



A WALK IN MIDWAY

With 157 buildings on the National Register, it is a challenge to devise a walk that will encompass them all. This guide is a Labor of Love and a Work in Progress. We welcome your corrections, contributions, and stories for use in expanded editions.

Within you will find descriptions of the historic buildings downtown (identified by street numbers and business names) followed by descriptions of homes along a leisurely walk down Winter Street (identified by number on the map). Midway's Historic Churches and Midway College are identified by letter on the map and described beginning on page fourteen.

You may enjoy the challenge of playing our Guessing Game. Throughout the guide you'll find architectural graphics. See if you can identify the actual locations of all thirteen.

(answers at www.MidwayRenaissance.org)

A Brief History

The Lexington and Ohio Railroad, incorporated in 1830 at Lexington, purchased a right-of-way passing through the middle of Col. John Francisco's farm in 1833. When construction began, Col. Francisco became angry with the railroad for unreasonably damaging his property, and in 1835 the courts forced the railroad to buy his 216 acre farm.

Railroad executives decided to lay out a town – the first in Kentucky founded by a railroad. R. C. Hewitt, Civil Engineer for the L & O, platted the town that same year, naming the majority of streets in honor of the first officials of the railroad company and establishing a street pattern that served as a model for other towns.

Excerpt from an advertisement in Lexington's *'The Kentucky Gazette'* – April, 1835

LOTS FOR SALE in a NEW TOWN called MIDWAY, ON THE RAILROAD

"A BEAUTIFUL Site for a Town in Woodford County has been laid off into lots by the Railroad Company..... The position is deemed the most eligible on the line of road for the transaction of business of every kind..... It cannot fail to attract the attention of a sufficient number of persons to make it at once a respectable and flourishing country village, and in the course of a few years, perhaps, one of the largest inland towns in the State. The neighborhood is composed of wealthy and enterprising farmers, and the tract of country is unsurpassed in fertility...."

Businesses began to develop along Railroad Street, and Midway was incorporated by the Kentucky Legislature on February 17, 1846. By the turn of the century hotels, saloons, grocery stores, churches, schools, and a large distillery had appeared.

One hundred years after the L & O Railroad arrived, Midway celebrated its Centennial with a Pageant on the campus of the Kentucky Female Orphan School—now Midway College.

A charming verse from the Pageant illustrates the spirit of Midway:

*"Why they called it Midway, we cannot see
Unless when living here you are so content
That you never with age grow bent,
But stay midway in long, long life,
Where all are happy to live without strife.
For we like to live in a little town
Where the trees meet over the street
And you wave your hand and say "Hello"
To everyone you meet.
For life is interwoven
With the friends you learn to know
And you feel their joys and sorrows
As you daily come and go."*

Enjoy your Walk in Midway, and come visit again soon!

Our Walk Begins at City Hall on the southeast corner of Winter and Main Streets. Main Street was known as Railroad Street on an 1850 map, based on the original 1835 plat, and the name was used on all maps until about the 1970s.



101 - 105 East Main - The Rau Building
Midway City Hall / Henry Graddy, Attorney / Breckenridge

David Lehman, builder of many homes and churches in Midway, constructed this building in 1882 for Mr. William E. Rau, who came to Midway from Wurtersberg, Germany. The iron front of the first level, manufactured by F. W. Merz Co. of Louisville, is unaltered. Iron components include hoodmolds for second-story windows and a distinctive entablature.

Originally a bakery on the first floor and the Hotel Germania above, the downstairs has served as a grocery, restaurant, telephone exchange, and hardware store. The upstairs has housed offices of several locally prominent physicians, judges, and attorneys.

107 East Main - The Gilson Building
May & Co. / Soapwerks / Sayre Inn

The L & O Railroad sold this lot to Ira Gilson in 1836. The two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed brick building appears on an 1877 atlas of the town. Various businesses have been located on the first level, including a grocery, tailor, watch repair shop, and a clothing store. In 1883, William Moore willed this building and lot to the Trustees of the Midway Presbyterian Church.

109 - 113 East Main
Law Office - Hayden & Butler, PSC

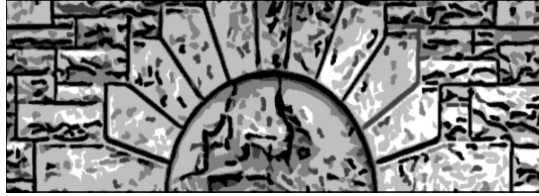
A two-story frame building on this lot in 1886 was razed or burned, and replaced by the Commercial Bank of Midway in 1902. The bank operated here through several mergers, eventually becoming United Bank.

