



*A Photo History of the
Clifton Neighborhood*

on exhibit at:
Clifton's Pizza Company 1993-2019
United Crescent Hill Ministries 2022

Clifton Community Council
9/23/2022

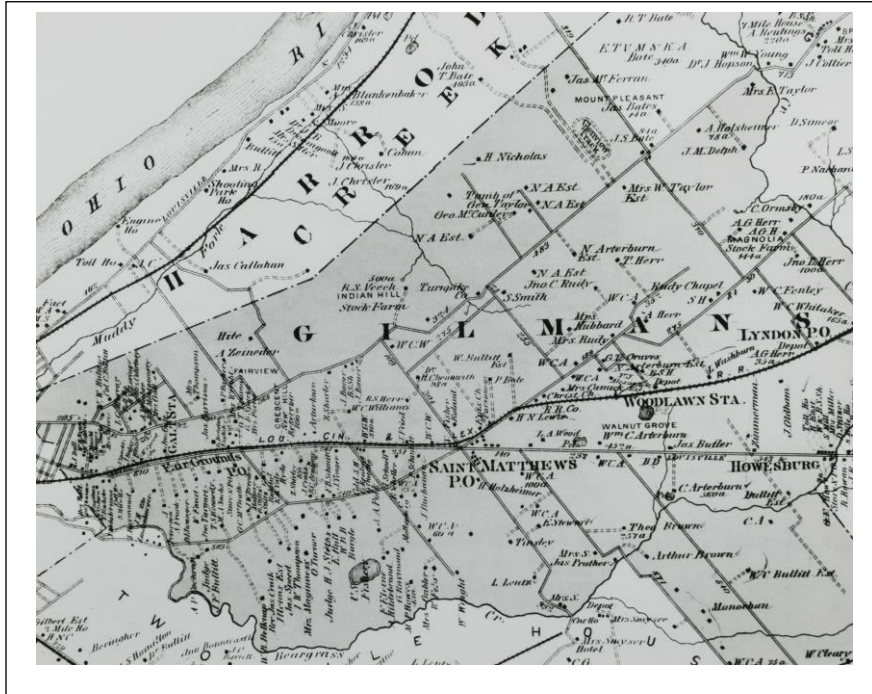
In June 1992, the Clifton Community Council appropriated a \$500 budget and began planning for a display of historic photographs, maps, and sketches to be displayed in an exhibit to be shown in concert with the September 26, 1992 neighborhood walking tour and in honor of Kentucky's Bicentennial. The exhibit was created in a time line format to chronicle the evolution of the Clifton neighborhood from its origin as a rural farming community to a street car suburb of Louisville.

A talented team of Clifton activists and residents was assembled to assist in bringing this project together. Joanne Weeter, Research Coordinator for the City of Louisville's Landmarks Commission and Clifton historian, headed up the team. Sherrill Redmon, archivist at the University of Louisville, acted as advisor. John Beckman, a professional photographer at Quadrant Studio and contributing photographer to such publications as 200 Years at the Falls of the Ohio, lent his expertise. Art Embrey and Terry Laun of Embrey Graphics Inc. assisted with creative concepts and production. Mary Beth Rowan, a former teacher at Louisville Collegiate School, insured the exhibit reached the school-age audience. Joanne Triplett, former administrator of the Smithsonian Institution's inventory of American Painters, showcased her talents related to museum work. Janet Egerton, teacher for Jefferson County Schools Adult Literacy Program and Preservation Coordinator for the Clifton Community Council organized the participation and support of the neighborhood business community.

This project was undertaken during the same time, Clifton was pursuing the expansion of its 1983 Historic District. On June 10, 1992, an informational meeting was held with the Kentucky Heritage Council and the City of Louisville Landmarks Commission to explore expanding Clifton's National Register District. Listed in 1983, it composed approximately 650 structures located north of the CSX railroad tracks. The nomination was submitted in August, 1992, and the expansion approved in January, 1994 included the entire neighborhood.

