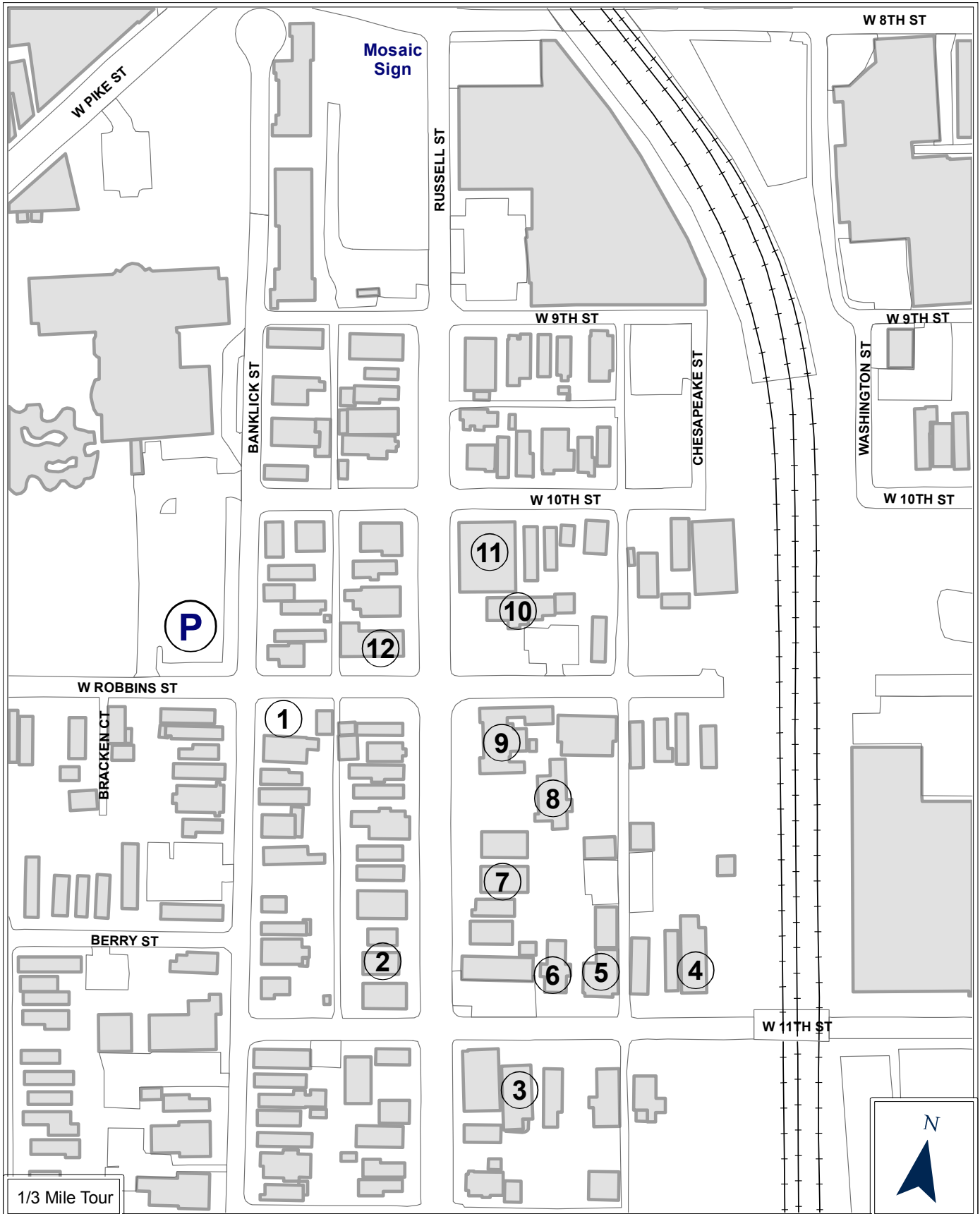




OLD SEMINARY SQUARE WALKING TOUR



1/3 Mile Tour

Old Seminary Square Walking Tour

The City of Covington would like to welcome you, as you embark on one of seven tours designed to celebrate our thirteen National Register Historic Districts. The National Register of Historic Places, established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, is a listing of "districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American History, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture." The City of Covington is proud of its abundant collection of important structures; they are a treasure that we wish to share and keep alive, both for our citizens and the many visitors who come to our city each year. We thank you for your interest and are confident that you will find your experience in the Seminary Square Historic District to be informative, enjoyable and positively memorable!

HISTORY

The Western Baptist theological Seminary, established in 1840, was a school for young ministers intended to unite those wishing to de-emphasize the issue of slavery. Ironically though, it was the issue of slavery that tore the institution apart only fifteen years after its inception. As a result, the Seminary was closed and the property was subdivided.

