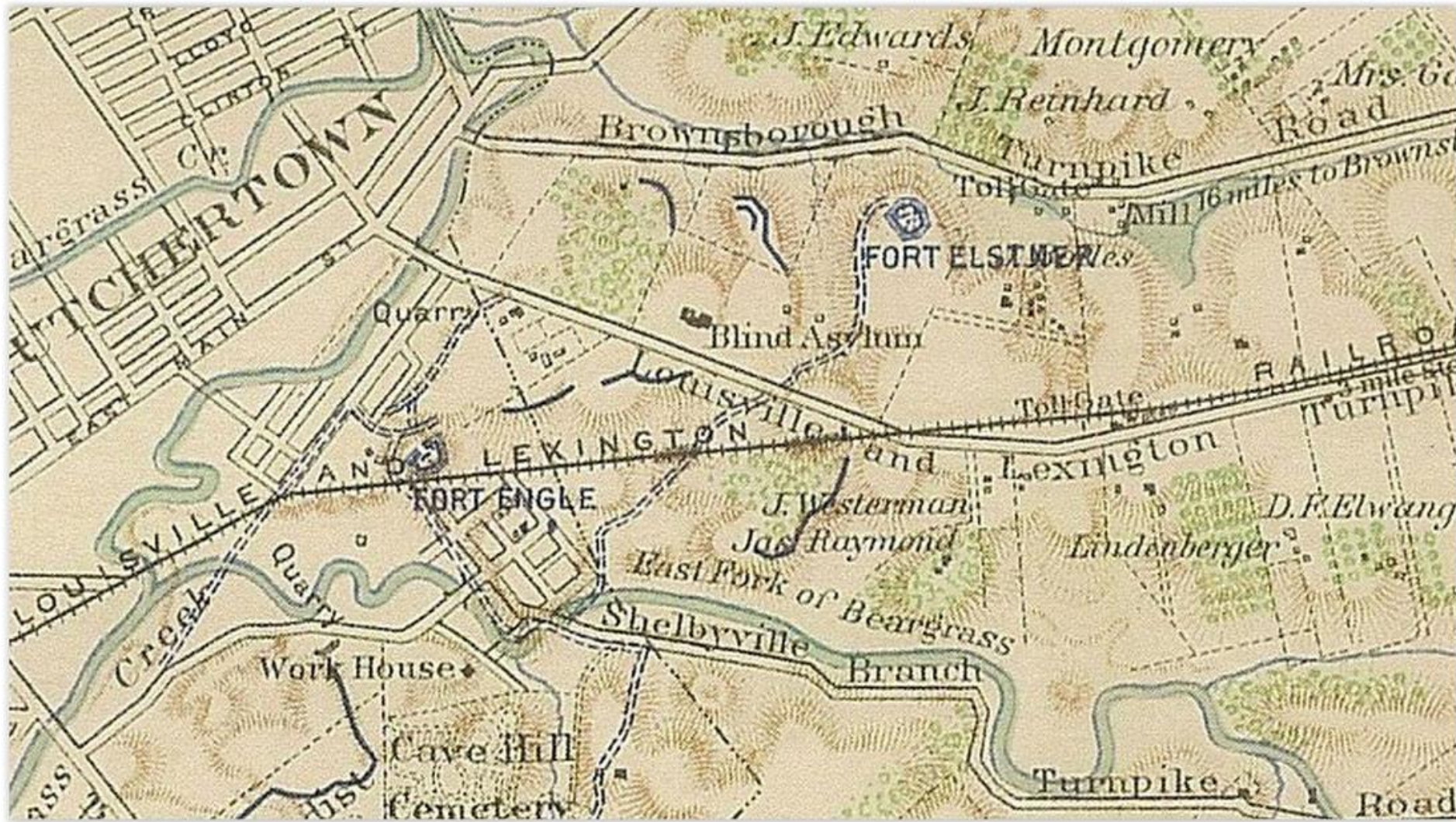




*A Photo History of the
Clifton Neighborhood*

9/22/23

43 photos - United Crescent Hill Ministries exhibit
37 photos - U of L Photographic Archives
<https://digital.library.louisville.edu/>



1865 Clifton map showing Ft Elstner

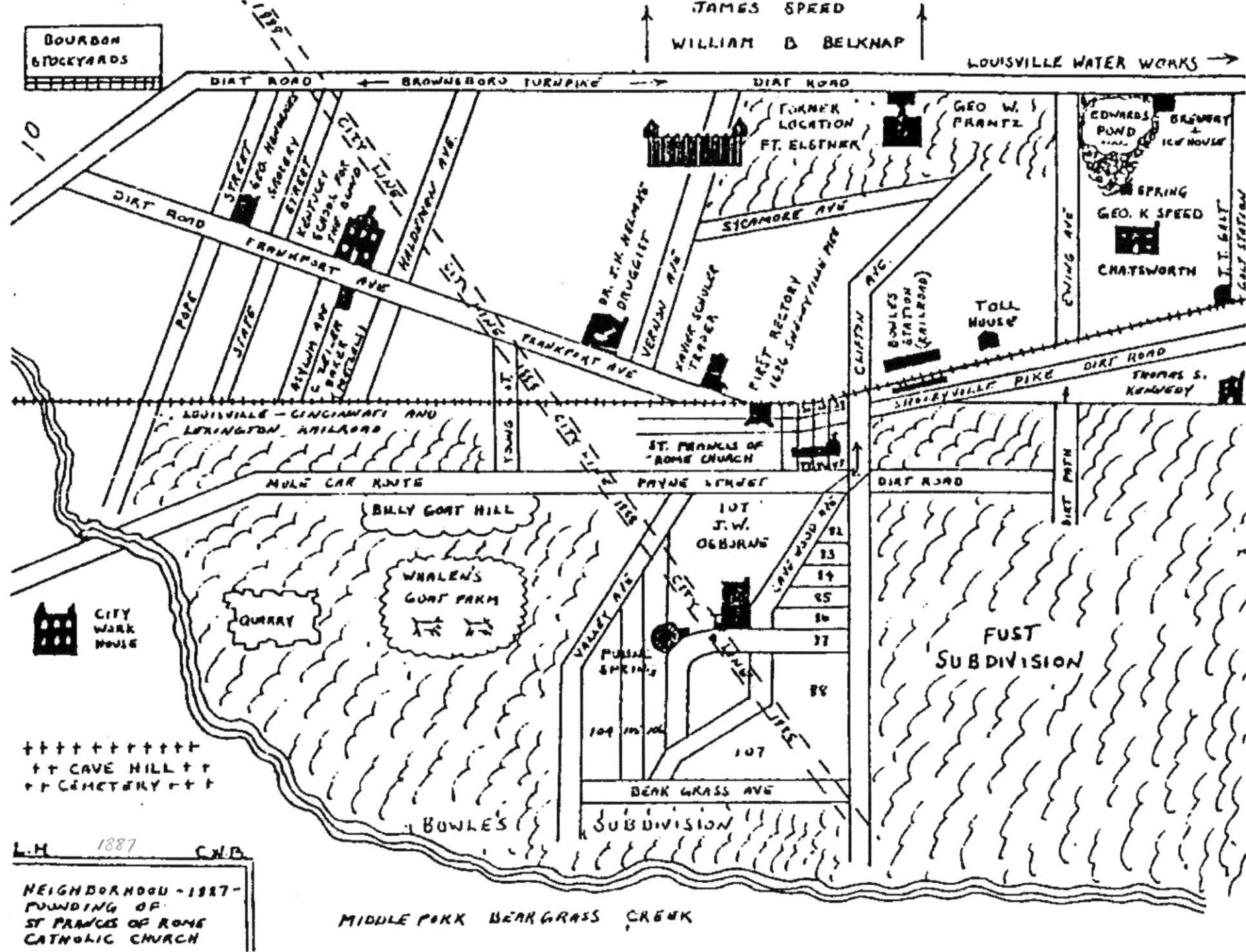
Fort Elstner was constructed between 1864 and 1865. Its guns looked down on Brownsboro Rd. The fort was built of earth and timber, with a ditch encircling it, over which a drawbridge provided access to the fort's interior and underground magazine. The magazine itself housed 200 rounds of artillery shells, enough ammunition to provide continuous volleys of interlocking cross-fire between Fort Elstner and several sister forts. After the war ended in 1865, Fort Elstner was eventually abandoned with the dubious distinction of never having fired a shot in combat.