115 East Main
formerly Delacour & Thayer Antiques

Circa 1895, John Wise had this brick building erected for use as a dry goods and clothing store. Cast iron pilasters and a fascia between levels survive, as do hoodmolds above the three windows of the second floor. The attic is pierced by three quatrefoils, flanked by brackets supporting a wooden cornice.

117 East Main
Eqwine

Said to have been built as a bank, this rather small edifice is sandwiched between higher buildings, yet holds its own through the use of over-scaled detail. The Post Office was located here between 1908 and 1915.



119 - 121 East Main
Bistro La Belle Restaurant /
Gallery Suites

Built in 1926 by the Lacefield Company, this brick double-

building replaced an earlier building destroyed by fire in 1915. At that time the second floor was occupied by the Collins Opera House. As early as 1887 Nat Collins also had a full-fledged skating rink here, with a floor of sycamore. The present building is four bays wide and contains two recessed entrances and large display windows on the street level.

123 East Main

The building previously on this lot also burned in the fire of 1915. In the 1930's the Epstein sisters had a clothing store in the present structure.

125 East Main

Heirloom Restaurant

Built in the 1920's, this replacement building was operated as a pool room by Mr. Breeding in the 1930's.

127 East Main

Thoroughbred Community Theater

The Amusu Theater was in this building from 1916 to 1957.

"At night, the attraction was the Amusu Theater – for those who had a dime. In earliest times the films were silent, but that was a blessing because of Miss Lillian Arnett, the resident pianist. Films ranged from the traditional "Perils of Pauline" to westerns, which were the decided favorites. It was during the westerns when Miss Lillian was at her best, for the faster the posse seemed to race across the screen, the faster – and louder – she played and the boys stomped their feet in cadence until the walls shook." – Miss Margaret Ware Parrish, community historian.

129 - 131 East Main

Quirk Café

Constructed in the 1920's and referred to as The Rouse Buildings, this structure has housed Midway Farm Supply, grocery stores and restaurants.

133 - 135 East Main

Duggan's Restaurant

A small one-story frame dwelling stood on this site in 1915. Mr. J. H. Reigner, publisher of the Blue Grass Clipper, lived there and walked to the newspaper's office across the street. The current structure was built in 2004 as a successful complement to the historic streetscape.

204 North Gratz - *Darlin' Jeans Apple Cobbler Cafe*

Between 1897 and 1903, the Cogar Company contracted R. W. Lacefield to construct a functional frame building for use as a grain business. In 1915, a three-story section was attached and used for display of farm machinery.

137 East Main

The Gratz Antiques Exchange

Built circa 1860's, this two-story, three-bay brick building features a bracketed fascia above the wooden first level which probably had cast-iron elements originally. Windows of the second level retain their semi-circular hoodmolds of cast iron. Deed books report that the second floor was a school in 1886. It has also been a grocery, a barbershop, a meat shop, and a restaurant.

139 East Main

This lot has remained empty since the L & O Railroad first purchased the farm that is now Midway. In the 1930's Mr. Asa Arnett operated an outdoor movie theater here.

141 East Main

Farmers & Miners Bank / Devant Lathan Bloodstock

Built prior to 1877, this two-story brick building housed a saloon from at least 1886 until the early 1900's. Coupled brackets support a wooden fascia between stories. Two rectangular windows with Italianate arches pierce the second floor above. The building is skewed so the front and side are parallel to the railroad tracks and the side street.

Crossing the tracks, proceed on Main Street from east to west...

136 - 140 East Main – International Order of Odd Fellows Building

Celtic Trends / Freedman's / The Back Room

Built in 1882, the Odd Fellows Building serves as a landmark of Midway's downtown. Originally a two-and-one-half story, 6-bay building of brick construction, the first floor was intended to house stores and the second floor a meeting hall.

A decade later saw the addition of a lower section on the west, with a conical topped turret taking advantage of the corner location. A cast iron street front spanning the entire main façade was installed in 1914 and a clock tower added (which burned in 1996). All phases of this construction were carried out by David Lehman and Sons.

The western addition was the location of the Post Office until shortly after 1900. After its relocation, a bank occupied this section and the first level has housed many businesses. Although the building's main façade has been covered with siding, the fenestral arrangement has been unaltered and the cast iron street front is intact.

206 North Gratz - United Bank

The bank's present structure is a reproduction of an old railroad depot, built to complement the historic streetscape. Midway's last depot was demolished in 1963, after having served for nearly 100 years.





