

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



I INVITE YOU TO TAKE A WALK AROUND DOWNTOWN ORLANDO AND EXPLORE OUR UNIQUE HISTORY.

Go inside our “million dollar courthouse” built in 1927, discover the first crematorium in the south and see the unique siding on one of our historic buildings that is

said to have shipped from England in the late 1880s. You will not only learn about many of our character defining, historic buildings in Downtown, but also about many significant events and civic leaders who helped Orlando to become one of the best cities in the world.

A key part of the City’s plan for strategic growth is recognizing, preserving and celebrating our past.

Orlando has multiple historic neighborhoods and more than 50 local and national historic landmarks. We continue to support our City’s historic preservation efforts by recognizing and publicizing our history. Plaques have been placed outside select historic sites on the tour to allow residents and visitors the opportunity to learn about our great history.

Downtown Orlando has a lot to offer and our history is just the beginning.

Buddy Dyer

Buddy Dyer, Orlando Mayor



ABOUT THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS



ORLANDO - 1962

The Downtown Orlando Historic District has been officially designated by the Orlando City Council and the City of Orlando’s Historic Preservation Board. The Historic Preservation Board consists of nine members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The board and its committees review all projects and development within the City’s six historic districts and all landmarked properties.

Designated in 1980 by the City of Orlando, the district is a cohesive collection of buildings that reflects the commercial and governmental history of Orlando. It encompasses eight blocks for buildings constructed from the 1880s until the early 1940s. The historic district designation has helped preserve buildings that might otherwise have been demolished due to the rapid rate of growth and demand for commercial space in Downtown.

The variety of building styles and sizes reflects the evolution of architecture and construction in Downtown. The styles represented in the district are Queen Anne, twentieth century commercial, Beaux-Arts, Mediterranean Revival, Art Deco and Art Modern.

The Downtown Walking Tour also includes six contributing structures in the Holden-Parramore National Register of Historic Places District. Designated in 2009, The Holden-Parramore Historic District encompasses approximately 20 acres of residential, commercial, and civic buildings that represent this early 20th century African-American neighborhood.



Economic Development Department
400 South Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801
cityoforlando.net/historicpreservation
downtownorlando.com