Very little remains of this Civil War fort, though outlines of the original earthworks may still exist. A stray cannonball or two has also been known to be uncovered in the area.



East Louisville, Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, 1879, Beers & Lanagan

An early rendering of east Louisville showing Clifton to the far left. To orient yourself, trace the intersection of the Louisville and Cincinnati Railroad with the Louisville and Shelbyville Turnpike (Frankfort Avenue).



Greater Clifton, 1887

A map showing the neighborhood at the time of the founding of St. Frances of Rome Catholic Church. Note the lack of many paved roads or businesses. Whalen's Goat Farm and Billy Goat Hill hark back to the rural days of Clifton. Billy Goat Hill is situated in the 1700-1900 blocks of Payne St., on high ground just above the cliffs adjacent to I-64. It was where Fritz Whalen grazed over 200 goats. Records as far back as 1884 document this use, as do written accounts, most notably the St. Frances of Rome 65th Anniversary Booklet, published in 1964. This pastureland was historically characterized by an open meadow upon which the goats roamed freely. According to the *Encyclopedia of Louisville*,

"...to honor the goat farm owned by Ed Whalen, a subdivision named Angora Heights was created [in Clifton] in the late 19th century. Feeling that the name was too highbrow for their neighborhood, the residents changed the name to Billy Goat Hill. The goats, largely unrestrained and free to roam the streets and climb the rocky cliffs, inspired the street names of Angora Ct, and Angora Ave., along with the Billy Goat Hill Democratic Club [demolished by I-64 construction]. By the mid-20th century, most of the goats had either fled the area or had been shot by hunters. The street names are the only reminders of the area's origins."

**Bowles Station, 1880's,
Courier-Journal, May 10, 1955**

By the 1840's, the Louisville and Frankfort Railroad was laid. This railroad, which was intended to facilitate the movement of goods and people to and from Louisville, converged with the already existing turnpike road at a point known as Bowles' Station. Originally, Bowles' Station had two large frame buildings: one was a waiting room for rail passengers, and the other housed the post office. Each day the post mistress would place the mail on a hook, which was then picked up by the trainmaster while the train was still moving. Bowles Station was named for Joshua Bowles, president of the first Bank of Louisville, who owned considerable acreage in the area and an estate he named Clifton. The name eventually spread to the surrounding countryside.

After Bowles' death in 1869, his heirs subdivided and sold off his land. In 1883, the 20-room house with its wide lawn, sweeping gravel drive on 18 acres was bought by George Frantz.





**Mellwood Distillery, 1700
Mellwood Ave., N.E. Corner of
Mellwood and Frankfort**
*University of Louisville Photo Archives,
Potter Collection*

The Mellwood Distillery, a Richardsonian Romanesque style landmark of the Clifton neighborhood, was constructed in 1892 and demolished in 1985. The distillery's owners were drawn to Clifton by easily available water supplied by Beargrass Creek. It was a large employer of Clifton residents. An example of monumental industrial architecture, the building was long considered one of the finest distillery complexes in the city. The Mellwood Distillery was founded in 1878 by Andrew Briggs, William Patterson and George W. Swearinger. The corporation owned a large tract of land at the corner of Mellwood and Frankfort and had a number of buildings located on the site. The deed to the property changed hands several times between Mellwood Distillery Corp. and the Kentucky Distillery and Warehouse Co. The land was also owned by the General Distillery Corporation and the New Double Spring Distillery.



1700 Frankfort Ave. D F Billig Drugs from 1930 to 1937

Mellwood and Frankfort Ave.

06/13/1935

*University of Louisville Photo Archives,
Herald-Post Collection
ULPA 1994_018_1083*

Frankfort Avenue near Mellwood Avenue. View of Frankfort Avenue with telephone wires on each side. Little else is shown on the right but on the left are two drugstores at opposite street corners; the second one is "Billig Drugs." On the side of Billig Drugs is painted a large sign with a name in script partly blocked by a telephone pole and "'92." A car is at that corner, more cars are along Frankfort Avenue, and a streetcar approaches. There are some more buildings on the left as well, beyond Billig Drugs.



**James Lees Memorial
Presbyterian Church
(Frame), 1901-1915
1741 Frankfort Ave.**

*Clifton Community Council
Archives and James Lees
Church Archives*

The frame structure, shown here, was built in 1901 and was later replaced by a brick church, which is still standing today. Note the Gothic Revival style arched windows and pointed tower, both creating a strong vertical emphasis



James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church

1741 Frankfort Ave.

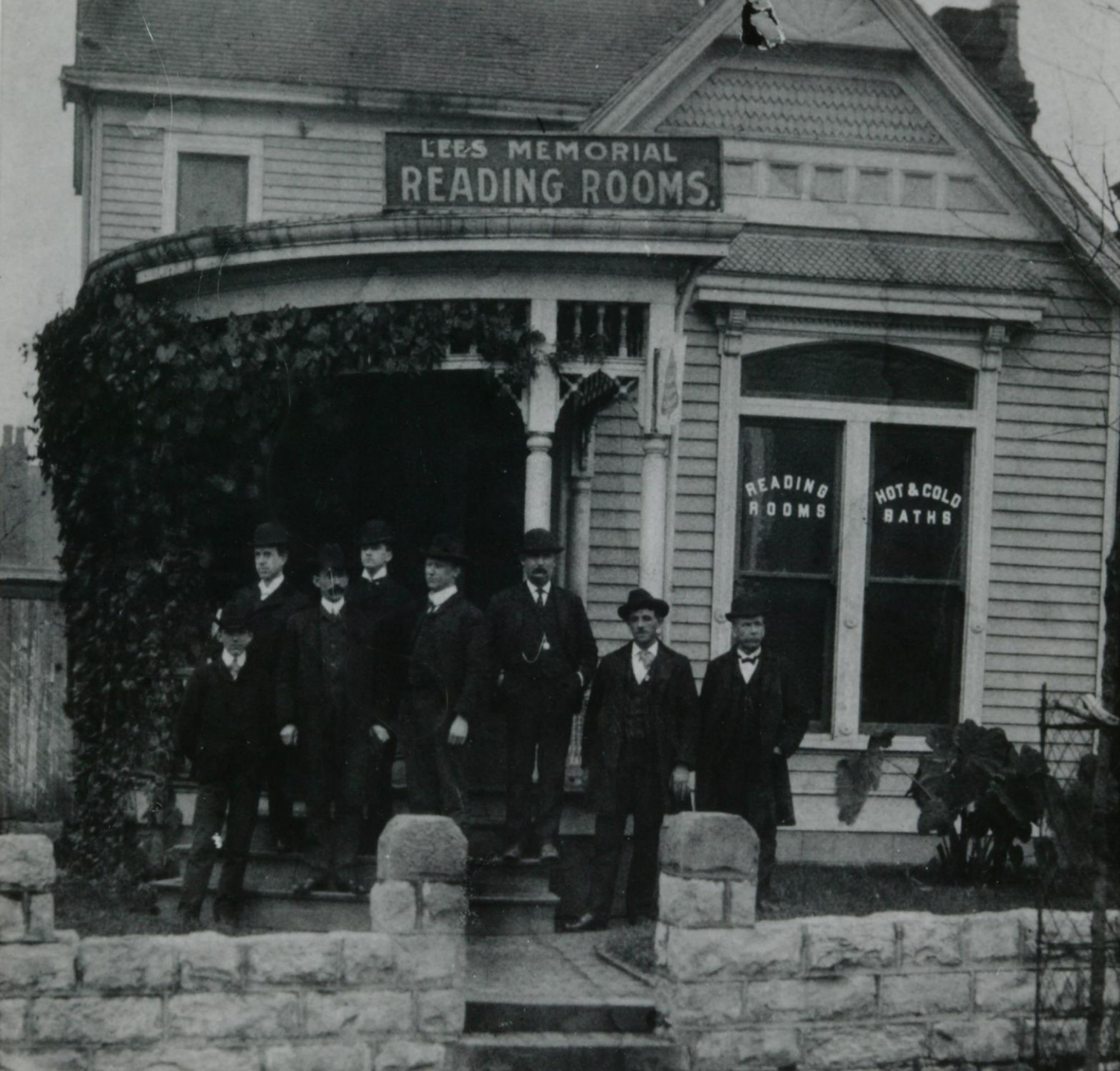
The dark brown brick church is classical revival style architecture with stain glass windows and classical decoration, note the domed roof. The building was designed by Samuel M. Plato, a nationally-recognized African American Louisville architect, and was completed in 1915. It once housed a branch of the Louisville Free Public Library in the church basement.

