

Historic Architecture Downtown Richmond: A Walking Tour

Richmond's Downtown District

In 1806, President Thomas Jefferson signed the bill that established the National Road (America's Main Street). It would cross seven states and create a corridor for settlers moving west. By 1827, the National Road had reached Richmond, Indiana. When Richmond was settled in 1805 by Quakers from North Carolina, the commercial trade was largely concentrated on Front Street (now South 4th St.), facing the Whitewater River. The National Road quickly became Richmond's new Main Street. Retailers relocated their businesses to greet settlers moving west.

Early buildings on Main Street were largely simple, two-story structures of Federal or Greek Revival styles, similar to those that can be seen today in nearby Centerville, Indiana. These soon gave way to a more popular style of the taller Italianate architecture, in vogue during the 1850s to 1890s, such as the first Knollenberg's building built in 1877. The influence of the Queen Anne style, more common in residential architecture, can be seen in the eastern half of Knollenberg's built ten years later in 1888. Both buildings were designed by the Richmond Architect, John A. Hasecoaster.

As Richmond grew, having become a railroad center and the county seat of Wayne County, new commercial and public buildings such as the Courthouse were built in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. After the turn-of-the-century, new architectural styles prevailed, and buildings such as Star Bank (then Dickinson Trust Co.) and Hoppe Jewelers (Tivoli Theater) exhibited a Neo-Classical or Beaux Arts influence. Later architectural trends can be seen in the Art Deco building that S.S. Kresge Co. built at 801 East Main Street.

April 6, 1968 was a tragic day for Richmond, Indiana. A double explosion occurred at 1:47 P.M. EST in downtown Richmond, killing 41 people and injuring more than 150. The first explosion was due to a natural Gas leak from faulty transmission lines under the Marting Arms sporting goods store, located at 6th and Main Streets. A secondary explosion was caused by barrels of gunpowder stored in the basement of the building. Twenty buildings in and around the site were condemned as a direct result of the explosions.



The award-winning design for rebuilding the downtown closed off five blocks of Main Street and became the Promenade. This was a popular trend of modernizing that was influenced by the walking mall and shopping center designs. Another part of competing with emerging shopping centers had merchants "updating" their storefronts with metal or glass panels over the front of the buildings that masked the historic architecture.

Today, this trend has largely been reversed. The Promenade was removed in the mid-1990s and Main Street was returned to through traffic. People look at the outstanding collection of historic architecture in Richmond as a resource.

As you walk down Richmond's Main Street, look up and see the evidence of this community's rich history as it is displayed in the architecture of its Main Street. Now nominated for the National Register of Historic Places, the architectural richness has been nationally recognized.

1. Wayne County Courthouse 401 East Main Street Richardsonian Romanesque (1893)

Cincinnati Architect James McLaughlin was chosen to design the Wayne County Courthouse. It was constructed by local Architect, William Kaufman. This form of Romanesque Revival architecture was popularized by the Boston architect H.H. Richardson and so became known as Richardsonian Romanesque. Characteristic elements of this style are rock-faced stone walls using a variety of patterns in the stonework, towers, deeply recessed windows, and large expanses of steep hipped roofs. The massive interior stair hall is illuminated from windows on the western façade.



2. Richmond Municipal Building 50 North 5th Street International Style (1968)

The Municipal Building was designed by the Richmond firm of R.W. Clinton and Associates. This modern structure with its inverted flared columns, dark glass and a flat roof, introduced a new experience of architecture and surrounding space to the downtown. The cost for the new building was two million dollars. This building replaced a Richardsonian Romanesque Municipal Building that was built in 1886 and designed by John A. Hasecoaster.



3. Elder-Beerman Site of former Marting Arms 601 East Main St. Functional Modern Style (1972)



The 1968 explosion spurred redevelopment of the downtown. The construction of this building by the City of Richmond attracted the Ohio-based retailer, Elder-Beerman. For thirty-four years this major retail anchor has been on Main Street. Designed by Maze Design Group, Inc.

