



*Carthage
Missouri*

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

2022

Take a step back in time...



TOUR GUIDE

Thank you for participating in the Carthage, Missouri Self-Guided Historic Walking Tour. Get a glimpse into our past as you stroll through our historic town square rich with history, architecture and art.

This self-guided walking tour begins on the Southwest corner of the square at 401 S. Main. You will then proceed east and make your way around the entire square. It is recommended that you walk to the center of the Square on the Courthouse sidewalk to see each building in full view. At the conclusion of the tour, we have listed additional buildings of interest to continue your journey outside of the Square proper.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



CONTENT CURATION

**A Walking Tour of the
Courthouse Square
Historic District, 2001*

**Then & Now by Sue
Vandergriff, 2003*

**www.theclio.com*



PHOTOS

*Robbie Holmes with
Holmes Photography*



FUNDING

*Missouri Main Street &
MO Humanities Council*



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HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The Downtown Historic District has changed over the years. During the early years much was lost due to fire, as well as extensive damage at the time of the Civil War, during the Battle of Carthage. As buildings were being rebuilt it was strongly urged that they be built out of brick or stone to alleviate the fire hazard. Many of the buildings that you see today have been replaced or altered from their original state.

This booklet has been curated from multiple historic sources that we want to pay tribute to, including: A Walking Tour of the Courthouse Square Historic District, 2001. Then & Now an Architectural History of the Carthage, Missouri Square & Nearby Structures by Sue Vandergriff, 2003 and the Clio website (www.theclio.com, 2012-2022).



401 S. Main



Construction began in 1875 and was completed in 1876 by the Roessler family. The first tenants were lawyers followed by a grocery store in 1884. The Carthage National Bank purchased the building in 1907 and it underwent some major remodeling. The stone façade was added in 1908. The Press ran several articles about the new bank describing the marble wainscoting, ceiling of tinted steel and side walls paneled in dark green burlap. The building is one to take note of with the Classical style front and large Tuscan columns that grace the front door as well as the beautiful arched windows.

After the two Carthage Banks merged in 1920, the Juvenile Shoe Corp headquarters moved into the building from 1920 to 1924. Take note that the Juvenile Shoe Corporation's factory was just down the street at 100 S. Main.

In 1924 the building became the College Pharmacy and remained in the same family until 2003.

100 E. 4th



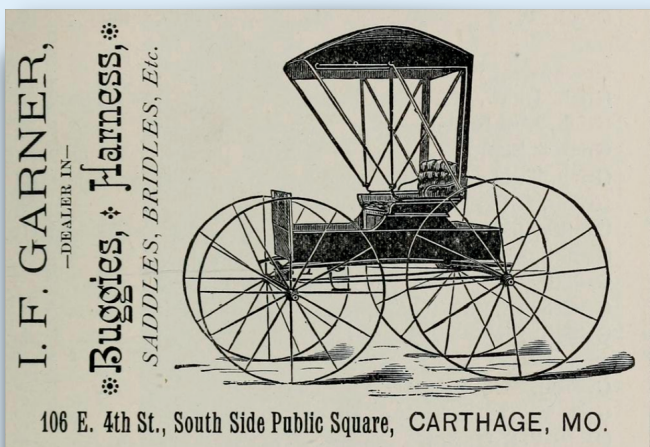
In 1861 a log house sat on this corner and was used as a saloon. After the devastation of the Civil War, Jerry Casey built a two-story wooden building on the corner and in 1871 a small fire started in the upstairs causing extensive damage. The building that you see today was constructed in 1894, as a one-story building and created controversy in the community because all of the other structures were two and three stories.

The existing brick structure housed the Variety Racket store until 1915, then a bakery, followed by a cigar shop. The next occupant was the Carthage Beverage Co. Liquor Store until the 1950s when it became Carthage Jewelers.

106 E. 4th



Not much is known about the history of this building, however, in 1881 it housed a buggy and harness business. In 1937 it was the Rex Billiard Co. and Carthage Hat Works. The existing structure was built as a replacement for a building that burned. It features unusual black mirror, or Carrera glass typical of the post WWII era.



110 E. 4th



Built in 1887 by W. P. Miller, this building held the Miller Grocery on the main floor and the Ideal Restaurant in the basement when it opened. These two businesses were replaced by an apple packing business and a saddle shop.

