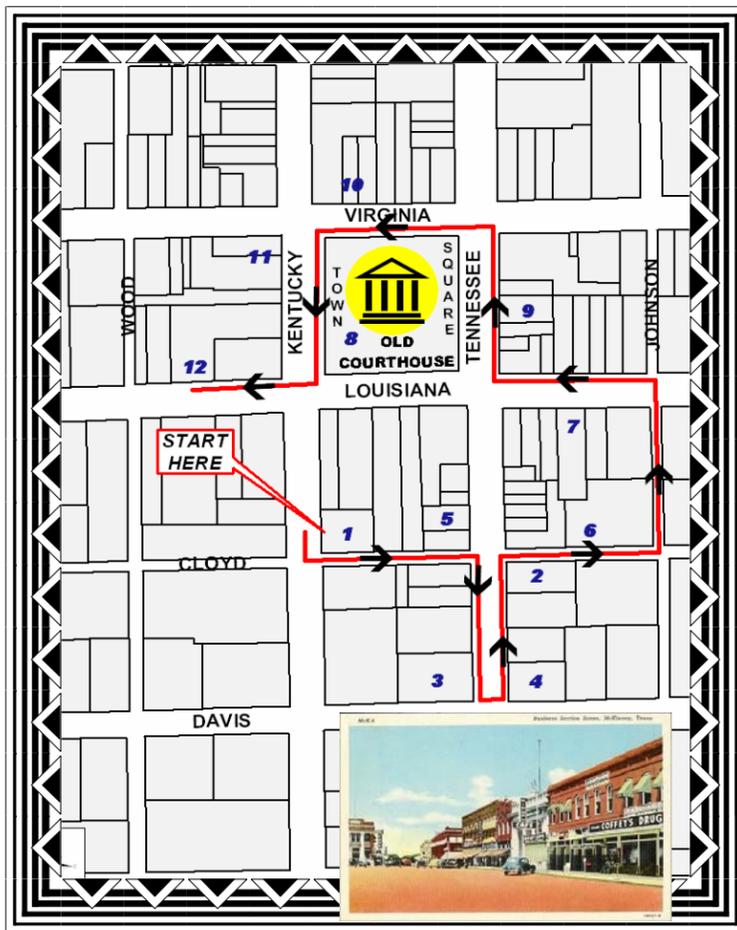
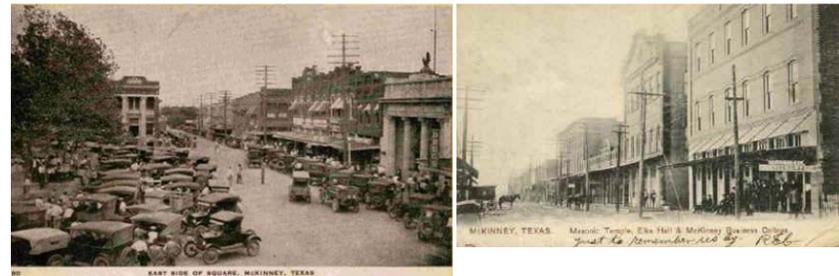


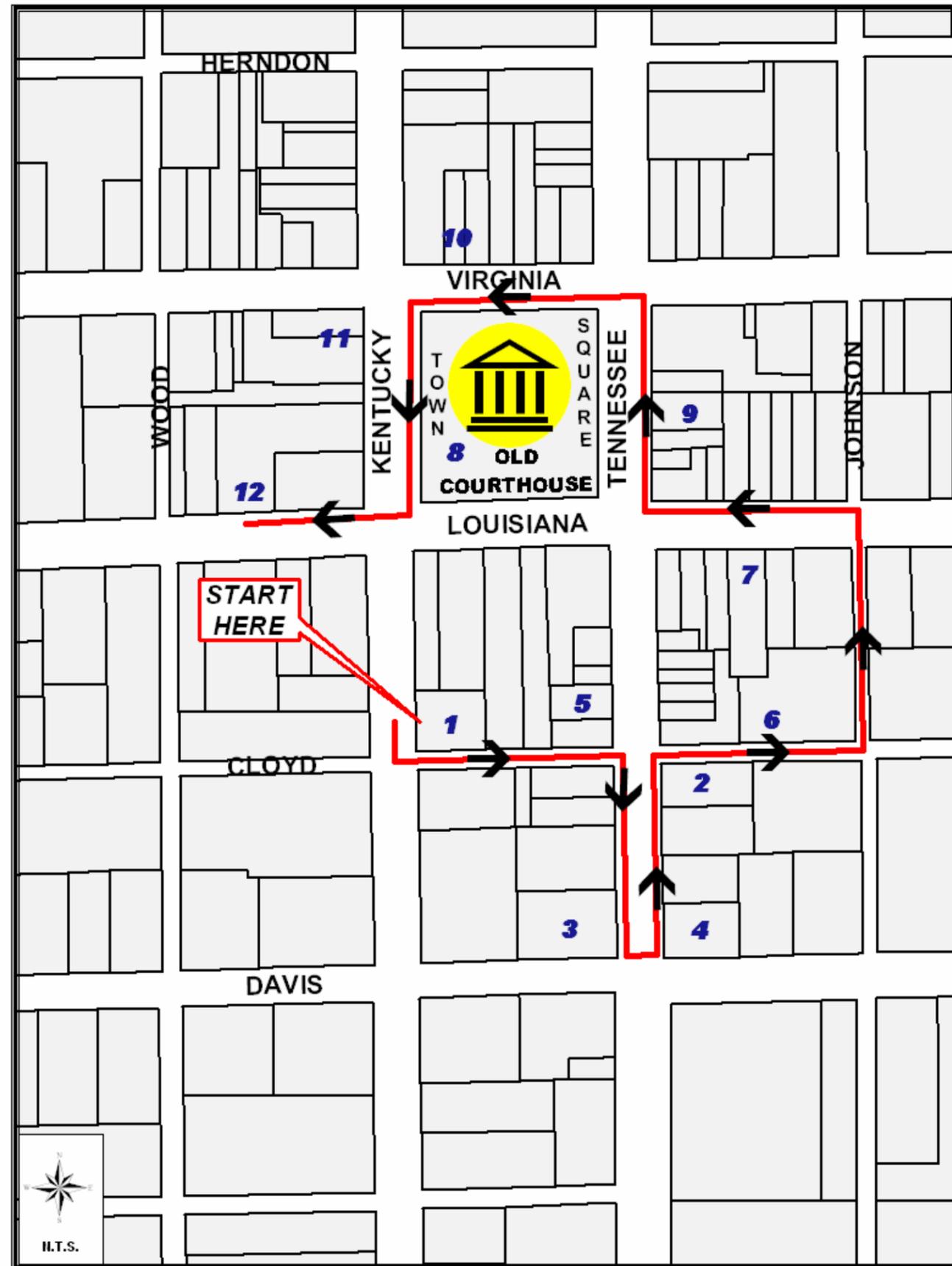
DOWNTOWN HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

