow Building



This building was constructed prior to 1871 for Evansville pioneer Jacob West, who conducted brick-making and construction businesses in early years, and later became an insurance agent. The building was remodeled between 1894 and 1898 for Walter Biglow.

47) 11 East Main—1877

Commercial Vernacular Campbell Building

Evansville pioneer and early historian Byron Campbell had this building constructed. The Evansville post office once occupied the first floor, and the Masonic Temple the second. Masonic symbols on the front façade were removed, as can be seen by examination.

48) 12–14 East Main—1892

Commercial Vernacular Shively Building

This well-preserved structure retains its 19th Century storefronts and ornamented brick façade.

49) 15 East Main—circa 1870

Greek Revival Retail Building



Historical research by Madison architect Melissa Destree resulted in the historic restoration of what was once an eyesore. Both the storefront and original Greek Revival façade were returned to their original appearance. The project won a historic preservation award from the Evansville Grove Society in 2011.

50) 16 East Main—1895

Queen Anne The Copper Front Building

This well-preserved three-story building retains its historical storefront and decorative bay window façade panels.



51) 17 East Main—circa 1885

Commercial Vernacular Retail Building

Madison architect Melissa Destree researched, planned and supervised the historic restoration of this building, which won a preservation award from the Evansville Grove Society in 2011.



52) 18 East Main—1893

Commercial Vernacular Calkins Store Building

The Evansville Post Office was located on the main floor of this building for many years. The original floorboards, still extant in the space, bear the wear marks of many customers’ trips to the post office counter in the days before home delivery of the mail.

53) Main Street Bricks



Although not listed as a contributing factor to the Historic District designation, the brick pavement on Main Street originally was installed in 1914 and paved over with asphalt in 1962. When the street required complete rebuilding in 2006, the original bricks were discovered to be in excellent condition. A grant and local fund-raising enabled the bricks to be removed, cleaned and reinstalled. An interesting side benefit of the brick street is that it seems to cause traffic to travel a bit more slowly through the downtown area.

54) 24 East Main—1885

Commercial Vernacular Magee Rental Building



This well-preserved and maintained building was constructed for George Magee as a rental building for retail space. It most recently housed a food catering business. The vacant lot just to the west was the site of the Magee Opera House.

55) 101–107 East Main—1893

Commercial Vernacular Baker Block



Originally built and used as a large hardware store, this building has undergone a historic restoration by The Gorman Company and adaptive reuse as an apartment building.

56) 116 East Main—1914

Craftsman Antes Building



The Evansville Review newspaper was published and printed in this building for many years. The substantial printing presses were used for many other publications and projects as well. A 1928 addition to the north side of the building was made in the same style as the original.

57) 137 East Main—circa 1900

Boomtown Style Retail Building



Built between 1899 and 1907, this structure now houses a coffee shop. A State Historical Marker on the nearby bridge notes its dedication as the “CCC Veterans Memorial Bridge.” From late July to November 1933 Company

V-1680 of the Civilian Conservation Corps performed soil erosion work in the Evansville area, including the rip rapping of the creek walls in the immediate vicinity. Members of that CCC company were all WWI veterans who camped at the former county fairgrounds site in Evansville.

58) 179 East Main—1912

Craftsman Chicago & North Western Railway Depot



Rail service between Evansville and Chicago (via Beloit and Elgin) was established in 1863 by the Galena & Chicago Union Rail Road. The line was completed to Madison

in 1864, and acquired by the C&NW in the same year. The original wooden depot, constructed to the south of the present structure, was destroyed by fire in 1880. It was immediately replaced by a second wooden structure in the same location. Local agitation for a more substantial depot prompted construction of the existing Craftsman style brick building in 1912. The wooden depot then was converted to a freight house, which has since been demolished. The depot now serves the local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Rail service continues to be supplied by the Union Pacific Railroad.

59) 34 North Madison—1874

Second Empire Beebe Residence

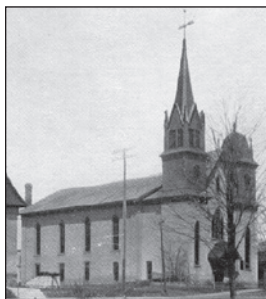


This two-story compact clapboard-sided home was built for Dr. E. W. Beebe by local master carpenter Benjamin Hoxie. The decorative brackets on the dormer roofs, cornice, bay

window, and porch, along with the tall narrow windows with ornate lintels, are reminiscent of the Italianate style. However, the distinguishing feature of this residence is the steep-sided mansard roof with single and double window dormers. This home provides a transition from the historic residential district to the commercial area. It is the best example of a Second Empire residence in Evansville.

60) 21 South Madison—1867

High Victorian Gothic Methodist-Episcopal Church



Early sketches of this church in the 1860s show a central tower with a steeple not unlike that of the Free Will Baptist Church before it was remodeled. The 1890 alterations to the Methodist-Episcopal Church resulted in two ornate steepled towers of different heights. (The tower to the north was once topped

with an onion dome.) The towers combined with the cream brick walls and pointed arch windows give the church its Gothic appearance. The initials “WCTU,” for Women’s Christian Temperance Union, appear in the stained glass window above the front entrance. The Temperance Movement was

very successful in Evansville: the sale of intoxicants was never legalized here until after the end of national Prohibition. This church is now the United Methodist Church. The church and next-door City Hall are pivotal heritage buildings that provide a highly visible transition to the historic commercial district.

61) 31 South Madison—1892

Richardsonian Romanesque City Hall



Original plans for this municipal building were drawn by Madison architects Conover and Porter. Initially the building contained police and fire facilities, including a jail and combination hose-drying/bell tower, as well as general city offices. The cream brick façade is mostly intact, although some

windows have been removed or altered. Queen Anne details are included, but are dominated by the heavy stone foundation and arched doorways of the Richardson Romanesque style. The date block above the entry confirms the vintage. (The “City Hall” designation was anticipatory. Evansville was still legally classified as a village until 1896.) An addition to the north in 2000 now houses the elevator shaft required to make the building ADA-accessible. The cannon on the front lawn was cast in 1863 by the West Point Foundry and donated by the Navy Department to the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1900; it was removed to Leota Park in 1938 where it suffered severe damage at a later date. Restored by Baker Manufacturing and the Evansville Grove Society in 2013, the piece has been returned to its original Evansville location, where it serves as the City’s principal Civil War Memorial.

