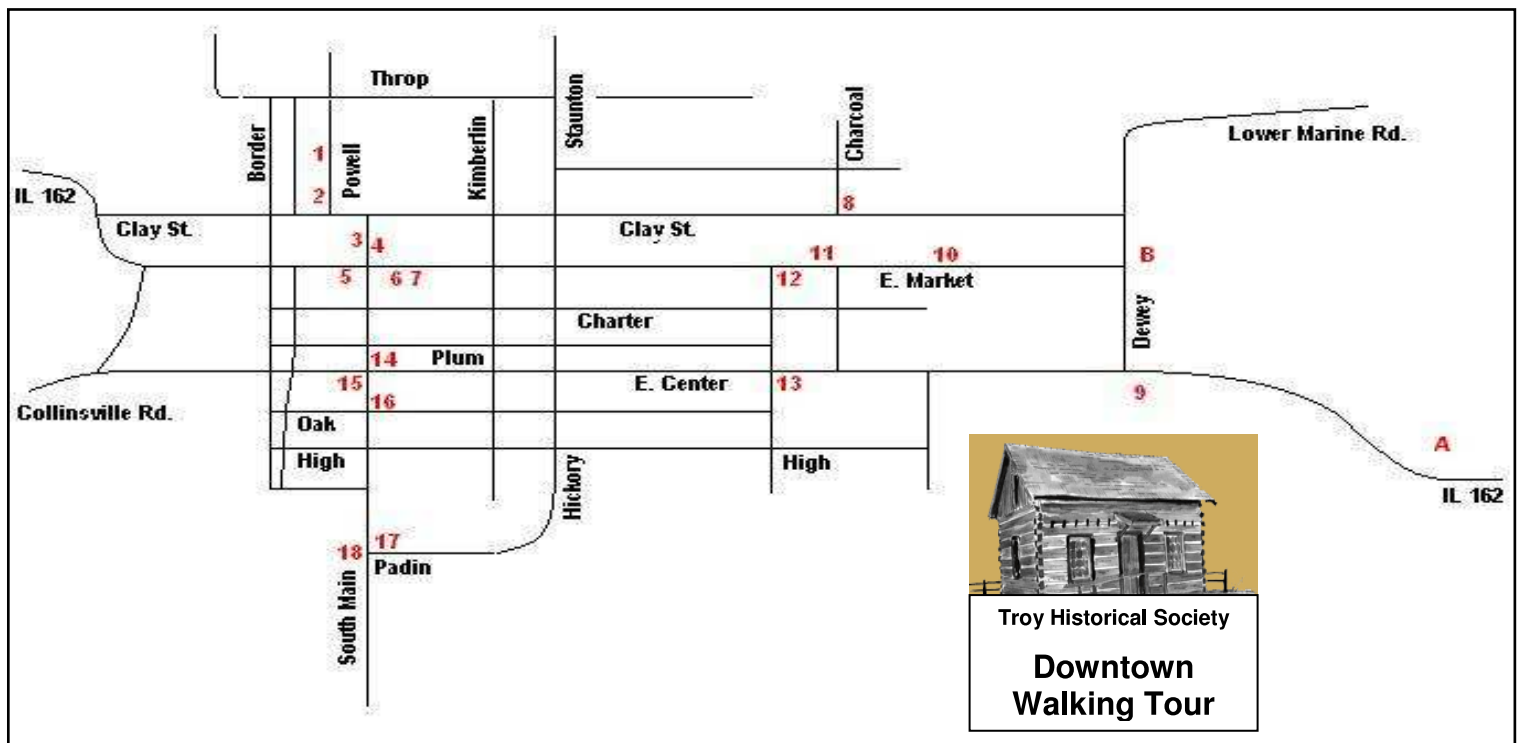
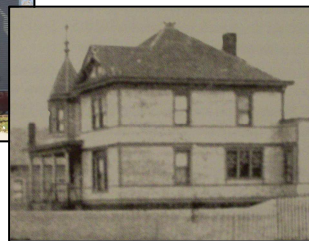


Historic Downtown Walking Tour – Troy, IL



How to Enjoy the Tour:

Sites are numbered in a route that is feasible to walk with a minimum amount of back-tracking. Each site should be identified with a special tour sticker (on a yard sign or in a window – like the sample on the map above). Please be careful when sidewalks are not available or are on the opposite side of the street. GPS coordinates are noted for each site if you have a GPS enabled device. Remember, residential sites are for viewing from the street only. In addition, only certain businesses highlighted are open to the public. Enjoy!