0515



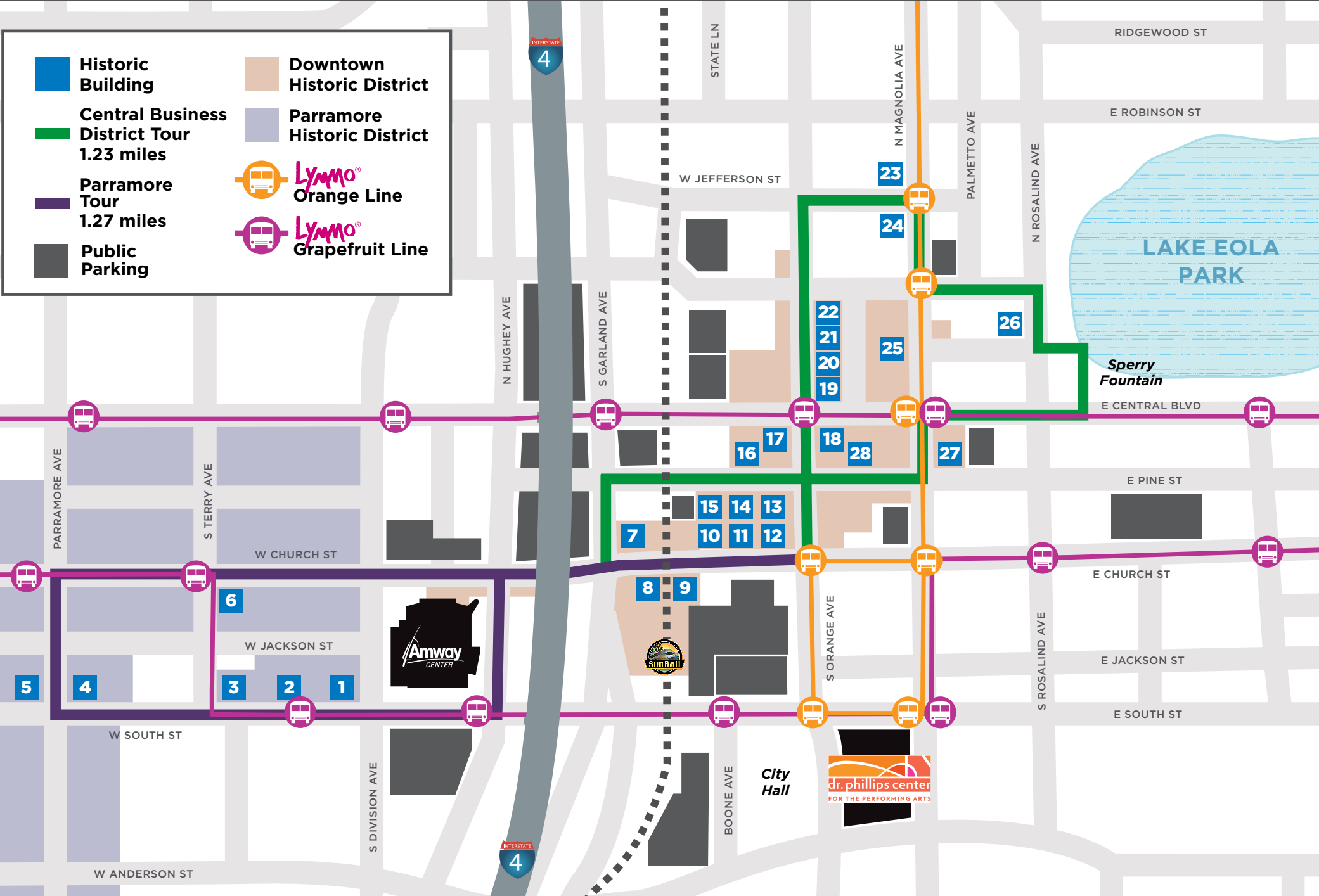
DOWNTOWN ORLANDO HISTORIC DISTRICTS WALKING TOUR & MAP



CITYOFORLANDO.NET/HISTORICPRESERVATION

DOWNTOWN ORLANDO HISTORIC DISTRICTS WALKING TOUR

Explore the wonders of our historic Downtown buildings. The tour route is approximately 2.5 miles. Each number on the map corresponds to the properties described on the back. Please respect private property when viewing these sites.



1

WELLS' BUILT HOTEL

511 WEST SOUTH STREET

Dr. William Monroe Wells constructed this hotel in 1926. It provided lodging to African Americans during segregation when rooms were not available to them in other areas. Many notable black dignitaries, entertainers and athletes stayed at the hotel, including Thurgood Marshall, Jackie Robinson and Ella Fitzgerald. Next door was the Dr. Wells' South Street Casino, where many of the entertainers performed for the African-American community. The Wells' Built Museum of African American History is now located here.

2

DR. WILLIAM MONROE WELLS HOUSE

519 WEST SOUTH STREET

Dr. William Monroe Wells, an African-American physician and owner of the Wells' Built Hotel and South Street Casino, built this house in 1924. He is credited with delivering more than 5,500 babies during his career, which included a year during WWII when he was the only black doctor in Orlando. His wife, Clifford Irene Wells, was involved in civic work and community service. She lived in the home until her death in 1989. In 2002, the house was moved here from 407 West South Street.

3

VICTORIAN HOUSE & COTTAGE

541 WEST SOUTH STREET

Two Victorian-influenced structures on this parcel exemplify unusual structures built in the 1920s. The ornate spindle-work and some architectural details indicate an earlier construction period than documented. The main structure has both Stick and Queen Anne style elements. The rear cottage is Folk Victorian with porch details identical to the main structure.

4

HANKINS BUILDING

319 SOUTH PARRAMORE AVENUE

Dr. I.S. Hankins constructed this Art Deco commercial building in 1947. Hankins was an African-American physician and civic leader. He was an active participant in the Washington Shores development, which provided home-ownership opportunities for African-American residents.



5

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH

701 WEST SOUTH STREET

This African-American church was organized in 1919 and met in various locations until land was purchased at this corner in 1921. Church members made the rusticated concrete blocks by hand that were used to construct the exterior walls of this Gothic-style church. This is the oldest African-American church building in the City.

6

EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

596 WEST CHURCH STREET

A wooden building was built on this site in 1892 for the first church in Orlando where black Methodists could attend. Construction of this Gothic-style brick church began in 1922 and the parsonage was built in 1937.

