

Ludlow is a quaint Kentucky town on the Ohio River with a significant history, beautiful buildings, local businesses, and friendly people. It developed from an early-19th century river enclave, to a Victorian railway boom town, to an early 20th century leisure destination with a rollicking amusement park. Hope you enjoy our rich and unique story.

# { LUDLOW } { KENTUCKY }

A HISTORIC TOUR

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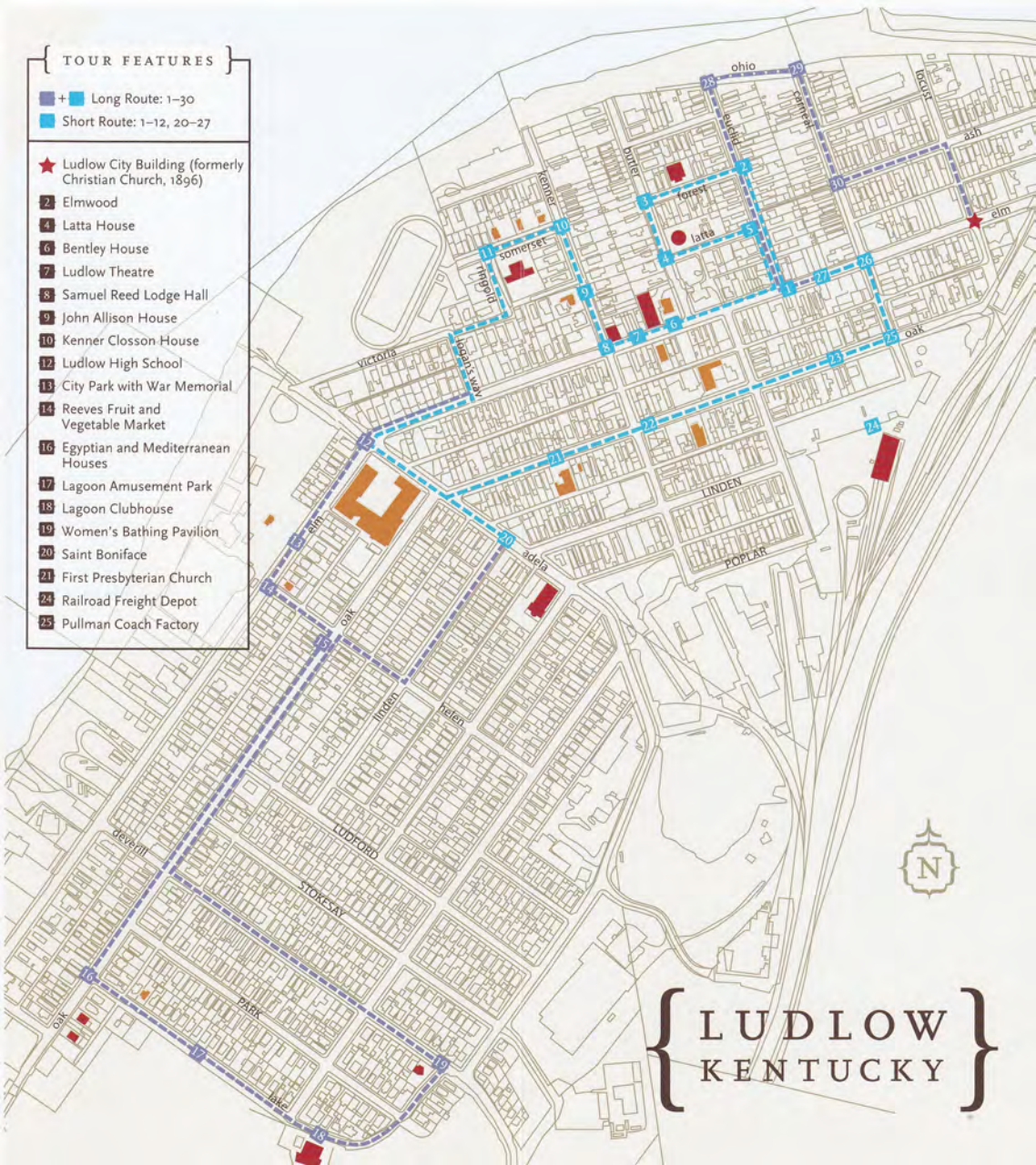
Material provided by: Sara Lewis and Tim Withem, University of Cincinnati School of Architecture and Interior Design with assistance from: Kentucky Heritage Council, Dave Schroeder, and Patrick Snadon. Designed by Rebecca Amann. Cover image courtesy of the Kenton County Public Library, Covington, KY.

