



HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

DOWNTOWN
FULTON, MISSOURI



513 Court Street
Fulton, MO 65251

(573) 642-0570

www.callawaymohistory.org

HISTORY OF COURT STREET

In the beginning, most of the business was done on 4th Street, but slowly over the years, more business came to be found on Court Street. In a Fulton Gazette article from 1916, it was said that Court Street began to “loom up” with businesses. John Bartley had a general merchandising store, and the second grocery store in Fulton was started here by J. Sam Watson. Since then, Court Street has been the sight of much commerce, business, and street fairs over the years. This street, like many in Fulton, was, of course, originally just dirt. The brick wasn’t laid until 1911.

NOTE: While in the downtown area, it is much easier to view the second-floor levels from across the street. The tour discusses the second level while you are in front of each building but take time to look up and view the streetscape from a greater distance.



1 513 COURT STREET (KINGDOM OF CALLAWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

This building was built around 1910 and originally housed a dry goods store and a printing business housed on the upper level. The Historical Society purchased and moved into the building in 1998.

The Historical Society was founded in 1960.



2 515 COURT STREET (ANTIQUÉ STORE)

This building was built around 1899. The original hardwood floor and tin ceiling are still intact. The building used to house a hardware store and tin shop.



3 517—521 COURT STREET

Three “new” buildings about the same size were built between 1890 and 1895. In 1890, 517 was a grocery store, 519 was a bookstore, and 521 was a boot and shoe store. The buildings were joined together to create one large building that housed a five-and-dime store until the end of the 1980s.



4 523 COURT STREET

The first-floor interior still has the original tin ceiling. In 1884 and 1890, a grocery store was located on the first floor, and the Masonic lodge was located on the second floor.

Masonic Lodge: Freemasonry or Masonry consists of fraternal organizations that trace their origins to the local fraternities of stonemasons that from the end of the fourteenth century regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their interaction with authorities and clients.



5 525 COURT STREET (GOPO)

The Tompkins-Christian-Moore Dry Goods Company was established in 1888 and closed in 1925. J.T. Tompkins, R.E. Christian, and Moss Alexander were the heads of this company. Mr. Christian’s daughter, Kathryn, worked here as a cashier after she graduated from college in 1922. She remembered three floors (including the mezzanine, which was later removed). Coats were sold on the mezzanine level, and ready-to-wear was sold on the third level. She also recalls the cylinder shoots that were used to send things from one floor to another. The original counter has been refurbished and is currently in use today. The original hardwood floors and ceiling can also be seen in the building.

Currently, this building is GoPo, a gourmet popcorn bar. Brooke and Nick are the owners of this excellent gourmet popcorn place, also serve a variety of coffee drinks. Don’t be shy pop in and try some today!



6 529 COURT STREET (SMOCKINGBIRDS)

This building was built around 1888. In 1912 the Humphreys-Adkins-Reid Furniture Company was in this building. They carried various furniture, including parlor suites, chiffoniers, dressers, dining room tables, chairs of all kinds, beds, wooden mantles, carpets, and linoleum goods. This store also claimed to be “recognized far and near as being the most handsomely arranged in the city.” The window displays were arranged by Mr. Mitchell Brooks.

In 1946 this building housed the Berghauser Hardware Store, which was initially located at 409 Court Street.

There is also a great cafe in the rear of the building called Fulton Cafe. FUN FACT: Berghauser is German for city house. This last name means someone who used to work in a city hall.



7 533—535 COURT STREET

This building was added to Court Street in 1883. It was partially destroyed by fire and rebuilt a few years later. It is a three-story brick building with some terracotta decoration in the center of the top portion. The top facade has three interlocking rings. These rings are the hallmark of the Odd-fellow organization. In 1910 this was a grocery store on the first floor, a public library on the second floor (1907-1911), and the IOOF lodge on the third floor. The IOOF lodge operated at this location until 2003, when many of the members were no longer able to climb the stairs.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is yet another “secret society” that had a chapter here in Fulton. Thomas Wildey founded IOOF in 1819 in Maryland. This was the first society to admit women, and it adopted the “Beautiful Rebekah Degree” in 1851. This is what you see in the “Queen Council of Rebekah” at the top.



8 607 COURT STREET (THE PLAYHOUSE)

This is a Vaudeville-style theater, originally constructed in the 1920s. The front part of the building was renovated and opened as a cafe and coffee house several years ago. There is a new marquee hanging outside that is reminiscent of the original one. The interior of the theater still has a “fly space” for hanging curtains over the stage. The proscenium arch has been painted and is a predominant feature of the interior. There is also still a small space for an orchestra and a balcony for guests.

Return to the crosswalk at 6th and Court St. Cross to the east side of the street to arrive at the 600 block of Court St. There used to be two pumps on the corner of 6th and Court.