By 1895 it was S.W. Knepper's Music Shop. The building was then occupied by several different grocers for almost 50 years. By 1940, the Firestone store opened in this location and eventually was replaced by a jewelry store in 1973 until 1999.

The original cornice work is beautifully intact as well as the iron pillars on the sides.

112 E. 4th



Built in 1887 by attorney E.R. Wheeler, the law office of Mr. Wheeler and W.H. Phelps occupied the top floor, a retail clothing store was located on the ground floor and a billiards hall in the basement. The structure has housed law offices, a cafe, bakery, and Goodwill Store. Most recently it was the home of Roger's Office Products until 1989.

This is an excellent example of Greek Classic revival architecture. The front remains unaltered from 1887 when the Carthage stone was added.

120 & 130 E. 4th



In November 1972, a major fire engulfed four of the old buildings and destroyed five different businesses. Today, modern structures have replaced the buildings that once stood in their place. A mall walkway was constructed by the City of Carthage, creating a beautiful area with a stunning view when looking North toward the Courthouse from the back of the walkway.

120 E. 4th Street was once a three-story brick and decorated press metal building. The first floor was home to various stores from the 1880s to the early 20th century. The Roxy movie house was also located in this building.

130 E. 4th Street was also a brick building and was home to a long-time grocery store operated by Selden B. Griswold. Western Auto also occupied the building from the 1940s to 1972, at the time of the fire.

136 E. 4th



During the winter of 1877-78 the Burlingame & Chaffee building was constructed with bricks made right here in Carthage by the J.F. Garner brickyard. This beautiful building is an excellent example of Italianate architecture. The upper windows measure twelve feet tall. The windows and cornices are original.

The upper story housed the first Opera house in Carthage, known as the Burlingame & Chaffee Opera, which opened in 1878. The theater area was 53 X 100 feet with a capacity to seat up to 900 people. The ground floor was divided into two retail stores, Maas & Cahn and R.H. Rose department stores. In 1893 after another opera house opened two blocks to the east, the opera house closed, and the second floor was used by Jasper County officials prior to the Jasper County Courthouse being built in 1894-95.

After extensive repairs following the fire, the east side of McBride's Antiques was a blank canvas ready to tell the Carthage story to residents and travelers for years to come.

10

200 E. 4th



The Snyder building is significant in that it is the only three-story building remaining in Downtown Carthage. It also inadvertently became part of the saloon battle. In 1870 protest began to surface about the numerous saloons in town, this left citizens standing on opposing sides, along with the newspaper and churches caught in the middle. By 1871 beer was not only tolerated but welcome in Carthage.

This large brick structure was built by J.B. Chaffee in the late 1880s and was used as a grocery, offices and a paint store. It later housed boots and shoes. Al Parker Saloon occupied the structure until 1897 when A.H. Synder bought the building. Mr. Synder owned Carthage Ice and Cold Storage. He was also the local agent of Anheuser-Busch Co.

The Synder building as we know it today was finished in 1901, when it underwent enlargement and remodeling. For over 40 years it was a drug store, while the upstairs held several doctor's offices, a law firm, an insurance agency and private apartments.

348 S. Grant



Built in 1868 the front was altered in 1915 to accommodate the Union Trust Company. This timeless building is Italianate in style and is graced with beautiful arched windows along the front and down the south side of the building, along with scrolled brackets at the top of the building and the old fire alarm on the south side.

Many grocery stores have operated from this location since its first occupant, McDaniel and Ruffin, who opened a mercantile after the Civil War. Economy Clothing Company and other dry goods businesses were located here between 1890-1910.

In 1915, Union Trust Company occupied the building. In late 1931 the Bank of Carthage took over Union Trust assets. In subsequent years, various stores have occupied the first floor, while offices and apartments have occupied the second floor.

336-342 S. Grant



This building began as several wooden commercial structures in the 1870s and early 1880s. Destroyed by fire in 1892, Walter Smith announced construction of two adjacent brick buildings on the site. Early occupants were The When shoe store, Walter Smith's drug store, and Alonzo Parkell's tailoring company. Multiple stores came and went through the years until Frederick W. Steadley bought the properties in 1927.

A year after his death in 1928, the three buildings were reconstructed and united with a brick façade. Carthage Marble was used above and beneath the windows. The structure was renamed the Steadley building in honor of the one-time Carthage jeweler, limestone quarry owner, and spring bed manufacturer.