The congregation continued at this location until January 2015, when it voted to dissolve the church. The last worship service was held on December 7, 2014. The church was sold several times and is now "The James" luxury apartments.



James Lees Sanctuary

The sanctuary of the first James Lees church pictured here featured heavy, dark Victorian furnishings such as the ornately carved organ and pulpit



**James Lees' Reading Room,
1743 Frankfort Ave.
1900 to 1910**

*Clifton Community Council Archives and
James Lees Church Archives*

In an attempt to fulfill social needs in the Clifton neighborhood, James Lees Church acquired the Princess Anne style shotgun house adjacent to their church and converted it into a reading room. Thinking "reading maketh a full man," a branch of the Louisville Free Public Library was located there. The church also provided showers and clean towels for fifteen cents each to those without such facilities in their homes, thinking "cleanliness is next to godliness."

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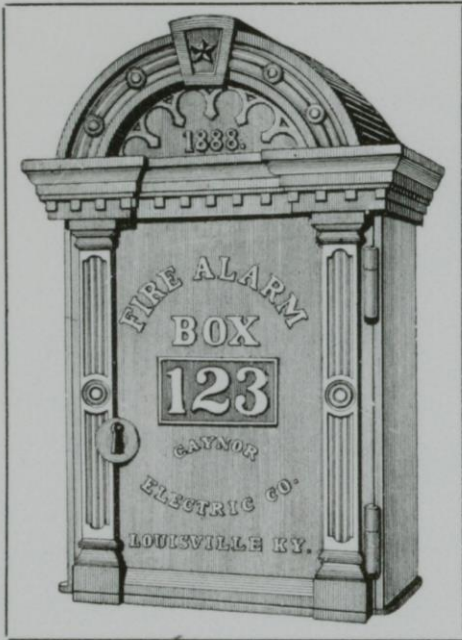
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Callbox, 1894

*Filson Club, (Historical
Sketch and Souvenir of the
Louisville Fire Department,
1894)*

Callboxes, such as the one
featured in this ad, were
typically found on Clifton
street corners during the
late Victorian era and were
used to alert firemen of
fires in progress





**Albert A. Stoll Hook and Ladder No. 3,
1761 Frankfort Ave
N.W. Corner of Frankfort Ave. and Pope St.,
1894**

Filson Club

By 1890, the year this firehouse was built, the general population of the Clifton area had expanded to such a degree that fire protection was necessary. This beautiful building, while still standing today, has undergone changes that have taken its corner bell tower and many of its intricate art glass windows and doors.

Built in 1890, it has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1980. Originally it was called Hook & Ladder No. 3, and was renamed to honor an early school board president. Constructed in the Gothic Revival style architecture by contractor by John Greinier & Brothers, it's first floor windows were originally stained glass and along with gothic arches and a square tower with turrets (now gone), it looked like a cathedral. The firehouse moved to 300 N. Spring St in 2009 and the building was sold and renovated into a restaurant, now The Silver Dollar (2014)



**S.W. Corner of Frankfort Ave.
and Pope St., March 5, 1938**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives, Caufield
& Shook Collection, ULPA
CS_157879*

Young's pharmacy was typical of the Mom and Pop stores that were on almost every corner in Clifton. The corner tower acted as a beacon to attract customers. Note the tracks in the street from the electric streetcars and the brick-lined gutters.

Bicyclists and pedestrians meet at the doorway of Young's Pharmacy at Frankfort and Pope St. The building is multiple stories tall and likely includes an apartment on the upper floors. Beyond the pharmacy is Rosalind Beauty Shoppe and The Hill Top bar. Homes can be seen beyond that. A number of cars are parked along the street which is wet with rain.

**Frankfort Ave. and Pope St.,
March 5, 1938**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives, Caufield
& Shook Collection, ULPA
CS_157880*

This picture captures a rainy day in the Clifton neighborhood. On the left is Young's Pharmacy with a Coca-Cola sign. To the right is a pool hall advertising Fehr's and Oertel's beers. Beyond that is the firehouse. Cars are parked along the street on either side. At Pope Street there is a visible line where the cobblestone road becomes a blacktopped road. Trolley tracks run down the street and the accompanying utility poles trace the sidewalks along the street.

MAR. 5 1938 - CAUFIELD & SHOOK - PHOTO. 157880



**Young's Pharmacy, 1764 Frankfort Ave.
S.W. Corner of Frankfort and Pope
5/25/1927**

*University of Louisville Photographic
Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection
ULPA CS_082250.*

Young's Pharmacy. 1911 to 1960.
Virginia Dry Goods. 1965 to 1988

A man in a dark suit and hat talks with a young man in striped pants and a white jacket. They are standing near the display cases in Young's Pharmacy. Products in the cases include cameras, film, beauty products, stationery, and more. Toward the back of the room a man stands behind a barred window with the words "Post Office" above it. Next to the window is a display of what may be liquor bottles and another counter with candies. To the far left is a set of benches around a table. Above the table is a mirror which reflects the counter, stools, and cash register on the opposite wall. Next to one of the benches is a phone and a phone book which is hanging from a small ledge. Reflected in the mirror over the booth is the ice cream bar and fountain. Note the intricate pressed tin ceiling and the post office clerk's window. Everything from candies to prescriptions were sold here.



**A & P Store, 1800 Frankfort Ave.,
March 5, 1938**

*University of Louisville Photographic
Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection,
ULPA CS_157881*

The streetcar to the left had most likely been involved in an accident and a crowd gathered to watch. The storefront behind the crowd is built of cast iron, a building material typically used on Victorian commercial storefronts. The strength of the iron, coupled with new innovations in glass making technology, allowed for large plate glass windows which were effectively used to display goods.

The front end of the Market St trolley can be seen in front of the A & P Food Store. A crowd of people wait on the sidewalk. It appears to be raining as the street looks wet, and children are huddled together spreading a coat above their heads. One couple shares an umbrella. In the window of the grocery store are ads for "8 o'clock coffee - 3 lb. bag 45 cents," "Down go bread prices, large loaf now 9 cents" and "Heinz Pickles."