Site 1 – 212 Powell (38.73134 –89.88377)

Victorian-Style Residence: This house was built prior to 1900 and is located in the Powell addition of Troy. Unfortunately, very little is known about the early occupants of this house (the older picture of the house shown is from circa 1900). Janice Howell Mason owned the property in the late 1960's and early 1970's. During that time, the house served as a nursing home. Today, the house still has many of the original architectural features.

Site 2 – 202 Powell (38.73038 –89.88374)

Midwestern Plains Farm House (Private Residence): This house was built prior to 1900 and is located in the Powell addition of Troy. Unfortunately, very little is known about the early occupants of this house.





Site 3 – 106 N. Main (38.72942 –89.88315)

Gebauer Barber Shop & Law Office/Troy Tribune Newspaper Office: William Jackson Gebauer (a descendent of Jacob Gebauer) was a lawyer and a barber. In the early days of this structure, he ran his barber shop in the front part of the building and practiced law in the rear. It is located across the street from the Gebauer family home (Site 4 on the tour). At one time, Gebauer was also the Troy City Clerk. In the 1940's, a beauty shop run by Lela Polwert Cullup was located here. In 1948, U.S. Senator Paul Simon operated the Troy Tribune newspaper from this site. Simon was the youngest newspaper editor-publisher in the United States at that time. The site became the Main

Street Barber shop in 1997 when the property was purchased by Nancy Sanders and Gretchen Porter. The site has earned a Troy Historical Society Award for historical significance.

Site 4 – 107 N. Main (38.72977 –89.88297)

The Gebauer House: This home is believed to have been built in 1880 or 1881 by Jacob Gebauer. Gebauer was a local undertaker. At one time, he also ran a hardware store nearby. The Gebauer family was prominent in Troy and descendants resided here until 1996. This 8-room house remains very original with pine-planked floors and a porcelain sink. The “summer kitchen” is still located in the back yard. An outhouse was once located in the back yard as well.



Site 5 – 108 W. Market (38.72909 –89.88370)

Stagecoach Stop/Levo's Homestead Tavern: This property is thought to be platted by F. T. Krafft in 1839 and recorded before Troy was formally incorporated. According to an 1861 plat map of the Troy area, this building sits on part of Lot 1, Parcel 3.

Numerous people have owned the property and it is believed that the log cabin under the current siding and a portion of the present building was built in 1855. The building was an early stage coach stop and was used as a tavern called, Levo's Homestead Tavern from the 1930's to the 1960's (as noted in the older picture). It has also housed two different insurance agencies. The current owners use the facility to manufacturer communion wafers. In the spring of 2002, the City of Troy designated it as a historical landmark.



Site 6 – 103 & 105 E. Market (38.72901 –89.88291)

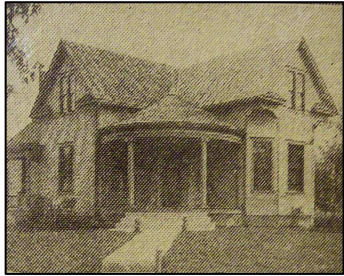
Auwarter Buildings: Built in 1902 in the group of buildings that were originally on the Auwarter family property, the 103 portion of the building was used as a barbershop by Ed Helmich for many years. In the 1980's and early 1990's, Charlie's Barber Shop, ran by Charlie Nolen, was located there. Prior to 1948, the 105 portion of the building housed the Troy Call newspaper (later called the Troy Tribune). This building also housed the Jarvis Township Offices in the 1970's. Since then, it has housed a church group, a dance studio, an archery business and other business endeavors. The older

picture (below) is from the 1940's & shows the family's house on the far left. After extensive renovations a few years ago, the 105 portion now houses Zen Therapeutic Massage and the 103 portion houses a business called, Yoga, Zumba & More.



Site 7 – 107 E. Market (38.72901 – 89.88291)

Market Street Salon: Built in 1902 in the group of buildings that were originally on the Auwarter family property, this portion of the building served as the Troy Post Office until the late 1960's. Since that time, it has been the Bud Niedringhaus insurance agency, the Troy Savings & Homestead (before moving to a new facility at Market & Main streets) as well as a recreation room, a church, an antique shop, a consignment shop, a heating & cooling business, a dance studio, a motor sports shop and a beauty salon. In 2002, it received the Troy Historical Society Award for historical significance and has also been designated as a City of Troy Landmark.



Site 8 – 300 E. Clay (38.72964 –89.87917)

Victorian-Style Residence: This house has distinct Victorian architectural features and a unique round front porch that still remains. It was built prior to 1912 but the exact construction timing is unknown. In 1912 (the timing of the picture shown), it was owned by John Feldmeier, the vice president of the Troy Exchange Bank.