134 East Main

Chesser House Gallery

This two-story frame building was built in 1879 by David Lehman. The office of the Blue Grass Clipper newspaper was upstairs from about 1891, and F.W. Pearce, a stove and tin-ware merchant, was downstairs.

130 - 132 East Main

Maness Photography & Framing

Two buildings joined together, the right side was constructed circa 1890 as a tin and stove shop and the left side constructed after 1906. This one-and-one-half story frame building has undergone some noticeable exterior alterations.

128 East Main

Former Depot Restaurant

Constructed in 1870, this two-story, three-bay brick building has been used for several purposes since its construction, beginning with a saloon and a coffee house operated by P. Webster in 1871.

126 East Main

Damselfly Studio & Gallery

The back section of this building was in existence by 1886 and the front section by 1915 as a barber and tailor shop. A watch repair shop with a residence behind it in the 1930's, it has also been a bakery.

124 East Main

Historic Midway Museum Store

Erected in 1882 as *The Central Saloon* by Henry Baxter Russell, a former Union soldier, this two-story building of pleasing proportions has changed little since 1882. Around 1915 the building was purchased by the Sons and Daughters of Relief, an African American social service organization. Windows of the second level have semi-circular heads and corresponding brick hoodmolds and there are decorative brackets below the wooden cornice.

118 - 122 East Main

Dancin' Dog Designs

This one-story, seven-bay building with clapboard exterior is a 1959 reassembly of an 1895 frame building that stood here. The original building, which housed African American businesses including a tailor shop and a shoe shop, was dismantled and rebuilt on a new foundation using the original materials.

The Midway Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, and includes most of the town, along with 157 buildings.

114 East Main

The north side of Railroad Street had several thriving African American businesses, including those in this building. On June 14, 1898, Midway Pilgrim Lodge and the Corinthian Lodge were given a building permit for this frame building with a meeting hall on the second floor and a restaurant below. A saloon and boarding house were here later. In the 1930's there was a barber shop upstairs and a restaurant downstairs with a juke box which made it a most popular place to eat and dance.

108 - 110 East Main

Railroad Street Framing / Village Inn B&B

Constructed circa 1910, this two-and-one-half story frame building was used as a dry goods store and offices by D. Lehman and Sons. The double porch with turned posts and a second level balustrade appear to be original.

106 East Main

Eagle's Nest Antiques

Constructed circa 1905 as a grocery store, this one-and-a-half story frame building retains the original sized display windows. The Thornton Hotel originally occupied this lot, and the next one to the west, before it burned in 1890. The two buildings share a cellar of stone that is said to have been the stable for the hotel.

104 East Main

Le Marche

Like its neighbor to the west, this building was used as a warehouse for hemp, as well as wool and tobacco. In the 1930's hay from the Henry Martin farm was stored here and on the second floor of the entire building. The fenestral pattern is the same as on the neighboring structure.

100 - 102 East Main – The Lane Building

Midway Boutique / Le Cheval Bleu (upstairs)

This two-story, six-bay brick building served as a warehouse for hemp and grain storage in 1850. F. L. Lane operated a grocery here as early as 1877 and in 1924 it was one of nine grocery stores in town, operated by Henry Fisher until 1956. By 1928, the eastern half housed a tinning and welding shop.

Stroll south on Winter Street, referring to numbers & letters on the map.

In the early 1900's African Americans operated almost every business on the north side of the railroad tracks. Among them were Essie and George Anderson and Minnie Sanders, who ran restaurants. Napoleon Price had a tailor shop, William "Sweet Key" Williams was a plumber who also sold secondhand stoves, and Nathan "Tan" Edwards, operated a barbershop and shoeshine stand.





#1 - 133 North Winter - Corner of Main and Winter

Kern Thoroughbred-Tattersalls / Insideout Architects (upstairs)

Erected in the late 1860's as a bank, this building is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond on the railroad side. Essentially unchanged, the building is a fine representation of the Italianate style of a business building in a small town. It served as City Hall for 60 years.

#2 - 119 North Winter - Nelson House

Built in 1837, the original portion of this house features an unusual brick pattern called 'Monk bond' on the front—two stretchers and a header. Only one house in Lexington has this pattern, but many houses in Midway do. A Federal style building, the original entrance was on the north side facing the street. The house then consisted of an entry, downstairs parlor, upstairs sitting room and bedroom, a dining room, slave kitchen, coal bin, and pantry in the basement. The two-story addition was enlarged by the present owner and the entire rear portion was renovated after a fire during the winter of 1986.

