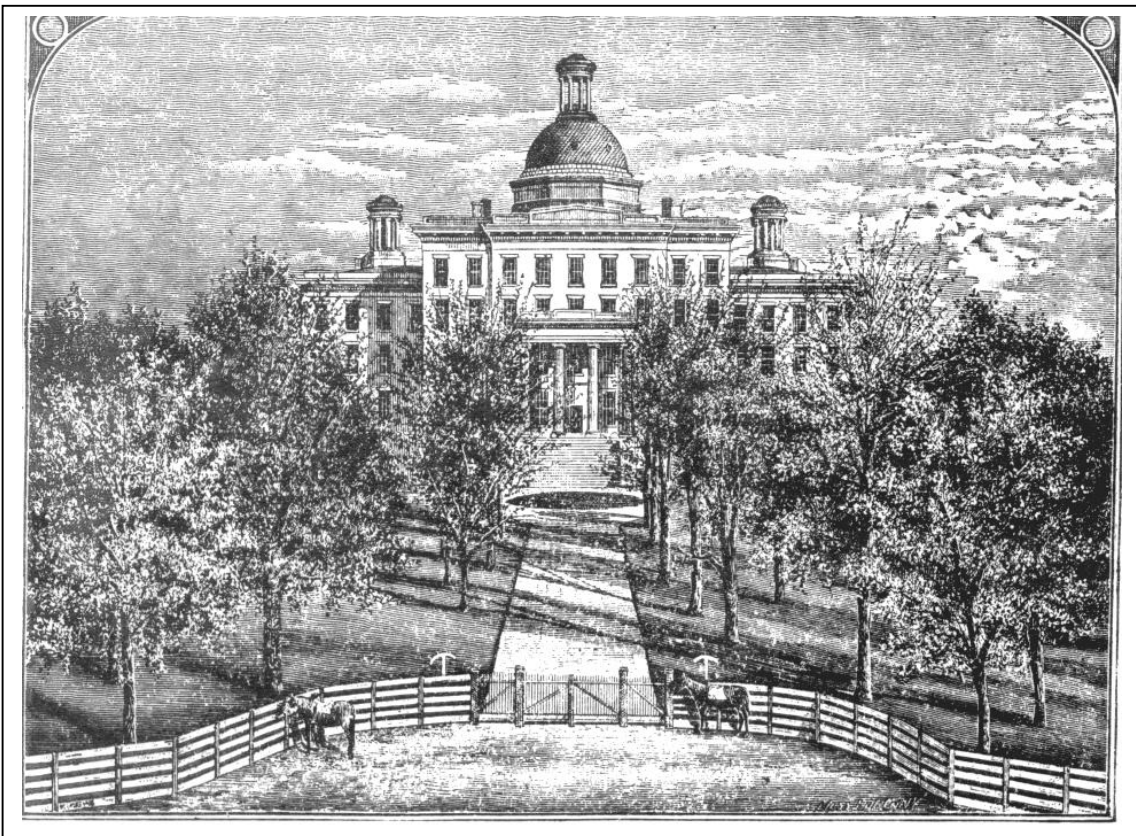


Clifton

PRESERVING THE PAST PLANNING THE FUTURE



Costigan Building on the grounds of the Kentucky School for the Blind

Walking Tour

Clifton Community Council

Revised 8/25/2018 -- DRAFT



University of Louisville Photo Archives, R. G. Potter Collection

1700 Mellwood Ave. The Mellwood Distillery,

A Richardsonian Romanesque style landmark of the Clifton neighborhood, it was constructed in 1892 and demolished in 1988. 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.



1718 Frankfort Ave. Kaviar Forge

From 1940 through 1965, Marilyn and then Evans Beauty Shop operated at this location. Sculptor and blacksmith Craig Kaviar purchased 1718 Frankfort Ave. and 147 Stevenson Ave. in 1985 for his forge and gallery. He has been creating world renown metalwork for over 30 years. Some of his works can be found around Louisville at the First Unitarian Church, Jewish Community Center, Bellarmine University, and the Kentucky Center. He works with apprentices and teaches classes at the forge.

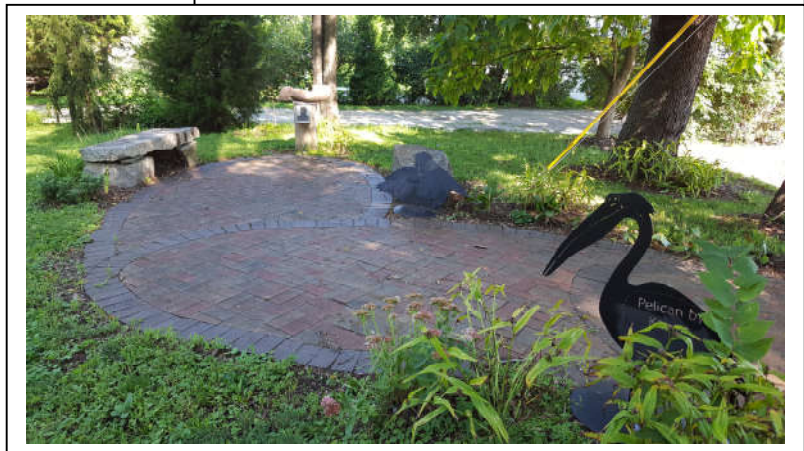


1720, 1722, 1724 Frankfort Ave. North End Cafe

Built in 1901, Walt Jones and his brother Whitney Jones purchased this brick shotgun style house in February, 2002. The renovation was one of the first applications considered by the Landmarks staff for the new Clifton Preservation District approved in September, 2003. North End Café opened in 2003, and a few years later expanded into the shotgun next door. Christopher Seckman has been the head chef and manager since the business opened.

720 Frankfort Ave. Found Park

Found Park is located behind North End Café and was dedicated in 2005 as a 'rest stop' for bikers and walkers. The park includes seating and a bike rack.





James Lees Church archives

1741 Frankfort Ave. James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The frame structure, shown on the left, was built in 1901 and was later replaced by a brick church, image on the right. Note the Gothic Revival style arched windows and pointed tower, both creating a strong vertical emphasis.

The dark brown brick church, photo on the right, 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 has been sold several times since its closing.



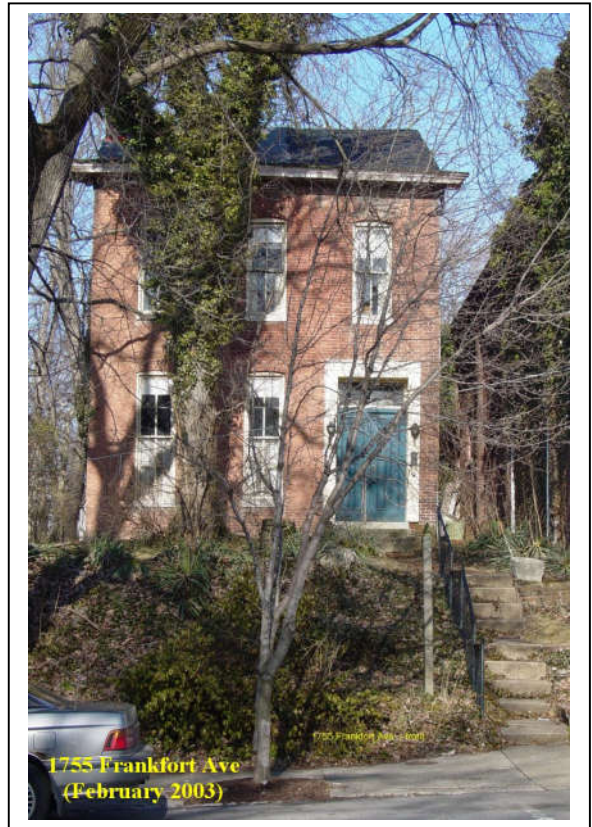
1758 Frankfort Ave. Piggly Wiggly

A two-story home with a retail storefront addition on the front, the Caren's city directory records a Piggly Wiggly grocery here in 1929, a sandwich shop from 1935 to 1940, Steel Tile and Flooring in 1949, Jerry's Pool Room 1954 to 1965, Blue Whale Exchange in 1975, and the Open Door Bookstore in 1991.