Until this time, the most fashionable area in Covington had been the Riverside drive neighborhood. However living close to the river had its disadvantages, such as flooding and disease. Because the Seminary Square area boasted the highest elevation in the city at the time, many residents began building new homes there. By the late nineteenth century the neighborhood had become a fashionable address, characterized by the consistent style, scale and setback of its structures. Like most neighborhoods in Covington, Seminary Square provides a variety of architectural styles ranging from modest one-story brick and frame shotguns to more substantial Italianate and Queen Anne townhouses. Basically unaltered by the hands of time, this neighborhood still retains the character of an affluent and prosperous nineteenth century urban community.

The Seminary Square Historic District is a compact area near Central Covington, only one and a half blocks wide and five blocks long. Once part of the old Western Baptist Theological Seminary, this tract of land now houses a substantial display of nineteenth century townhouses on narrow lots with wrought iron fencing. Your tour will begin at the south end of the district and move north along Russell Street. The leisurely pace that is afforded by the compact size of this neighborhood will allow you to take your time and experience this unique community that still retains much of its nineteenth century character.

Your tour will begin on Eleventh Street between the bridge and Russell Street. Following a path west, you will then turn onto Russell Street where you will continue north until you reach Tenth Street.

1. Henry Farney Art Park

Dedicated in 2009, this park was created by the Westside

Action Coalition and Old Seminary Square Neighborhood Association to honor Henry Farney, who is best known for his realistic paintings of Native American Indian culture. Farney had a home and studio in the Westside of Covington from 1890-1907. He often traveled out west, where he spent time with the Sioux. The Sioux named Farney "Long Boots," which was symbolized by a circle with a dot in the center. Farney was very proud of the name and always signed all his paintings with the symbol as well as his signature.

2. 1041 Russell St. c. 1870

This Italianate townhouse is one of the largest homes built in this district following the Civil War. Of brick construction with stone trim, the Harriet Albro house is noteworthy for the inspiring bay windows that grace its front façade. In addition to its interesting architectural elements, the house is said to be haunted. Rumor has it that the lonely widow of Henry Albro still walks the floors of this stately old mansion, dressed in full Victorian splendor.

3. 119 West Eleventh St. c. 1880

This commanding mansion is a fine example of a nineteenth century townhouse that incorporates elements of the typical Italianate style. Note the carved cornice brackets, flat, symmetrical façade and decorative hood molds that surround the windows, all indicative of this style, found frequently in both Covington and Cincinnati.

4. 106 West Eleventh Street c. 1863

This ornate Italianate structure has many details worthy of note, including the intricately carved stone doorway and equally ornate hood molds above the first floor windows. One of the building's most distinctive features is the elaborate wrought iron porch gracing the front façade, probably added around the turn of the century.

5. 112 West Eleventh St. c. 1860

This modestly adorned Federal Style structure was possibly used as a faculty building by the Western Baptist Theological Institute. Like the previous house, this home was also altered near the turn of the century with the addition of a cast iron porch.

6. 114-116 West Eleventh St. c. 1880

This unusual double house incorporates elements of the Gothic Revival Style as seen in the two arched gables of the front façade. Of particular note are the bracketed wooden balconies that give this structure its unique old world charm.

7. 1030-136 Russell St. c. 1880

These two double townhouses provides an interesting contrast to the streetscape of this block. Eclectic in nature, they boast elements of several popular late nineteenth century styles. Note the Second Empire slate mansard roof, gothic gabled façade, and Queen Anne window treatments.

8. 1026 Russell St. c. 1820

One of the earliest houses in Covington, this old country estate was used as the president's home for the Western Baptist Theological Institute, Erected in the classically in

spired Federal style, this building has since been altered by the addition of a Second Empire Mansard roof.

9. 1018-1024 Russell St. c. 1880
This row of four attached townhouses is another eclectic addition to this district. As with the previous pair of duplexes, this structure also incorporates elements of both the Queen Anne and Second Empire styles.

10. 1010 Russell St. c. 1870
Three stories in height, this commanding Italianate mansion occupies a large lot on the corner of Russell Street and Robbins Avenue. Inspired by elements of the Renaissance Revival style, the Ashbrooke House boasts contrasting window treatments on each floor. Note the octagonal bay that was added to the southeast corner in an attempt to relieve the typical shotgun plan.

11. 135 West Tenth St. c. 1870
The Children's Law Center once housed the first Methodist congregation in Covington. Adorned with details indicative of the Italianate style, this building, minus the church steeple, now serves as a restoration workshop.

12. 1017 Russell St. c. 1870
This high style Italianate townhouse, built for lawyer Charles Fisk, boasts exceptionally well-crafted stone trim that handsomely surrounds both the windows and the wooden door. Note the heavy bracketed cornice that incorporates the same arch and keystone motif that is found in the decorative stonework.

This ends the Seminary Square Walking Tour. Please stop by the Economic Development and Community Relations Department at 638 Madison Avenue, Rm. 407, to pick up the other Walking tours. There are seven tours in all and each is unique in its own way.

*Downtown
Latonia
Licking Riverside
Main Strasse
Mutter Gottes
Seminary Square
Wallace Woods*