1800 Frankfort Ave.

In 1887, this was a corner grocery, George Hendricks Grocery,
1902: Weatherton & Wigginton Grocers,
1904-1911: Christian Schwenck Grocer
1915-1925: The Quaker Maid Grocers
1928-1951: Great A & P Tea Co.
After the A&P closed, a restaurant opened, Smitty's Café 1953-1964,
1966-1968: Bauer Tavern
1970-1988: Millie's Place
1989-1991: Barry's The Black Cat.
Since 2012: Hilltop Tavern



1846 Frankfort Ave.

2/13/1939

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*

ULPA CS_164362

Betz family: 1905-1939

This photograph shows the home of F.W. Betz at 1846 Frankfort Avenue in 1939. A building of mixed styles, the front porch roof is supported by four Doric columns with a decorative addition of Tudor arches, while the bottom of the house and the rear of the building is done in brick. The facade of the second story is done in Swiss chalet style. The house next door has what looks like a trellis with an unidentified symbol on top. The symbol is made up of two concentric diamonds where the diamonds are a light color and the background is dark. The neighboring house also exhibits an example of gingerbread trim on its top story.



**Original American Printing House for the Blind,
1839 Frankfort Ave.,
August, 1920**

*University of Louisville Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*

Established in 1858, the printing house was originally quartered in the Kentucky School for the Blind building. By 1883, the company moved next door to an adjacent site on Frankfort Avenue in a building designed by prominent architect C.J. Clarke of Louisville. It remains the only institution in the world devoted solely to publishing, developing and manufacturing educational aides for the blind and visually impaired.



**American Printing House for
the Blind,
1839 Frankfort Ave.,
02/20/1922**
*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection
ULPA CS_041098*

In 1883, this building was constructed for the American Printing House for the Blind, the oldest publishing house for the visually impaired in the United States.

The Colored School can be seen on the lower right in the background.



**American Printing House for the Blind,
1839 Frankfort Ave.,
9/5/1961**

*University of Louisville Photographic Archives,
Royal Photo Co. Collection, ULPA R_17652*

Four-story brick building at the American Printing House for the Blind.



1839 Frankfort Ave., American Printing House for the Blind.

The American Printing House for the Blind, which is the oldest non-profit agency for the blind in the U.S and the largest publishing house for the blind in the world, was established in 1858. Its core is a 19th century building obscured by additions. The stone walls in front of the school and elsewhere in the neighborhood were made from stone quarried nearby by prisoners at the old City Workhouse at Lexington Rd. and Payne St., destroyed by fire in 1968. The Callahan Museum is on the property and tours are available. In May 2023 the groundbreaking was held for APH's new museum, the DOT Experience.



**Old School for the Blind,
1800 Block of Frankfort Ave.,
1922**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*

The Old School for the Blind was built in 1853 on the highest point in Louisville. Francis Costigan of Madison, Indiana, designed the building in the Greek Revival style. The cupola of the School for the Blind was equipped with operable windows which were used to regulate heat and ventilation. Hot air would rise up from the circular staircase beneath the dome to provide natural climatic controls. For eight months during the Civil War, it was used as a hospital for Union soldiers. It was demolished in 1967 to make room for newer, more modern facilities.



A 1950-1953 photo taken by Kyle Ellison



**The Colored Department of
the KY School for the Blind
1884**

This is the segregated
schoolhouse, which opened
in 1884 and operated for 71
years. The building was
demolished in 1958



The Colored Department of the School for the Blind and Garden

*Courier-Journal Photographic
Archives*

Ironically, KSB was segregated. It was desegregated in 1957, one of the first schools in the state to do so. It was designed by prominent local architect C.J. Clarke and was completed in 1886. The produce from the garden in the foreground fed students from both institutions. The building was demolished in 1958



American Printing House for the Blind Shipping Room, 1839 Frankfort Ave., 1924
University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection

The Printing House is shown here as workers boxed materials to be shipped to public school systems in Cincinnati and Saginaw. Since 1858, a non-profit agency, the Printing House has prepared books and other printed materials which enable the blind and visually impaired to receive an equal opportunity for education and an enhanced quality of life.



**Reading Room in the School
for the Blind, 1931**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*

Students of the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) used materials from the American Printing House to read and write. The KSB is the 3rd oldest school for the blind in the nation. The American Printing House is the oldest non-profit agency for the blind in the U.S. and the largest publishing house for the blind in the world. Both institutions have had a profound impact upon the Clifton neighborhood since locating here in the mid-1800's



**Christmas Picture of
Students and Faculty,
Kentucky School for the
Blind, 1936**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*

The faculty, staff, and students stand on the front steps of the School for the Blind with Santa Claus. Note the size of the building by comparing how small the people look in relation to the building's steps and columns. After the Costigan Building was demolished in 1967, elements of its entry stairs were retained and now grace an entrance to the Food Services building



**Kentucky School for the Blind
Students, Kentucky School
for the Blind, 1939**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*

These young women, standing on the steps of the Costigan-designed School for the Blind, had probably been in the cast of a play the school put on. Plays and other extra-curricular activities were intended to encourage the students' self-confidence, verbal skills, and ability to memorize while learning about the world's great literature



Cooking class for visually impaired people

Courier-Journal Photographic Archives

Part of the mission of the School for the Blind was to educate the blind and visually impaired to perform regular daily living skills and to encourage independence. Shown here is a cook class



**Cuscaden's Happy Land,
1904 Frankfort at Haldeman
7/20/1927**

*University of Louisville Photographic
Archives*

Caufield & Shook Collection

ULPA CS_083568

This little ice cream shop at 1904 Frankfort Ave., sits on the Clifton Loop near the Market & Frankfort line as evidenced by the trolley car. Another car and a pile of wood are behind the shop as well. Two men in white cook's outfits pose in front as a man in shirtsleeves and vest looks on. The shop signs advertise, "Quality Ice Cream. It's a food." On the counter, a glass container holds cones. A brick pathway crosses in front of the shop.

Cuscaden's Happy Land operated here between 1928 and 1930 at the streetcar turn around at Frankfort and Haldeman. Dairy products sold here were processed at the company's ice cream works at 619 S. Second St. It was replaced in 1931 by the Stumble Inn, in 1932 by the Shur Pleez Inn (both confectionery shops), in 1935 by the W.G. Sandwich Shoppe, and in 1940 by the Wonderland, purveyor of soft drinks



1902-1908 Frankfort Ave.,

Between 1892 and 1945, The Market Street streetcar turnaround existed at this location. The plaque at the site (message below) was dedicated in September, 1994.

Clifton Market Street Turnaround

The Clifton neighborhood's trolley turnaround stood on this site between 1892 and 1945, marking the eastern terminus of the Louisville Railway Company's Market Street line. The electrified line ran eastward along the Frankfort Avenue corridor to Haldeman Avenue, where it looped around for the return trip, along the entire length of Market to Fontaine Ferry Park.

The trolley was an important urban amenity, playing a major role in the development of the Clifton neighborhood as an early streetcar suburb of the city. The availability of conveniently located, affordable transportation enabled Clifton residents to more easily travel to and from work. Commuters were a captive audience for entrepreneurs.

This electrified line was replaced in 1945 by trolley buses and the route was extended further east into St. Matthews



**Mule car, Chestnut Street Line,
1901**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection,
ULPA CS_039333*

Mules "Don" and "Jim" pose with their trolley and drivers on Frankfort Avenue while passengers look out from inside the car. Straw appears to be sprinkled on the dirt tracks. The invoice indicates that this photo is a copy of an "old photo." This was one of the last mule cars to operate in Louisville.



**Frankfort and Bellaire Ave,
1/19/1921**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection
ULPA CS_034634*

This photograph shows the route of power lines after purchase of home telephone poles and consolidation of lines. Utility lines have been placed in a row down Frankfort Ave. On the right side are some homes. One of them has a picket fence and low stone wall. On the other side is a series of businesses, including Rob't. Lucas Shoes & Furnishings and the Kentucky Work Shop for the Adult Blind. A painting of a shoe and the words "Shoes Hats & Caps Furnishings" make up a sign on the wall of the shoe store.