9 600 COURT STREET (CVS PHARMACY)

This building was the Jameson Ford Dealership for many years. The front of the building has been updated with plate glass windows to accommodate the new business. There is still a freight elevator in the back of the building used to bring automobiles up and down. This is much different than the car dealerships that we have today.

The TV show “American Pickers” purchased an automobile here, and they had to use the elevator to bring it down from the second floor.



530 COURT STREET (WELL READ BOOKS)

We believe this building was built in 1891, based on the date on the top of the building. It is known that in 1902 this building originally housed a telephone and printing shop, and in the '50s it was Woody's Cleaners. The original pressed tin roof is still visible in the interior.

This building houses Well Read Books, a new/used bookstore with a wide variety of selections for everyone's reading tastes.



532 COURT STREET (CUSTOM FRAME)

In 1895 this was a harness shop; the original pressed tin roof is also still visible in the interior.

Currently, this building houses a custom frame shop. The owner does incredible work, so if you have any framing needs, check them out!



528 COURT STREET (UNKAMEN)

This large brick building is much bigger than many other buildings on this street. It was built between 1910 and 1917. It housed the Blattner Furniture store through three generations of the Blattner family. Architecturally the dark reddish-brown brick is laid in the Flemish Style and English bond style.

The Flemish style brick laying alternates the short and long sides of the bricks as they are laid, giving a unique pattern and appearance. The English style uses the long sides of the brick in an interlocking fashion. Currently, this building houses Unkamen, a wholesale Jewelry store.



526 COURT STREET (THE SPOT)

This small brick building was built in 1910 and was designed by M. Fred Bell. It was originally planned to be a dentist office for Dr. T.W. Carter.

Currently, this building houses The Spot, a small food stand that sells hot dogs.



518 COURT STREET

In 1895 the first floor of this building was a barbershop; the second floor was a dentist's office, and the third floor was a lodge. In 1890 this was the site of the Post Office. In 1977 the building was remodeled, significantly altering the original architecture and appearance.



508—510 COURT STREET

The date on the top of the building indicates that it was built in 1888. It was originally the Futon Real Estate Agency founded in 1905 by the brothers WB and J.H. Harris. Most of the original decorations are still present on the building's facade, allowing us to fully appreciate the care and attention given to buildings back then.

Cross 5th Street to view the Callaway County Courthouse.



CALLAWAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The first courthouse was a brick building erected in 1828. While waiting for the courthouse to be completed, the court met in a log tavern run by Joseph Sitton. The first courthouse cost \$1,297 to build and was thought to be the "finest courthouse west of the Mississippi." It is thought that the money came from two brothers

arrested for stealing horses who forfeited their bail bond. The courthouse was perfectly square and even had brick floors, a rarity for the period.

The second courthouse was a brick building with beautiful columns erected in the front. It was the sight of many stock sales over its years. In 1876 the prices for the stock sales were as follows: 50 cents for horses, mules, and jenny's; 40 cents for cow, steer or bullock; and 20 cents for calf, hog, or sheep.

The third courthouse was built in 1939 and is still in use today. There are many unique features about this courthouse, like the Greek designs and the cast-iron window spandrels. This building was made possible by the Public Works Administration (PWA), which paid 45% of the cost with a grant. It is made of brick and stone and is designed in the art deco style, very popular in the late 1930s, and is the current county courthouse.

The top of the current courthouse is decorated with the names of the Supreme Court Justices in 1938.

Additionally, around the top, there are eight roundels with carvings on them. Each carving is of a date that represents an important event in Callaway's history. Starting on the NE side of the building and walking to the west:

1804 - Lewis and Clark

1821 - Boonslick Trail

1808 - Daniel Boone

1839 - First newspaper

1808 - First settlement

1855 - First railroad

1818 - First church

1861 - Civil War

Walk to the south end of the courthouse block and turn right to cross Court Street. You are now facing the 400th block of Court Street. The buildings originally at this location were wooden but were destroyed by fire on April 14th, 1876.



401 COURT STREET

Initially a harness shop in 1884, this building still has a stone foundation.



407 COURT STREET

This building was built around 1876-1880. It was a grocery store owned by T. Ed Carter in 1894. He stocked a variety of staples and fancy groceries. Some such items included: coffee, teas, spices, Queens's ware, and smoked and dried meats. During his operation, Mr. Carter was able to employ six sales associates in his store.

Remember, this was before refrigeration, so they had to cure or smoke the meat to keep it from spoiling. Queens's ware is commonly known as China or simply dishes.



409—411 COURT STREET

This is the original site of the Berghauser Hardware Store in 1868, which was in the 529 Court Street building we saw earlier. After the fire destroyed the two-story building, it was moved up the street to a new location. The interior currently has exposed brick on the north side. There was also a warehouse behind the building that was 50'X75'.