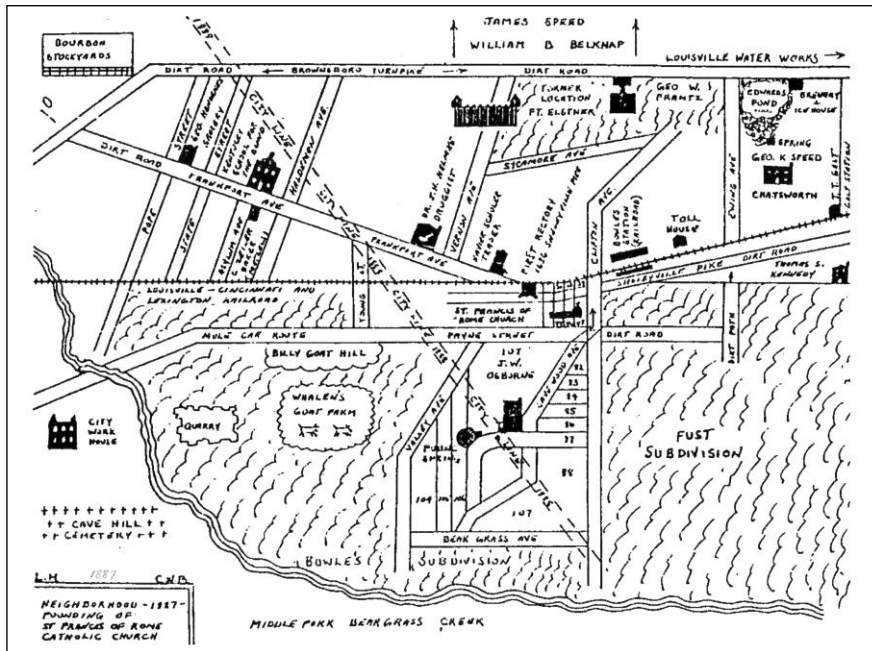
The Historic Photo Collection was exhibited at 2230 Frankfort Ave, the former location for Clifton Pizza Co. and Steve O's Italian Restaurant, from 1993 until 2019. In March, 2020, the 25 framed historic photos were moved to United Crescent Hill Ministries, 151 South State St. Due to COVID, plans to exhibit them in the community room were delayed until the fall of 2022.





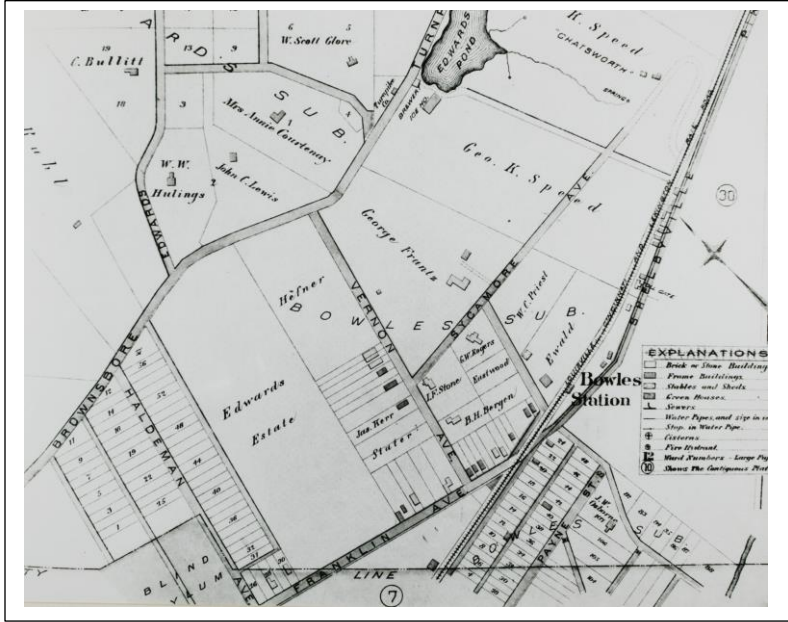
1 East Louisville, Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, 1879, Beers & Lanagan

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



2 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



3 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.



4 Mellwood Distillery, N.E. Corner of Mellwood and Frankfort Avenues

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.



5 James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church (Frame), 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.



6 James Lees Sanctuary

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



7 James Lees' Reading Room, 1745 Frankfort Ave.
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."



8 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.



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

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

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.



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

University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection

Young's pharmacy was typical of the Mom and Pop stores that doffed 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.