4. Chase Bank First National Bank 630 East Main St. Italianate (1873)



In 1863, James E. Reeves, his brother Mark Reeves, and eleven other businessmen, formed the First National Bank. It was the seventeenth such institution chartered in the nation and the second in Indiana. It could have been the first bank chartered in the entire United States, but the train that James Reeves took to Washington, D. C. was overrun in Maryland by Mosby's guerilla band, Southern raiders carrying the Civil War into the North. The train was delayed long enough to deprive First National Bank of being the first registered in the nation.

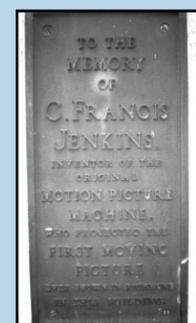
James E. Reeves served as President of First National Bank from 1863-1902.

5.* Summersault LLC Vaughn-Dougan Block 708-714 East Main St. Italianate Style (1878)



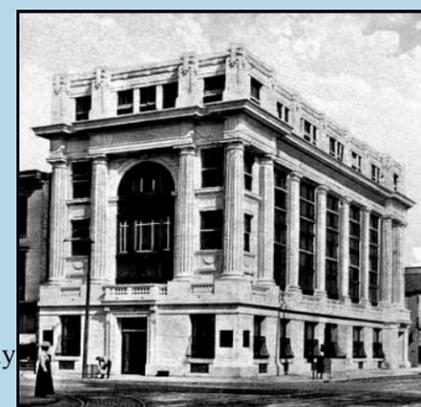
The Vaughan family, using income from their paint & hardware store and livery stable, selected John Hasecoaster to design this building. Italianate style, 1850 to 1890s, is characterized principally by elaborate windows, cornices, quoins, and large eave brackets. The building displays all of these features. The building was originally capped by a large bracketed cornice, as shown here.

6.* Harris Bank Loan Department Harrington Bank Loan Bldg. Jenkins Jewelry 726 East Main Street Italianate, (circa 1869)



The first Moving Picture was shown in this building by the inventor, C. Francis Jenkins. He was a Richmond native who later moved to Washington, D. C. He applied for over 400 patents. Second and third floor bay windows make-up the front of this early building with very fine, stained glass panels crowning the second floor bay window. The building is now incorporated into the Harris Bank building as the Loan Department.

7.* Harris Bank Harrington Bank Second National Bank Building 22 East Main Street Renaissance Palazzo Model (1911)



This impressive building was designed by Dayton Architect Albert Pretzinger to closely resemble the Northern Trust Company in Chicago. The original building, as shown here, was covered in an Aluminum curtain wall in modernizing the façade in 1964.

Enter the lobby to view the interior with its highly detailed molding and ceiling decoration that are unaltered.

**Design consultation or technical assistance was provided by Center City Development Corporation, formerly Main Street Richmond-Wayne County.*

8.*

Odd Fellows, I.O.O.F. Building
735 East Main Street
Italianate (1868)

The Odd Fellows building was considered one of the finest buildings in Richmond at the time it was completed in 1868. The Italian architectural detail is very fine with corner quoins, iron storefronts, shallow center pavilions and peaked gables. The center pavilions are triple window bays in the second and third stories. The first and second floors are offices, while the third floor is lodge rooms. The South 8th Street addition to the building was completed in 1888.



9.*

Lyons Insurance Offices
Kelly, Emmons, and Reid Block
9 South 8th Street
Richardsonian Romanesque Style
Between (1891-96)

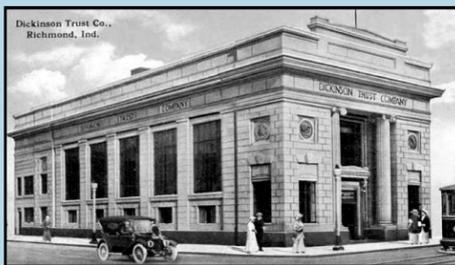
This building was originally a five-unit limestone town house designed by John A. Hasecoaster. Three units on the south of the building were demolished in the 1970s to create a parking lot. The two remaining units are used as offices. The salvage from this building was reassembled on the rear entrance of the former King's Abstracts, South 7th Street.



