
Dougherty Historic District Neighborhood Walking Tour

Length: *About 1 mile*

Start: *Parking is available in the lot at the corner of Franklin and Prairie Streets, or on the residential streets. Start on Kansas Street walking west, against the flow of traffic.*

218 West Kansas (c. 1857) The Garth House / Georgian I-house

Built in 1857 from bricks that were burned on the grounds, it was originally part of a farm complex on the western edge of Liberty. Bought by William Garth in 1859 and remained in the family for 62 years. Garth was a Mexican War veteran who went west in the California gold rush and served as a state representative. (Garth's father and two other men founded the University of Missouri.)

232 West Kansas (c. 1890) The Raymond House / Queen Anne

Richard L. Raymond was a farmer and cattleman. He lived in this house with his three daughters until 1909, when he built the "modern" house on the back of the lot (233 W. Franklin). The house is a cross-gable Queen Anne residence with original Eastlake detailing (mass-produced spindle work in the turned porch supports and the porch frieze).

233 West Kansas (1908) Prairie (Shirtwaist)

A nearly pristine example of the regional adaptation of the Prairie style into the vernacular "Shirtwaist" for its contrasting wall treatments on each floor and boxy shape.

253 West Kansas (1907) Mrs. Gray House / Prairie foursquare

Coleman Younger (uncle of outlaw Cole Younger, member of the James Gang) owned the lot in 1849. In 1907 the lot was purchased and the house built by Clay County Sheriff, William H. Thomason, who

had tried to track down the James Gang. In 1908, Mrs. Gray, principal for many years at nearby Franklin School, moved in.

302 West Kansas (c. 1890) Pence Place / Queen Anne

One of the few masonry Queen Anne residences in Liberty. White stone lintels and sills around the windows contrast with the red brick. The recessed attic windows have Eastlake detailing. Both porches have free-classic detailing, such as the dentils under the porch frieze and the round column porch supports. The Pence Place is believed to be located on the site where the Presbyterian Church was founded in 1829.

305 West Kansas (c. 1850) Dougherty House / Greek Revival

The original brick, side-gable Greek Revival residence has undergone many alterations and additions through the years. This was one of the first homes west of the Square and was built for Dr. William Dougherty, a physician and surgeon. Dougherty was a city councilman, mayor, and one of the organizing members of the Liberty Methodist Episcopal Church. As a state legislator he introduced a bill that established the State Board of Health. The house (although modified) is significant as an example of a modest home of a prominent early settler of Liberty.

316, 320, 324 West Kansas (1926, 1924, 1924) Craftsman Bungalows

320 and 324 were built as spec houses for \$5000 each. 316 was built two years later for \$5400. The main roof extends over the full front porch, which has square columns. Wide overhanging eaves with two triangular knee braces, common to the Craftsman house, in the gable end.

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334 West Kansas (c. 1890)

Queen Anne

An excellent example of a small Queen Anne residence. It is considered Queen Anne because of its varied and irregular rooflines, all steeply pitched, and irregular floor plan.

400 West Kansas (c. 1880)

Italianate

Actually a transitional house, which is Italianate in nature, but has some French and other influences. The higher pitch roof indicates a later construction date than most Italianate buildings.

419 West Kansas (1912-13) “La France” Craftsman bungalow

Significant as the former home of Elder Fred V. Loos, also known as the “Parson”. Who served as pastor of the Liberty Christian Church until 1898. It is said he performed over 6200 marriages and wrote 700 obituaries. The house is barely visible from the street due to the mature evergreen trees (said to be planted by Loos’ son who brought them as saplings from Colorado). It is exuberant in its Craftsman detailing with a variety of wall treatments—wood shingles on the first floor, stucco in the gable ends, and false timbering.

504 West Kansas (1912)

Vernacular/ American foursquare

This house was built in 1912 with one story. The second story was added in 1918. The current owners are only the second in the house’s history. The large flat lawn to the left (west) of the house was, in the past, used as a tennis court.

509 West Kansas (1912)

Tudor Revival

A stucco wall on Tudors was common on the modest examples built before the 1920’s. (Wood frame could most easily be disguised by applying stucco cladding.)

523 West Kansas (1910)

Craftsman

Noteworthy for its fine detailing. The wrap-around front porch has corner stone columns and the porch frieze has false timbering and flat brackets. It was divided into apartments prior to World War II, but is a single family house once again.

You are now at Fairview Street. Cross over towards Heritage Middle School.

Heritage Middle School

In 1943, and prior to the several additions, this was the Liberty High School. Prior to this building, the Liberty Ladies College (1890) occupied this site. It burned in 1913 and was replaced by the high school.

Walk up the steps to the landing of the school. (Or you can drive to the landing after the tour). Look east for a dramatic view.

Off in the distance you will see Jewell Hall finished in 1858 and the first building on the William Jewell College campus.

In the middle is the Clay County Courthouse revealing the importance of Liberty as a county seat of thriving Clay County.