11 Young's Pharmacy, S.W. Corner of Frankfort Ave. and Pope St., 1927

University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection

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. The wasted display space created by lining every available wall with merchandise created a void in the center of the store. With real estate at a premium, it would certainly be discouraged by today's marketing geniuses.



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

University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection

The streetcar to the left had most likely been involved in an accident here 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.



13 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.



14 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. Blacks were relegated to the most menial tasks.



15 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.



16 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.



17 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.



18 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.



19 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.



20 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



21 Cuscaden's Happy Land, Frankfort Avenue at Haldeman Avenue

University of Louisville Photographic Archives

Cuscaden's Happy Land was an ice cream stand that stood between 1928 and 1930 at the streetcar turn around at Frankfort and Haldeman Avenues. Dairy products sold here were processed at the company's ice cream works at 619 S. Second Street in downtown Louisville. 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.



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

University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection

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 work house.



23 Kentucky Workshop for the Adult Blind, 1928

University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection



24 Frankfort and Bellaire Avenues, 1920

University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection

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. Today the building houses ArtSpace galleries



25 Frankfort Avenue at Vernon Avenue, May 24, 1935

University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caulfield & Shook Collection

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 all along Frankfort Avenue in Clifton.



**26 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.



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

Thomas Burkhart Collection

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



28 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.



29 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.



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

University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection

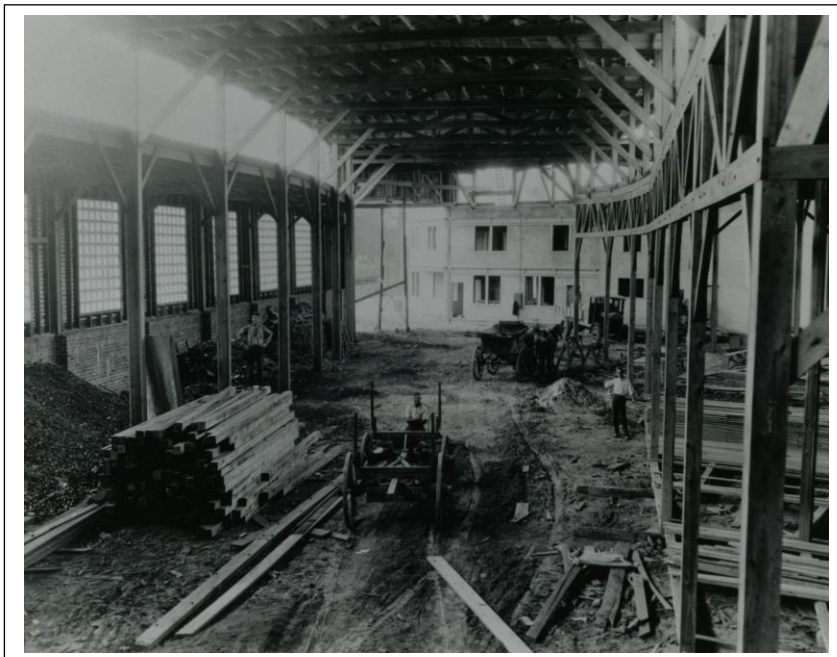
The coal company office in this shotgun house stood for many years at the intersection of Frankfort Avenue and the L&N railroad tracks. By 1925, it was demolished to make way for the Clifton Lumber Warehouse.



31 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.



32 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



33 Railroad tracks and New Main
University of Louisville Photographic Archives

Three children stopped long enough to have their picture taken on the L&N railroad tracks in front of the lumber warehouse.





34 & 35 Frankfort and Clifton Avenues, March 30, 1943

University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection

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



36 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, but 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.



37 Tollhouse Restaurant

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.



38 Tollhouse Restaurant

Clifton Community Council Archives

A group takes a break from dancing to pose for a picture. Note the outhouse behind this crowd. It was a fancy “one holer” that was plumbed.



39 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



40 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.



41 Edinger Bros. Auto Co., 2300 Block of 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. Cars would have a profound impact on the area.



42 SCS Pontiac, Frankfort and Keats, 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.



43 Frankfort and Ewing Avenues, 1948

University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Royal Studio Collection

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

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 Street.

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.