One of the later twentieth century occupants of this structure was the C & W Cafe (1963-1980) later becoming the Gaslight Restaurant. Still visible on an interior wall of #342 is a mural painted by Richard Rhine.

326 S. Grant



For ninety-six years, the former Myers and Garland building at this location housed a multitude of businesses. The Carthage limestone façade carried both surnames of its owners Thomas Garland and William Myers (the latter a former Carthage mayor).

In May of 1988 a fire destroyed the building and two other adjacent smaller historic buildings. At that time Carthage City Hall was relocated to this location. Prior to that, City Hall was housed in the Jasper County Courthouse since 1895.

Today's City Hall lobby contains a unique display of ancient artifacts from our sister city Carthage, Tunisia.

Although City Hall is not a Historic building, it holds important historical significance in the Downtown Historic District.

300-320 S. Grant



This corner has been home to a succession of banks including United Missouri Bank (UMB), Central National Bank (CNB), and First National Bank. First National's 1891 building was torn down in 1963, along with other historic commercial buildings to the south, to make way for a new facility for CNB. The original building was a beautiful four-story Romanesque structure. The current building is labeled as Mid-century Modern and was a non-conforming structure built on the square.



Old First National Bank

149 E. 3rd



Built in 1880 of brick, this building was refaced with Carthage stone in 1906 by the Central National Bank extending the stone around the side of the building along Grant Street. During that time the interior was also remodeled. The building also features a stone balustrade and boxed cornice and one of the original iron pillars is still visible on the front.

Central National Bank operated on the first floor of this building while the second floor was occupied with professional offices such as the McReynolds law office and the medical office of Dr. Everett Powers. In the latter half of the 20th century, the former bank area was used as the office of the Carthage Water and Electric Plant.

The location has some notoriety. It's reported that James Scott, ragtime music composer was discovered while working for the Dumars and Gammons Music store located in the building. There is a 1975 limestone marker in the sidewalk to the left of the storefront in honor of his achievements.

135 & 141 E. 3rd



It is evident that 135 E. 3rd Street (left) and 141 E. 3rd Street (right) were built using the same plans. The two buildings share a staircase in the middle. The two 1880s commercial storefronts were united with a new brick façade after a fire in late 1917. This is another example of older buildings built in the 19th century being updated in the 20th century with a new "modern" façade treatment.

The store on the left was the long-time home to A. B. Deutsch's Clothing Company and the store on the right was an even older establishment belonging to J. M. Whitsett's Dry Goods Company. By the late 1920s, more remodeling was done to this structure to create a totally new storefront for the J.C. Penney store.

129 & 133 E. 3rd



Built as two separate buildings in 1880, the two buildings were joined in 1906. Romanesque in design, this building features arched and pillared windows and ornate stone trim on the second floor. Like so many of the buildings, the Williams building is named for one of the owners, not the original builder.

Louis Blaise's ice cream parlor, bakery and confectionery, was on the left side of the building in the 1880s. The building has held a small restaurant, a barber shop, law offices, E.S. Williams abstract office, and the Chamber of Commerce to name a few.

127 E. 3rd



In 1851 this property was owned by John Shirley, Belle Starr's father, as a location for the Shirley Hotel, saloon and livery stable. From the recreated maps of that era, the hotel sat about where this building is located, with the stable and barn yard east of the hotel.

The first brick structure at this location appears after the January 1880 fire. H.G. and Nelson Damon purchased the land and constructed the building that we see now. The back of the building has been extended over the years, much like its neighbor buildings, to reach 2nd Street.

Before the building was extended to encompass the warehouse, an elevator was installed to the third story. It does not date to 1880, but it is a rope drawn elevator and looks to have been added soon after the construction of the building. Several businesses who have passed through this building include Frank Higgins Lumber business, clothing store, barber shop, grocery store, appliance store, drug store and church.

121 E. 3rd



The original wooden frame building like so many others was burned in January 1880. J.J. Higgins grocery store occupied this location until the fire when Jenkins & Miller built the new brick building in September 1880 with a new grocer. The large window spanning the entire front upstairs is original.

In 1907 Phillip Hannum purchased the building, it was faced with Carthage stone in 1908, and his name was added to the building. Carthage Furniture and Carpet business occupied the building. During the remodel Mr. Hannum installed an elevator that connected the basement, first and second floors that is still in working order to this day.