10.

U S Bank
Star Bank, Second National Bank
Dickinson Trust Company
800 East Main Street
Beaux Arts Neoclassical (circa 1915)

This granite and marble structure was constructed to house the Dickinson Trust Company. The front entrance was originally flanked by two-story stone columns. In 1945 this bank closed and the building was occupied by the Second National Bank, which moved from a building across the street. Second National Bank remodeled this structure to its current form. In 1988, it became Star Bank. In 1999, it became Firststar Bank. U.S. Bank has occupied the building since 2002.



11.*

ACE Hardware
S.S. Kresge Store
801 East Main Street
Art Deco Style (circa 1935)

This colorful glazed-brick building was constructed for the S.S. Kresge Company. Art Deco style used stepped, flat decorative elements of colored tiles and trim, creating strong surface designs. The high gloss tiles convey a feeling of artful durability. This building replaced the 1887 Richardsonian Romanesque style Kelly-Hutchinson Building. Among its tenants were the Union National Bank and John A. Hasecoaster, the architect of the building.



12.*

Knollenberg's Art Gallery
Knollenberg's Department Store
809-815 East Main Street
Italianate (1877) and
Queen Anne style (1888)

The store on the right, 809 East Main, of this landmark store was designed by Architect John A. Hasecoaster in 1877. The Italianate, three story building replaced a wooden, two-story building that George Knollenberg had established on this site in 1863. The Knollenberg family migrated to Richmond in 1845 from Astrup, Germany. The dry goods business that they established grew and expanded into the largest retail store in Richmond.



The store on the left, 815 East Main, was also designed by Hasecoaster in 1888. It is a rare example of commercial Queen Anne style architecture. The Queen Anne style was popular from 1885-1905. The style featured asymmetrical arrangements of towers, balconies, bay windows, and other decorative elements that had an international appeal. A third 8th Street addition, The Annex, was added around 1900, illustrating the sustained growth of the Richmond economy through this period of industrial expansion.

13.*

Abilities
Karate Shop , Nolands Nook,
Hasemeier-Siekmann Building
The Boston Store, Julian's,
819, 821 East Main Street
Italianate (1876)

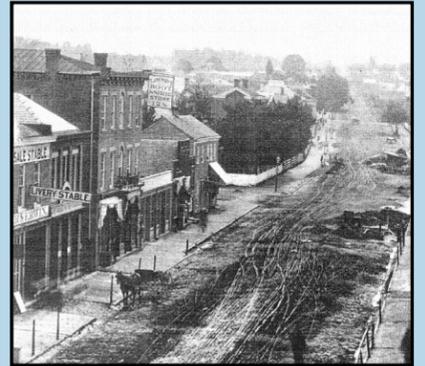
This structure was built by H.C. Hasemeier Co., a clothing and dry goods manufacturer. From 1888 until 1933, it was The Boston Store, carrying fine goods from the east coast. In 1933, the building was purchased by the Vigran family as Julian's, a women's clothing store. The second floor façade was covered with fiberglass panels during the 1960s in an effort to give a more "modern" appearance. In 1990, Center City Development assisted the owner in removing the fiberglass panels to reveal the historic façade visible today.



14.*

Tom's New York Deli
Circus Shop
820 East Main Street
Italianate (circa 1868)

This building is one of the earliest remaining structures on East Main Street. Here it appears in an early photo from about 1870. It is the first three-story building on the block, looking at the left on the photo. For many years the building had been covered with metal sheeting that was added during a "modernization" of downtown. It was removed in 2008 to reveal the original façade which is being restored with the help of Center City Development's Design Committee.