#3 - 113 North Winter - Porter House

Built in 1840 for Thomas J. Iles, Midway's first physician, this is a two-and-a-half story, five-bay Federal mass building with Greek Revival openings and Flemish Bond on the front and right side. On the left side is the unusual Monk bond brick pattern. The handsome wrought-iron railings and stone steps were added in 1905. From 1864 until 1901, it was used as an inn and tavern (the Porter House), then served as a home and office for three more doctors - Dr. Benjamin F. Parrish (1901-1915), Dr. W.E. Sleet (1915-1920), and Dr. John Moore since 1982.

#4 - 100 North Winter - D. Lehman & Sons

The present structure was built in 1909 to replace a previous frame building. Constructed of brick, this three-bay building has been altered to accommodate display windows on the main facade's street level, and an attic has been added. Stone lintels are at the heads and sills of the sash windows, and there are corner pilasters and a continuous wooden cornice. Founded in 1854, D. Lehman & Sons is Midway's oldest continuously operated business. David Lehman is said to have built more dwelling houses in Midway than all other contractors combined, and the finer ones remain. He is also responsible for constructing Midway's finest commercial buildings—the International Order of Odd Fellows Building, the Rau Building, and the Masonic Building. He seems to have been equally prolific as a builder of churches.

Civil War Note - On July 15, 1862, Morgan's Raiders stopped at Midway on their first Kentucky raid, detained the local telegraph agent, and assigned a telegrapher in the unit, "Lightning" Ellsworth, to replace and send false messages dictated by Morgan to Federal commanders with misleading information as to Morgan's strength and itinerary. Historians say it was one of the first examples of military use of an enemy's telegraph to intercept messages and send deceptive messages.

#5 - 100 South Winter - Midway Masonic Building

Built by David Lehman in 1894, this building's character is eclectic at best; combining a Saracenic dome over the large corner turret, somewhat Romanesque openings, and a Neo-Grec street facade at the northeast corner. Materials include brick, wood, stone, zinc-clad tin, and cast iron. A number of businesses have been housed in the first-floor compartments, the Post Office currently occupying one of these. Apartments and a meeting hall are in the second level. The Masonic Building is a Midway landmark, and its domed turret is the highest point downtown.

#6 - 105 South Winter - The Lehman House

On the southwest corner of Winter & Bruen Streets, David Lehman built this white frame house for himself. An Italianate porch wraps around two sides. The trefoil motif pierces the gable above the central bay, and there are brackets under a boxed cornice. A fine iron fence with a trellised entrance survives in the front.

#7 - 120 South Winter - Utterback-Lacefield House

The original portion of this house consisted of three rooms. Apparently built in the 1870s by David Lehman, it is an example of classic Revival architecture. Originally a T-plan frame dwelling, the house was purchased by builder R.W. Lacefield in the early 1900's for use as his own residence. He enlarged the house on the first level, and added a pyramidal-roofed half-story with large gabled dormers. Iron cresting at the apex survives.

#8 - 128 South Winter - Utterback-Craig House

Built in the late 1860's this is a somewhat whimsical one-and-one-half story house of brick whose main facade is laid in Flemish double-stretcher bond. Victorian detailing was added in the late 1900's. This included the addition of the tower in the center, with a curved pyramidal roof, and the rusticated brickwork that embellishes the larger windows with colored glass transoms. This and the initial construction most probably were done by David Lehman. Several prominent citizens have resided here, including W. E. Railey who wrote *The History of Woodford County* and was co-owner of Midway's newspaper, *The Bluegrass Clipper*.

Historic Marker Note - Edward Dudley Brown (1850-1906) Born into slavery, this well known African American horse owner, trainer, jockey, and developer, was raised as a stable boy near Midway. Brown was associated with great horses such as Asteroid, Ducat, and Kingfisher, and worked with Kentucky Derby winners Baden Baden (1877), Ben Brush (1896), and Plaudit (1898). He was inducted into National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame on August 8, 1984.





#9 - 208 South Winter - Nave-Wehrle House

This Victorian cottage consists of an 1890 front addition to a pre-existing smaller dwelling that appears on the 1877 atlas of Midway. The main facade is three bays wide, and two interior chimneys with corbelled tops flank a gable with fishscale shingling that is over the central bay. All openings have pedimented frames and there are peak ornaments in the gables. The 1890 section was built for (and perhaps by) Charles Nave, a local builder and cabinet-maker.