*Pay us a visit and prepare for a unique experience. Use this brochure to walk or drive by the landmarks of our community.*

TOUR FEATURES

- + Long Route: 1-30
- Short Route: 1-12, 20-27

- ★ Ludlow City Building (formerly Christian Church, 1896)
- 2 Elmwood
- 4 Latta House
- 6 Bentley House
- 7 Ludlow Theatre
- 8 Samuel Reed Lodge Hall
- 9 John Allison House
- 10 Kenner Closson House
- 12 Ludlow High School
- 13 City Park with War Memorial
- 14 Reeves Fruit and Vegetable Market
- 16 Egyptian and Mediterranean Houses
- 17 Lagoon Amusement Park
- 18 Lagoon Clubhouse
- 19 Women's Bathing Pavilion
- 20 Saint Boniface
- 21 First Presbyterian Church
- 24 Railroad Freight Depot
- 25 Pullman Coach Factory



{ LUDLOW }  
KENTUCKY



{ 1 } Our tour begins at the City Building (formerly The Christian Church), #51 on Elm Street, Ludlow's Victorian Commercial artery. Turn right (North) on Euclid Street past two blocks of Victorian and early 20th Century houses. Turn left on Forest Avenue.

{ 2 } Ludlow's oldest house, Elmwood, #244, was built c. 1818-20. The Federal-style country villa of Thomas Carneal, it was the center of an approximately 1,000 acre estate along the riverfront, including all of present-day Ludlow. The house originally faced the river with a large fan-doorway. In 1827, London



showman William Bullock (who made a fortune displaying Napoleon's traveling carriage after the Battle of Waterloo) purchased the Elmwood estate and had English Regency architect J.B. Papworth lay out "HYGEIA" Kentucky (named for the Greek goddess of health). This was to be an ideal town composed of squares and circles recalling late 18th century British town plans. Bullock failed to find investors and in the 1830s-40s sold the property to the Ludlow family who, along with the Kenner family, laid out and developed Ludlow. The Elmwood site was subdivided in the 1880s and the rear kitchen wing of the house removed. It was turned into a double house and the Forest Avenue front was rebuilt in Victorian Italianate style. From c. 1920-1970, it served as Mrs. Thomas's Candy Factory. It is currently a residence again. There are also a significant number of Victorian houses and double houses of the 1880s-90s on Forest Avenue.

{ 3 } Standing at the intersection of Forest Avenue and Butler Street, looking toward the river, on the left is a row of six identical Victorian houses. Turn left onto Butler Street. On the right, #40, is an 1870s Victorian Gothic-Swiss Chalet Cottage with a bay window and barge boards, and a 1920s bungalow porch. Its neighbor, #s 42/44 is a double house with a mansard slate roof.



{ 4 } At the corner of Butler Street and Latta Avenue is the 12-sided Latta House built between 1900-1902 by the family of Alexander Bonner Latta, one of Ludlow's first elected officials. Latta revolutionized fire-fighting techniques by building the world's first practical steam-powered fire engine around 1853.

{ 5 } Turn left on Latta Avenue, where there are Victorian Italianate row houses. Turn right on Euclid Avenue, and then right onto Elm Street. This is the commercial center of Ludlow. On the left are early 20th Century Arts and Crafts buildings and fine Victorian Italianate storefronts with cast iron and glass lower stories and brick offices and residences above. On the right, at #s 230-238, is a row of five attached Italianate townhouses (altered), while at #s 240-242 are more fine Victorian commercial buildings.

{ 6 } On the corner of Butler Street and Elm Street, is the Bentley House, now the Jones Funeral Home. This Victorian Italianate T-plan house was built during the 1870s-80s (with portions perhaps as early as the 1850s).

{ 7 } Continue west on Elm Street. Next on the right is the old Ludlow Theatre. This Art Deco/Moderne building, with terra cotta decoration, was built in the mid-1940s. Across the street at #s 321/323 is a fine Victorian Italianate double house with bays. Nos. 325 and 331 are fine, late-Victorian town houses.