15.*

John's Custom Framing
S.S. Kresge Building
Jupiter Store
823-825 East Main Street
20th Century Functional

Originally, the S.S. Kresge Company built this commercial building to house its retail store. The store was an important feature of downtown and became a Jupiter Store after a new Kresge was built at 801 East Main Street. The interior retains the original wooden floors and interior design. Renovation work by Center City Development's Design Committee.



17.*

Omni Home Care
System Solutions
Opti-Vision 2000
Hittle Block
828-832 East Main Street
Italianate Style (1878)

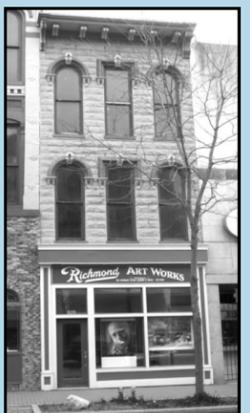
Local realtor, Omar L. Hittle, commissioned Architect John A. Hasecoaster to design the three story Hittle Block. Mr. Hittle and his wife lived in an apartment on the second floor for several years, and old newspapers report lavish Christmas parties held there. The original use of the building was three stores on the first floor, fifteen offices on the second, and rooms for the Masonic Lodge on the third. The smaller two-story storefronts facing N. 9th St. were constructed on the north side in 1884.



18.*

Richmond Arts Works
Richmond/Wayne Co. Main Street Program
Personal Finance
Peggy Hale Shop
The Eldorado Steam Laundry and Baths
829 East Main Street
Italianate Style (circa 1872)

This building is one of the earliest structure still extant on Main Street. The heavy Italianate architecture has remained unchanged on the upper stories. The hooded windows and bracketed cornice are original. In 1993, Richmond's Main Street Program purchased the building as their offices. In remodeling the building, the street entrance was returned to its original symmetry. The two upper floors held apartments with a skylight providing light to the interior space. In 1905, a steam laundry and public baths occupied the first floor and basement.



18.*

Sanders Jewelers Inc.
Palladium Newspaper
The Big Store
831 East Main Street
Italianate (1878)

Richard Jackson built this building a year after Knollenberg's building. This was a boom time in Richmond's development. The Daily and Weekly Palladium Newspapers were the first occupants. The Palladium held the largest Book and Job Printing house in the state outside of Indianapolis and had over 35 employees. Later, this building became The Big Store selling children's and adult clothing. Sanders Jewelers has owned the building for over 30 years and restored the exterior by removing the metal façade to expose the original beauty of the upper stories.



19.*

Leland Residence
Radisson Hotel
Leland Motor Inn, Leland Hotel
900 South A Street
Spanish Revival Style (1928)

The Leland Hotel was built by Detroit-based Continental-Leland Corporation. It was remodeled in 1963 and became the Leland Motor Inn. In 1986, the Radisson Hotel purchased the property and spent \$5.5 million in renovations. It closed in 1990. Today, the Leland Residence is redesigned as apartments for Senior Citizens, in the heart of downtown. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



20.*

Readmore Books
901 East Main
Italianate (1880)

This three story building is another example of downtown Richmond's outstanding collection of stone-fronted commercial buildings, most of which were designed by John A. Hascoster. In 1880, it was occupied by John E. Pelz's tailor shop. By 1900, it was a drug store, which was eventually supplanted by Readmore Books. The upper floors were designed as sleeping rooms for young, working men. In 1990, the first floor store front (dating from the 1950s) was replaced with design guidance from Richmond's Center City Development. The building at the rear was originally occupied by the Meerhoff Metal Implement and Building Supply Company.



21.*

Hoppe Jewelers
Tivoli Theatre
900 Main Street
Beaux Arts (1926)

This Beaux Arts architecture features white terra cotta medallions and cornice. It was constructed as the Tivoli Theatre, which featured movies and vaudeville shows and advertised its offerings on a large marquee overhanging the East Main Street entrance. The building has always contained a jewelry store. During the 1970s, Hoppe Jewelers remodeled the front of the building and expanded their store into former lobby.