#10 - 209 South Winter - Arnold House

Built in 1920, This craftsman-style bungalow is quite typical of many built across the US from 1905 on. The front porch, second level shed dormer, and Arts and Crafts style knee braces under the eaves are all very characteristic of bungalow architecture.

#11 - 214 South Winter - Hughes-Dedmon-Mitchell House

This two-and-a-half story, 3-bay brick residence appears to have been built in the 1870's by David Lehman. The gable-roofed dwelling with bracketed eaves and twin interior chimneys has a projecting central bay whose upper level is pierced by a single window with a semi-circular head.

#12 - 217 South Winter - Anderson-Mitchell House

This small dwelling of particular charm was built in 1915 by R.W. Lacefield. The one-story residence has a gable roof that extends over the south side to protect an entrance porch. The exterior is covered with dark brown shingled siding that provides a sharp contrast to the wooden elements painted white. For twenty years this was the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard Rouse. Mr. Rouse was a noted breeder of race horses, and managed the famed Kentucky branch of the King Ranch.

#13 - 222 South Winter - William Lehman House

This home somewhat transcends the Federal and Greek Revival styles. The main facade of the two-story, three-bay brick dwelling is laid in the unusual Monk bond, and the affixed date of erection is 1834. The one-story Ionic portico with a balustrade atop is a fairly recent addition. Window dimensions and the number of panes remain the same. Residents have included Mrs. M. Thorton who operated one of Midway's early inns.

#14 - 225 South Winter - Hicks House

In 1912, Richard Starks commissioned R.W. Lacefield to construct a two-story frame residence for his daughter, Mrs. Edna Hicks. The house has a pyramidal roof and a polygonal projection on the south. Attractive features include a one-story porch supported by small Ionic columns, and a centered dormer with rinceaux in relief in its pediment.

#15 - 230 South Winter - Wise House

The initial portion of this home on the northeast corner of Winter and Stephens Streets was a one-story frame dwelling built in 1901 by David Lehman. Shortly after, a second story with a mansard roof was added. In 1903, the porch was enlarged to connect two gabled projections. The fine late-19th century fence surrounding the home is the original and is one of only a few remaining in town since many of them were donated for scrap iron during the world wars.

#16 - 231 South Winter - McKee-Starks House

This two-story, five-bay frame residence with a Greek Revival entrance and window dimensions occupies the northwest corner. Two rooms in the rear portion are of log construction and are thought to have been a toll house for a branch of Meek's Lane. The later frame portion was built for Dr. D. William Chew ca. 1835, and through the years this has been the residence of several prominent Woodford County families.

#17 - 304 South Winter - Davis-Anderson House

Occupying the southeast corner of Winter and Stephens Streets is a two-story frame residence built in 1887 for J. E. Davis, a druggist, who later sold it to a Midway physician, Dr. S. J. Anderson. The house has a pyramidal roof and a one-story curved porch that envelops the bowed corner.

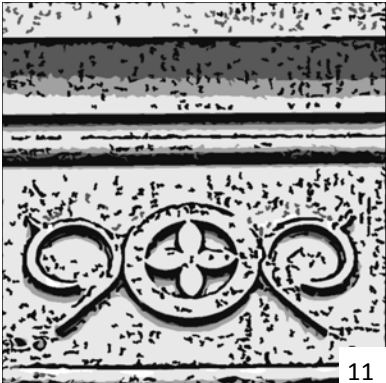
#18 - 305 South Winter - Pinkerton Rouse Place

The home of the President of Midway College, this residence was constructed in 1843 by Dr. Lewis Letig Pinkerton, a local physician and minister of Midway Christian Church, as his residence and a boarding school for young ladies. Called the Baconian Institute, students included Carrie Nation, the Temperance Movement leader. On several old panes of glass are etched the initials of some of the girls who went to school there. In 1847 Dr. Pinkerton co-founded the Kentucky Female Orphan School, which is now Midway College.

#19 - 310 South Winter - Branham-Evans House

Built circa 1868, this house belonged to the same family for 100 years. The two-story, three-bay frame residence is covered with a gabled roof, and a trefoil attic vent pierces a peaked projection above the central bay. The main facade features coupled windows with semi-circular heads, and there are paired brackets supporting the eaves.