1755 Frankfort Ave.

Maxwell-Maloney House

The 132 year old Maxwell-Maloney house was one of the oldest, if not the oldest home remaining in Louisville's Clifton neighborhood in 2002 – an area originally known as Pope's Addition (named after developer Charley D. Pope). When built in 1871, the home was the first in that area of Frankfort Avenue then on the fringe of Louisville's established neighborhoods and surrounded only by farm fields. The Maxwell's nearest neighbors were the landmark Kentucky School for the Blind building (now demolished) and Linden Hill, a historic home still standing at the foot of Frankfort Avenue near Story Avenue in the Butchertown neighborhood.

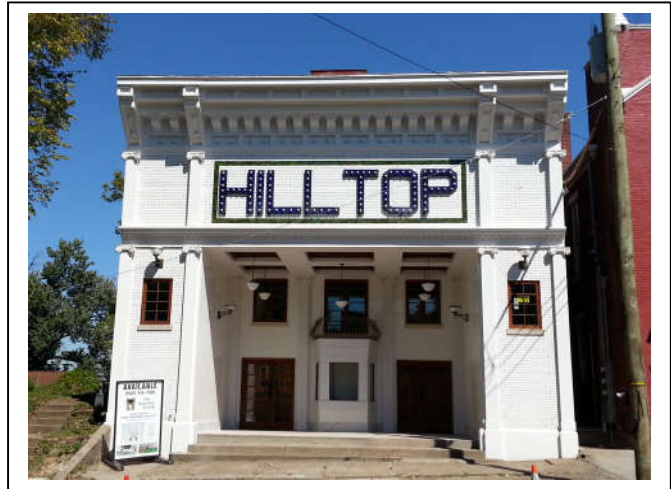


The home was built by Dr. Joseph Maxwell and his wife Jane "Jennie" Maxwell on land that Mrs. Maxwell's mother, Charlotte Baker had bought in the fall of 1870. The Maxwell's had seven children, four of whom survived to adult hood – George S., Thomas M., Lillian and Harriet. Dr. Maxwell was a physician and a professor at the University of Louisville. They moved to the area from their home on the corner of 15th and Market Streets. Dr. Maxwell also maintained an office on 7th Street between Main and Market.

Lillian and Harriet were spinsters and continued to live in the house after the deaths of their parents, both of whom had died by 1903. Lily died in 1915, leaving the house to her sister who operated a taxidermy business from the front parlor where her father had seen patients for more than 30 years. The Maxwell family plot is in Louisville's Eastern Cemetery.

Upon Harriet's death in 1951, the home was sold to Elinor Fromang Maloney, who added for the first time plumbing, gas and electric utilities. The house became not only home for her and her two sons, Joe and Pat, but in the first few years, the Hilltop House Antiques Shop. Mrs. Maloney added an off street parking area in the rear of the house and removed several outbuildings, including dilapidated stables, an outhouse and a frame kitchen attached to the rear of the house.

In the fall of 2002, an offer was made to purchase the house by Mitch Osborne, owner of the Louisville Inn across the street but was rejected by one of the heirs. The house was subsequently sold to Jimmy Conti, owner of the old Hilltop Theater where he operated a novelty business. Conti's plans are somewhat fluid, but demolition of both 1755 and the adjacent home have been discussed for parking. After a structural engineer determined the house had multiple structural issues and renovation would be too costly, the residence was demolished in 2003.



1757 Frankfort Ave. Hilltop Theater

Built in 1915 for approximately \$25,000, it is constructed with steel and a white enameled brick façade with plaster pilasters. It was the first movie theatre in the eastern part of the city and seated 490 people. Admission was 10 cents or 5 cents for the Sunday matinee. Alfred P. Knopf was the President of the Hilltop Amusement Co. and Allen W. Hudson was the secretary and treasurer. The theater closed in 1949. The Conti family purchased the building in 1965 and had their novelty store there until it was sold in 2012 to Mo Deljoo, Alexa Properties LLC. After the building was completely restored, a restaurant opened in 2017.



Filson Club, 1894



1761 Frankfort Ave., Albert A. Stoll Firehouse

Built in 1890, it has been listed on the 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 with Gothic Revival style architecture, 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.



University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection, March 5, 1938

1762,1764 Frankfort Ave. Young's Pharmacy. 1911 to 1960. Virginia's Dry Goods. 1965 to 1985.

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



University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection, March 5, 1938

1800 Frankfort Ave., A & P Store, 1929 to 1949

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.

In 1887, this was a corner grocery, George Hendricks Grocery, Weatherton & Wigginton Grocers 1902, Christian Schwenck Grocer 1905-1911, and The Quaker Maid Grocers 1915 – 1925. After the A&P closed, a restaurant opened, Smitty's Café 1960-1970, Millie's Place from 1970-1988, Barry's in 1989-1991, followed by The Black Cat. Now it is the Hilltop Tavern.



1801 Frankfort Ave.

This two story brick building dates back to 1901. Originally a saloon, G.E Schlegal Saloon 1901 - 1914, William F. Boes Saloon and Pool Hall from 1915 – 1953. Emil J. Schmitt Restaurant from 1954 – 1959. Frankfort Bar and Restaurant from 1960 to 1970. It was a youth center for one year in 1976. Homefinders Realty had there offices here from 1985 – 1988.

1804 Frankfort Ave.

In 1901-1903, A. E Hitt, M.D. treated patients from his home. From 1940 to 1975, Josph N. Phillips operated the Hill Top Beauty Shop. Liz Mayne, PrePress Express, had space for her printing shop, and was the first printer for the *Clifton Quarterly*. Today, it is a great place to stop in for a delicious muffin or piece of cake at Sweet Surrender.



1805 Frankfort Ave. Barber Shop

Since 1901, this building was always housed a barber shop with a barber pole at the street. J.C. and Sallie Frantz from 1901-1910. Fred Hartman from 1911-1920. Earnest Smith 1921-1924. S. F Bonn from 1925-1948. Frederick Bonn from 1949-1969. Lucky West since 1970.

1806 Frankfort Ave. Clifton Hardware

From 1901 to 1999, this two story building with carrara glass added to the façade circa 1930 was a neighborhood hardware store. Charles Staeuble & Sons Hardware from 1901-1934. C. H. Schmetzer Hardware from 1935-1948. Clifton Hardware from 1949 to 1996. Rick Raderer closed the hardware store in June 1996 after business declined after the big box hardware stores like Home Quarters/Home Depot opened in Louisville.



1810 Frankfort Ave. Ben Franklin Store, between 1940 and 1948.

This Ben Franklin mid-summer sale advertisement was found during renovation in between the attic steps of a home on Waverly Court. What artifacts have you found in your attic?

No historic photos were found for this address. It is believed that with the construction of the new addition to Benjamin Franklin School in 1966, the structures from 1810 thru 1824 Frankfort Ave. were demolished to create a playground for the children and school bus parking. In 2003, New Directions Housing Corp. purchased the playground area, and built a 14-unit apartment complex called Clifton Court for residents with visual impairments or other physically disabilities.



1800 Arlington Ave. Benjamin Franklin Elementary School

Opened in 1892 as Smyser Avenue School, and renamed in 1911, it is on the National Register of Historic Places. The original building had high ceilings, electric lights and steam heat. A modern addition was added to the original building in 1966. The elementary school closed in the spring of 1999, and Jcps used the building for an alternative school for two years in 2000 and 2001. The city purchased the property in the fall of 2001 enabling River City Housing, a non-profit community development housing organization, time to apply for historic tax credits to renovate the older part of the school into 12 senior apartment units. United Crescent Hill Ministries conducted a capital campaign and moved their offices into the newer addition in 2004.

State St. Along the east side of Benjamin Franklin School, along with Haldeman and part of Sycamore Ave., State St. is one of the few remaining brick streets in the neighborhood.