62) 3 West Liberty—1882

Picturesque Weber Residence



Master carpenter William Libby was the contractor on this home, which features a variety of stylistic influences. This side-gabled, two-story wood frame home has a central cross gable. It displays Italianate-influenced window hoods and a Stick style decorated open porch.

63) 39 West Liberty—1883

Italianate Baker Residence



Allen S. Baker (1842–1916) was one of Evansville’s foremost industrialists and inventors. His family settled in the Evansville area in 1840. During the Civil War, Baker served in the Second Wisconsin Volunteer

Infantry Regiment, part of the famous Iron Brigade, and was wounded in action at the Battle of Gettysburg. Baker returned to Evansville and in 1872, along with several other investors, started the A. S. Baker Company. The company, which evolved into the Baker Manufacturing Company, began manufacturing engines and other mechanical devices and later specialized in windmills, pumps, and electric motors. The company played a major role in the steady, slow industrial growth of Evansville in the late 19th Century. A.S. Baker was an outspoken proponent of “progressive” technical innovations, including electric street lights, a municipal water system, and telephone service.

The two-story late-Italianate style home is the second Baker residence on this site. Italianate details include a low pitched hip roof with square mass, single brackets, and projecting lintels. The two-story pedimented bays with decorative detailing add a grandiose touch. The heavy stone column supports are unusual in the Italianate style.

64) 107 West Liberty—1891

Stick Ballard Residence



This two-story home with cross gable roof has a narrow presentation to the street and extends deeply to the back of the lot. The tall windows

with projecting trim, horizontal decorative band on the second story, and ornate scrollwork on the gable ends and porch entry are distinctly Stick style. Local jeweler and optometrist Ernest Ballard built this home. Ballard operated his business on Main Street for many years.

65) 213 West Liberty—1877

Italianate Snashall/Richardson Residence



Many of the houses on West Liberty Street were constructed for or purchased by Civil War veterans. An interesting example is this house, originally built for Alva

and Eva Snashall. It was subsequently purchased and expanded by Anthony Richardson, a veteran of the 42nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the war. Mr. Richardson was an African-American, born in slavery in Kentucky. He escaped before the Civil War began, and made his way to Wisconsin as a young man before enlisting in the Union cause.

66) 116 South Second—1912

Catalogue Wright Residence



This home is a Sears Catalogue or “mail-order” home built in 1912, by Albert S. Wright. Dramatic changes in building technology and transportation made these modest, affordable homes very popular in the first three decades of the 20th Century. Prospective home owners

could select the size and style of their choice and have the entire home—lumber, furnace, paint and all—delivered by rail to the nearest depot. The plans that accompanied the materials were so detailed that anyone with minimal carpentry skill could build his own home. Sears, Roebuck and Company was the leader in mail-order homes with sales of over 100,000 homes from 1908 to the early 1940s. This particular model was called the “Lucerne” and cost Mr. Wright \$600.

67) 213 South Second—circa 1910

Prairie Schoolhouse



This home shows the unmistakable Prairie School influence, which became widely popular in the Midwest in the first two decades of the 20th Century. The low pitched hip roof with broad overhanging eaves, horizontal

window arrangement, and contrasting colors are typical of this style. Although this house lies outside the historic districts, it is considered eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places as Evansville’s finest example of Prairie School residences.

68) 312 South Third—1958/1970

Wrightian St. John’s Lutheran Church



Designed by noted Wisconsin architect John Steinman, St. John’s Lutheran Church was constructed in 1958 in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright’s

“Usonian design” houses. The exterior is clad in Roman brick, and the nearly-flat roof features monitor structures with clerestory windows that admit additional natural light to the interior. The main building consists of a sanctuary, library, offices, kitchen and restrooms, as well as a large narthex, or entry hall. The interior walls are also clad in Roman brick. A 1970 addition on the south side, designed by Madison architect Robert Torkelson, has the same design features and exterior construction materials as the main building. The addition contains a fellowship hall, chapel, classrooms and office space. The church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance as an excellent example of Wrightian style religious buildings.

69) 42 Montgomery—circa 1850s

Greek Revival/Italianate Robinson Residence



The separate sections of this home represent the two main architectural styles of mid-19th Century Evansville. The earlier east wing shows Greek Revival influence in the

gable roof, eyebrow windows under the eaves, and the plain, symmetrical window placement. The low pitched bracketed hip roof and square mass of the west wing are typical of the

Italianate style. The plain, horizontal window lintels in both wings show a transition from Greek Revival to Italianate. The vermillion brick seen in this home and others in Evansville likely came from a local brickyard operated by Jacob West. The entry porch with Neoclassical pediment and columns is an early 20th Century alteration that complements the Greek Revival facade. This house—or at least a portion of it—was built for pioneer Thomas Robinson, who owned the property from 1853 to 1857.

70) 33 North First—1894

Queen Anne Antes Residence



Newspaperman and publisher Robert M. Antes built this large 2.5-story home on a lot in a new addition that had just been platted by Dr. John Evans. Antes was a printer by trade and came to Evansville in 1882 to purchase

the Evansville Review. He later bought out several competing newspapers and developed one of the largest publishing houses in the region. He built a two-story brick commercial building at 116 East Main in 1914 for his printing and publishing business. This late Queen Anne style home has a hip roof with gabled dormer and bays, and decorative cladding typical of this style.

71) 39 North First—circa 1900

Queen Anne Meyers Residence



This 2.5-story residence has elements of Queen Anne and Neoclassical styles. The symmetrical mass and pedimented gables with central three-panel windows are Classical Revival. The open wrap-around porch with decorative pediment, two-

story projecting bays, and decorative center windows are often seen in late Queen Anne homes. Lumberyard owner Herbert Meyers built this home, which features a variety of hardwood floors and trim. This home was a funeral parlor for many years, but is currently a single-family residence.

