

National Register Districts



The City of Liberty has six historic districts and eight individual properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Listing on the Register is an honorary distinction that signifies a property of district is historically, culturally, or architecturally significant.

Each of the National Register Districts in Liberty has its own unique story:

The two oldest districts are the West Liberty Courthouse Square District and the South Liberty Courthouse Square District. These districts are located on the Liberty Square and contain commercial buildings from the 1870s and 1880s.

Also located on the Liberty Square are individually listed buildings: The Miller Building at 2 East Franklin, The IOOF Lodge at 16-18 East Franklin, and the Clay County Savings Bank, also known as the Jesse James Bank Museum at 103 North Water and the Major Hotel at 112 East Franklin. Other individually listed properties include the Odd Fellows Home on Highway 291 south of downtown, Jewell Hall on the William Jewell College campus, The Frank Hughes Library, located just off the Square at Franklin and Leonard Street, and the Clinton House at 404 South Leonard.

West of the Square is the Dougherty-Prospect Heights District. This district encompasses late 19th and early 20th century houses from the west end of the Square to Fairview Street, where the former Liberty Ladies College was located, now the home of Liberty Junior High School. This district has some of the finest examples of Prairie and Craftsman architecture in the City.

On the East side of Liberty Square is the Jewell-Lightburne District, stretching from the Square to William Jewell College. This district contains excellent examples of Queen Anne Victorian, Georgian, and Tudor Revival architecture.

Five blocks north of the Square on Main Street is the Garrison School District. This district is centered on the historically black neighborhoods of Liberty. Cornerstones of the district are Garrison School, the first public black school in Liberty and St. Luke's AME Church.

South on Leonard Street at Arthur Street is the Arthur-Leonard District. This district features many large homes, set farther back off the street to enjoy stately views. Leonard Street offered the most direct route from the Square to the Missouri River and Liberty Landing steamboat dock. Many wealthy merchants built their homes on Leonard to show visitors to the city the wealth and prosperity found here.