1813 Frankfort Ave. Good Neighbor Food Co-Op

From 1915 to 1948 several grocers operated their business in this building. William Alt 1915-1919. Emma Knight 1920-1934. Louise Green 1935-1939. Emily L. Klein 1940-1948. Charles Buddhu, soft drinks, 1949-1964. Jean Nethery Restaurant 1965-1974. Metro Vendors 1975-1988. Tri-City Distributors, vending, 1989-1990.

1832 Frankfort Ave. Dry Good Store

Dating from 1902 to 1964, several dry goods stores had their businesses in this storefront. G. Steuerle & Sons 1902-1914. F. H Bauman 1915-1934. Mary Fleitz 1935-1939. Matilda and Helen Mauch 1940-1964. Crescent Hill Plumbing Co. 1985-1990.



University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection, February 20, 1922

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 There is a museum on the property and tours are available.



University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection, 1922

1867 Frankfort Ave., Kentucky School for the Blind

The Old School for the Blind was built in 1853 on the highest points in Louisville. Elias E. Williams (and not by architect Francis Costigan of Madison, Indiana, a previous attribution) designed the building in the Greek Revival style. In 1899, brick wings were added because of expanding enrollment. 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. The stone gates are all that remain.

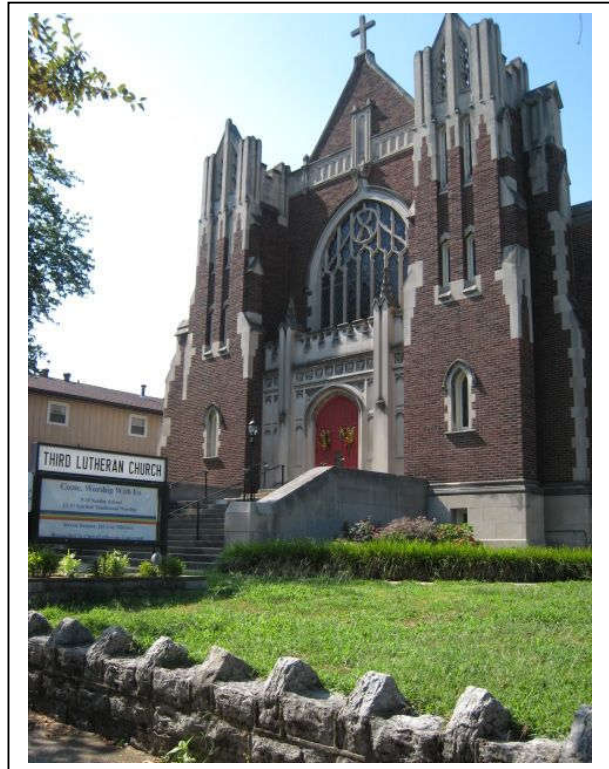
In 1999, after extensive restoration the cupola was returned to KSB. The cupola was moved to the Governor's mansion when the school building was razed in 1967. Kentucky's First Lady Judi Patton, who played a major role in returning the cupola, joined everyone for the ribbon cutting ceremony on May 7.



1864 Frankfort Ave. Third Lutheran Church

The congregation organized in 1886 and built a \$3000 structure at Frankfort and Story Ave., now Grace Immanuel UCC. Forty years later the church had substantially grown and built a red brick late Gothic Revival style building. The new church was dedicated in October 1931.

After 87 years at this location and with declining church membership, the congregation announced in February 2018 that the church building was being sold and they were moving their worship services to 2800 Frankfort Ave., Crescent Hill Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall. May 27, 2018 was the last worship service before the move. New owner, Mo Deljoo, Ally Properties LLC, plans to convert the church building and the parsonage at 1860 Frankfort Ave. into retail and office space, pending approval of a zoning change.



1903 Frankfort Ave. Gospel Kingdom Pentecostal Church

Built in 1929, in the classical revival style, as the Haldeman Avenue Church until 1948. The Haldeman Avenue Church of Christ from 1949 to 1976. The Gospel Kingdom Pentecostal Church since 1977.



University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection, July 20, 1927 and 1901

1902-1908 Frankfort Ave., Cuscaden's Happy Land

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.

Between 1892 and 1945, The Market Street streetcar turnaround existed at this location. The plaque at the site (message below) was dedicated in 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: Cuscaden's Happyland Ice Cream Stand open on this site in 1928. 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.

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





Bingham Park. Off Coral Ave. between Frankfort and Brownsboro, the 4.3 acre park triangular in shape with steep hills on two of its three sides was established in 1915. It was designed by the Olmstead Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts with funds donated by the Robert Worth Bingham family. Frederick Law Olmstead, the Father of American Landscape Architecture, designed numerous parks, parkways and gardens in and around Louisville. The park was originally called Clifton Park, was renamed Worth Park, and later named Bingham Park.

1947 Frankfort Ave.

Clifton Baptist Church

Built in 1937, a classical revival church, Clifton Baptist Church was established in 1893. The first building was dedicated in 1902. The present building was finished in 1937, and its basement was used as a way station for refugees during the Flood of 1937. The pipe organ made by Henry Pilcher & Sons was installed in 1937. It was a gift from J. Cleve Iler in honor of Dr. E. C. Stevens, the pastor from 1916 to 1945. It was used in the first worship service held in the new sanctuary on Sunday, April 25, 1937.



2000 Frankfort Ave. Gayle Cerlan Art Studio

This building on the south side of Frankfort Ave. at S. Bellaire Ave. dates back to 1915. It has a chamfered corner and slight set back from the street. H. W. Huber had his barber shop here from 1915 to 1948. During 1949 to 1974, there was a radio repair shop, two restaurants, a ceramic supply house, and a used clothing store. In 1975 and 1976 there was another barber shop, D & D Barber Shop. K & M Publications had offices here in 1977-1984. Gayle Cerlan purchased the building in 1985 and held her art studio, teaching children and adults, until 1991.





University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection, April 24, 1928

2001, 2005, 2007 Frankfort Ave. Clifton Hall/Theatre, Kentucky Workshop for the Adult Blind.

Built in 1905, this brick structure with classical details once housed the Clifton Theatre and the Kentucky Workshop for the Adult Blind where they hand-made brooms. (1929 -1964) It is now called ArtSpace.

2001 Frankfort Ave., Robert Lucas, shoes, 1905-1928.

2003 Frankfort Ave., Robert Lucas, grocery and feed store, 1902-1910.

2005 Frankfort Ave., J. F. Boehm, shoemaker, 1911-1914.

2007 Frankfort Ave., George Feger, grocer, 1905-1921.

2002 Frankfort Ave.

Multiple grocers had businesses in this storefront.

A. C. Tichenor 1902-1904

W. A Vincent 1905-1924

B. J. Blake 1925-1948

Emmett D. Ferry 1949-1953

Talley's Market 1954-1959

Cox's Grocery 1960-1964





2011, 2015, 2019 Frankfort Ave. Hoerter and Sons Meat Packing Business.

The business began around 1879 and the W.F. Hoerter family occupied the residential building as early as 1881. The red brick shotgun building at 2019 Frankfort Avenue is circa 1886. The family lamb farm and lamb processing plant passed within the family to Clifton K. Hoerter in 1940. The family sold the property to Clark Development Group in October 2002. The brick homes were demolished in June, 2003 to make way for the construction of Clifton Lofts, 43 contemporary condos. The Clifton Preservation District was approved September 25, 2003.





2021 Frankfort Ave.

East End Market, 1925-1934
 Burk's Tavern, 1935-1939
 August Fast Ice, 1940-1948
 Frankfort Toy Shop, 1949-1953
 Frankfort Cycle Shop, 1954-1959
 Diebis Surprise Shop/Gift Shop, 1960-1964
 Silver's Furniture, 1965-1974

2023 Frankfort Ave.

Quaker Maid Grocery/Clifton Donut, 1925-1928
 S. E. Vaughn, baker, 1929-1934
 Michael E. Lineham, variety store, 1949-1959
 King TV & Electronics, 1960-1969
 Poppe's Sculptors, 1970-1984
 Paul Field's Sculpture Studio, 1988-1992



2031-2033 Frankfort Ave. This is nationally known sculpture Barney Bright's studio (1965 – 1997). Bright designed the famous (or infamous) Derby clock, which has been relocated to Kentucky Kingdom.