The Lucas Shoe Store, to the far left, was built in 1905 and was itself later demolished for the expansion of the Kentucky Workshop for the Adult Blind which was expanded twice. In the workshop, the blind workers learned to weave baskets, make brooms, and other handicrafts. Formerly the ArtSpace galleries, now Quills Coffee Shop.

JANUARY 3-1921
LOUISVILLE GAS & ELECTRIC Co
Frankfort Ave. looking East From
Bellaire Ave. - Showing Route After
Purchase of Home Telephone Poles and
Consolidation of Lines
Photo No-34634



LG&E Crew, Bellaire and Frankfort Avenues, March 26, 1920

*University of Louisville Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection, ULPA
CS_031020*

Here, LG&E workers are seen updating services. The herringbone pattern sidewalks contrast the stone walls and curbs which were typical of those quarried by prison inmates from the nearby city workhouse

2042-40-38 Frankfort

Two men stand on a wagon with a large spool of cable while others stand nearby. Another truck with cables, buckets, and poles seems to be anchoring the cable to the ground. Homes, many of them with lace curtains in the window, are visible in the background. The house number on one of them is 2010. At the bottom corner of the photograph is written, "Louisville Gas & Electric Co. Removing 4/0 wire by use of Pierce-Arrow truck and Troy trailer.

Clifton Hall, 08/12/1925

2007 Frankfort Avenue

*University of Louisville Photographic
Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection*

ULPA CS_066391_5

The two-story brick building has two arched sections which may both have been doors at one time, but at the time of the photo only the left arch has a set of double doors. The plate glass windows on the first floor appear to be covered with a dark fabric or paper. Windows on the second floor are tilted open. The building to the left has a notice on the wall saying, "Clifton Council No. 227. Jr. O.U.A.M." (Junior Order of United American Mechanics). That fraternal society met at Clifton Hall on Frankfort Avenue.





Kentucky Workshop for the Adult Blind, 04/24/1928

2007 Frankfort Avenue
*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*
ULPA CS_091732

A two-story brick building on Frankfort Avenue has a sign painted on the windows saying, "Kentucky Workshop for the Adult Blind Retail Department." Woven baskets, brooms and mops are visible in the shop front window.

Built in 1905, this brick structure with classical details once housed the Clifton Theatre and the Kentucky Workshop for the Adult Blind where they handmade brooms from 1921 to 1974. ArtSpace was in 2001-2005-2007 Frankfort from 1984 to 2018.



Frankfort Ave. at Vernon Ave.

May 24, 1935

University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection, ULPA CS_138196

Gohmann's Drugs and Ice Cream bar and the business across the street, Haesley's Café (formerly Liebert's Clifton Market), were some of the many businesses that blended in with the residences along Frankfort Ave.

Shops, signs, and billboards line both sides of Frankfort Ave., eastward view from just west of Vernon Ave. and the railroad tracks. A man standing in the doorway of F.U. Gohmann's Drugs at 2031 Frankfort stares at the camera. A scale and a bicycle are near the entrance. Other signs for an "Ice Cream Bar" and Coca-Cola appear. Billboards for Maxwell House Coffee, Budweiser Beer, and the Herald Post newspaper are on the north side of the street. On the south side, the sign for Haeseley's Cafe at 2044 Frankfort also says "Oertel's Beer / On Tap." The Mary Rose Sweet Shop at 2050 Frankfort has an "Oertel's 92 Beer" sign. Signs for Moon Cleaners at 2054, and the Gulf Station at 2106 are partially visible. Automobiles and delivery trucks move along Frankfort, and are parked along the curb.

May 24 1935 Caufield & Shook Photo 138196



**Liebert's Clifton Market,
2044 Frankfort Avenue**
Thomas Burkhart Collection

This is one of the earliest pictures of Clifton Market. Note the horse drawn delivery cart with the water trough out front. The water trough was later replaced with a cast iron trough equipped with a steady stream of running water, quite an innovation for its day. Still standing today, it may be the last cast iron horse trough in existence in Louisville. The market doubled as a saloon in the early days.

The photo is dated 1883. Built in the 1880's, this two story structure housed C. B. Liebert's Market and Saloon. C.A. Haesley's Restaurant and Bar operated from 1921 to 1980.

This building was restored to its original appearance from historic photographs by previous owner Tommy Burkhart, 1983-1987, before being leased to Melvin Rowe in 1988.



**C. B. Liebert's Market and Saloon. The Clifton Market
2044 Frankfort Ave.**

The cast iron water trough in front was filled from a tap inside by the saloon keeper whenever a thirsty horse needed water.



**Snowman, Liebert's Clifton Market,
2044 Frankfort Avenue**

Thomas Burkhart Collection

Clifton residents gather outside the Market one cold day to build a snowman



**Liebert's Clifton Market,
2044 Frankfort Avenue**
Thomas Burkhart Collection

This is an accurate glimpse of the average Clifton saloon at the turn of the century. Common Beer, a dark brew, was produced nearby and was hauled to saloons in Clifton in kegs. Ice from Edward's pond, located next to the brewery (at Brownsboro Road and Ewing Avenue), was used to cool the beer. Note the sign to soldiers asking them not to even try to buy alcohol



**Liebert's Clifton Market,
2044 Frankfort Avenue**
*Thomas Burkhart
Collection*

Some rather stern-faced Clifton residents stand outside Liebert's. Note the intricate wood trim along the porch overhang. It was removed in later years but was refabricated in the mid 1980s during an extensive renovation by building owner Tom Burkhart



**Gulf Refining Co Service Station,
2106 Frankfort Avenue,
1/2/1928**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection
ULPA CS 087931*

Gasoline pumps stand outside near a street lamp. Signs indicate, "No smoking" "No-Nox" and "Crankcase Service." Beyond the service station is a row of houses.

**Gulf Refining Co Service Station,
2106 Frankfort Avenue,
1/2/1928**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection
ULPA CS 087932*

Homes located on New Main St.
are visible in the background on
the other side of the railroad
tracks.





**Gulf Refining Co Service Station,
2106 Frankfort Avenue,
1/2/1928**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection
ULPA CS 087933*

Gasoline pumps stand outside near a streetlamp. Beyond the service station is the Clifton Crescent Hill Cleaners.

Caron's City Directory shows:

1921-1938: Gulf Refining Co service station

1940-1950: Ray Holborn gas station

1953-1961: Parker's Gulf gas station

1962-1974: Crescent Gulf gas station

1980-1984: German Auto Repair

1988-1998: Bayer&Driesbach Body Shop

2002-2006: Red Lounge

2008: Varanese Restaurant



**Frank G. Jones and Company,
2133 Frankfort Avenue,
November 14, 1918**

*University of Louisville Photographic
Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection*

The coal company office in this shotgun house stood for many years at the intersection of Frankfort Avenue and the L&N railroad tracks. By 1925, it was demolished to make way for the Clifton Lumber Warehouse.

The Cunningham family purchased the property in 1979 for their garage door retail, warehouse, and self-storage businesses. A new construction 2-story, brick veneer structure, their current offices, was built in 1999.

Cunningham Overhead Door began in 1964 as Crawford Door Sales at the rear of 1870 Frankfort Ave. After seven years, they moved to the Bluegrass Industrial Park, but moved back to Clifton when they had the opportunity to purchase the old Clifton Lumber Yard. The family has roots in Clifton too, growing up on Pope St. and State St.



Clifton Lumber Warehouse

University of Louisville

Photographic Archives

An interior view of the warehouse at Frankfort Avenue and the L&N railroad tracks. The large entrance in the front of the warehouse opens out onto Frankfort Avenue. Some sections of the building still stand today.