Carthage Furniture Company became Nubert's Furniture from 1925 until 1964. Browning furniture occupied the building from 1964 to 1970 until Westco moved in. In the fall of 1981 it became rental property, leased for many years to the Calico Shop. The owners bought the adjoining Carthage Hardware building in 1982, and in 1989 decided to join them together at the front and the back.

119 E. 3rd



H.G. Damon owned the lot where the hardware store is located now, and by June of 1880 he had built most of the building that we see today.

This building has been the continuous site of a hardware store since 1880. The brick façade was fired in Carthage and the decorative brick cornice, and the four tall windows add to the appeal of this building. The building has remained the same over the past century.

111 E. 3rd



The left side of this building was built in 1873, the right side constructed in 1881, but the two sides were not joined until 1962.

The left-hand side was originally a hardware store and opened in 1873. The right-hand side occupied a dry goods store.

Italianate in style, the owner of this building received an Excellence in Downtown Revitalization award from the Missouri Department of Economic Development's State Main Street program in March 1997.

103-107 E. 3rd



An early owner of this property was John Shirley, Belle Starr's father. The building itself was built in 1882 and was known as the Damon building, as H.G. Damon was the builder.

Upon completion, R.H. Rose moved his inventory into the new building and would remain at this same location for the next 50 years. Additional building occupants since the 1920s include Reynolds Hardware, Edmiston's Department Store, Wallingford Shoe Company, Barnes Jewelry, and Baird News. In the 1980s, the Flatlander Gallery was located here and sold artwork by Carthage artist Lowell Davis.

The first floor of the historic front façade was covered in the 1970s. However, the western wall of the building still exhibits Carthage limestone keystones above the bricked-in windows on the second floor and many Carthage Foundry cast iron pillars on the first floor.

301 & 307 S. Main



The first building to occupy this lot was a two-story wood structure built in 1850. In 1883 the original Bank of Carthage was constructed. The building that stands today was expanded in 1890 from a two story 1884 brick structure into a three-story building and much of the façade was refaced. The third floor was later removed in 1949.

The façade is a Romanesque Revival of Lake Superior sandstone and brick. Notice the restored colored glass over the main entrance. Enjoy '50 - '60's décor that is currently inside of the Carthage Deli and Ice Cream, along with Carthage memorabilia.

The shop at 307 S. Main was one of two storefronts constructed with the bank in 1883.

311 & 315 S. Main



Built in 1887 by W.J. Pollard, the building originally housed two department stores. The south half of the building was rented to Ramsay Brothers for a department store in 1895. In 1910, Ramsay's expanded to include both sides.

The remodel in 1917 included a dark brick front, trimmed in Carthage stone, and an elaborate system of show windows including the island showcase. The lighting was considered the most "up to date" system. Ramsey's store remained until the late 1970's.

Cherry's Art Emporium on the Square has been a staple for many years. The building hosts an unassuming 25,000 square feet of commercial property with art, local goods, custom framing and a restaurant.

319-321-325 S. Main



When built between 1868-1869 by Timothy Regan this building was the first “sky-scraper” in the southwest. The first building on this site was three stories. In the 1870's the third-floor meeting room hosted Susan B. Anthony as she presented a lecture. Extensive remodeling in 1921 led to the removal of the third floor and it was renamed the Center Building because it sat in the middle of the block.

Among the twentieth century merchants at this address were Marks & Milton men's Shop (later Milton's Men's Shop), Murray Drugs (later Murray-Duncan Drugs expanding into two storefronts), Tiger Theatre and Jaffe's Shoe Store. Two major fires in 1936 and 1954 required the reconstruction of this building each time. The two iron pillars at the corners of the building are original.

331 S. Main



The north half of this building was the site of the post office from 1872 to 1895. In 1907, two buildings were remodeled and made into one to form the site of the first Kress's 5, 10 and 25 cent store that was located in Missouri.

The curved glass windows were the first in Carthage. A beautiful building with dark green marble has the Kress name embedded on the sidewalk entrance.

335 & 337 S. Main



Built as one building in 1888, then separated into halves each measuring 14 ½ feet, this building housed a candy store on the northside (335 S. Main) and shoe store on the south side (337 S. Main). Each half has been individually owned for many years. The south side has a wooden floor while the one on the north has the original black and white tile floor. The Ball family purchased the property in 1907 and the building was faced with Carthage stone in 1909, at that time Ball's name was placed on the building.