{ 8 } On the northeast corner of Elm Street and Kenner Street is the Samuel Reed Lodge Hall, now #336, built by architect A.C. Nash in 1884. Note the cornucopia in the gable of this Victorian building. In 1993, this

intersection was featured in the movie "Lost in Yonkers" based on the Neil Simon play. The Farrell's Drugstore sign painted on the side of the Lodge Hall was a prop for the movie. The movie's candy store was a false façade built on the northwest corner where the

convenience mart is. Looking up Elm St, there are late 19th Century Victorian townhouses on the left and fine early 20th Century Bungalows and American foursquare houses on the right.



(8) LODGE HALL

- { 9 } Turn right on Kenner Street. Victorian houses line this street. The John Allison House, #58, is a Victorian Italianate house with stick-style porch. In #29 lived Anne Lee Patterson – a Ludlow native who was the first Kentuckian crowned "Miss United States of America" in 1931. Later that year, she was the runner-up in the Miss Universe Contest. She then worked in New York City in the Ziegfeld Follies and in the musical "Showboat."

- { 10 } Turn left onto Somerset Street. On the right side are Victorian double houses with stick style ornament (#s 404, 410/412, and 414/416). On the left side is the Kenner-Closson House, also known as Somerset Hall. This was the second major country villa built in Ludlow, c. 1840s, in the Greek Revival style. It features a central pavilion with setback wings and a 120-ft. continuous rear gallery, the longest Greek Revival porch in the State of Kentucky. It was built by George and Butler Kenner, of a Louisiana plantation family, as a summer residence. There are six shotgun houses at the end of the street on the right, originally identical.



(10) KENNER-CLOSSON HOUSE

- { 11 } Turn left on Ringold, then right on Victoria, which is lined with early 20th Century Bungalows. Toward the river is the High School track and Rigney Stadium, a Works Progress Administration (WPA) structure of poured concrete built in 1936-37. Turn left onto Logan's Way and notice the steeple of Old St. Boniface Church ahead. (If driving, continue on Victoria and turn left on Adela.)

- { 12 } Turn right on Elm, which is lined with Victorian and large, early 20th Century craftsman-style houses. At the corner of Elm and Adela is the Ludlow High School – an "Art Deco-Gothic" structure of 1931. At the corner above the date stone is a small marker showing the high-water line of the great 1937 flood.



(12) LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL



(16) EGYPTIAN & MEDITERRANEAN

- { 13 } Continue on Elm Street for 3 blocks. On the right is the City Park with the War Memorial (World War II, with additions for Korea and Vietnam) and Lemker baseball field. On the left are early 20th Century bungalows and American foursquare houses.

- { 14 } At the corner of Elm and Helen is the Reeves Fruit and Vegetable Market, which has been in business since 1915. Turn left on Helen Street, and right on Oak Street.

- { 15 } Proceed on Oak Street for five blocks. On the right are several blocks of bungalows and foursquares; note the identical craftsman bungalows at #s 628 and 630, and the numerous leaded-glass doorways.

- { 16 } Just past Lake Street, on the left, are Mediterranean



and Egyptian-style houses at 855 and 857. Built by Elmer Browning about 1920, these are unique in Northern Kentucky. Turn back around and turn right on Lake.



{17} LUDLOW LAGOON



{17} MOTORDROME



{18} LAGOON ENTRANCE

{17} We are now in a subdivision laid out on the site of the Lagoon Amusement Park, a 133-acre attraction. This was opened in 1895 by developer J.J. Weaver, who dammed Pleasant Run Creek to create an 85-acre lake with 5 islands, sandy beaches, sailboats, gondolas, and row-boats. Also featured were an elaborate merry-go-round, an aerial motorway, and the largest dancehall west of New York City. A wooden motor-drome for motorcycle racing was added in 1913. Water taxis and electric street trolleys brought thousands of people every week from Cincinnati and Covington to the Lagoon. In 1915, a motorcycle struck a guardrail, turned several somersaults, and catapulted into the audience. The fire, followed by the collapse of a heavy light pole and panic in the grandstand, resulted in the deaths of seven people, severe injuries to 20 more, and burns and injuries to at least 50 or more. This accident, a disastrous tornado in 1915, and Prohibition, forced the park's closing by 1918.

{18} On the right of Lake Street was the Lagoon lake; on the left are multiple bungalows, with a rusticated concrete block house at #215. At the end of Lake Street, on the right, is the Lagoon Clubhouse – a large stick-style



{18} LAGOON CLUBHOUSE

building. It was built in 1895 by Ludlow architect John Boll with wrap-around verandas which overlooked the lake, one with a witch's-cap roof. Bend left on Lake Street. Nearby was

the entrance gate of the Lagoon – a fantastic, towered, shingle-style version of a French chateau.