***Civil War Note** - Woodburn Farm and nearby Nantura Farm on Old Frankfort Pike, primary breeding stables in the 1860s, attracted horse thieves. Confederate guerrillas made several raids stealing horses in the Midway area, some thought to have been led by Marcellus Jerome Clarke, also known as Sue Mundy. Adam Harper, Jr. was killed in a shootout with guerrillas at Nantura.*





#20 - 315 South Winter - Piper House

David Lehman was most probably responsible for the construction of the Piper House, a charming brick Gothic cottage, prior to 1868. Several additions have been made to the rear, but the arresting quality of the façade has been maintained. Much of this small house's

attraction is due to its wooden elements; a three-bay Italianate porch and trefoil verge-boards that adorn the gables and continue on the sides. All openings have segmental hoodmolds and drip-stones of corbelled bricks. The house features American Bond brickwork on the four original rooms, floorboards of poplar, and five chimneys, three of which are still in use.

#21 - 316 South Winter - Sleet-Voigt House

Built in the 1892 by Dr. W.E. Sleet, this home has been the residence of two Midway physicians, the other being Dr. Charles Voigt. The two and one-half story frame dwelling is a substantial house in the shape of a T. The core has a pyramidal roof and there are three gabled projections that constitute an irregular massing.

#22- 320 South Winter - Combs House

Rufus Combs, a Midway blacksmith, had this sizeable house built for his family circa 1890. Like its neighbor to the immediate north, this frame residence has two and one-half stories and is of irregular massing. The main facade's lower level contains a bay window, and there is a polygonal projection on the south. All openings have pedimented frames, and a one-story porch spans the front.

#23 - 323 South Winter - Harper House

This two-story, late Greek Revival frame dwelling was built circa 1860 and features a particularly handsome centered entrance with a leaded transom and sidelights. The one-story porch with a bowed projection in the center was probably added circa 1900. Prominent former residents include Jouette Shouse, a noted political figure; Matt Winn, a former Midway Mayor, and Dr. William Risque, a physician, and his daughter Ida Kenny Risque Harper, the former Dean of Students at Midway College.

#24 - 328 South Winter - Owsley-Walcutt House

A scaled-down version of the Sleet-Voight house two lots north, this one-and-one-half story frame residence has a pyramidal roof with one dormer, and there are three gabled projections. R. W. Lacefield was the designer and builder.

Civil War Note - Union General Burbridge issued an infamous order which required that four random Confederate prisoners be executed in retaliation for every murder by guerrillas. After the murder of Adam Harper, Jr., Burbridge ordered four Rebel prisoners to be shot at Midway in retaliation. Their monument is in Midway Cemetery, one of only four monuments in Kentucky dedicated to the over fifty Confederate prisoners executed under Burbridge's orders.

#25 - 331 South Winter - Richardson-Prewitt House

This two-and-one-half story substantial brick residence was built in 1916 by R. W. Lacefield. The house is five bays wide, has a hip-roofed porch supported by two sturdy brick piers, and has widely over-hanging eaves. A shed-roofed dormer containing two windows is centered over the central bay. The house was built for R. C. Richardson, a former mayor.

#26 - 332 South Winter - Cooper-Wilder House

The two-and-one-half story house is a gable-roofed rectangular dwelling of frame construction. There is a centered gabled dormer on the front, and a hip-roofed porch spans the lower level. This house was built in 1908 for Mary O. Cooper whose husband, J. O. Cooper, was editor of Midway's newspaper - the Bluegrass Clipper.

#27 - 336 South Winter - Bullock House

Originally, this one-story, five-bay frame house stood one block north. It was built in the early 1800's for William Bullock, and was moved to its present location in 1900 to serve as the Woolfolk School for Boys. Names of students cut in window panes still exist and blackboards remain on the living room walls though they are covered by wallpaper.

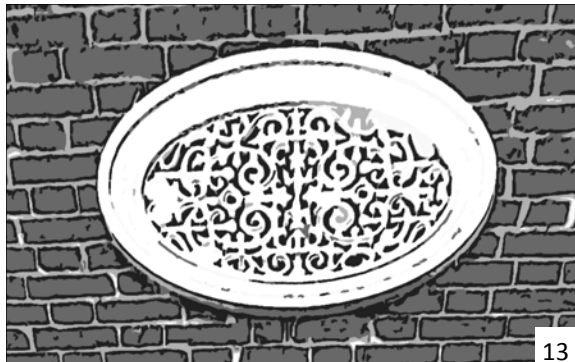
#28- 337 South Winter - Rouse House

Originally this dwelling was a manager's residence on the J. W. Parrish farm, shortly outside Midway. The cottage was dismantled and reassembled on the present lot in 1916, the work being supervised by R. W. Lacefield. In the process, the original fabric was maintained though much of the carpenter's work was stripped. It was once the home of Mayor Owen Rouse, Jr.