Bader & Zehnle Drugs and Post Office Station #5, 1902-1914.

H. F. Cohn Drugs, 1915-1934



2036 Frankfort Ave.

Geroge Zix, saloon and soft drinks, 1915-1953

Carl M. Theosald, grocer, 1954-1959

Frankfort Avenue Coin Laundry, 1960-1969

Hagan's Coin Laundry, 1970-1976

D&H Upholstery, 1985-1991



2037, 2039 Frankfort Ave. Frank Bauer, Grocer

The city directory states in 1891, the building was owned by Frank Bauer, a grocer. From 1901 to 1939 the owner was Peter Knopf Sons Grocer. Gohmann and Myer's Drug Store occupied this site from 1940 until 1988, and the first hand-operated gas pump in 1962 in east Louisville was located in front of the building.



Thomas Burkhart collection. Photo dated 1883

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

The photo dated 1883, is one of the earliest pictures of the Clifton Market. 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. The cast iron water trough in front was filled from a tap inside by the saloon keeper whenever a thirsty horse needed water. 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.

2050, 2052, 2054 Frankfort Ave.

2050 Frankfort Ave.

- Rosa Boldt, dry goods, 1891-1914
- John Bernauer, shoemaker, 1915-1920
- Frank Kaelin, confectioner, 1921-1928
- Myers Brothers, shoe repair, 1929-1934
- Mary Rose Sweet Shoppe, 1935-1948
- Rose Petal Beauty Shop, 1954-1984
- Elizabeth's Timeless Attire, 1989-2017

2052 Frankfort Ave.

- Louis Swearingen, tailor, 1911-1914
- Clifton's Cleaners & Dryers, 1915-1948
- William E. Hall Coin Laundry, 1960-1979

2054 Frankfort Ave.

- Moon Cleaners & Dryers, 1935-1964
- Puritan Cleaners, 1965-1969



2101 Frankfort Ave.

A&P Food Store

In 1915, the city directory reports a residence at this address, the corner of Frankfort Ave. and Vernon Ave. By 1954, the property was transformed to this mid-century modern retail building, an A&P Food Store until 1970. The Key Market and Hubbard's Food Mart

operated a corner grocery from 1975 to 1985. In 1989, the Disabled American Veterans opened their thrift store, photo above, until it was sold and renovated in 1991 for Nancy's Bagels Grounds. In the spring of 2018, Nancy moved her bagel shop to Payne St. and Spring St.



*University of Louisville Photographic Archives,
Caufield & Shook Collection, January 2, 1928*

2106 Frankfort Ave.

M. E. Maynard Dairy, 1901-1915

Gulf gas station from 1920 to 1975

German Auto Repair, 1976 - 1985

Bayer & Driesbach Body Shop, 1986 – 1998

Red Lounge, 2001 - 2007

Varanese, April 2007



2115 Frankfort Ave.

Clifton Laundry 1929-1940

Carrithers Creamery 1949-1965

Keith's Upholstering 1985-1991

L&N Trains



2117 Frankfort Ave.

Alvin Groeschel Meats, 1911-1949

Rapp Galleries, 1994





University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection, November 14, 1918

2133 Frankfort Ave. Frank G. Jones and Company, 1902 - 1925

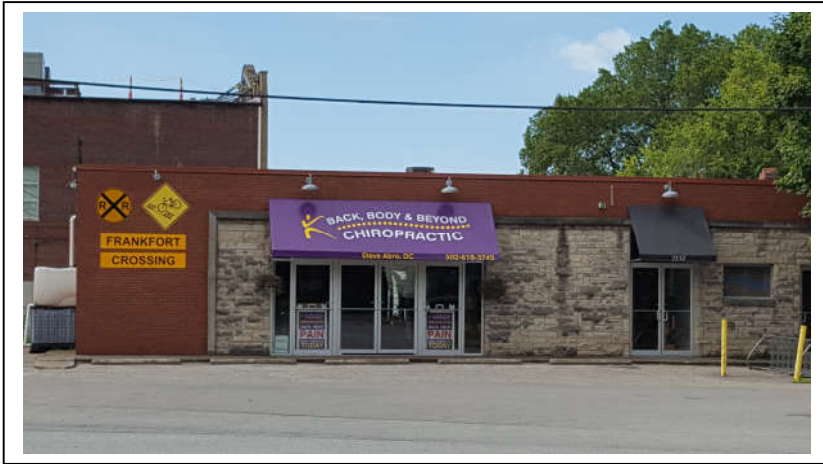
The coal company office in this shotgun house stood for many years at the intersection of Frankfort Ave. and the L&N railroad tracks. By 1925, it was demolished to make way for the Clifton Lumber Warehouse, which operated here until 1979. The Cunningham family purchased the property in 1979 for their 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.



University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection
 1921 October 22, 1928

Railroad Crossing at Frankfort Ave. 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.



2132 New Main St. U.S. Post office

2028 Frankfort Ave. housed the Crescent Hill Branch of the US Post Office from 1929 to 1959 before moving to this new location. The building located near the intersection of New Main St. and Frankfort Ave. was constructed in 1959 and used as a neighborhood post office. This one-story, brick veneer building with a flat roof capped with a concrete parapet has been renovated over the years for various commercial and retail uses but maintains its basic integrity of size and appearance.



2215-2217 Frankfort Ave. Grape Leaf Restaurant

Built around 1918, this brick building is typical for commercial architecture for its time. There are cast iron vents above each storefront window bay. Renovated in 1992 and the owners utilized available tax credits for certified historic structures.

2215 Frankfort Ave.

Crescent Hill Tire Service, 1920-1928

Frerich's Bicycle & Tire Repair, 1929-1939

T. P. Burns, barber, 1940

Kenneth S. Bixby, radio (TV) repair, 1949-1984

Crescent Café, Bumper's, Blue Moon, 1987-1991

2217 Frankfort Ave.

Clifton Damp Wash Laundry, 1925-1928

Clifton-Crescent Sweet Shoppe, 1929-1934

Mary Kinsella, restaurant, 1935-1953

Howard's Place, restaurant, 1954-1959

EM's Beauty Shop, 1965-1984



2221-2223,2227 Frankfort Ave. The Queen Ann house, Ginny's Diner, Comfy Cow
 In 2011, Ginny's Diner was demolished, and the Queen Anne house was renovated for the Comfy Cow Ice Cream Shop.

2223 Frankfort Ave.
 Little Hut Restaurant, 1960-1974
 The Magic Inn Restaurant, 1975-1984
 Hunter's Do-All Fix-It, 1991

2227 Frankfort Ave.
 Grocer's Ice & Cold Storage, 1929-1953
 Crescent Hill Beer Depot, 1954-1980

2228, 2230 Frankfort Ave.
 Built in 1901, the building was remodeled circa 1930 and carrara glass was added to the front façade.

J.B. Miller hardware store, 1901-1910
 W.L. Specht, tinner, 1911 to 1921
 Messmer Hardware, 1935 to 1991

Clifton's Pizza (since 1991) is a must stop to see some of the history of Clifton in the old photographs which line the walls.





2232 Frankfort Ave., Leet's Florist

A dry goods store run by Minnie Hiller occupied this building from 1901-1931. Crescent Dry Goods Co. followed from 1932-1939. Marie C. Bahr's dry goods store from 1940-1948. Leet's Florist opened in 1965 and closed in 1995.