7

SLEMONS DEPARTMENT STORE

129-131 WEST CHURCH STREET

Slemons Department Store was a major dry goods establishment from 1915-50. William Slemons came to Orlando in 1886 and began business on West Church Street next to Bumby Hardware. In 1924, he hired the J.C. Hanner Construction Company of Orlando to construct this tan, brick building for his store. Slemons and his sons also owned a number of other stores in Orlando.

8

BUMBY HARDWARE BUILDING

102-110 WEST CHURCH STREET

Joseph Bumby, Sr. came from England in 1873. He started selling hay, grain and fertilizer from a warehouse on Church Street when the railroad came in 1880. In 1886, Bumby built this structure and started a successful hardware business.



9

OLD ORLANDO RAILROAD DEPOT

76 WEST CHURCH STREET

In 1880, the railroad came to Orlando. The first depot was run from Bumby Hardware. In 1881, a wooden station was constructed across from Bumby's store and a second constructed in 1886. Built by Henry Plant, and dedicated in January 1890, the depot was a symbolic step that Orlando was growing as one of Florida's major cities. The architecture is inspired by H.H. Richardson.

10

NICHOLSON-COLYER BUILDING

27-29 WEST CHURCH STREET

This late Victorian structure was built for J.A. Colyer, an African American tailor, and J.E. Nicholson, a Canadian baker, in 1911. This is one of the few properties located outside the City's traditional African-American neighborhoods that was owned and operated by an African American.



11

KRESS BUILDING

15-17 WEST CHURCH STREET

The S.H. Kress Company, which used elaborate architecture as a branding tool, adopted a new architectural model in 1929. Kress architect Edward F. Sibbert moved from traditional to modern designs and was the impetus behind the use of decorative terra cotta and the Art Deco styling of this and many other Kress stores. Each Kress store was designed to be a vital part of its city's business district, offering inexpensive yet quality merchandise and providing lunch counters for businessmen, teenagers and consumers. This Kress store opened in 1936. Though the company closed in 1981, many Kress stores have been preserved and adapted for reuse, including this building in Orlando.

12

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

190 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE

Founded in 1911, The People's National Bank became the First National Bank in 1920. The bank constructed this building in 1930, designed by Orlando architect Howard M. Reynolds. The classically inspired Art Deco building features Egyptian motifs. The bank failed in the early 1930s and was reorganized in 1934 as the First National Bank at Orlando. Later after the bank moved, the building housed Whitehouse Cafeteria, a drugstore and Valencia College.



13

ORLANDO BANK & TRUST COMPANY

100 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE

Dedicated in 1924, this twentieth century commercial style skyscraper was constructed for the Orlando Bank & Trust Company. The building was one of the most fashionable business addresses in the City. The building is commonly known as the Metcalf Building for H.W. Metcalf, who purchased the building in 1930 at the height of the Great Depression.



14

TINKER BUILDING

18 WEST PINE STREET

Joe Tinker constructed this building in 1925 to house his real estate offices. Tinker played shortstop for the Chicago Cubs in the early 1900s. He moved to Orlando in 1920 to manage the Orlando Tigers, a baseball team in the Florida State League.

15

CAREY HAND FUNERAL HOME

36 WEST PINE STREET

Carey Hand came to Orlando to join his father in the funeral business. In 1920, he constructed this brick funeral home designed by local architect F.H. Trimble. The funeral home was the first in Florida to have a chapel. The 1925 crematorium was the first constructed in the south.

16

ELIJAH HAND BUILDING

15-17 WEST PINE STREET



Elijah Hand came to Orlando from Shelbyville, Indiana in 1885. He constructed the building in 1905. Hand is noted for being the first funeral director in the area to use embalming.

17

DICKSON-IVES DEPARTMENT STORE

2 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE

In the 1880s, H.H. Dickson and Sidney Ives, Sr. arrived in Orlando independently of each other. They both opened mercantile establishments and eventually purchased this property and opened a feed and grocery store. In 1920, they demolished their store and constructed this brick structure to house their growing business.

18

YOWELL-DUCKWORTH BUILDING

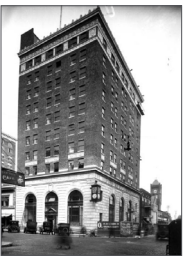
1 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE

In 1894, Newton P. Yowell opened a dry goods store with his sister, Hattie. Months later, Yowell remained when many businesses closed due to the big freeze of 1894-95. After several moves, he constructed this building in 1913 with Eugene Duckworth. Designed by Murry S. King, it was the City's first four-story commercial block. Duckworth sold his shares in 1919 to Benjamin Drew and entered politics, serving as mayor from 1920-1924. The Yowell-Drew company was sold in 1944 to the Ivey's department store chain. Ivey's remained until 1976.