Horse Farms - The Midway area has a long history of well-known horse farms starting with Woodburn and Nantura, which were located on Old Frankfort Pike. The Alexander family established Woodburn in 1790 , and with famous stallions including Lexington and Asteroid the farm became what a historian has called "the most prestigious stock farm in America." Nantura, owned by the Harper family, between 1795 and 1905 became one of the leading thoroughbred racing stables. Tombstones erected there for Ten Broeck and Longfellow are said to be the first for horses in the state. George Armstrong Custer visited these farms in November 1871 looking for horses for both his own breeding operation and for the army.

The past is not the property of historians; it is a public possession. It belongs to anyone who is aware of it, and it grows by being shared..... We do not choose between the past and the future; they are inseparable parts of the same river. "

- Dr. Walter Havighurst





HISTORIC CHURCHES

A - Midway United Methodist Church 220 West Bruen

What is now the Midway Methodist Church was constructed in the 1860's as the Midway School and it served in that capacity until 1909. This gable-roofed building is of brick, and all openings have simple, early Italianate brickwork. The only significant alteration has involved the addition of an entrance foyer.

B - Midway Presbyterian Church - 103 North Turner

The finest Gothic Revival building in Midway, the church was erected in the 1870s. Constructed of stuccoed brick, it features a gabled bell tower with corner pinnacles at the south of the main façade. This is connected by an arcaded porch to an entrance tower on the north. Many of the pointed arch windows are filled with stained glass of bold geometric designs.

The church was damaged by fire in 1909 and rebuilt. During remodeling, the original church bell was removed and recast to eliminate a crack. The bell is said to contain coins collected by Sunday School children during the initial construction.

C - St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church - 110 South Winter

Based on its affinities to the Midway Baptist Church, the 1892 St. Matthew AME Church appears to have been built by David Lehman. The centered tower and the fenestral arrangement are quite similar. Corbelled hoodmolds are above the coupled lancet windows, a continuous corbelled band is below the boxed cornice, and brick pilasters define the side bays. The present brick building replaced an 1886 church on the same lot which was destroyed by fire. The lot itself was purchased for the location of the congregation's church as early as 1854.

D - Midway Christian Church - 123 East Bruen

The Victorian Romanesque church was erected between 1895 and 1896. The building is irregularly massed, and the construction is of brick with both smooth-faced and rusticated stone trim. Originally, the rounded tower on the west had a conical dome resting on an open arcade. Tasteful additions that are in keeping with the architectural style occurred in 1969.

E - Midway Baptist Church - 121 South Winter

A meeting for the purpose of constituting a Baptist Church in Midway was held in June of 1872. The people gave each other the right hand of fellowship in token of their acceptance of the church covenant and articles of faith and then constituted themselves into a church. On July 13, 1872, Brother J.W. Bow, a student at Georgetown College, was elected the first pastor. In a very few months, the present brick church was built.

F - Pilgrim Baptist Church - 133 East Stephens

The church is a highly noticeable brick edifice that eloquently occupies the southwest corner of East Stephens and Gratz Streets. An accolade of stone above the entrance testifies that the church was completed in 1892. The building is of irregular massing, with a tower combining Saracenic, Romanesque, and other stylistic flavors. The tower is set at an angle to face the corner, permitting this element to attract attention from several approaches. The Pilgrim Baptist Church is one of three African American congregations in Midway, and the construction of this church can safely be attributed to David Lehman.

G - Second Christian Church - 309 Smith Street

The church possesses a high level of significance in African American history. Believed to be the oldest African American congregation in Kentucky, it was organized in 1832 by Alexander Campbell, a former slave. Through successive pastors, the membership grew, erecting larger buildings. The present brick church was completed in 1906. Entrance to the gable-roofed sanctuary is through a corner tower surmounted by a pyramidal roof. In the tower's upper level is a louvered window arrangement that somewhat repeats the Palladian window of the main facade.

H - Midway College - 512 East Stephens

Founded by James Ware Parrish and Dr. L.L. Pinkerton as the Kentucky Female Orphan School in 1847, the College campus includes a number of significant historic structures including Pinkerton Hall. Erected in 1859 to accommodate the growing number of students and faculty, it is a unique interpretation of the Greek Revival Style.