72) 51 North First—1902

Queen Anne Dixon Residence

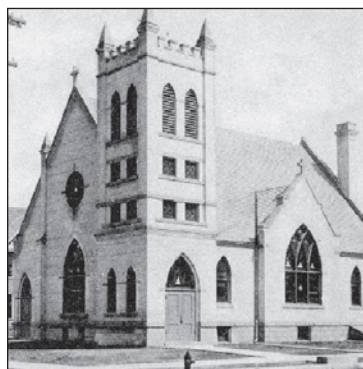


Local architect and carpenter William Meggott built this 2.5-story home for Albert Dixon, an employee of the D.E. Wood Butter Company. This is another fine home on North First Street

that shows a blend of popular turn-of-the-century styles. Of particular interest are the three-panel bay window in the east gable, Palladian window in the south gable, and garland ornamentation on the front porch. The narrow wood siding and leaded glass windows are original. The iron grillwork porch columns probably are not. A large open room on the third floor was designed for entertaining guests.

73) 43 West Garfield—1906

Romanesque/Gothic Revival St. Paul Catholic Church



A local tale claims that architect William Meggott's first design for this church was rejected by the conservative Roman Catholic archbishop. The white-painted brick church shows a more traditional blend of Romanesque and Gothic

Revival elements. The hip-roofed Norman-style tower is a later addition. The main section, with steep gable roof, cross gable, and pointed arch stained glass windows, is more Gothic Revival. Appropriately, the first wedding in the church was the marriage of the architect William Meggott to Ella Cassady in April of 1907. This church building provides a highly visible landmark for the North First Street historic block.

74) 120 West Garfield—1895

Queen Anne Cummings Residence



This imposing three-story home is a well-preserved example of the late Queen Anne style. The steep intersecting gables, cladding in the gable ends, and second-story porch with arched opening are hallmarks

of this style. The cut-away two-story bay and decorative bracket are also typical of the late Queen Anne. The open wrap-around porch shows a Classical Revival influence. Note the ornate metal ridge cap and decorative finial. The lot here was purchased from Dr. and Mrs. John Evans in 1895 for \$400. The house was built the same year for Charles E. Cummings, a partner in the firm of Cummings & Clark, which operated a dry goods business in the “corner store” at Main and Madison Streets for many years.

75) 112 Grove—1925

Tudor Revival Smith Residence



The two-story-tall ell-plan Harley A. Smith house was designed by prominent Madison, Wisconsin, architect Grover H. Lippert, and while it is not a particularly large house it is an excellent, beautifully

detailed example of the Tudor Revival style. The house has a poured concrete foundation, its exterior walls are clad in brick that is laid with so-called “weeping” mortar, and these walls are sheltered by the house’s steeply pitched multi-gable roof, which is clad in asphalt shingles. Typical Tudor Revival style details include a massive chimney stack whose upper portion has battered sides, and grouped wood sash casement windows, but a close examination of the house will also reveal numerous small details that are excellent examples of the mason’s craft, such as the house’s brick window surrounds.

76) 116 Grove—1910

Craftsman Spencer Residence



After the death of Benjamin Hoxie in 1901, William Meggott (1867–1912) became the builder and architect most in demand in the city. He was the superintendent for the construction

of the new Grange Store and was the foreman for the construction of the Eager Library (1908), designed by Louis Claude and Edward Starck, two well-known Prairie style architects from Madison. No doubt, his association with these two men influenced Meggott’s ideas concerning design and style. This home shows elements of the Arts and Crafts movement that were interpreted in Prairie style architecture. The strongly contrasting light stucco and dark brown shingle siding, overhanging eaves and unusual pergola-like porch are distinctive Craftsman details. The porch has exaggerated rafter extensions with cross beam and battered brick entries often seen on California Bungalows. Louis N. Spencer (1850–1925) was a member of the second generation of the large Spencer family, the six original brothers of whom were among Evansville’s founding families. Spencer was born in Evansville in 1850, and he farmed just south of Evansville until 1910, when he retired and moved with his wife to their new house on Grove Street.

77) 133 Grove—1912

Bungalow Hansen Residence



The one-and-one-half-story-tall house is the earlier of the two Bungalow style houses to be built in the Grove Street District. The Hansen house has an almost

square plan, its foundation walls are made out of rock-faced concrete block, and its exterior walls are clad in clapboard, and are sheltered by a low pitched cross-gable roof having wide overhanging eaves. Window groups are centered in the gable ends on each elevation of the house. These and all the other

windows in the house are original and feature vertical glazing bars, which are a Craftsman style characteristic. Fred W. Hansen was the leading tailor in Evansville for 40 years, until his death in 1943.

78) 134 Grove—1922

Colonial Revival Pullen Residence



The Pullen house occupies a large corner lot, and is one of the two finest examples of Colonial Revival architecture in Evansville. (The other is the Cleland Baker Residence at 227 Garfield Avenue, built in 1940.) The Pullen house consists of a clapboard-clad two-story-tall rectilinear plan main block. Flat-arched window openings, containing paired nine-over-one light double-hung wood sash windows, flank the centered main entrance, which is sheltered by a deep, classically-derived front entrance porch that features a pediment which is also supported by Tuscan Order columns. Paul R. Pullen was a member of a prominent Evansville family long associated with banking.

79) 284 North Fifth—1901

Utility Structure City of Evansville Standpipe



The City of Evansville's still highly intact historic standpipe was constructed in 1901 as an integral part of the new city-wide water and electrical supply system that was built in that year by the Chicago firm of John H. Brown & Associates. Prior to 1901, both homeowners and businesses in the city received water from their own individual wells. Strategically placed cisterns served as water sources for firefighting. After a major fire in 1896 destroyed nineteen downtown businesses, public agitation resulted in the City's decision to establish a local electrical and water supply system. This successful system was the ancestor of the Evansville Water & Light Utility. The standpipe no longer serves the water system, but does function as a communication relay tower. The Evansville standpipe is believed to be the last Chicago Bridge & Iron Company standpipe remaining in Wisconsin.

80) Leonard-Leota Park Historic District—1883 to 1940

Designed Landscape with Rustic Style Structures



Leonard-Leota Park Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012 as a designed landscape. The park actually consists of two distinct portions, which became park land at different dates.