(approximate walking time: 20 minutes)

Presented by the Historic Preservation Advisory Board and Main Street



The tour starts on North Virginia just north and west of the Old Collin County Courthouse at the corner of Church Street and Virginia. Go north on Church Street to 205 North Church Street.



1. The Old Collin County Jail, built in 1880, is one of the oldest commercial/governmental buildings in McKinney. The jail was designed by early Texas architect F.E. Ruffini and built by the Dallas firm Leftwich and Jamison. The original jail was built as a t-plan, Victorian Italianate building using quarry-faced ashlar limestone on the facade. The main facade has a pressed metal cornice, round arch windows on the first floor and segmental arch windows on the second floor. The iron for the jail came from King Iron & Bridge Manufacturing Co. of Cleveland, Ohio. In the 1920's a rear addition was added using cast stone, which is similar to the quarry-faced stone of the original jail. It is in this back area where the gallows were constructed for the last legal, public execution in Collin County. In 1939 the jail was renovated again and eventually abandoned in 1979. The building has been restored for a new use.



Travel east down the alley called Cloyd Street.

2. At the southeast corner of Cloyd and Tennessee stands a two-story brick building. The building once served as the meeting place of the local chapter of Woodman of the World. Notice the cartouche located in the upper parapet with an axe and tree trunk placed above the panel with W.O.W. inscribed. Around the turn of the last century the building was home as well to Walker's Horn Palace, owned and operated by G.J.S. Walker, Sheriff of Collin County. The Horn Palace was located on the first floor and inside was displayed horns of animals from around the world. There was a set of large longhorn horns mounted on the front of the building and Sheriff Walker kept a small herd of longhorns located behind the Horn Palace. Rumor has it that they sported the largest horns in the State of Texas. Ghost signs for the Horn Palace and Woodmen of the World are still visible on the back of the building.



Travel south on Tennessee to the corner of Davis and Tennessee.

3. Located at 132 S. Tennessee is the Burton House & Medical Clinic. Dr. Ben Throckmorton had the house built in 1902. He later sold the house to Dr. E. L. Burton in 1912. The Burtons commissioned artist Peter Plotkin of New York to paint the ceilings of the reception hall, parlor, library, and dining room. Another remarkable feature of the Burton House are the one-over-one windows with stained glass transoms.



4. Looking directly across the street at 131 S. Tennessee you can see what was once a circa 1920, one-story, brick service station. This is an example of the many 20th century vernacular commercial buildings that have been rehabilitated and brought back to use in the commercial historic district of McKinney.



Travel back north on the east, right side, of Tennessee. When you pass the alley, Cloyd Street, notice the buildings across Tennessee on the left.

5. The Allen Building located at 114-116 S. Tennessee is circa 1890 vernacular commercial building. The cast-iron columns and thresholds come from a cast iron foundry that was once located in Dennison, Texas. The corbelled brickwork in the cornice and the original storefront at 114 S. Tennessee represents one of the few remaining original storefronts located in downtown McKinney.



Continue east on Cloyd Street. Pay attention to the backs of the building. Can you find where windows once were? Notice the ghost signs located on the rear of the Woodman of the World Building and the ghost sign high and to your left on the J.P. Dowell Hardware building. The Dowell Tin Shop is located on your left.