In later years, railroad tracks were installed in the interior of the warehouse to allow for easier delivery and shipping.



Clifton Lumber Warehouse
University of Louisville
Photographic Archives

An interior view of the Clifton Lumber warehouse at the corner of Frankfort Avenue and the railroad tracks.

Caron's City Directory:
1903-1915: F G Jones & Company
1923-1982: Clifton Lumber
1984: Cunningham Overhead Door



**Railroad tracks and New Main
8/5/1921**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives, Caufield &
Shook Collection, ULPA CS 037677*

Three children sit on the L&N railroad tracks that run across Frankfort Ave. near New Main St. and in front of the lumber warehouse . A wooden fence divides the street from the tracks and frame houses line the road. The switching station is behind the tree, and 3 tracks are visible.

Originally called Bowles Station, there were two large buildings, one on each side of the tracks. One housed the post office (1891) where the postmistress would hang the daily mail bag on a hook to be picked up by the trainmaster as the train went by. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad completed in 1849 made this area east of the city accessible and led to more development after the Civil War.



Railroad crossing at Frankfort Avenue, 8/5/1921

University of Louisville

Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection, ULPA CS 109760

Two striped railroad crossing barriers are in the upright position at a railroad crossing along Frankfort Ave. To the left is a small building with a man seated outside. A railroad crossing sign reads "look both ways for trains" vertically on the pole. Clifton Lumber and residential homes are on the right.



**Railroad crossing at Frankfort
Ave, 10/22/1928**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection,
ULPA CS 096409*

View facing west on the east
side across the railroad
crossing at Frankfort Ave. and
New Main St. Two men are
sitting at the switching station
on the east side.

Oct 22 1928
Caufield & Shook
Photo - 96409



**Railroad Crossing at
Frankfort Avenue,
10/22/1928**
*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection,
ULPA CS 096410*

View facing west toward downtown. Two men stand at a switching station. Another man looks at the camera from the other side of a fence next to the tracks. A Gulf Refining Company station and a cleaners are visible on the west side of the tracks.

Oct. 22-1928
Caufield & Shook
Photo - 96410

**Frankfort and Clifton Avenues,
March 30, 1943**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection
ULPA CS_192748*

In the mid-1940's, the electric wires had been installed for public transportation, and the streetcar tracks had been removed or covered over.

Intersection at Frankfort and Clifton Ave. The camera is on the south side of Frankfort about 55 ft. west of the west curb of Clifton looking east. On the left are businesses including Crescent Venetian Blinds and Kenneth S. Bixby. A billboard advertising Old Fitzgerald sour mash can be partially seen in the left side of the image. On the right are houses. Cars are parked alongside Frankfort.

MARCH-30-1943 - CAUFIELD & SHOOK - PHOTO

**Frankfort and Clifton
Avenues, March 30, 1943**
*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*

Intersection of Frankfort and Clifton Ave. looking west toward the railroad tracks and New Main St. Cars are parked alongside Frankfort and a man is pushing a street cart. There is a limestone wall at the southeast corner.

2138, 2140, 2142 Frankfort:
Residential homes built in
1884-1887 were demolished
in 1978.

2144 Frankfort:
A new retail building was built
in 1951. Caffe Classico
opened in 2004.



**Gene Sauer Standard Oil
Service Station
2258 Frankfort Ave
Photo from 1945 or 1946
*Richard E Sauer Family
Collection***

Eugene E. Sauer operated the Standard Oil Service Station at the corner of Frankfort and Jane St from 1942 to 1973 when he closed the business and auctioned everything off. The family lived at 1926 Payne St. The children attended St Frances of Rome School to the 6th grade and then went to St. Leonard's.

In the late 1940's and early 1950's, Mr. Sauer sponsored cars that raced at the Sports Drome Speedway in Clarksville, IN. In 1956 he sponsored a 1956 Ford for the Daytona Stock Car Race on the beach.



**Gene Sauer Standard Oil
Service Station**
2258 Frankfort Ave
Photo from 1945 or 1946
*Richard E Sauer Family
Collection*

The Caron's City directory shows J H Tinsley lived there from 1909 to 1923. The Standard Oil Filling Station from 1925 to 1935. The B K Alvey Jr service station from 1937 to 1938. R A Hays service station from 1940 to 1942. The Sauer Service Station from 1942 to 1973. Used car sales 1974 to 1980. G & G Auto Cleaners from 1984 to 1987. East End Auto from 1988 to present.



**Edinger Bros. Auto Co.,
2300 Frankfort Avenue, 1924**
*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*

An early picture of one of the car dealerships in Clifton. Note the new Studebakers through the showroom window. By the mid 20th century, the automobile had transformed Clifton from a pedestrian neighborhood to one dominated by the automobile.



**Standard Automobile Company,
2300 Frankfort Ave. 12/19/1928**
*University of Louisville Photographic
Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection,
ULPA CS 098103*

The Used Car Department of Standard Automobile Company at the one-story brick building with storefront windows with the words CADILLAC and LASALLE painted over them. Streetcar tracks are in the road

From 1915 thru 1920, the building was used as an icehouse. From 1923 to 1953 there were several auto dealerships and auto repair businesses. Heating and appliance businesses from 1953 to 1979 . Wright Way closed in 1991 after a fire, and the building was renovated for the Volare Italian Restaurant.

Merchants Ice & Cold Storage, 1915-1920
Standard Auto Co., 1928-1935
Schuler-Koster Motor Co., 1937-1945
John Mueller Auto Repair, 1946-1953
Bryant-Horton Heating, 1953-1979
Wright Way Shoppe, 1989-1991
Volare Italian Restaurant, 2004



**Frankfort Avenue and Jane,
January 3, 1921**
*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*

By the 1830's, the Frankfort and Shelbyville turnpike was established along what is today Frankfort Avenue. A row of shotgun houses lined the sides of Frankfort Avenue in the early 1920's. Many of the houses have since been demolished. The 3 Mile Tollhouse, where the tollgate keeper collected fees (2311 Frankfort), and Widman's Saloon and Grocery, a popular stop along the pike (2319 Frankfort), can be seen in the distance.



2311 Frankfort Ave. Three Mile Tollhouse

Built between 1818 and 1830, when the turnpike was constructed. This brick building in the Federal vernacular style was the original Toll House for the Louisville & Shelbyville Turnpike until the turnpike discontinued in 1901. The tollgate keeper and his family lived on the premises and maintained the roadbed. Fees were based on the amount of damage a vehicle might do to the roadbed. From 1908 to 1927, the toll house served as the Clifton Police Station and even had one tiny jail cell. Fred and Polly Mueller operated the Tollhouse Restaurant from 1939 until it closed around 1985. The property was vacant for some years before being purchased by Sheila Tasman in 1990, when it was renovated for the original location of The Sweet Surrender (1991-2003). The building was placed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1990.



Tollhouse Restaurant
2311 Frankfort Ave
Clifton Community Council
Archives

The vintage cars out front hint at the era in which this photo was taken. The tollhouse looked a lot different when the front porch was enclosed, as viewed in this shot. Polly Mueller, former tollhouse restaurant proprietor, said it provided additional space for a long bar.

Fred and Polly Mueller operated the Tollhouse Restaurant from 1939 until it closed around 1985.



Tollhouse Restaurant
Clifton Community Council
Archives

A group takes a break from dancing to pose for a picture.