2244 Frankfort Ave.

Joseph Spencer, grocer, 1911-1919
Feed store, multiple owners, 1920-1928
Gus Campisano, grocer, 1940-1953
Gus's Market, 1954-1974
Joe Carlton's Meat Market, 1975-1991



2250 Frankfort Ave.

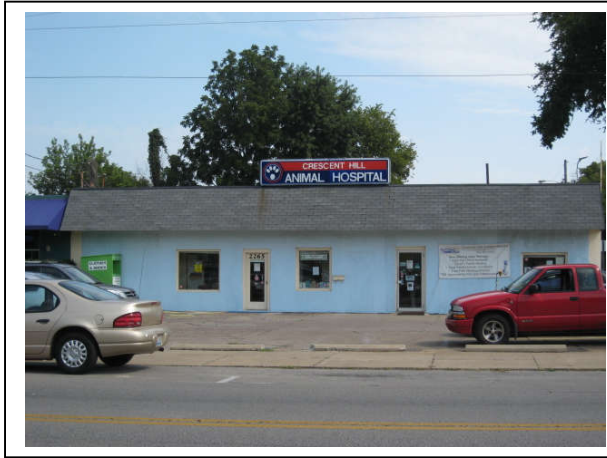
W. L Drees, barber, 1911-1953.
 Edward A. Bauer, barber, 1954-1959.
 Charlie's Barber Shop, 1960-1988.
 Votaw's Barber Shop, 1988-1990



2255, 2257 Frankfort Ave. Specht's Saloon

Built in 1887, this two story brick building in the Italianate style with storefronts on the ground level and living quarters above, is typical of the saloons and markets that operated along the Louisville and Shelbyville Turnpike in the day. The building was listed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1990.

W.L. Specht Saloon, 1901-1914
 L.G. Schlinder Saloon, 1915-1920
 Quaker Maid, grocers, 1921-1925
 Crescent Meat Market, 1925-1934
 Clifton Hall, Jr Order U.A.M. #227, 1940-1969
 Stoker's Poultry House, 1940-1965 in rear
 Ted's Enterprises, 1991-1999
 Bourbon's Bistro, 2013



2265 Frankfort Ave.

- Oakley Gas & Oil Co., service station, 1929-1939
- Shell Oil Co., 1940-1948
- OK Rubber Welders, 1954-1964
- Big 'O' Tire Store, 1965-1984
- Lorenz Appliance, 1985-1991
- Crescent Hill Animal Hospital, Dr. Rabek, 1997-2017



University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Caufield & Shook Collection, 1924

2300 Frankfort Ave. Edinger Brothers Auto Co., Studebaker dealership

From 1911 thru 1920, the building was used as an ice house. From 1924 to 1953 there were several auto dealerships and auto repair businesses. Heating and appliance businesses from 1954 to 1975. Wright Way closed in 1991 after a fire, and the building was renovated for the Volare Italian Restaurant.

- Crescent Ice & Storage, 1911
- Merchants Ice & Cold Storage, 1915-1920
- Standard Auto Co., 1929-1939
- Schuler-Koster Motor Co., 1940-1948
- John Mueller Auto Repair, 1949-1953
- Bryant-Horton Heating, 1954-1979
- Wright Way Shoppe, 1989-1991



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 1932, 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. The building was placed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1990.

Clifton Quarterly article written by Joanne Weeter, February, 1990

The original Clifton Tollhouse of the Louisville and Shelbyville Turnpike (now called Frankfort Avenue), is the oldest structure in the Clifton neighborhood. It is the only tollhouse still standing in the City of Louisville and is one of only a handful of tollhouses in existence in the State of Kentucky, thereby making it a valuable historic and architectural resource of the neighborhood, the city and of the commonwealth.

The Clifton Tollhouse was constructed circa 1818 soon after the state's General Assembly passed legislation empowering the Louisville and Shelbyville Turnpike Company to create a toll road away from Louisville toward Shelbyville.

This legislation resulted in the construction of a toll road upon a high ridge which ran through Clifton on a trail originally formed by buffalo herds and migrating Indians. The toll road, which was officially called the Louisville and Shelbyville Turnpike, follows what is presently known as Frankfort Avenue.

According to Melville O. Briney in *The Cherokee Triangle: A History*, "Tollgates were usually set up every five miles. Each animal and vehicle were taxed according to the damage it did the roadbed. Hogs were taxed twice as much as sheep; cattle four times as much as hogs. Each horse, mule or rider brought a five-cent toll; every vehicle with 4 wheels, 12 1/2 cents, every vehicle with 4 horses, 20 cents; stage coach with 12 passengers or vehicle with 6 horses, 75 cents. Free passage was allowed to preachers, and to the military, to those going to funerals, to church, or to vote. There was also a free period at night when the poles or "pikes" were raised when the harassed tollgate keeper could sleep undisturbed. Keepers got a yearly salary of \$300 and a house in which to live. There were wind falls too; fowl or a batch of fresh vegetables donated by a farmer on the way to market."

The Tollhouse itself has changed remarkably little through the years. It is still basically a one story "T" shaped brick structure that has had several wood frame enclosures and additions. Across the Frankfort Avenue facade at present, one can see to the right where the original front porch has been filled in with wooden lapped siding. A small brick portion, visible to the left, was probably the toll keepers booth from which he collected the various tolls. This later became the single tiny jail cell of the Clifton Police Station in the early 1910s. By the 1960s, the Toll House was "a restaurant for men only" according to the St. Frances of Rome 75th Anniversary Booklet. The Tollhouse has sat neglected and vacant for at least the past five years.



2317, 2319 Frankfort Ave. Widman’s Saloon and Grocery

Built in 1858 in the Italianate style, now the Irish Rover Restaurant, this building was Widman’s Saloon and Grocery until 1941. They served a dark brew called “common brew”, made at Edward’s Pond and Ice House near the intersection of Brownsboro Rd. and Ewing Ave. In 1945, it became Vincent Mattei’s Louisville Statuary where the owner operated it as a combination studio for his skills as plaster copy-caster and for a business in concrete yard sculptures. In 1989 Jim Goodwin purchased the building and renovated it for his restaurant, Another Place Sandwich Shop. The building was listed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1990. Michael Reidy, opened the Irish Rover in 1993.

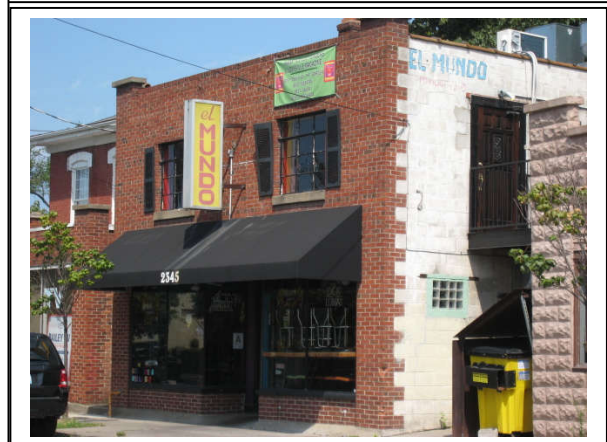
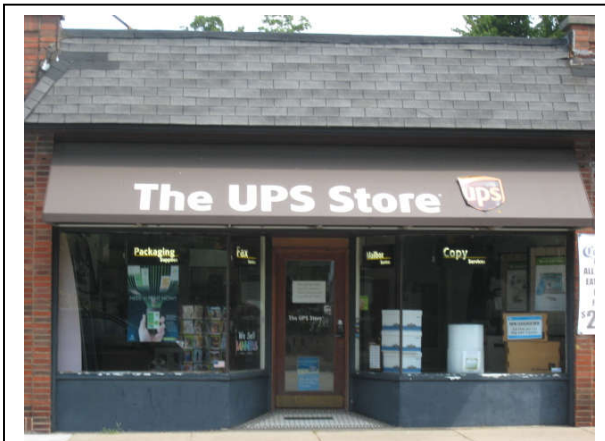


Photographic Archives, Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville



2320 Frankfort Ave. Dr. Pepper Plant

Built in 1929. In 1935, a Pontiac dealership, SCS Pontiac, 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. The Dr. Pepper Bottling Co. operated at this location on Frankfort Ave. from 1940 to 1975. D&W Silks opened a retail store and manufacturing plant for silk flowers in 1991.