6. The J.P. Dowell Tin Shop is a circa 1920 vernacular commercial building. The building is a one-story, brick building with two-over-two windows with segmented arches, and a modest corbelled brick cornice. Today the building serves as storage.



The next cross street is Johnson Street. Turn left and go north. As you walk down the street notice the patterns that the brick make in the walls of the buildings. Many of the buildings are constructed using what is known as a Common or American Bond. This method of masonry construction uses a header course every sixth course between the stretcher courses. As you walk about town see how many different styles of masonry construction you can find.

Cross the next major street, Louisiana, and turn left. You are now among several circa 1890 buildings. Look closely for the many architectural remnants from days long past. Notice the ornate hoodmolds above many of the second story windows and the brick corbelling of the upper parapet wall. As you walk up Louisiana towards the Square look at the building on your left located at 210 E. Louisiana.

7. The building located at 210 E. Louisiana is the J.P. Dowell Hardware Store. The building is a three-story brick commercial building built in 1888. Five years after the railroad arrived in McKinney the Dowell Hardware and Furniture Store was established in 1877. This building is unique in McKinney because it is one of the few three-story buildings that remain downtown. In 1922 the building was renovated and the segmental arched, one-over-one windows with pressed tin hoodmolds were replaced with Chicago-type windows. A Chicago window has a central fixed pane with smaller double-hung windows on either side. This style of commercial building is unusual in a small Texas town.



Continue west on Louisiana to the corner of Tennessee and Louisiana.

8. The building located in the center of the square is the Old Collin County Courthouse. The old courthouse represents a time in McKinney when cotton was king. The riches of the land provided the monies necessary to remodel the 1874 Second Empire French style courthouse into a 1927 Classical Revival style courthouse. Notice the classical Greek elements such as the ionic columns that adorn the building. Thomas Jefferson believed that the use of Greek architecture for government buildings would embody the very ideals of democratic governments. The architectural design of the Courthouse reflects the democratic ideal of equality and justice since all entrances have equal access to the court. The last major trial in the Old County Courthouse involved a mistress who was acquitted for the 'Lizzie Borden Style' axe murder of her lover's wife. Today the building is the home of the McKinney Performing Arts Center.



Go to the right, north on Tennessee, toward Virginia.

9. Notice the historic neon sign for Smith Drug Store. The sign dates back to the 1920's. Smith Drugstore is the oldest operating business in McKinney on the Square. Dr. B.M. Smith opened the drugstore in the 1880's and the drugstore has been in continuous operation. Today the drugstore is located in a portion of the Jesse Shain Building, a two-story, commercial brick building built circa 1900. The upper story has round arched double-hung windows with quarry-faced stone hoodmolds reminiscent of Richardsonian Romanesque treatment. Also note the excellent corbelled masonry cornice work.



As you continue walking up Tennessee look to the left, on the Virginia Street side of the square. Walk to the building with the chicken on it.

10. The building with the chicken on the wall is located at 105 E. Virginia. It is one of the older commercial buildings in McKinney having been built in the mid 1870's. Notice the cast iron columns and the pressed tin cornice. The tin cornice is one of two pressed tin cornices remaining in McKinney's Commercial Historic District.



Continue on Virginia across Kentucky. Turn left on Kentucky and go south.

11. Once you cross Virginia stop at the building located at 111-115 N. Kentucky. This building is a 1929 Art Deco style building designed by famous Dallas architects Lang and Witchell. Originally the building was built for F.B.Pope and housed the Silver Brothers Dry Goods Store. In the 1940's the building housed J.C. Penney Store and Gambel's Drug. It was once one of the favorite hangouts for teenagers to go and enjoy a soda or milkshake. Notice the beautiful terra cotta tile on this building.



12. Located west on Louisiana on the north side of the street is 108-112 W. Louisiana. This two-story, brick commercial building was the home of the Old Heard Opera House. The building was constructed 1883-84. The second floor windows have pressed metal hoodmolds and the lower façade sports semi-attached cast-iron columns similar to those located across the street at 101-109 W. Louisiana. John Phillip Sousa once played at this opera house.



As you proceed south on Kentucky there are many hidden treasures in the architecture. Stop at the corner of Kentucky and Louisiana.

If you are interested in learning more about the architecture of the City of McKinney and its history the following book will be of help: *The Architectural History of McKinney*, Published by the Owl Club (This book is out of print.) *The First 150 Years: McKinney, Texas*, by Julie Vargo The Donning Company Publishers, 1997. *The History of Collin County, Texas*, by J. Lee Stambaugh, and Lillian J. Stambaugh, Lund Press, Inc., Minneapolis, 1958.

Visit McKinney's Historic Museums:
Chestnut Square Historical Village, 311 S. Chestnut, 972.562.8790
North Texas History Center, 105 Chestnut, 972.542.9457
Heard-Craig Historical Center, 205 W. Hunt, 972.567.6909
Heard Natural Science Museum, One Nature Pl., 972.562.5566