Both buildings have retained their original Italianate style and the original brick walls are still featured in the interior of 337 S. Main.

341 S. Main



Originally the building was home to the Farmer's and Drover's Bank in 1875. The basement was a millinery shop. The building was sold to Mr. Wilbur in 1908 and extensively remodeled. He added the Carthage stone and his name to the front and squared the windows while adding the leaded glass windows. The back of the structure features the original bars covering the windows. After the extensive remodel he opened a bank, only to have the bank close the same year.

The building sat empty until 1910 when it became Gratz clothing, then Carter/Miller clothing and eventually Miller Clothing Co. From 1910 until 1978 it served as a menswear store.

345 S. Main



In the 1880s this location was used as a cigar factory and newsstand with newspapers from all over the country. The “arson/robbery” fire of 1901 saw damage to this building as well as the Hawkins Title Building.

It was then renovated and operated as a jewelry and music store. It was later occupied by J.C. Penney until 1929 followed by Montgomery Ward until 1972. A metal façade once covered this building to cover deterioration of the upper floor. In 2019, after a hailstorm the metal facade was removed, and the building was restored.

349 S. Main



This building is known as the Hawkins Title Building and was constructed in 1879. Goldstein Department Store occupied the building until the late 1890s.

In 1901 the building was damaged by fire and quickly renovated. The building has been home to the telephone company, health food store, photography studio, drug store and restaurant.

It is an excellent example of Italianate architecture that features cast iron ornamentation and beautiful cornices.

Crown Jewel



The Jasper County Courthouse, constructed of Carthage Marble quarried north of the city, was designed by M.A. Orlopp in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The beautiful structure that you see today was constructed in 1894-1895, with the corner stone being laid on August 21, 1894.

Crown Jewel

Other temporary locations have included a log cabin, a school, a remodeled jail, and other buildings on or near the Square. A two-story brick building was completed July 10, 1854, on this site. Used as a hospital during the Civil War, it was severely damaged by fire as was much of the City on July 5, 1861, during the Battle of Carthage.

The current structure which celebrated its 100th birthday in October 1995, is enhanced by colonnaded turrets, four corner towers, and a domed central clock tower topped with cupola. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Jasper County Courthouse combines the monumental dignity of Romanesque Revival design with some of the romantic elegance of Chateausque. Both grand and picturesque, this building symbolizes the spirit of confidence and aspirations of Carthage and Jasper County at the end of the 19th Century.

In 1976, the Carthage Soroptomists commissioned internationally known artist Lowell Davis, to paint the mural inside the Courthouse. The mural traces the history of Jasper County from the Osage Indians through the Civil War and into today.

"Missouri tourism officials consider the Jasper County courthouse the second most photographed building in the state after the Saint Louis Gateway Arch" (Through the Years Carthage, Mo p.16).

CONTINUE THE TOUR

Carthage Public Library located at the corner of Garrison & 7th Street

- An Andrew Carnegie library, it is still in pristine condition and one of the best examples of a Carnegie library in existence. It features a large painted domed ceiling and showcases a French Renaissance style with a touch of Greek feeling to it.

Central Park located at the corner of Garrison & 7th Street

- Used as a City Cemetery in 1861, this was turned into a park in 1875. Then-mayor Horace Harding asked to have it sown with flowers, fenced and made into a sanctuary for the birds and wildlife. In the 1890s the park was landscaped by Kansas City landscape architect George Kessler. Additions such as the fountain, bandstand, benches, antique lights, restrooms, etc. have made the park a resting place for travelers and residents alike.

Post Office located at 226 W. 3rd Street

- By 1894 it was decided that the postal demands had outgrown the building. The Postmaster General agreed to move the Post Office and it was decided the new building would be constructed on the site of Crandall's livery stable behind the Harrington Hotel on North Grant Street. Major Harrington built the Post Office, and it opened in April of 1895. In 1896 people had begun lobbying Congress for a federal building that would house a large Post Office and this was finally accomplished in 1908 with the building you see today.

Grace Episcopal Church located at 820 Howard Street

- Grace Church was organized in 1870 and this Gothic structure was built in 1889 of Carthage rough dressed limestone. This is one of the oldest buildings in Carthage. Note the attention to detail and the prominent rose window on the front.

We hope you enjoyed the tour!



221 W. 4th Street
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