Tollhouse Restaurant
Clifton Community Council
Archives

What a great way to spend a summer's evening in Clifton – outside under the stars talking with friends as the sound of Glenn Miller or Tommy Dorsey Bands played on the juke box



Tollhouse Restaurant
*Clifton Community Council
Archives*

Freddie Mueller and his wife Polly (posed behind him) owned and operated the Tollhouse Restaurant for many years. Freddie always greeted patrons with a smile and an Oertel's. Polly was famous for her butterbean soup. Note that the bar pictured here now stands in the restaurant at 2230 Frankfort Ave



**Schwarz, Clifford & Scott
Frankfort and Keats,
2320 Frankfort Ave
6/5/1933**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection
ULPA CS_128004*

Trolley tracks run down Frankfort Ave. by the Schwarz, Clifford and Scott building at the corner of Keats Ave. The building includes signage for "Pontiac Sixes and Eights" and services includes wash, polish, grease, wax, and general auto repair. A fire hydrant sits near the corner of the sidewalk by curbs that are made of limestone. Utility lines run along the street and a number of cars are parked on Frankfort and Keats Aves.



**SCS Pontiac,
Frankfort and Keats,
2316-2320 Frankfort Ave
1935**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*

A Pontiac dealership which did everything from repairs to washing and waxing your car. Imagine: a grease job for 75 cents, a wash for a dollar, a polish for \$1.50, and a wax for \$3.00! Note the roofline of the building, which gave it a fortress-like appearance.

1930-1936: Schwartz Clifford & Scott Co
autos

1937-1980: Dr Pepper Bottling Co of KY

1991-2016: D & W Silks Inc



**Dr. Pepper Bottling Plant,
2316-2320 Frankfort Ave.,
1/30/1943**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Royal Photo Co. Collection
ULPA R_07531*

Brick building at the corner of Frankfort Avenue and Keats Avenue for Dr. Pepper. Large windows show bottling equipment inside. Painted on an exterior wall above a window is a sign reading '3 a Day Drink Dr. Pepper Good for Life! At 10 2 & 4.'

The Caron's City Directory lists the Dr. Pepper Bottling Co. of Ky. from 1937 to 1980.

D&W Silks opened a retail store and manufacturing plant for silk flowers in 1991.



**Dr. Pepper Bottling Plant,
2316-2320 Frankfort Ave.,
6/21/1965**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Royal Photo Co. Collection
ULPA-R 18677*

Men and women work at
the bottling lines at a Dr.
Pepper bottling factory



**Frankfort and Ewing Aves.,
11/11/1948**

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives, Royal
Studio Collection, ULPA
R_10810*

These two Queen Anne style houses were slowly being overshadowed by the new. Note the rather imposing billboard advertising for Admiral automatic radio phonographs with optional T.V.'s." These houses were later torn down to make way for a new commercial building. This corner was most recently the site of Melton's Market, now Walgreen's.

2368 Frankfort Ave. Residential home
Horace Nuckols: 1899-1910
J F Leanhart: 1919-1925
Anna Lang: 1935-1940

2362 Frankfort Ave. Residential home
Peter Goetzinger: 1923-1956



**Frankfort and Ewing Avenues,
2368 Frankfort Ave**

4/27/1949

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Royal Photo Co. Collection
ULPA R_11156*

View from across the street of
Steiden Super Market at
Frankfort Avenue and Ewing
Avenue.

Steiden's Grocery operated
here from 1949 to 1955.



2368 Frankfort Ave. Frankfort Ave. and Ewing Ave.
Steiden's Grocery operated here from 1949 to 1955.
This corner was then the site of the Winn-Dixie Grocery from 1956 to 1974, and
Melton's Food Market from 1975 to 1990.
Walgreen's remodeled the façade and opened in 1991



**St. Frances of Rome School,
Payne St. and Clifton Ave.,
4/26/1930**

*University of Louisville Photographic
Archives,
Caufield and Shook Collection
ULPA CS_110372*

The St. Frances of Rome School was designed by architect Thomas J. Nolan Sr. and is one of Louisville's finest examples of Italian Renaissance style architecture. The three story building features a large archway over a recessed entrance. Atop the building is a cross. The school was dedicated on May 4, 1930 and closed in 1975. Ursuline Pitt School relocated in 1993.

The Clifton Center was formed in 1994 and closed in 2018. Holy Trinity School Clifton Campus occupies the site now.



**St. Vincent's Orphanage,
2120 Payne St.**

6/25/1932

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*

ULPA CS_124284

The three story brick building features a portico supported by columns in the center of the building. Atop the building is a round tower with a cross at the top. Started in 1832 by Mother Catherine Spalding, the orphanage and moved to the Payne St. location in 1901 where it remained until relocating in 1955. The orphanage closed in 1983.



**St. Vincent's Orphanage,
2120 Payne St.**

1/14/1942

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection*

ULPA CS_185325

The orphanage closed in 1983. Sacred Heart Home purchased the property in September 1990 for use as a nursing home. In 1995 they applied to the city to build 50 senior apartments called Sacred Heart Village I. In 1997, further expansion was submitted to build a 60 bed nursing center. In 1999, Sacred Heart Home filed building plans for an additional 50 senior apartments called Sacred Heart Village II. In 2016, the property was sold to Nazareth Home, Clifton Campus.



The Bowles Estate, 2141-2143 Sycamore Ave., Clifton and Sycamore Aves.

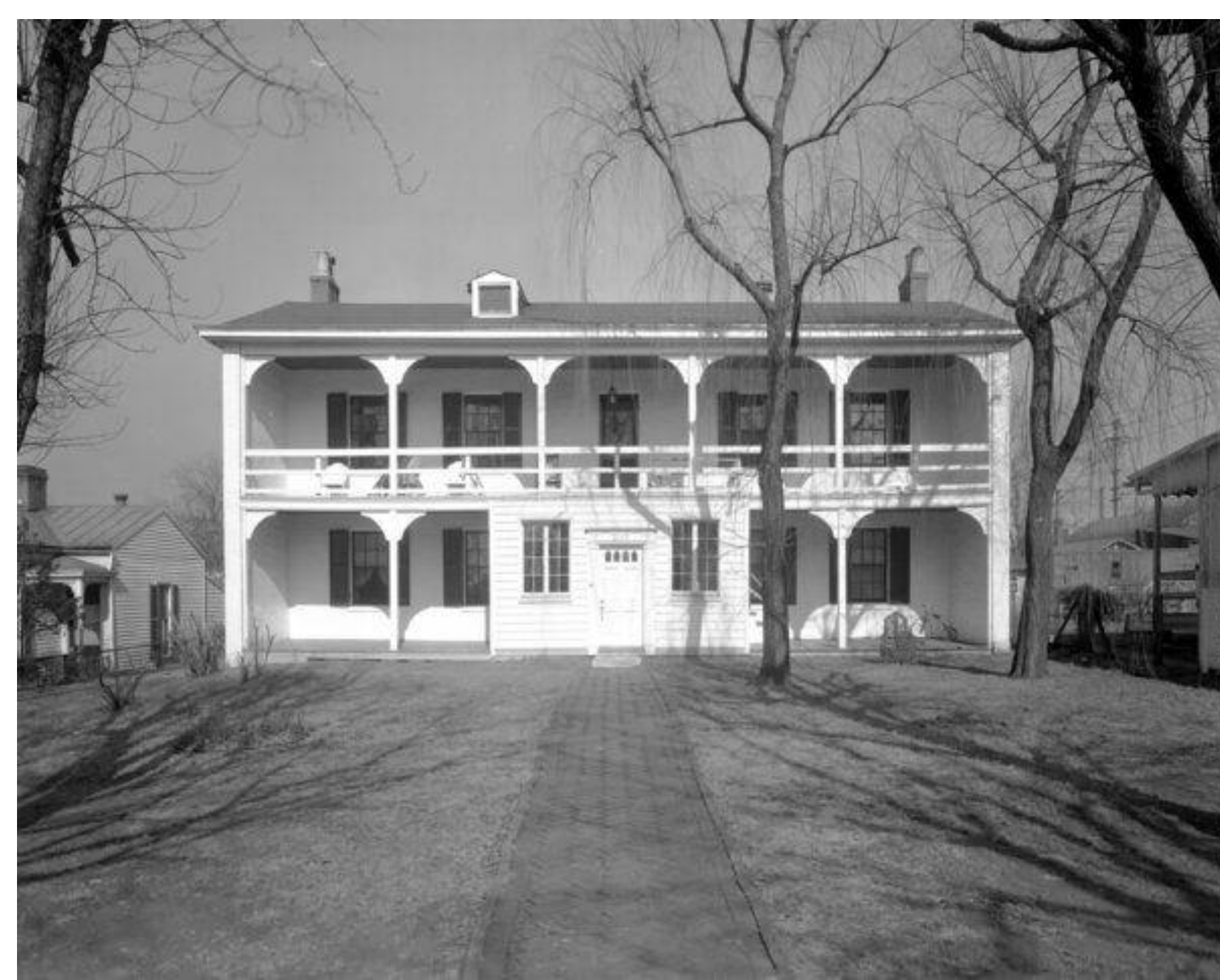
Built between 1817 -1842, Joshua Bowles, a steamboat captain from Virginia and president of the first Bank of Louisville moved from steamy, sooty Louisville to his farm located between Frankfort Ave., Brownsboro Rd., Vernon and Ewing Aves. in about 1842. He called his estate 'Clifton' because of the cliffs which overlooked Brownsboro Rd. After Bowles' death in 1869, (He is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery) his heirs subdivided and sold off his land and the Clifton name spread to the surrounding area. In 1883, the 20-room house with its wide lawn, sweeping gravel drive on 18 acres was bought by George Frantz, the father of W. Harold Frantz.