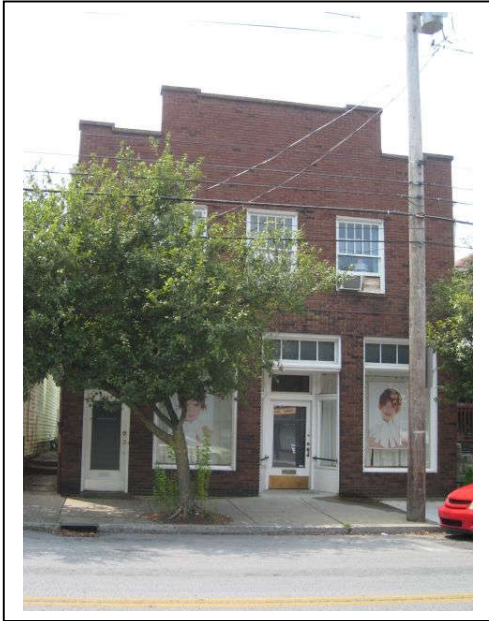
2337, 2339, 2341, 2345 Frankfort Ave.

Built in 1932, the building on the left (2337 & 2339) that previously housed 'Artswatch' and then the UPS Store was constructed as a Piggly Wiggly Grocery. The building in the middle (2341) is much older, Bailey's TV. It was built in 1892. An addition was made circa 1950 which now houses two storefronts. New retail space was built in front of or attached to the old building. The building to the right (2345) (El Mundo) was built circa 1942.

2347 Frankfort Ave.

This structure was constructed before 1887 as a blacksmith's shop and continued this use until 1921. It later was adapted for auto repair in 1940, a logical transition of uses. A 'new' formed concrete block façade was added circa 1920.





2352 Frankfort Ave.

Charles Kuhn, plumber, 1911-1914
Demling Brothers Drug Store, 1915-1934
J.R. Schmidt Drug Store, 1935-1948
William T. Darby Drug Store, 1949-1953
Dr. John E. Eckerle, 1975-1991

2354 Frankfort Ave.

Michael Geyer, tailor, cleaners, 1915-1948
Charles Kyne, liquors, 1949-1984
Birchler's Liquors, 1985-1990



2367 Frankfort Ave. Frankfort and Ewing Aves., was the original location of the commuter train railroad station. T.J. Belew had a shoe repair shop from 1925-1948. Dowell's Shoe repair shop operated from 1949 to 1991.



University of Louisville Photographic Archives, Royal Photo Co. Collection, 1948

2367 Frankfort Ave. Frankfort Ave. and Ewing Ave.

These two Queen Anne style houses were slowly being overshadowed by the new. Note the rather imposing sign advertising automatic radio phonographs with optional T.V.'s." These houses were later torn down to make way for the new Steiden's Grocery in 1949 to 1959. This corner was then the site of the Winn-Dixie Grocery from 1960 to 1974, and Melton's Market from 1975 to 1990. Walgreen's remodeled the façade and opened in 1991.





Billy Goat Hill

Reprinted from The Encyclopedia of Louisville, 2001, p 90, and the Clifton Preservation District Designated Report written by Joanne Weeter

It is situated in the 1700-1900 blocks of Payne St., on high ground just above the cliffs adjacent to Interstate-64. It was where Fritz Whalen grazed over 200 goats since before the turn of the century. 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 nineteenth 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 Court, and Angora Avenue, along with the Billy Goat Hill Democratic Club [demolished by Interstate 64 construction]. By the mid-twentieth 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.”

Also on the Billy Goat Hill site was a public spring and the old Osborne estate (demolished). Since 1892 a portion of the site has been owned as passive green space by the Sacred Heart Home, an infirmary for the aged, and owned by the Sisters of Charity. In as much as it retains its open meadow appearance, upon which few new buildings have been constructed, it is deemed to contribute to establishing a sense of Clifton’s very early agricultural character.





2117 Payne St. Saint Frances of Rome School

Built in 1930, in the Italian Renaissance Revival style, this structure once housed the St. Frances of Rome School, Ursuline Pitt School, and The Clifton Center. Designed by Nolan and Nolan, Architects, the building has a 500-seat vintage auditorium with a stage that includes a backstage gymnasium. The Not Ready for Shakespeare Players held plays in the renovated Theatre from 1992 to 1995.

2119 Payne St., Saint Frances of Rome Church

Built in 1887, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987, the church has figured prominently in the history and progression of Clifton. The church was damaged by fire in 1912 and again in 1942 and both times significant details were lost. Aside from a minor rear addition, the church's massing and setback have remained the same.

2212 Payne St.

Horse Hitching Post

At the corner of Payne and Albany.

A simple iron post embedded in the sidewalk
And topped by a ring, used to tie up horses.





2213 Payne St. The Rastetter House

Reprinted from the Clifton Preservation District Designation Report, August 2003

In 1843, Thomas Rastetter purchased a 15-acre tract of land for his truck farm, and grew crops that he sold to neighbors or transported them by wagon to city market houses. The *1858 Bergmann map* confirms its location between Frankfort Avenue and Payne Street. By 1859, Thomas Rastetter, along with son Joseph Rastetter, were listed in city directories as gardeners.

Census records from 1860 record - Thomas Rastetter owned 15 acres of land valued at \$4,600 as well as two horses, two dairy cows, 10 bushels of peas and beans, 250 bushels of potatoes, 50 bushels of sweet potatoes, truck and garden produce valued at \$600, and 100 pounds of butter.

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. Unfortunately, all traces of the Rastetter House, which reflect antebellum farmhouse building styles, have been compromised by extensive porch additions on the Frankfort Avenue facade. However, Victorian architectural trends are still evident on its Payne Street façade.

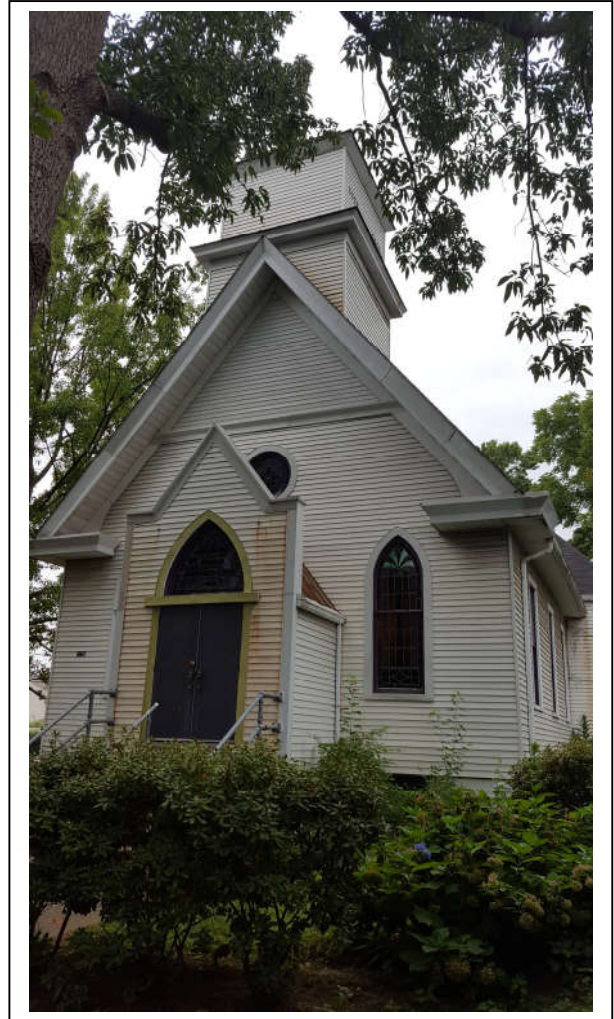
At some point after 1884, the year Payne Street first appears on the City of Louisville Atlas, the main door to Rastetter house was re-oriented away from the Louisville and Shelbyville Turnpike and instead faced Payne Street. In later years, perhaps circa 1890, Victorian embellishments were added to the porch and even later, circa 1960, the center bay of the gallery was in-filled with wooden lapped siding. 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.