{19} At the corner of Deverill and Lake streets (#322 Deverill) is a surviving pavilion from the Lagoon; a cottage with a domed roof and a steamboat- Gothic porch. Turn left on Deverill Street for two blocks of early 20th Century bungalows and shotguns. Turn right on Oak Street for three blocks. Turn right on Helen Street for one block. Turn left on Linden. This block is the last brick street surviving in Ludlow, also with herringbone brick sidewalks. The houses are late Victorians, shotguns, bungalows, and foursquares.

{20} Pause at the intersection of Linden and Adela. To the right is Old St. Boniface (German) Catholic Church, built in 1892-3 by John Boll (the architect of the Lagoon Clubhouse) and its school, built in 1872. Both structures are monumental Gothic Revival buildings. The church was damaged in the 1915 tornado and partly rebuilt. In 1980, the congregation joined with the St. James Parish Church (on Oak). Old St. Boniface has since served other congregations and functions.



{20} SAINT BONIFACE

{21} Turn left on Adela. On the left are Victorian houses; #214 has a fine spindle porch. Turn right on Oak Street for three blocks of good Victorian houses, many with original wooden porches. On the right is the First Presbyterian Church. It was established in 1869, though its fine Gothic Revival building dates to 1873, with a side entry tower and a broached spire.



{21} FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

{22} After Kenner Street, on the right is the Gothic Revival Wesley Methodist Church, built in 1889. On the left is the Gothic Revival St. James (now *Sts. Boniface and James*) Irish Catholic Church, built in 1903, with its round-arched school building of 1911.

{23} In the last block of Oak Street, on the left, are two good double houses: #s 216-214 in Greek Revival style, c. 1860s, and #s 210-212 in Victorian Stick style, c. 1880s

{24} At the corner of Oak and Carneal Sts., look to the right at the fine brick, Romanesque Revival style Railroad Freight Depot, c. 1880s. It has 52 round-arched window and door openings and original stick-style overhangs. To the right are the railroad yards; the Cincinnati-Southern railway, which ran from Cincinnati to Chattanooga, was constructed through Ludlow in the 1870s. Also on the right was the railway roundhouse for turning engines (now gone).



[24] RAILROAD FREIGHT DEPOT



[25] PULLMAN COACH FACTORY

{25} At the end of Oak Street was the Pullman Coach Factory where beautiful mahogany passenger coaches were built and repaired. The Pullman Factory burned in 1919. It was Ludlow's largest fire and the works were never rebuilt. Turn left on Carneal Street. Turn left on Elm Street.

{26} On the left of Elm are Victorian houses, some with fine, original wooden porches. On the right are Victorian commercial buildings, c. 1880s, of cast iron and brick.

{27} The tour officially ends here. But to extend it by six blocks, turn right on Euclid and proceed toward the

river. There are good Victorian townhouses, double houses and shotgun houses on both sides.

{28} At the river, turn right on Ohio Avenue and proceed along the river. On the right is a surviving terrace wall of dry-laid limestone, perhaps built by African-American slave masons as part of the Elmwood estate in the 1820s-40s. Above is a wooden Victorian house. Ahead is the Cincinnati-Southern Railway Bridge. Some of the stone piers date to the 1870s, while the metal structure was replaced in the early 20th Century.

{29} Turn right on Carneal Street where there are more Victorian and shotgun houses.

{30} Turn left for one block on Ash Street. This was the early river entrance to the town and its first commercial district. One Victorian cast iron and brick store survives on the right. On the left at #108 is a fine Greek Revival townhouse of the 1850s or 60s. Turn right on Locust Street (unmarked) and back to Elm Street.

{31} Eastern Ludlow also has significant sights. Highway Avenue (Rt. 8) was built in the 1890s and is lined with Victorian and early 20th century houses. Note #203, a fine bungalow; #204, a Victorian house with cast-iron roof cresting; #316, a Victorian with two-story, spindle-work porch; and #336, a bungalow with a dormer balcony. See also Montclair Avenue, one block north of Highway, particularly note #330, a fine, shingle-style Victorian house and #331 a charming bungalow with an exposed truss-porch.

{ For information about the history of Ludlow's historic buildings, visit [preserveludlow.org](http://preserveludlow.org). }