22.*

Clay Pot Restaurant & Fabulous Finds
Curt's Work Clothes
Starr Piano Showrooms
931-935 Main Street
Italianate (circa 1891)

This building was remodeled to house the showrooms of the Starr Piano Company, which manufactured its instruments in Richmond's Whitewater Gorge. The fine cast-iron columns of this storefront are by McHose & Lyon of Dayton, Ohio. The second floor was used as music studios for much of its history, and from 1925 to 28 it was occupied by John and Wilbur Crawford's store selling draperies, rugs, and interior design services. The fine architectural details of this building were revived by the current owner in 1991 with the Indiana Main Street Program and Richmond's Center City Development providing financial and design assistance.



23.

Richmond Civic Theatre (RTC)
Murray Theatre
1003 East Main Street
Beaux-Arts Commercial Style (1909)

Theatrical manager Omar G. Murray built this theatre in 1909, and it originally hosted vaudeville programs. In the 1930s, under new management, it was renamed the Indiana Theatre and showed mostly movies. In 1952, the ten-year-old Richmond Civic Theatre organization began leasing the building as its new home, and purchased the building in 1966. The Murray Theatre is a center of theatrical activity and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



24.*

Kessler's Sport Shop Building
Romey's Furniture
Hoover Bond Furniture Stores
930 Main Street
Chicago Style (1913)

William H. Romey created one of the largest structures in Richmond when he built the five story, white terra cotta building to house his furniture store. The son of Swiss immigrants who established a successful furniture factory and store in Bluffton, Ohio, William came to Richmond in 1905 and opened his own furniture business. Eventually he expanded his store into the Hoover Bond Furniture Store, "the store built to be fireproof with all steel construction," at the corner of 930 East Main Street. Today, Kessler's Team Sports continues in occupying both buildings.



25.*

Interior Translations
Spinning Block
North 10th Street
Cottage Souvenir No. 2, (1895)

Knoxville Architect George F. Barber was the publisher of a popular Mail-Order catalogue entitled, The Cottage Souvenir No.2. From this catalogue Frank Spinning selected the design of his building that he built on North 10th Street. Recently restored in a joint effort by Richmond's Economic Growth Group and Preserve Richmond, Inc., Historic Landmarks Foundation of Eastern Indiana presented these agencies with an award for outstanding preservation of the building for adaptive reuse.



26.

Football Hall of Fame
U.S. Post Office Federal Building
North "A" and 9th Street
French Renaissance (1904-1905)

The design of this building was provided by the office of the supervising architect of the treasury, James Knox Taylor. This architecture gave the Post Office identifiable, specifically governmental quarters as opposed to rented ones. The raised basement and walls, of Bedford limestone, impart a suitable monumentality, linking this as a government building like others in Washington, D.C., and in the nation. The Indiana Football Hall of Fame now occupies the building.



27.*

Lingle Real Estate, Inc.
801 North "A" Street
Pure Oil Service Station 1930s
"English Cottage" Design (mid 1930s)

The Pure Oil Company realized they might garner a better share of the gasoline market if their stations had a distinctive theme. In the mid-1920s they recruited New Orleans architect C.A. Peterson who came up with the "English Cottage" design for their stations. From the vantage point of the motorist wheeling past, the pleasant trappings of the roadside house conjured up welcome feelings of friendliness.