Leonard Park, also known as the Upper Park, was sold to the Village of Evansville in 1883 by pioneer settler Levi Leonard. This eight-acre parcel is circled by Leonard Park Drive and overlooks Lake Leota. Leonard Park contains a stone masonry bathroom structure built in 1912 and a shelter built of materials provided by local manufacturer Varco-Pruden in 1959. A rustic stone masonry fireplace was constructed during the period 1937–1940 as part of the improvements made to the combined parks during the Great Depression.

Leota Park, also known as the Lower Park, occupies approximately 51 acres. It was purchased by the City of Evansville in 1923. A dam was first constructed in the location of the present dam in 1847 to provide water power for a mill located in what is now downtown Evansville. Evidence of the mill race may still be seen just to the south of the Henneberry Shelter (121 Antes Drive). When the first dam was removed, the land behind it reverted to a meandering stream and wetland.

A new dam was constructed in 1923, and a bath house (321 Burr W. Jones Circle) (now the Boy Scout house) was built between 1924 and 1925. Most of the improvements in Leota Park took place during the Great Depression in a series of work-relief projects undertaken between 1933 and 1940. These include the warming house-bandstand building (259 Leonard Park Drive), the Park Store (340 Burr W. Jones Circle), the stepped falls below the dam, the stone creek and lagoon walls, the Henneberry Shelter (121 Antes Drive), the bell tower containing Evansville's first school bell (120 Antes Drive), the tennis courts and shuffleboard courts, the duck houses, fireplaces, and masonry picnic tables and chairs. The rustic

stone masonry of these improvements is typical of construction projects undertaken during the Depression in many national and state parks.

The flag pole near the bath house was donated by the Woman's Relief Corps, an auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic, as a Civil War memorial in 1938. The flag pole was reconditioned and rededicated on its 75th anniversary in 2013, with the national president of the Woman's Relief Corps having the honor of raising the colors.

With the exception of the Veterans Memorial Pool and Aquatic Center (built in 1958) and nearby park maintenance buildings, Leota Park appears as it did in 1940.

81) 15 Antes Drive—1897/1938

Grove Society Local History Museum Campus



The one-story Commercial Vernacular building at 15 Antes Drive is now the museum and headquarters of the Evansville Grove Society, and also the office of Evansville Community

Partnership. It was constructed on East Church Street in 1897 as the headquarters of the Baker Manufacturing Company. A new headquarters building was constructed by the company in 1940, and this building became a regional sales office. It was later sold to a local cooperative, which used it as a tire warehouse. The building has also served as a single-family residence and as a church. The office to the right-hand side of the front doors was that of company president and founder, Allen S. Baker.

In 1990, the Grove Society purchased the building with the stipulation that it be moved from its original site. On a memorable day in 2001, the building was moved here from the original location—by truck. The building was restored—mostly by painstaking volunteer labor—and placed back in service in 2010. It won a 2011 historic preservation award from the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation.

The white frame building at the west end of the museum grounds is the last surviving tourist cabin in Leota Park. It was

purchased by the City in 1938, and installed with several similar cabins to the north side of the Lower Ball Diamond. The original site was poorly drained, and the cabin was moved here in 2012 to permit the Grove Society to restore it and display it to visitors.

On the east side of the museum building is an original “Monitor” brand Baker windmill, donated to the Grove Society by Baker Manufacturing Company in 2010. It is an example of the mills sold by Baker from the 1920s through the late 1940s, and put in service throughout the world. Examples of earlier, wooden Baker mills may be found on display in the Eager Economy Store at 7 East Main Street in downtown Evansville. The Grove Society has an extensive collection of Monitor pumps and historic photos on display there as well.

82) 200 Cemetery Road—1904

Almeron Eager Funerary Monument and Plot



The Almeron Eager Funerary Monument and Plot is located in the Maple Hill Cemetery, and it contains by far the largest and the most artistically ambitious funeral monument in this historic cemetery. The plot was intended to be the final resting place for Almeron Eager, his family, and future generations of his family. The principal resources within it were erected in 1904, two years

after Almeron Eager's death. Almeron Eager (1838–1902) came to Evansville in 1868 and subsequently became an important figure in the business life of 19th Century Evansville. In the process, Eager amassed a considerable fortune for that time and in his last years he developed a well-deserved reputation as a generous philanthropist.

The monument itself measures some 20-feet-tall and it is made entirely of dressed and sculpted granite. This monument rests on a tall three-stepped base that supports a square plan pier, on the top of which is placed the life-size statue of a woman, one of whose hands rests on a several-foot-tall anchor. The woman and anchor together are a traditional symbol of hope. The monument is further decorated with various Christian and secular symbols, and the name “A. Eager” is incised into the south face of the base.

SUGGESTED WALKING TOUR ROUTES

We have suggested the following walking tour routes, which contain directions, references to the detailed descriptions of significant resources found along the route (by number), and some further historical context. All of the suggested tours begin and end at the Eager Free Public Library at 39 West Main Street. From the standpoint of architecture, the intersection of West Main and First Streets is one of the most noteworthy in Wisconsin. Excellent examples of four different architectural styles are found on the four corners of the intersection: the Prairie style library, the Greek Revival style Quivey Residence, the High Gothic Victorian style Evans Residence, and the High Victorian Italianate style Campbell Residence.

Tour A—West Main and Church Streets

With the arrival of the railroad in 1863 and the end of the Civil War in 1865, Evansville's economy and civic life changed. Wealth was created by the large-scale "export" of agricultural products and manufactured goods, and by the "import" of consumer goods and building materials. The grand Victorian homes on West Main and West Church Streets were built for the owners and managers of the department stores, manufacturing firms, and lumber yards that flourished after the war, for their bankers, and for people who retired from successful agricultural operations. Antebellum homes of pioneer families are also found here. Along the way you will see the boyhood home of American Impressionist painter Theodore Robinson, the Evansville Seminary (which produced Robert M. LaFollette, Sr. and Charles Van Hise among other well-known graduates), and historic and architecturally significant churches.