2231 Payne St.

German Evangelical/Clifton Unitarian Church
Built circa 1900, Gothic Revival style. Now named
Clifton Universalist Unitarian Church.

Its start meeting was in a log cabin once used as slave quarters, but it has a long history as a liberal religious community committed to standing against the forces of oppression. It began about 1900 when members started meeting in the home of Henry and Katherine Fust at 2245 Payne Street, just around the corner from where it meets today. In 1903 the couple donated some of their nearby land and began construction on the current building, naming it in honor of Katherine's family, the Westermann Memorial Evangelical Church. In 1906, two years after joining the German Evangelical Synod of North America (Lutherans), it changed its name to Clifton Evangelical Church.



Hogtown

“Clifton residents discuss merits of Hogtown Park by new name”

Reprinted from The Louisville Times, September 19, 1975 by Mike Wines

Will Hogtown Park by any other name smell as sweet? Some Clifton residents were asking that question last night after they advised city officials that a plot of land long known as Hogtown should be made into a park.

The city's Office of Community Development met with about 40 residents at the St. Frances of Rome Catholic Church, 2119 Payne St. to determine where citizens would like a park developed. A two-acre park for the area already is a part of the city's plans for spending \$8.6 million in 1975 federal community development funds. The park's estimated cost is \$40,000.

The citizens led by Carrie Stottman, chairwoman of the Clifton Community Council proposed only one site: a part of a former 50-acre farm between Jane Street and Albany Avenue, north of Interstate 64. The farm raised hogs and goats around the turn of the century and was a major meat supplier in the area during World War I. Clifton residents often picnicked and held club meetings on part of the farm. The pigs were wiped out by an epidemic of hog cholera during World War I. Mrs. Stottman, said, but the name of the land – Hogtown – stuck.

Last night, some Clifton residents proposed that any park there be named Fritz Whalen Park, after the hog farmer who once owned the property.



131 Vernon Ave. Clifton Christian Church

The congregation began in the fall of 1891 and worshipped in the two room Clifton school house at 124 Vernon Ave. The church soon moved across the street to 131 Vernon Ave. in 1893. The fellowship hall/gymnasium addition was constructed in 1972. Garry Rollins was the pastor for 18 years, leaving for a teaching position in Jackson, Mississippi in 2002. A few years later, the church joined with the Northeast Christian Church community and was renamed – Northeast Christian Church-Clifton Campus.

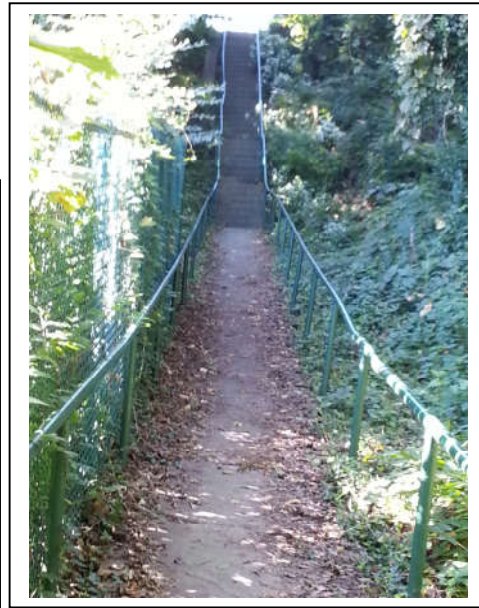
North End of Vernon Ave. Fort Elstner

After the Battle of Perryville, orders were given to build a system of eleven forts to guard major approaches to Louisville. Clifton, with its commanding location between the Brownsboro and Shelbyville Turnpikes, was chosen as the site of one of these forts, christened Fort 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.

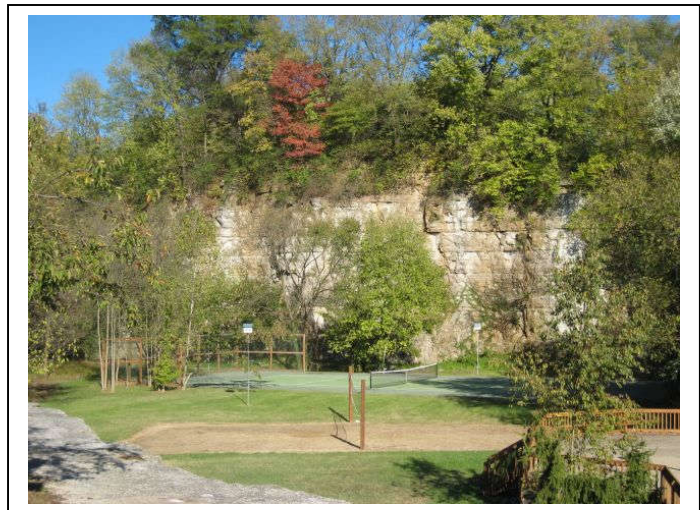
North End of Vernon Ave. Chicken Steps



The “Chicken Steps,” a pedestrian pathway (concrete steps) that connects with railings from the north end of Vernon Ave. to Brownsboro Rd. below (named for the chickens that used to roost there), can make navigating the steep cliff overlooking Brownsboro Road easier. The steps were built by the city in the 1960’s or 1970’s with federal funds, as the visually impaired residents requested a safe passageway to traverse the hillside on their way to ‘The Wheel Restaurant”, Kroger and other businesses on Brownsboro Rd. The restaurant closed and was demolished in 1998 when the property was purchased to construct the CVS at 2106 Brownsboro Rd.

Henry Bickel Quarry

On the site of the present day Crescent Springs Condominiums. Active in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. The quarry walls are still visible.





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

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, whose original hand-made Christmas cards are kept at the Filson Club. These cards were reproduced in 1994 by the Clifton Community Council Preservation Committee. The cards depict scenes from the mansion and neighborhood.

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....

November, 2000

W. Harold Frantz Christmas Cards

The article below written by Metro columnist, Jim Adams, was printed in the Courier Journal on Tuesday, December 14, 1993.

An artistic Christmas ritual, done with a religious devotion, too. A sesquicentennial (to give it a 16-letter name). Also if you want to clip this and remember it and call it a Mother's Day story, that would be fitting too.

It is all the work of W. Harold Frantz. In 1883, when he was 4, his parents – George W and Mary M. – bought a grand, three-story brick home at Sycamore and Clifton avenues.

Frantz, who was one of six children, would never marry, and in fact would spend the remainder of his Victorian life in that very house. When The Louisville Times tracked him down in 1955, he was a slender man still reading by the flame of gaslight fixtures.

It became Frantz's tradition to make Christmas cards every year, and not amateurish stuff, either, but cards fine enough to make Hallmark insecure. While Frantz made his living as a draftsman for Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph, at Christmastime he was an artist and a poet.

A flat, white Stewart's box containing 27 of his pencil-and-ink cards came into the possession of the Filson Club five years ago. It was donated by Mrs. B. Irby Moore. The cards were made between 1919 and 1948, and Moore said they fell to her through her aunt Estelle Hays, who was married to one of Frantz's four brothers.

How many of the cards Frantz made each year, or whether he ever sent them, or to whom, or how long he worked on each, or when or why he started making them – that much has been lost. But fortunately it is survived by the cards themselves.

The Filson Club put Frantz's cards on display at its headquarters on Third Street, and this happens to be the most opportune year in at least, say, the past 50, to go stand among old Christmas cards.

The authoritative "History of the Christmas Card" by George Buday asserts that the first true Christmas card was produced in England in 1843 – designed by Horsley on the initiative of Cole, "hand-colored" by Mason, but not possibly more intriguing than the work of Frantz.