413—415 COURT STREET

This building housed the Southern Bank, established in 1871, just before the fire. There was a large safe in the middle of the building. You can still see the original tin roof in the interior.

413 Court Street is now One Canoe Two, a paper goods store that designs and prints all their goods.

21 **2 WEST 5TH STREET (ADAMS-CLAPP BUILDING)**

The Adams building was built in 1890 in the High Victorian Italianate style. The first floor was originally home to the Yates Drug Store. The basement was a barbershop described as “brilliant, gaudy with fine mirrors, fancy tile floor marble fountains, electric lights, hot and cold water, elegant furniture, and sharp razors.” It is complete with a cast-iron facade on the east side and the front-facing Court street. The first floor has an ornate plaster ceiling and solid oak cabinetry and flooring. Scherpe-Koken Iron made the iron facade works in St. Louis.

Knights of Pythias is a fraternal organization officially recognized by the Supreme court in 1958. The Knights of Pythias is dedicated to the cause of universal peace and is pledged to the promotion of understanding among men of goodwill as the surest means of attaining it. The Knights of Pythias used the third floor of the lodge, which is why you see the initials K&P on top of the building. It is called the Adams building because banker Phillip S. Adams built it.

Turn left onto 5th Street from the corner of 5th and Court, continue for one block.

22 **14–16 WEST 5TH STREET**

In 1921 this was the location of the Hull Mercantile Company. This company was established in 1909 and handled men’s furnishings and clothing. Some of the items included hats, shirts, caps, and shoes. In 1921 the business covered two floors and employed five sales associates.

Cross Nichols Street to West 5th Street.

23 **100 WEST 5TH STREET (POST OFFICE BAR AND GRILL)**

This building was originally built in 1915 at the cost of \$100,00 and operated as the Fulton Post Office for over 80 years, until 1995. It was purchased and remodeled into a bar and grill. The inside still boasts the post office boxes and the curved windows that were the original postal windows. The owners have added a very large outdoor space great for additional dining space.

The Post Office is a great place to grab a bite, a drink, and watch the game.

Cross 5th Street going north, turn right and cross back over Nichols Street.

24 **15–17 WEST 5TH STREET**

Originally built in 1895, this structure has undergone renovation and a variety of stores. In 1902 this was the Henderson Department Store. The store was originally 7,200 square feet. Mr. Henderson, the owner, was a graduate of Westminster College.

25 **9–11 WEST 5TH STREET**

This building was originally constructed in 1899 and housed both a Furniture and Undertaking Company. It was quite common for furniture stores to double as “undertakers” because furniture makers had the tools to build coffins.

Walk to the end of the block and turn left, walking on the west side of Court Street.

26 **501 COURT STREET (BROOKLYN PIZZA)**

This building has undergone several renovations and remodels over the years. It was originally built in the 1880s and housed offices and the Masonic lodge. (This is the fourth lodge building we have seen so far on the tour.) The first floor of the building was a grocery store between 1884 and 1897. In 1897 R.A. Moore established a drug store where he employed four sales associates.

M. Fred Bell included this building as one he designed in Pleasant Homes and How to Make them 1884-88.

Currently, this building is home to Brooklyn Pizza, a great pizza joint with authentic New York Pizza and incredible Tiramisu!

27 **503 COURT STREET**

This is the second building built in this location. The first was built in 1884 and housed a drugstore on the first floor and a dentist’s office on the second floor. By 1895 the building changed to a bank, and then in 1900, it changed to the Home Savings Bank.

In 1912, the bank was described this way — “The banking rooms are well furnished and are equipped with the latest and most modern appliances, vaults, safes, and apparatus for the protection of funds.”

28 **505 COURT STREET (SAULT’S DRUG STORE)**

For many years before Sault’s, this building housed a drug store. It was joined with the building next door to add space and currently still houses a drug store and a soda fountain.

Sault’s has the best malts in all of central Missouri — highly recommended!

29 **509 COURT STREET (BEKS)**

J.J. Neukomm established a men’s clothing store here in 1908. Before Neukomm’s Store, this building was the Grand Opera House, and at one point, the city hall was located at this site.

30 **511 COURT STREET (BEKS)**

The building design is attributed to M. Fred Bell and was the Montgomery-Bell Dry Goods store site in 1902. The dry goods store sold a wide variety of materials like clothing, silks, linens, flannels, blankets, yarn, hosiery, gloves, carpets, and ready-to-wear garments. You can still see the original tin ceiling on the first floor.

509 and 511 Court is home to Beks, an American-style restaurant with an incredible atmosphere where you can appreciate the character of the building and the environment the owner has established.