19

THE STATE BANK OF ORLANDO & TRUST COMPANY

1 NORTH ORANGE AVENUE



Architect W.L. Stoddart designed the State Bank of Orlando and Trust with classical elements, a popular motif for skyscrapers of the day. The building opened in 1924 with the bank occupying the first floor and mezzanine. The upper levels were rented as professional offices to tenants including attorneys, real estate brokers, dentists, manufactures and a Christian Science reading room.

20

ANGEILT HOTEL

37 NORTH ORANGE AVENUE

Part of the commercial building boom in the 1920s, this 11-story hotel was built in 1923. Builder Joseph Ange hired architect Murry S. King to design a million-dollar hotel. Considered the jewel of Downtown Orlando, the building included hotel rooms, a rooftop garden, restaurant, pharmacy, bookstore and other businesses. WLOF, Orlando's second radio station, was located on the mezzanine floor.



21

ROSE BUILDING

49 NORTH ORANGE AVENUE

This 1924 structure was designed by Murry S. King for Walter Rose, a local developer and future state senator. King planned for this building to be the base of a 10-story office building. Rose never constructed the upper floors, as the economy during the Depression could not support the project. Rose often incorporated his name within developments including Rose Isle, Rosemere and Rosearden. The rose-pink color and Rose's name in the cartouche are patterned to this naming-trait.

22

RUTLAND'S

63 NORTH ORANGE AVENUE

Local architect F. Earl Deloe designed this Art Moderne structure for Joseph Rutland's menswear store as a two-story building around 1941. Three additional stories were added in 1952. In the late 1960s, Rutland's closed its Downtown location, but remained open in the suburban Colonial Plaza Shopping Center.

23

U.S. POST OFFICE & COURTHOUSE

51 EAST JEFFERSON STREET

On land bought from the Catholic Church by the federal government, the U.S. Post Office & Courthouse opened in 1941. Architect Louis A. Simon of the Public Buildings Administration is credited with the restrained classical design of this Italian Renaissance Revival building.

24

CATHEDRAL OF ST. LUKE

130 NORTH MAGNOLIA AVENUE

Francis Eppes, a grandson of Thomas Jefferson, came to Orlando in 1869 and held the first Episcopal services in his home. Those early congregants purchased this land in 1882 and formed St. Luke's Parish Church in 1884. It became a cathedral in 1902. The present Gothic Revival building was designed by Philip Frohman of Boston, the chief architect of the Washington National Cathedral. Construction began in 1925 and was completed in 1987. St. Luke's also sponsored the Cathedral School which operated from 1900-68.



25

OLD ORANGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

65 EAST CENTRAL BOULEVARD

Architect Murry S. King designed the sixth Orange County Courthouse in Orlando and supervised its construction until his death in 1925. The building was completed in 1927 under the supervision of his son, James B. King. It was known as the "Million-Dollar Courthouse." This Beaux Arts style building originally contained county offices, courtrooms and the jail. The Orange County Regional History Center is now located here.

26

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST

24 NORTH ROSALIND AVENUE

A Christian Science Church was established in Orlando around 1917. The group met at the Lucerne Theater until this structure was completed in 1928. Architect George Foote Dunham, himself a Christian Scientist, designed 50 churches from Orlando to British Columbia. The congregation remained here until 1975 when the St. George Orthodox Church purchased the building.

27

ROGERS BUILDING

37-39 SOUTH MAGNOLIA AVENUE

Englishman Gordon Rogers came to Orlando in 1886 and constructed this Queen Anne style building. The English Club was located on the second story and sponsored dances, theater and other events for the area's British community. Reportedly, the metal siding and decorative details were manufactured in England. In 1907, the building housed the offices of the *South Florida Sentinel*, a predecessor of the *Orlando Sentinel*.



28

ELLIS BUILDING

35 EAST PINE STREET

Built between 1885 and 1886, the Giles-Ellis building was one of the first brick buildings on Pine Street. J.L. and N.B. Giles constructed the building for use as commercial rental space. In the 1920s, local investor, William Ellis replaced the facade and rebuilt the structure.