Start at the library, and proceed west to Fourth Street by way of West Main Street. Along this route you will encounter the following resources: Numbers 1 through 15.

At Fourth Street turn south to view the Evansville Seminary, Resource Number 16. At the south end of the Seminary campus, follow College Drive around to the foot of Church Street.

Proceed east on West Church Street to the intersection with South First Street. On this tour segment you will see the following resources: Numbers 17 through 23. To view the Free

Will Baptist Church, resource Number 24, walk one-half block to the east on Church Street, and return to the South First Street intersection.

At South First Street turn north to return to the library. On this one-block segment you will see resources Numbers 25 and 26.

Tour B—Downtown Evansville

Downtown Evansville is regarded as one of the most intact historic commercial streetscapes in Wisconsin. In addition to small structures with retail or office space on the ground floor and residential space above, the Downtown boasts two large (former) department stores. Both The Grange Store and the Eager Economy Store have recently been restored to their historic appearances, and the Eager Economy Store contains two historic Baker Manufacturing Company windmills, as well as displays of historic photos and artifacts on the lower level.

The brick pavement on Main Street originally was installed in 1914. To make the street look more "up to date" the bricks were paved over with asphalt in 1962. When the street required complete rebuilding in 2006, an investigation found the original bricks were in excellent condition. The City submitted a successful grant application to the Federal Highway Administration, and also conducted a private fund-raising drive, so that the bricks could be removed, cleaned, and reinstalled over a new concrete base, without cost to local taxpayers. The cleaning of the bricks was done by UW-Madison football players during their summer break, and reinstallation was done by professional bricklayers.

Start this tour at the library and proceed east on West Main and East Main Streets to the crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad. Cross to the opposite side of East Main Street, and return to the intersection with Madison Street. Along the way you will see the following resources: Numbers 1 and 32 through 58.

At Madison Street turn north on North Madison Street to the intersection with Garfield Avenue, and walk west on Garfield Avenue to the intersection with North First Street. Along this segment you will view the following resources: Numbers 59 and 73.

Turn south on North First Street to return to the library. On this segment you will encounter resource Numbers 72, 71, 70, 69, 2, 3 and 4.

Tour C—Leonard-Leota Park and Grove Street

The public land survey of what is now Evansville was conducted in November 1833. In surveying terms, this tour takes place entirely within the Northwest Quarter of Section 27 of the Town of Union. The original purchaser of this Quarter Section was Solomon Juneau, a French-Canadian fur trader who became the first mayor of Milwaukee. Juneau was also a land speculator who purchased property far from his base of operations in eastern Wisconsin. When the land on the north side of West Main Street was subdivided, the lots were very deep, running all the way to what is now Leonard-Leota Park. The original settlers, including the Evans, Spencer, and Leonard families, conducted farms on the lots they bought. Later, these lots were further subdivided to create park land and residential lots on North First and North Second Streets, on Garfield Avenue, and on Grove Street. The variety of architectural styles seen here, ranging from Antebellum to early 20th Century, gives evidence of the dates on which the land was developed.

Begin at the library, and walk west on West Main Street to the Second Street intersection. Turn north and proceed on North Second Street to the park entrance. On this segment you will find the following resources: Numbers 1 through 11 and 80.

Walk north through the Upper Park, and down to Antes Drive in the Lower Park. Turn east on Antes Drive, and proceed to the museum grounds at the intersection with North Madison Street. Return a short distance on Antes Drive and, rather than reentering the park, turn south to Grove Street. On this portion of the tour you will encounter resource Numbers 80 and 81.

Walk west on Grove Street to the intersection with North Second Street near the park entrance. On Grove Street you will see the following resources: Numbers 75 through 78.

Proceed south one block on North Second Street, then one block east on Garfield Avenue, to the intersection with North First Street. Return to the library via North First Street. On this segment you will find the following resources: Numbers 74, 73, 72, 71, 70 and 69.

Tour D—Civic Resources and the Works of Master Builders

The first settlers arrived in Evansville in 1839, but streets and lots were not platted until 1855, when word was first received that a railroad from Beloit to Madison was expected to run through Evansville. The earliest development took place in the vicinity of the Main Street/Madison Street intersection. Early development also occurred along South Madison Street and on the first block of West Church Street. Evansville's first schoolhouse, a log cabin, was built at the corner of South Madison and West Church Streets (now the site of City Hall). The oldest church building in Evansville, the Free Will Baptist Church, was built before the Civil War. In the post-war period, master builders, including Benjamin Hoxie, designed and supervised the construction of civic buildings, churches, and fine Victorian homes. Most of this work was completed by 1900, although the extant school buildings and St. John's Lutheran Church were not completed until the early-to mid-20th Century.

Start at the library and walk one block east on West Main Street to the intersection with Madison Street. Turn south on South Madison Street, and proceed to the intersection with Liberty Street. Along this segment you will see the following resources: Numbers 1, 32 through 42, 60 and 61.

Walk west on Liberty Street to the intersection with South First Street. Turn south on South First Street, and proceed to the end of the South First Street Residential Historic District at 443 South First Street. Along this segment you will view the following resources: Numbers 62, 63 and 27 through 31.

Return north along South First Street to the intersection with Highland Street. Walk one block west on Highland to the intersection with South Second Street. Turn north on South Second Street to the Lincoln Street intersection. Walk west on Lincoln to the intersection with South Third Street, where you will view St. John's Lutheran Church, resource Number 68.

Walk one block north on South Third Street, and turn east on Liberty Street. About two-thirds down the block is an Italianate residence, resource Number 65. Continue to the intersection with South Second Street. Turn south on South Second Street and walk one-half block to view the Prairie

style home (resource Number 67). Then turn around and walk north on South Second Street not quite two blocks to view the Sears Catalog home (resource Number 66). Backtrack to the intersection with Liberty Street. Turn east on Liberty Street and walk to the intersection with South First Street. On this segment you will view a Stick style residence, resource Number 64.

At South First Street turn north and proceed north two blocks to the library. On this segment you will encounter the following resources: Numbers 22, 23, 26 and 25.