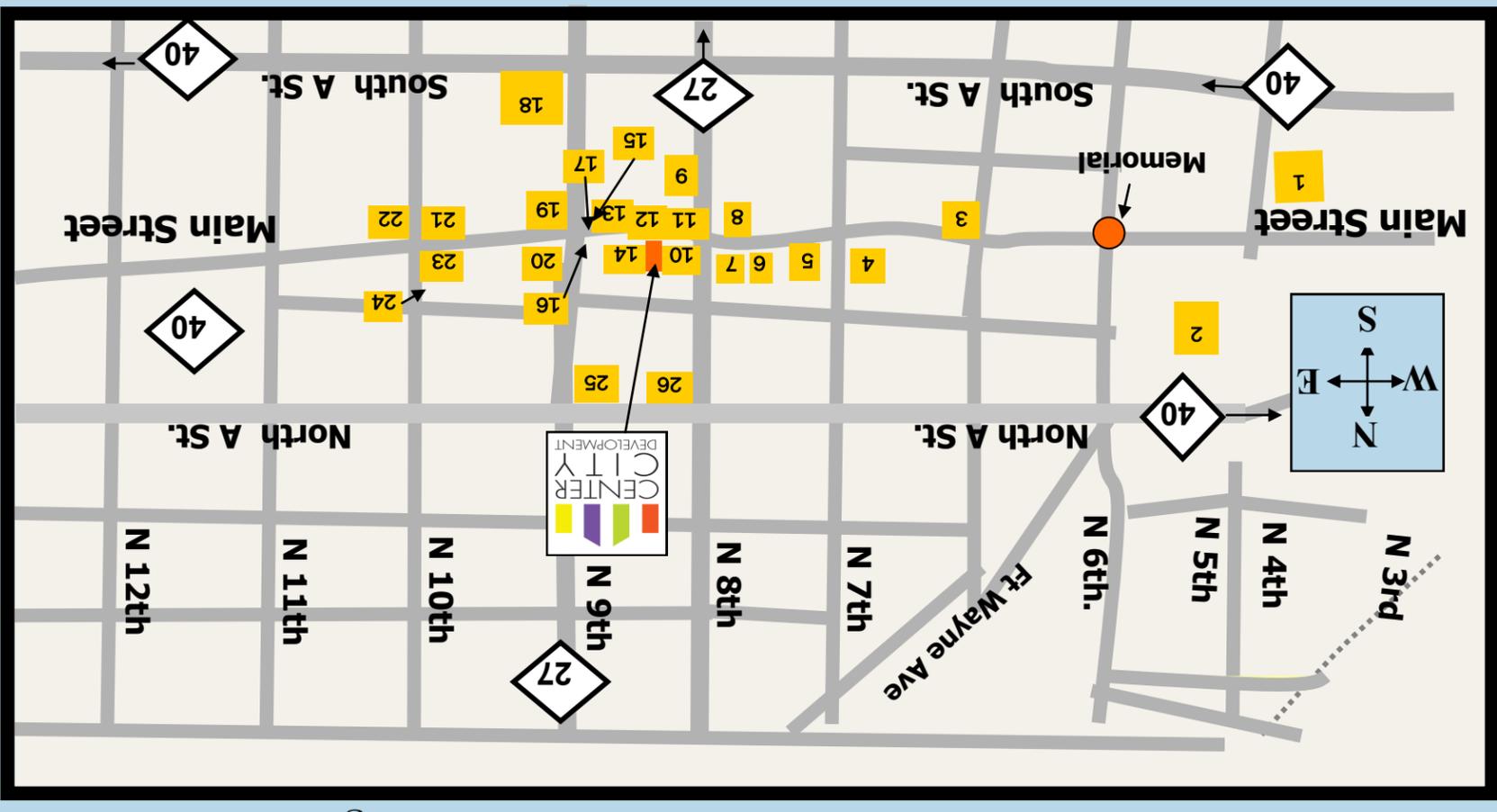


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1830	Federal 1700s
1810	Roman & Greek Revival 1810
1800	Gothic Revival 1820
1840	Italianate 1840
1860	Romansque Revival 1870
1880	Queen Anne 1880
1910	Beaux Arts 1885
1920	Neoclassical Style 1895
1940	Art Deco 1920
1950	International Style 1925
present	