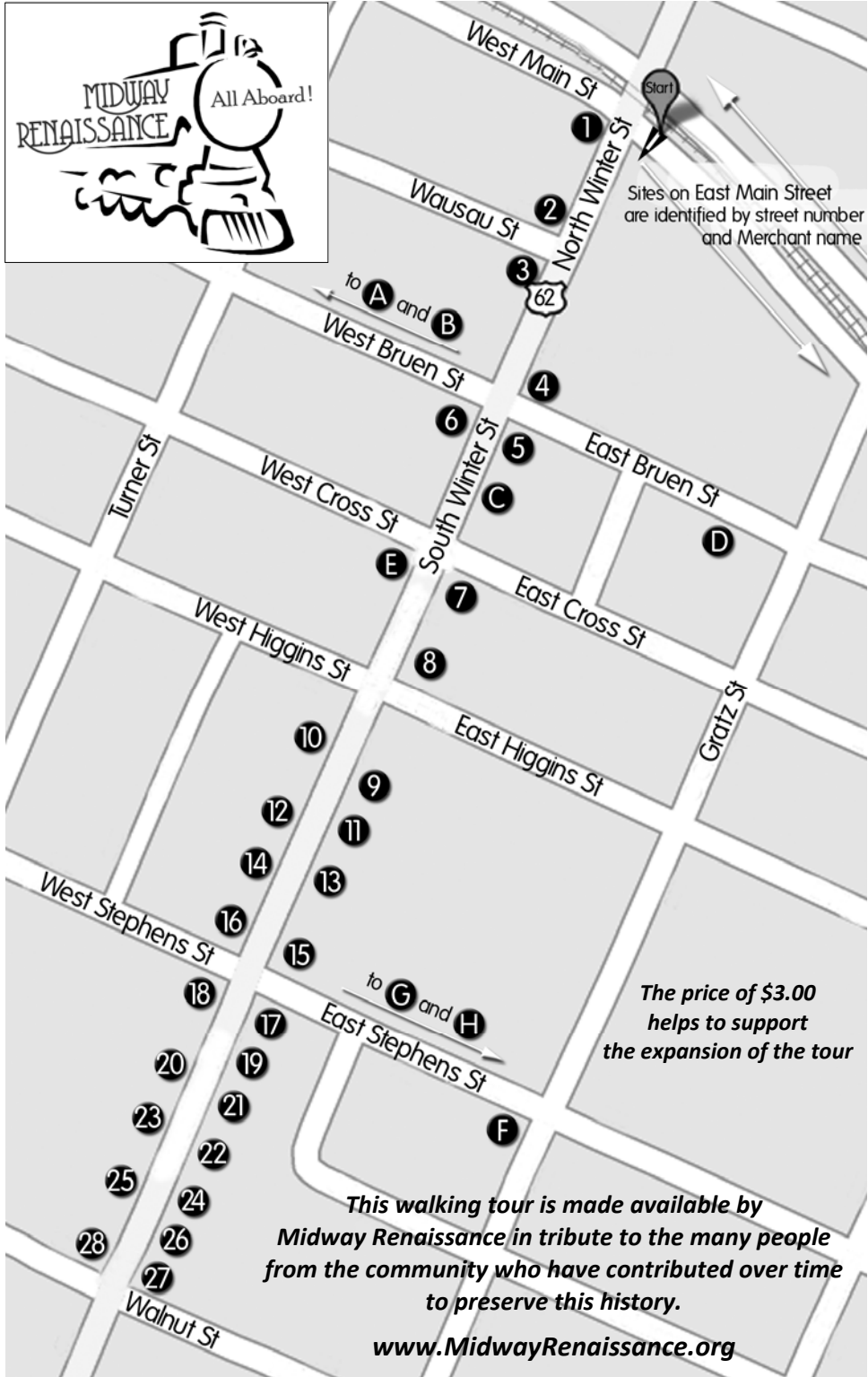
"We strain to listen to the ghosts and echoes of our inexpressibly wise past, and we have an obligation to maintain these places, to provide these sanctuaries, so that people may be in the presence of forces larger than those of the moment."

- Ken Burns



Midway Renaissance, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) membership organization that exists to promote historic preservation in Midway, to provide and support community-related activities, and to enhance the quality of life in Midway.

Midway Renaissance is a certified Main Street Program recognized by the Kentucky Heritage Council.



Sites on East Main Street are identified by street number and Merchant name

The price of \$3.00 helps to support the expansion of the tour

This walking tour is made available by Midway Renaissance in tribute to the many people from the community who have contributed over time to preserve this history.

www.MidwayRenaissance.org