DEFINITIONS OF EVANSVILLE ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

EARLY SETTLEMENT THROUGH CIVIL WAR

GREEK REVIVAL

Inspired by the look of a classic Greek temple. Often features a projecting porch with triangular pediment supported by columns. Symmetrical, formal and rather unadorned presentation. Ornamentation typically includes projecting cornices with dentils, plain entablature, and rectangular window lintels, with transom window, and sidelights around main doorway. Simple examples of this style substitute pilaster for columns on corners or doorways. The earliest buildings in Evansville show Greek Revival influence.

POST CIVIL WAR – VICTORIAN ERA

ITALIANATE

Most often two-story, square-shaped with low pitched hip or gable roof. Typically with single or paired brackets under wide eaves. Tall narrow windows with elaborate window hoods, bay windows, and classically ornamented porches and balconies are common. The influence of this style is very evident in many Evansville homes. Italianate details are often seen mixed with other styles, especially Greek Revival.

GOTHIC REVIVAL

Steeply pitched gable roof, often with decorative central gable. Pointed arch windows, decorative bargeboard gable ends, and

decorative finials or drops. Aspects of this style are often seen in churches. Minimal influence of the Gothic Revival is evident in Evansville homes.

SECOND EMPIRE

Inspired by a European style popular in France during the reign of Napoleon III (1852–1870). The most important distinguishing feature of this style is the double-pitched mansard roof. Otherwise, shape, size, and ornamentation are similar to Italianate. Very few examples in Evansville.

STICK

Steeply pitched, multi-gabled roof with patterns of diagonal, vertical, and horizontal boards over siding. Sometimes a half-timbered look with a decorative truss in gable ends. Stick details are often combined with other styles, especially Queen Anne.

QUEEN ANNE

Grandiose asymmetrical shape with multiple gables, steeply pitched roof, towers, or turrets, tall chimneys, cladding in gable ends and projecting bays or cut-aways. Often with large, wrap-around porches on first story and recessed porches above. Best examples of this style display a variety of materials, textures, and colors. Most popular late 19th Century stylistic influence on high-style homes in the Upper Midwest. Often mistakenly called “Victorian style.”

PICTURESQUE

More a mix of different influences than a distinct style. Irregular shape achieved with small bays, porches, and turrets. Variety of surface materials and window shapes. Seen as a composite of Italianate, Stick, and Queen Anne in Evansville. Local distinctions and blending of all the above styles were a result of the particular skills and tastes of Evansville owners and builders.

EARLY MODERN – 20TH CENTURY

EARLY MODERN

In architecture, Early Modern is a simple and functional style, with exposure of structural elements. It became popular at the beginning of the 20th Century, and accompanied the intellectual and artistic movements of the same name.

ART DECO

Also known as “Moderne,” Art Deco emerged in the 1920s; the term is derived from a 1925 Parisian industrial and design exhibition. The industrial style of the period was ornamented in Art Deco style with repetitive linear patterns as well as zig zag lines and other decorations.

NEOCLASSICAL

Residential and commercial buildings that show some Greco-Roman classical details. Homes are often square with a hip roof and a central porch/entry with columns. Often ornamented with dentils or modillions under eaves and upper-story Palladian windows. This style is often referred to as Classical Revival.

PRAIRIE SCHOOL

This style features low pitched hip roof with widely overhanging eaves. Horizontal bands of windows with detailing that emphasizes vertical and horizontal lines are also found. An indigenous American style of architecture, Prairie School is associated with Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, and the Arts and Crafts movement. In public and commercial buildings, the style is seen in variations called Chicago School or Sullivanese. Most of Evansville’s historic buildings were constructed before this style came into prominence.

CRAFTSMAN

The Craftsman style became popular in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries in a move away from Victorian styles. Craftsman structures are typified by low pitched roofs, deeply overhanging eaves, exposed rafters or decorative brackets under the eaves, front porches under extensions of the main roof, tapered, square columns supporting the roof, 4-over-1 or 6-over-1 double-hung windows, and hand-crafted stone or woodwork.

BUNGALOW

A bungalow is a house, although its design elements vary from one country (or region) to another. In the U. S., bungalows are detached homes of one story or a story-and-a-half, a relatively low pitched roof with broad overhanging eaves, and a large front porch.

TUDOR REVIVAL

Popular in the U.S. in the 1920s and 1930s, Tudor Revival houses evoke houses built in the 1500s during the Tudor Dynasty in England. They take on a variety of features, including steeply pitched roofs, prominent cross gables, tall, narrow windows, small window panes, massive chimneys, and beautifully patterned brick or stonework.

COLONIAL REVIVAL

Stately and distinguished, the Colonial Revival style was popular from the 1890s to the mid-20th Century. Design elements include a rectangular mass, a center entrance, often flanked by columns and topped with a pediment or fan light, a symmetrical façade, a medium-pitched roof with side gables and narrow eaves, and multi-pane double hung windows.

DUTCH COLONIAL REVIVAL

This is a type of Colonial Revival design popular from the late 1890s to the 1930s, reflecting nostalgia for the colonial period of American history. The Dutch variety is typified by a broad gambrel roof with flaring eaves over the long side.

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

balustrade—the railing along or on top of a porch or roof

bargeboard—decorative cut-out wooden scrollwork on the gable end of a roof

belt course—narrow horizontal projecting band along the outside of a building, often made of brick or stone; see also “string course”

brackets—decorative right-angled supports under the cornice or eaves

brick string course—a thin projecting layer of brickwork horizontally around a building

cladding—decorative surface detailing in the gable end; often scalloped, diamond-shaped, or shingle-like

clerestory—an upper story row of windows; part of an interior wall rising above an adjacent roof to admit light to the structure

cornice—projecting ornamental molding along the top of a building or roof edge

cubic mass—a basically square, boxy design

dentil—decorative series of small rectangular blocks that look like teeth under the cornice or eaves

dormer—a window that projects from a sloping roof

ell—an L-shape

entablature—in classical architecture, that part of the surface of a building between the top of a column or wall and the bottom of the roof.

façade—front or main exterior face of a building

finial—ornament at the top of a spire, roof, or turret

frieze—ornamental band, often directly under the eaves

gable—the part of an end wall above the line of the eaves, and conforming to the shape or slope of the roof above it

hoodmold—a projected molding above a door or window to avert rain

lintel—horizontal structural member that supports the load over a door or window

modillion—bracket-like regularly spaced ornamentation under the cornice; larger than dentil and spaced farther apart.