Fun Fact: the U.S. flag was removed from the existing courthouse in 1864 “in respect to Clay County sympathizers of the Confederacy”, and it was not until 1912 that the U.S. flag was raised again on the courthouse flag pole.

Resume your walking tour by walking east down Franklin Street.

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519 West Franklin (1908) Presbyterian manse / Prairie foursquare

Built in 1908 for Rev. Hugh McClintic, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, by funds provided for in Mary Elizabeth Dorsey's will. The will provided each of Liberty's four Protestant Churches with \$6000 to build a home for their pastor. This was the only one built west of the Square. The house was purchased in 1961 by Joe and Elenore Walley, local newspaper publishers and community activists. It is now occupied by the Walley's grandson and his family.

516 West Franklin (1908) Costello/Hendren House / Prairie Shirtwaist

A nice example of the eclecticism of domestic suburban architecture. Built by James Costello, owner of a local lumber mill. It was later the home of Dr. Glenn Hendren, a prominent Liberty physician during the 1940s, '50s and '60s. Dr. Hendren sold a large parcel of property north of town to Hallmark, which is now one of its distribution centers.

500 West Franklin (c. 1910) Whiteside House / Craftsman bungalow

A pristine example of a Craftsman bungalow. Built by James Whiteside, whose jewelry business continues on the Historic Liberty Square. The two sisters who owned the house during World War II allegedly used the house to "entertain" soldiers.

444 & 429 West Franklin (1926) Colonial Revival

429 was built for the Misses McKinleys in 1926 for \$6000. 444 was built for \$5000. Excellent examples of a gabled roof subtype of the Colonial Revival style, which is a simple two-story rectangular block. The symmetrically balanced façade has an accentuated front door, with a portico supported by fluted columns.

347 and 343 West Franklin (1924) duplex with Craftsman details

In the 1920s, there was inadequate housing for students attending William Jewell College. The need for rental housing spurred construction of these apartments in 1924 for \$7500 apiece. The full-length two-story front porches with wide, overhanging porch eaves and massive square brick columns have a Prairie/Craftsman feeling.

408 West Franklin (c. 1895) Vernacular gable front and wing

Sometimes identified as Queen Anne due to the irregular roof form, wrap-around front porch, and bays that were used to avoid a smooth-walled surface. The porch columns are Craftsman- square tapering supports set on stone piers.

402 West Franklin (c. 1890) Queen Anne

Typical of high style Queen Anne houses, this residence has many devices that were used to avoid a flat-wall surface. The one story wrap-around porch has elaborate Eastlake details such as an arched porch entry with corner sunbursts, spindle work frieze, columns and rails, and lace-like brackets.

322 West Franklin (c. 1900) Vernacular

The free-form and variable house has features expressive of several styles. Notice also the stone retaining wall in this section of West Franklin.

Turn left on N. Morse.

102 N. Morse (c. 1890s) Queen Anne Victorian

This is one of the more exuberant Queen Anne houses in Liberty. Notice the variety of materials, windows, and roof shapes. The gazebo attached to the front porch is a modern addition.

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118 N. Morse (1928)

Tudor Revival

This is an excellent example of the Tudor style, which became extremely popular in this country in the 1920's and 1930's.

127 N. Morse (c. 1910)

Craftsman bungalow

This house is a classic example of a Craftsman bungalow. The full width front porch, decorative brackets, and porch columns give the style away. More modest homes like this one, situated closer to the street, lends character to the historic neighborhood.

Retrace your steps on Morse back to West Franklin and take a left to complete the final block.

242 West Franklin (c. 1868) Dimmitt-Ringo-Dougherty House / Italianate

Richard Ringo purchased this property from Saint Clair Dimmitt for \$400 in 1867 and built a four room house – two down and two up. In 1871, Captain Lewis Dougherty bought the house, moving to town from Multnomah, his parents plantation, northwest of Liberty. His additions brought the house to its present size. From 1946 to 1950, it served as the residence of the president of William Jewell College.

245 West Franklin (c. 1890)

Queen Anne cottage

This house was owned by the Gilmer family for over 75 years. Mrs. Gilmer used the front

room for piano lessons for countless children in Liberty through the years. Notice the similarity to the yellow cottage just to the south on Kansas Street.

222 West Franklin (1911-13) Allen House / Prairie

This house was designed by architect Horace LaPierre for Schuball and Mary Dinah Allen. Shuball's grandfather, Colonel Schuball Allen, was one of Clay County's first settlers, who came from New York in 1820. Col. Allen established a landing and ferry on the Missouri River, which was the main point of commerce in northwest Missouri. The house is noteworthy for its use of multi-colored brick detailing which emphasizes the second story, particularly around the windows.

116 West Franklin (1924)

Craftsman bungalow

In a prominent corner lot on the northeast corner of the Dougherty District. The extended gable roof covers the full-length front porch. The tapering square wood columns are set on brick piers.

100 West Franklin (2003) Rotary Plaza

This small park was built in 2003 by the Liberty Rotary Club. Feel free to take a rest here, and then continue up the hill to the Liberty Square for shopping and/or dining, if you are in the mood.

Hope you enjoyed your tour!