Site 9 – 317 E. Center (38.72723 –89.87709)

Jarvis Homestead: This house was constructed in 1867 by William W. Jarvis, a businessman and civic leader in the Troy community. It was built on a parcel granted to his grandfather, John Jarvis (for whom Jarvis Township is named) by the U. S. Government in 1819. The house is a significant representation of Italianate architecture and is the only remaining example in the community representing the feature of the asymmetrical compound plan subtype. Members of the Jarvis family owned the property until 1962. This house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988 and has been recognized by the Troy Historical Society as a historically significant structure.



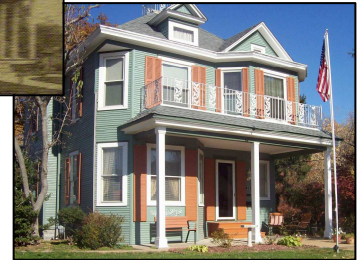
Site 10 – 306 E. Market (38.72866 –89.87843)

The Carney House/Simon House: Built in approx. 1870, the John Carney house is a significant example of Italian Villa architecture popular from 1830-1880. One outstanding feature is the combination of the tall tower with a two-story T-shaped floor plan. Carney was an established businessman when he moved to Troy in 1863 and became one of the owners of a lowering mill operation. This house is also referred to as the "Simon House" since U.S. Senator Paul Simon and his family lived in the house from 1954 to 1974. Simon became the owner and publisher of the Troy Tribune newspaper (located at 106 N. Main – Site 3) in 1948 before he began his notable political career.

The house remains very original and was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. It has been designated as Troy's first Historical Landmark and has been recognized by the Troy Historical Society as a historically significant structure.

Site 11 – 216 E. Market (38.72880 –89.88007)

The Deimling House: Surprisingly, this house has only had four owners in its long history. John Deimling, a prosperous butcher, owned this house from the late 1800's through the early 1900's. Leeds Watson owned and operated the Watson's Lumber Company in Troy. Watson and his family also lived here for several years. In December of 1975, the Ron Criley family moved into the house. Mr. Criley served two terms as mayor of Troy while he lived there. The current owners moved into the house in 1994. The house retains its original Victorian style and exterior paint colors for that period. Several years ago, the house received a plaque for its historical significance from the Troy Historical Society. The older picture here is from 1912 while the newer picture is from 2012.



Site 12 – 217 E. Market (38.72887 –89.88086)

Renaissance Style Residence: Built prior to 1919, this house is located in the Wesley Jarvis first addition of Troy. Cora Edwards bought the property from William H. Goalby. It is unknown whether or not the house was already there when Ms. Edwards bought the property. George and Carrie Ottwein, bought the house/property on April 16, 1927 (picture shown is from circa 1928). After Mrs. Ottwein's death, their daughter, Hulda Becker, lived there until the 1990's. The current owner bought the property in 2002. The exterior continues to showcase many of the original architectural elements, including the unique stained glass windows.

Site 13 – 207 E. Center (38.72773 –89.88108)

Friedens United Church of Christ: The first congregation was formally organized on December 13, 1874. Based on the history provided, they built their first parsonage house on this property in 1876 and another in 1912. In July of 1921, the congregation voted to replace the small frame church with a larger brick structure at a cost of \$22,000. It was completed in 1922. In the 1950's, the parsonage was moved and the church facility was then expanded to fill the entire block. A new Christian Education Wing was added at a cost of \$375,000 approx. 30-40 years ago.



Site 14 – 116 S. Main (38.72825 –89.88332)

Braner Building/Adams' Store: Research shows that Edward H. Klein, who owned a shoe store in the Braner Building at the corner of Kimberlin and East Market Street, built this building in 1912 (older picture shown is from circa 1912). He immediately moved his shoe store here and remained the only shoe store in Troy for many years. James Adams began operating a general merchandising store in the building in 1932 called Adams' Store. For many years, he also sold and delivered ice blocks from this location. James's son, Gene Adams, and his wife, Betty Rood Adams, eventually took over the store and ran it successfully until 1987. From 1987 to the present, only a handful of businesses have been located here. The original family living quarters on the second level is now used as an apartment unit. In 2010, the building was awarded the Art and Architecture Award from the Historic National Road Association of Illinois. This award recognized the unique architecture and the presence of a "ghost sign" painted on the side of the building. Remnants of the sign can still be seen.





Site 15 – 201 S. Main (38.72797 –89.88350)

A&R Paints & Crafts: This specialty store was established here in 1980 by Carol & Ron Klaustermier. Prior commercial uses of the lower level of the building included a Western Auto store from the 1950's to the 1970's run by Mr. Matsel and later by Mr.



Nottingham. In the 1920's, the building was used for a number of years as a Chevrolet car dealership (as noted in the older picture) that was owned by William Schmitt. It sits on Lot 1 of Parcel 10 according to an 1861 plat map of the Troy area. It is owned by the IOOF (Independent Order of Odd Fellows). They and the Pride of the West Rebekahs still use the second floor meeting room.