Palladian window—a triple window opening; the arched center is usually the tallest and widest

parapet—an extension of the exterior wall above the roof line

pediment—decorative triangular detail, looks like the end of a gable

pilaster—vertical ornamental feature that resembles a column but is attached to the exterior wall

rectilinear—rectangular layout, with straight lines

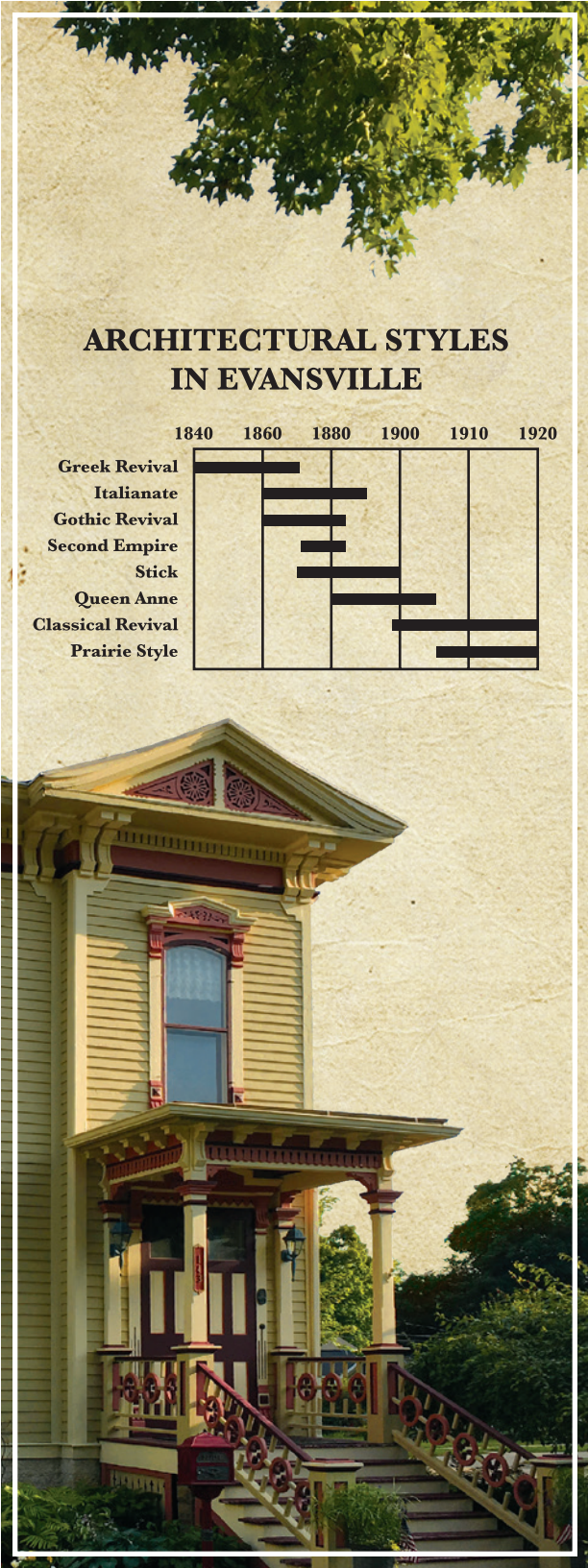
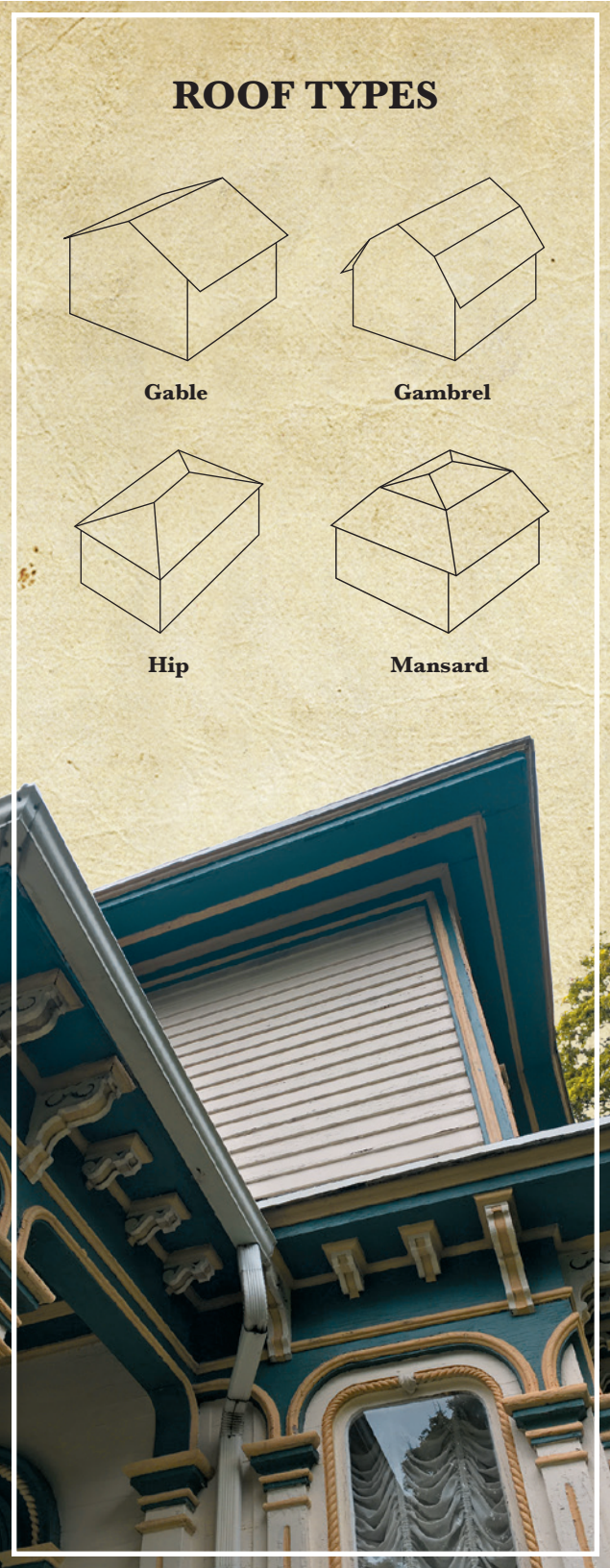
sill—horizontal bottom member on a window or door frame