Nettie Oliver, a genealogist with The Filson Historical Society, describes the house and its history:

The house... at 2143 Sycamore Street in the Clifton neighborhood of Louisville... was built in the early 1800's by Joshua Bowles . . . (who) was born in 1795 in Virginia and came to Louisville in 1816. By 1842, Bowles had removed himself from the city and purchased the tract of land between Frankfort Avenue and Brownsboro Road. Joshua Bowles was President of the 1st Bank of Louisville serving from 1840 until his death in 1869. On the 1859 Bergmann map of Jefferson County, Bowles is listed on the large tract of land, which is now Clifton neighborhood. When Bowles died he left in his will the house and property to his daughter Margaretta. In 1883, the house and eighteen acres were sold to the Frantz family. After George W. Frantz bought the property, he began to enlarge the house. He raised the ceilings to twelve feet and added a third floor with a ballroom and more bedrooms.

Frantz kept his home just as it had been for many years. Gas fixtures lighted many of the rooms. The 26-room house contained 19 fireplaces, two of which were made from white marble. A bathroom included a wooden copper-lined tub. There were four pairs of ten feet tall paneled walnut doors adorned with brass ornamental hinges and eighty pairs of paneled walnut shutters and three gold leaf and walnut window cornices.

(After) Frantz died in 1959 . . . a public auction was held. Antique dealers turned out in droves to purchase marble statues, bisque figures, marble top tables, mirrors and hand carved beds. Mr. George W. Frantz, while on trips to Italy, supposedly purchased many of these treasured contents . . . After the auction, the property was sold to Mr. Gilbert Westerfield for \$75,000 and in 1962, the old home was demolished to make way for a nursing home at 2141 Sycamore Ave.



**Rastetter House, 2213 Payne St.
2/17/1949**

*University of Louisville Photographic
Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection,
ULPA CS_241421*

A two story house at 2213 Payne St. The symmetrical house features covered porches on both levels. Two doors are at the center of the house on the first and second floor, flanked by double set of windows on either side. The windows have open shutters. A brick walkway leads up to the entrance and several trees are in the front yard.

The Rastetter House is the oldest farm house still standing in Clifton. As originally constructed, it faced the Louisville and Shelbyville Turnpike and had a deep setback to the street. The Rastetter House is a two story brick "I" house with five bays on both the primary and secondary facades. Its most unusual feature is a two-story wooden gallery, set between two brick end walls that runs the entire length of the original rear of the house.

The house remained in the Rastetter family until 1923. The house was renovated in 1993 in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's standards for rehabilitation.



University of Louisville Photographic Archives, 4/15/1934, Herald-Post Collection, ULPA 1994_018_0583

All Prayer Foundling Home, 2301-05 Sycamore Ave. Built in 1888. Close-up corner shot of a white house with dark trim around the windows. The house has a flat roof and an aboveground stone basement. The All Prayer Foundling was founded in 1905, it was a home for infants before becoming a home for unwed mothers in 1947. Deed records show Inner City Ministries Inc. owned the property from 1969 to 2011, then it was sold to Scarlet Hope Inc.



**Grand View Apartments & Annex,
173-175 N. Keats Ave.**

9/14/1937

*University of Louisville
Photographic Archives,
Caufield and Shook Collection*

ULPA CS_ 153964

At the end of North Keats Avenue stands the Grand View Apartments and Annex. The multi-story frame building to the right has a sign over its door announcing, "Grandview." A woman, a man, and two small children stand near the front door. The entryway has a suspended canopy. There are dormer windows in the mansard roof and a double balcony/porch on the side. The annex on the left is a three-story brick building with covered porches for each floor.

The 14 units were fully renovated and converted to condos in 2007 and renamed "Keats Bluffs".



1964 Payne St.

1/29/1957

University of Louisville

Photographic Archives,

Royal Photo Co. Collection

ULPA R_15964

Shotgun-style house on Payne Street with steps leading from the street.

**Housecraft Construction Co.
Photo**



250 N. Pope St.

4/9/1956

University of Louisville

Photographic Archives,

Royal Photo Co. Collection

ULPA R_15573

White shotgun before
remodeling.

**Housecraft Construction
Co. Photo**

Street Names

By the turn of the century, most of Clifton's streets had been officially named. What follows is a brief explanation of how each name was chosen.

Letterle Avenue - Formerly known as Brownsboro Road. It was named for John M. Letterle, a pork packer and the first president of the Butcher's Union No. 1.

Mellwood Avenue - Named for Mellwood Distillery.

Frankfort Avenue - Named for Frankfort, Kentucky, the State Capital. It was formerly called Shelbyville Turnpike, with its first toll gate at Frankfort and Jane Streets.

William Street - Pope Street - H. Street (now Embry) - Named for William H. Pope, who laid out this section of the city. These three streets form the letter "H" between Frankfort and Letterie Avenue.

Payne Street - Named for W.B. Payne, a member of the Louisville Charter Committee for the year 1828.

Stoll Avenue - Named for Albert A. Stoll, president of the school board in 1895.

Spring Street - Named for a never failing spring in a bed of watercress situated near Spring Street, east of the L&N railroad tracks.

Vernon Avenue - Named for W.S. Vernon

Keats Avenue - Named for George Keats, a brother of John Keats, the Poet. Payne, Vernon and Keats were members of the Louisville Charter Committee of 1828. Vernon Avenue, however, was formerly known as Bowles Lane.

Ewing Avenue - Jane Avenue - Named for Ewing and Jane Speed, children of George K. Speed, whose ancestral home at what is now Ewing and Frankfort was called "Chatsworth."

Haldeman Avenue - Named for W.N. Haldeman, publisher of the Courier-Journal.

Clifton Avenue - Formerly called Cavewood, because it led to a cave at the fringe of the woods to the rear of the Taylor-Rudd Home, Payne St.

Frank and Rastetter - Named for property owners where these families resided.

Excerpts from the St. Frances of Rome Anniversary Booklet, 1965. Charles W. Beckman, author