Architectural Styles of the Nineteenth Century



Historic Architecture of Downtown Richmond: A Walking Tour

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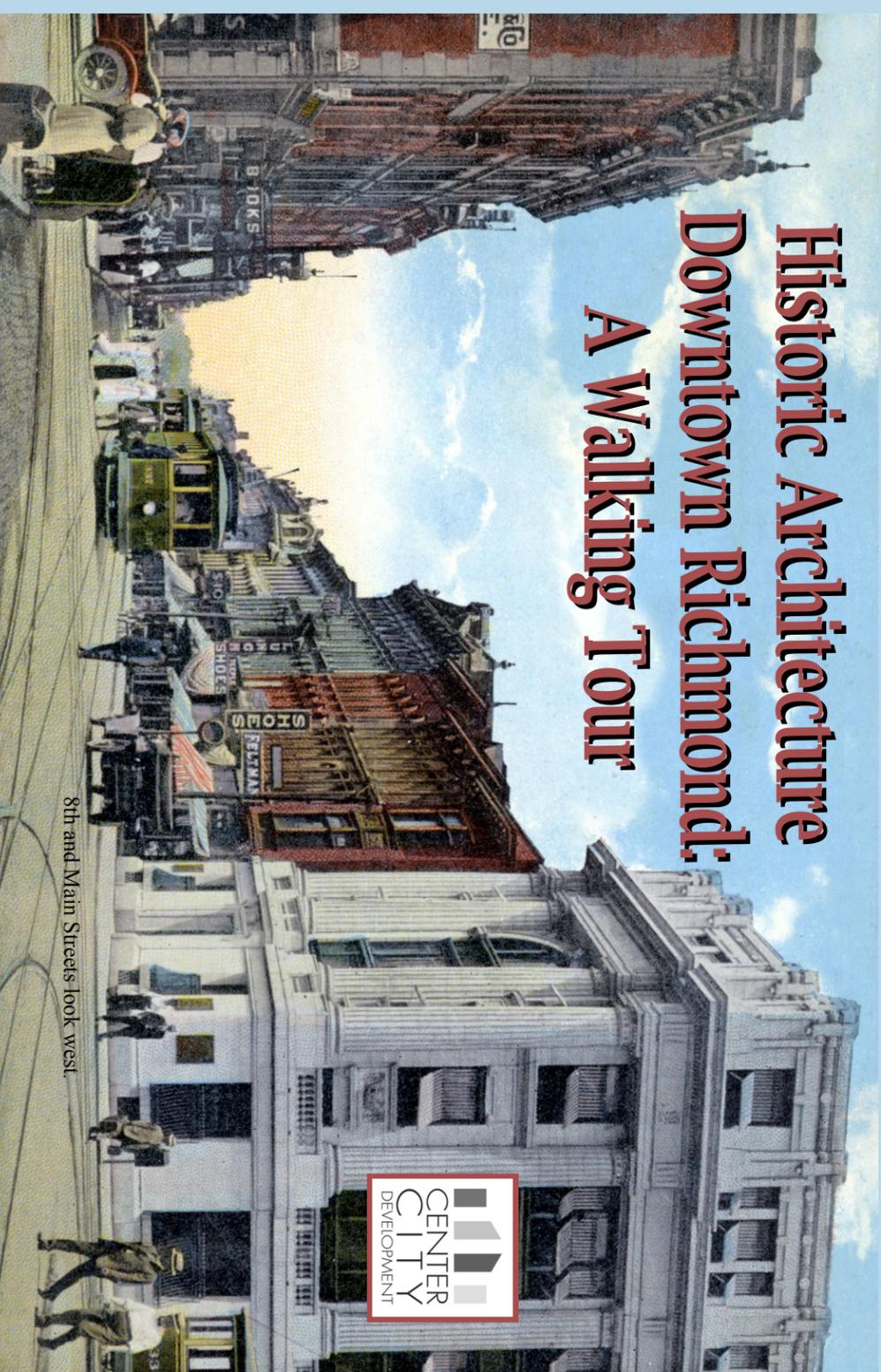
Special Thanks To:

Morrison Reeves Library Staff:
 Sue King, Archivist
 Doris Ashbrook, Reference Services

Wayne County Historical Museum
 Jim Harlan, Director

This project made possible by a grant from the
 Richmond Urban Enterprise Association

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8th and Main Streets look west