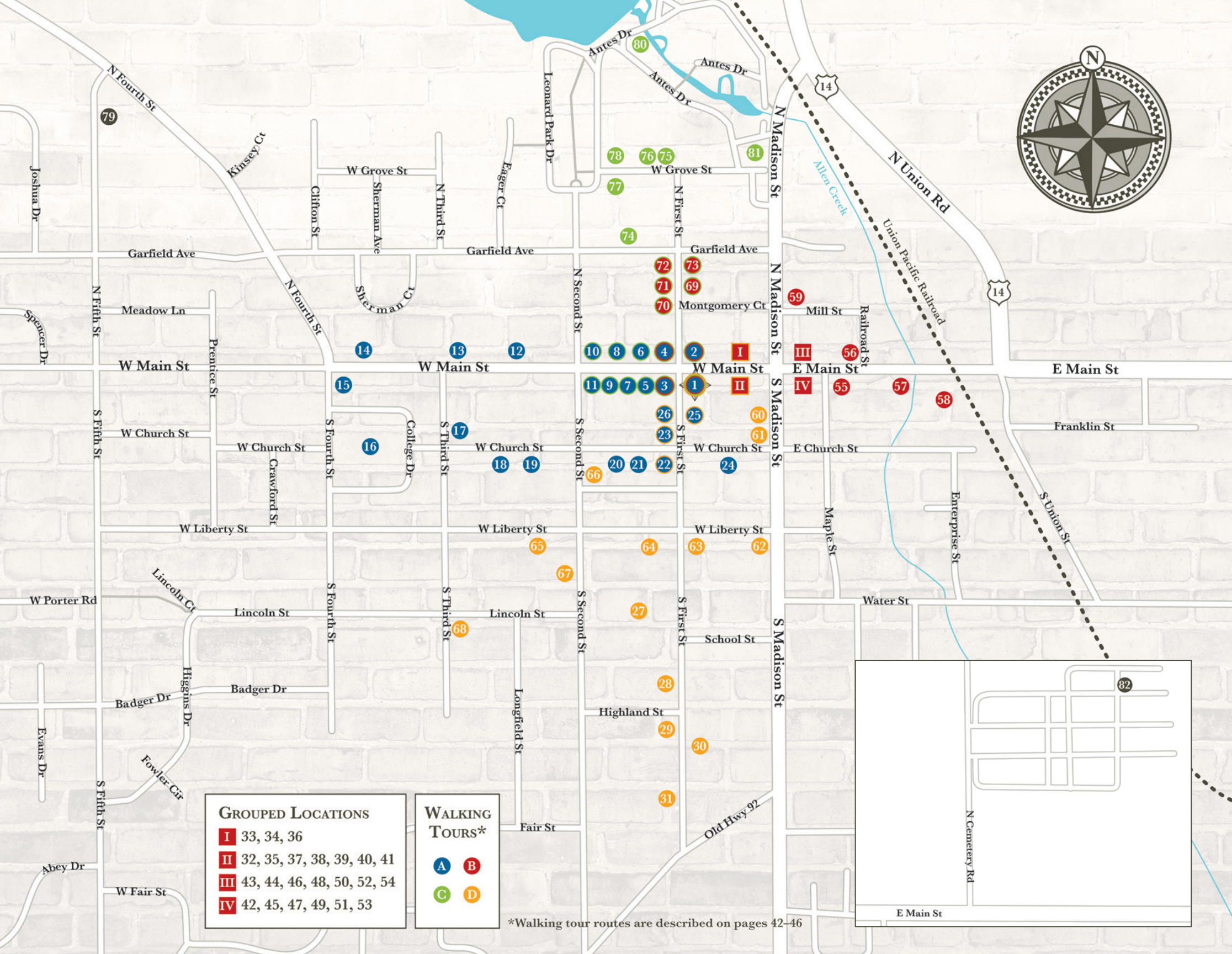
string course—a horizontal band in a building, distinguished from the rest of the work, and forming part of the design

transom—small, narrow window above a door or another window

Tuscan Order—a simple or relatively rustic architectural form. Its columns have a circular base, unfluted length, and unadorned capital.

vernacular—a building designed by an amateur (as opposed to a trained architect) guided by a series of practices and techniques developed in the locality.

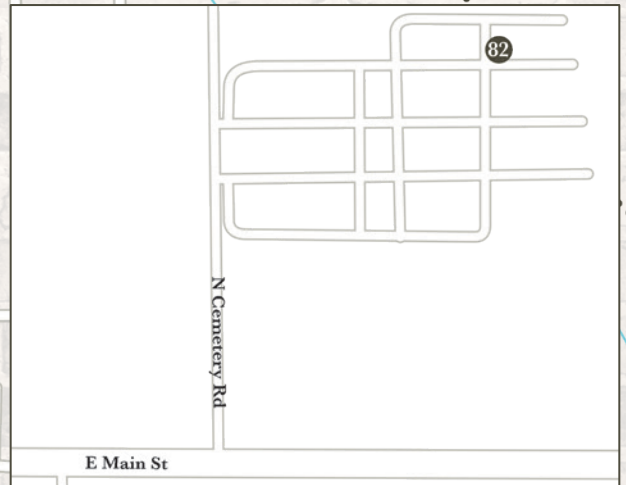




- GROUPED LOCATIONS**
- I** 33, 34, 36
 - II** 32, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41
 - III** 43, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54
 - IV** 42, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53

- WALKING TOURS***
- A** **B**
 - C** **D**

*Walking tour routes are described on pages 42-46





*For more information, please visit
http://ci.evansville.wi.gov/explore_evansville/
or call (608) 882-2266*

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