This is where Mother comes in so noticeably. The very first Frantz card in the Filson's Club's display bears a portrait of Frantz's mother, and the verse:

*Back to the scenes of childhood
Oh Memory wing your way,
Give us again those simple joys
On this glad Christmas day.
The Joys of Friends, of Home and Mother
May we realize their worth,
And celebrate with thankful hearts
This day our Savior's birth.*

Mother appears next at Christmas 1922 – nine months after her death:

*Of all the pictures on Memory's Wall
Those of Mother and Christmas are best of all.
We look and Lo! Time's backward flight
Is visualized on this Holy Night.
Suddenly the span of years is gone
And we come again to the dear old Home
Where only Mother by her loving way
Can make the perfect Christmas Day.*

Frantz's cards depict rooms, outbuildings or random scenes from what was his family's wonderful home, which has since been torn down. And through them all, Mary Frantz is the only person who ever appears – in fact, the only one who is ever even mentioned specifically.

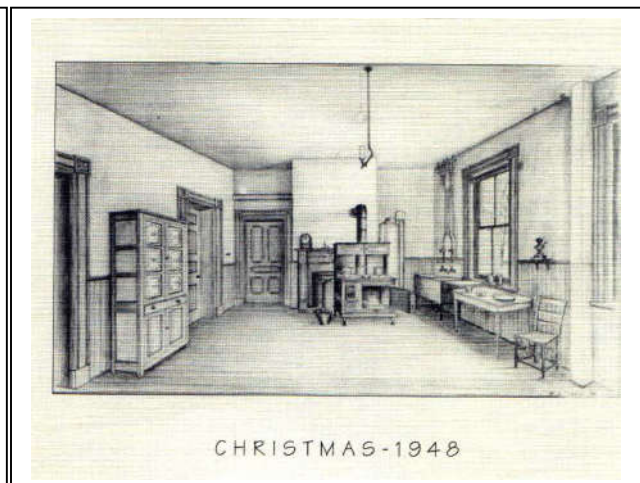
Rich in physical detail, all the cards are nevertheless empty, some would say lonely and despairing. Mother herself, always in the same long, dark dress, appears again in 1932 and, finally in 1946, alone:

*Why should our goal be worldly gain,
An elusive, transient loan?
For memory is the only thing
We can truly call our own.
And within that mystic holy realm
Our loved ones are ever near;
We see again the vanished face,
The voice once stilled, we hear.
Again it's Christmas in the dear old home,
Mother seems to be everywhere:
In the kitchen, parlor, dining room
Or in the winding stair.*



When the Times tracked him down, four years before his death, it reported that Frantz was living in the 20-room house alone. "It is a house of pleasant memories for Frantz" it said.

W. Harold Frantz Christmas Cards were printed in 1994 for the Clifton Community Council. The collection has been edited and re-printed with the permission of the Filson Club Historical Society, 1310 S. 3rd St. 40208.



August 2001 Clifton Quarterly article

‘Growing Up In Clifton’ – an oral history

Based on the reminiscences of Norma Stafford by Carol Tobe, Director, Callahan Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind.

In her oral history, Norma Stafford paints vivid pictures of growing up in Clifton. In the early 1900s, Norma’s family moved to a house on State St—a house that looked so elegant to her mother and grandmother that the story of their first impression became a family legend. There were cherubs playing harps and frolicking among the clouds on the blue living room ceiling. There were grapes twining on an arbor in the dining room. Years later, Norma would confirm her grandmother’s stories when, as she was removing layers of wallpaper, she discovered the legendary cherubs on the ceiling.

State St, when Norma grew up, did not go down to Brownsboro Rd. The brick street stopped at the top of the hill where there was a cliff and a big rock, the perfect place for neighborhood children to play. The holes and crevices of the big rock were wonderful hiding places for their treasures and the “jewels” they collected. Across the street was a steep dirt bank where the children spent many summer days making miniature villages with roads for their toy trucks and cars.

Before the additions were made to the Printing House, there were picturesque grounds behind it. Norma has vivid memories of how beautiful it was to play there in the spring when the white dogwoods were in bloom and the ground was covered with violets. In the summer they took their buckets and picked daises along Pipe Line Lane (now Zorn Ave.). Every Memorial Day, the family loaded the children’s wagon with buckets of daises and flowers from their yard to decorate the family cemetery plot, pulling the wagon from their home on State St to the back gate of Cave Hill Cemetery. Highlighting Norma’s autumn memories is the sweet flavor of beechnuts from the ancient beech tree across the street on the Printing House grounds.

Norma and her friends did not miss a movie at the Hill Top Theatre. Their ritual was to stop at Young’s Drug Store before they went across the street to the theatre. Norma’s uncle, Howard Young, always in his white druggist’s coat, presided over the candy counter. He filled a white paper sack for each child from the array of candies on the shelves so they would not go hungry during the movie. If they were still hungry after the show, the children could buy wonderful homemade ice cream at Spooner’s Tavern where Mrs. Spooner served ice cream on one side and Mr. Spooner poured beer on the other.

The manager of the Hill Top Theatre, Herb Nadel, was a top-notch “promoter”—before they had a word for it. He always had a gimmick to attract an audience. There were talent shows and raffles on baskets of groceries. Norma thinks that Major Bowles Original Amateur Hour was once one of the special attractions.

What better place for a growing child than Clifton in those years—with the natural, park-like grounds of the School for the Blind and the Printing House—right down the street from a movie theatre and neighborhood shops. Thanks to Norma Stafford’s memories, we have a glimpse of a child’s adventures in early 20th century Clifton.

May 2001 Clifton Quarterly article

'The Best Medicine' – an oral history

Based on the reminiscences of Norma Stafford by Carol Tobe, Director, Callahan Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind.

First you'd smell the smoke; then you'd see the cigar resting on a Clifton neighbor's mailbox beside the door. That meant that somebody in the house was sick and Doctor Hartman was making a house call. Dr. Henry Hartman was the neighborhood doctor who came right away when he was needed, always smoking that big old stinky cigar. Dr. Hartman, in fact, might have been responding to a patient's call when, in about 1940, he was tragically hit by a car and killed at the corner of State and Frankfort. But for many years, he was the Clifton neighborhood doctor.

When Dr Hartman wrote a prescription, you would hurry down to Young's Pharmacy on the corner of Frankfort and Pope—the neighborhood drugstore. The pharmacist was Harry Young who lived on North State Street, about a block from his store. If a child were sick in the middle of the night and needed medicine, it was common for parents to drive in front of Mr. Young's house and call out "Mr. Harry, Mr. Harry, Mr. Young." And Mr. Young, who slept by the open window in the front bedroom, would get dressed and walk down the alley to open the drugstore and fill the prescription for the anxious parent waiting for him there. In all his years of trudging down the alley to open the store in the wee hours, not one of those customers ever offered him a ride.

But medicine was not the only thing you could get at Young's Pharmacy. While Harry Young held forth behind the pharmacy counter, his brother Howard Young presided over the soda fountain and candy counter. The soda fountain, of course, had a marble counter that was so big that, when the building was remodeled, it had to be broken into pieces to get it out. Behind the counter were stained glass panels and Tiffany style glass light fixtures that glowed beneath the pressed tin ceiling. You could sip your soda at a glass-topped table that had watches and other desirable items displayed under the glass. You could buy paint, cigars, film, and Coca-Cola. There was a post office in the drug store and you could even leave off your laundry. Edna Young, the brothers' sister, did the laundry in the family home on State Street where Harry, Harold, and Edna lived with their mother.

Howard Young was creative and resourceful. He claimed to know as much about medicine as the doctors and concocted his own remedies—cough medicine being one of his specialties. His prescription filing system was unique. He opened coat hangers, threaded on the prescription pages, and hung them on hooks going down the basement stairs. Mr. Young was the Clifton druggist for about forty-five years.

Norma Stafford, who provided the information for this story, is the daughter of Edna Young Stafford and niece of Howard and Harry Young. Norma and her three brothers, Hart, Louis, and Leslie Stafford grew up in Clifton with their parents Edna and Louis Stafford. Her father Louis was a fireman for many years. Norma has many stories to tell about growing up in Clifton that she will share in future issues of the *Quarterly*.