Site 16 – 204 S. Main (38.72775 –89.88338)

Troy First Baptist Church: Organized by Elders James and Joseph Lemen in 1833, this religious group was first called the Baptist Church of Christ, Friends of Humanity. In 1840, the church group moved into Troy and stopped meeting in John Lemon's home near Silver Creek. Built under difficult circumstances, their first meeting place in Troy was finally dedicated in 1849 with James Lemen preaching the sermon. A new church building was erected at this site in 1876 (Lot 3 of Parcel 9 on the 1861 City map). On January 14, 1940, the church and all the furnishings were entirely destroyed by fire during Sunday School. On Sunday, September 1, 1940, a service was held for the laying of the cornerstone of the present church building. A dedication service was held in June of 1941 by Pastor Delmer Walker.



Site 17 – 318 S. Main (38.72553 –89.88367)

The Padon House: This house was built in 1877 by John B. Padon, who was the first president of the Village Board of Trustees when Troy was organized as a city in 1892. He was also proprietor of the Troy Steam Saw Mill that he opened in 1866. Through the years, the home has gone through several significant changes. Fortunately, the curved walnut stairway and the high ceilings are still in tact. The current fireplace was added in 1911 and converted from wood to gas in the 1950's. A central heating/cooling system was installed in 1998 and replaced a radiator heat system that was also added in the

1950's. The current owners are restoring the home to its French Colonial style with ornate soffit work and porches. The original bay window that was removed is to be rebuilt as well. In 2002, the home received the Troy Historical Society's award for being historically significant.

Site 18 – 401 S. Main (38.72540 –89.88371)

Troy City Cemetery: This cemetery was first established in 1849 and has served as a tranquil final resting place for many notable Troy citizens (including the McCray and Dewey families – donors of the McCray-Dewey High School land on the eastern edge of downtown). Many military veterans and their families are also buried there. For many years, annual Memorial Day Celebrations were held there. In 2000, the first formal identification sign was erected thanks to a tourism grant secured by the Troy Historical Society. Their sign was then installed by the City of Troy.



Additional Sites of Interest:

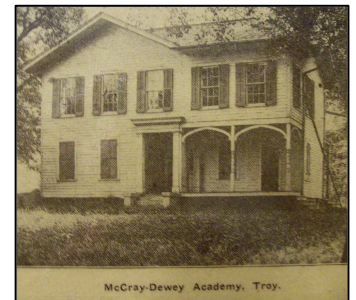
Site A – Mersinger Log Cabin (610 E. Center - off IL 162)

This log cabin home was first used by the Mersinger family in 1859 when Frederick Mersinger purchased the property on which it stood along Troy-O'Fallon Road – about five miles south of Troy. James Watt originally bought the land from the U.S. Government in 1838 and it is unknown when the cabin was originally built. In 1880, Frederick Mersinger and his family decided to build onto the cabin. They constructed a larger, more modern wooden home around it and removed one of the original walls. In 1977, members of the Mersinger family discovered the original log cabin during demolition and donated it to the Madison County Historical Society. After three years, the Society donated the disassembled cabin to Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville (SIUE) where it was assembled and rarely utilized for approx. 20 years. In 1999, the Troy Historical Society learned that SIUE planned to raze and destroy the cabin because it could not afford to maintain or keep it any longer. In 2001, the Troy Historical Society secured the cabin and was able to disassemble and eventually rebuild it at its current location. The cabin is open to the public from 1 to 3 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month (April through October).



Site B – McCray Dewey H.S. Site (Corner of Dewey & Clay Streets) (38.72931 –89.87639)

Dr. John S. Dewey and his wife, Angeline McCray-Dewey helped form the McCray-Dewey Academy in 1883 in a house they owned at this site (pictured here). In 1929, Jarvis Township High School was built on the academy property after it was sold to school district developers. In the 1930's, the school's name was changed to McCray-Dewey Township High School to honor the original founders. The high school graduated its last senior class in the building in 1959. The rest of the students finished their high school years at the new Triad High School facility in rural St. Jacob Township (now the Triad Middle School facility). The McCray-Dewey facility was then used for Jr. High and middle school classes for many years. It was last used as a fifth grade center in conjunction with the Molden School facility nearby. In 2007, the Triad School District opted to demolish the building along with the Molden School facility. They were replaced by the new Silver Creek Elementary School building (behind and to the left of this original school site).



This walking tour was initially developed in 2012 and completed in 2013 by Eagle Scout candidate Justin E. Loos of Boy Scout Troop 1226 in conjunction with the Troy Historical Society.