I INVITE YOU TO TAKE A WALK AROUND DOWNTOWN ORLANDO AND EXPLORE OUR UNIQUE HISTORY.

Go inside our “million dollar courthouse” built in 1927, discover the first crematorium in the south and see the unique siding on one of our historic buildings that is said to have shipped from England in the late 1880s. You will not only learn about many of our character defining historic buildings in Downtown, but also about many significant events and civic leaders who helped Orlando to become one of the best cities in the world.

A key part of the City’s plan for strategic growth is recognizing, preserving and celebrating our past. Orlando has multiple historic neighborhoods and more than 50 local and national historic landmarks. We continue to support our City’s historic preservation efforts by recognizing and publicizing our history. Plaques have been placed outside select historic sites on the tour to allow residents and visitors the opportunity to learn about our great history.

Downtown Orlando has a lot to offer and our history is just the beginning.

Buddy Dyer, Orlando Mayor

THE DOWNTOWN ORLANDO HISTORIC DISTRICT has been officially designated by the Orlando City Council and the City of Orlando’s Historic Preservation Board. The Historic Preservation Board consists of nine members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The board and its committees review all projects and development within the City’s six historic districts and all landmarked properties.

DESIGNATED IN 1980 BY THE CITY OF ORLANDO, the district is a cohesive collection of buildings that reflects the commercial and governmental history of Orlando. It encompasses eight blocks of buildings constructed from the 1880s until the early 1940s. Surrounded by modern skyscrapers, approximately 60 historic buildings in this district offer a glimpse into the City’s dynamic past. The historic district designation has helped preserve buildings that might otherwise have been demolished due to the rapid rate of growth and demand for commercial space in Downtown.

THE VARIETY OF BUILDING STYLES AND SIZES reflects the evolution of architecture and construction in Downtown. The styles represented in the district are Queen Anne, twentieth century commercial, Beaux-Arts, Mediterranean Revival, Art Deco and Art Moderne.

Economic Development Department
400 South Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

cityoforlando.net/historicpreservation
downtownorlando.com

DOWNTOWN ORLANDO HISTORIC DISTRICTS WALKING TOUR & MAP

Explore the wonders of our historic Downtown buildings. The tour route is approximately 2.5 miles. Each number on the map corresponds to the properties described on the back. Please respect private property when viewing these sites.
Dr. William Monroe Wells, an African-American physician and owner of the Wells’ Built Hotel and the Old Historic Church of the City. The Wells’ Built Hotel is located at 110 West Church Street, and the Old Historic Church of the City is located at 102-110 West Church Street. The Wells’ Built Hotel was built in 1913 with Eugene T. Williams as the manager. The hotel was moved to this site in 1929. The Old Historic Church of the City was built in 1890 and is now the home of the First Baptist Church of the City. The church was moved to its current location in 1964.

Dr. William Monroe Wells, an African-American tailor, and J.E. Nicholson, a Canadian baker, in 1911. He started selling hay, feed and grocery store. In 1920, they demolished their store and established the S.H. Kress Company, which used to use embalming. The S.H. Kress Company, which used to use embalming, was moved here from 407 West South Street.

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This 1924 structure was designed by Murray S. King for Walter Rose, a local developer and furniture manufacturer. King planned for this building to be the first of a 10-story office building. Rose never constructed the building, and the current economic downturn during the Depression could not support the project. Rose often incorporated his name into buildings, including Rose Isle, Roseman and Rosene. The rose-pink color and Rose’s name are found in the cartoons and in the name of the hotel.

Local architect F. Earl DeLowe designed this Art Moderne structure for Joseph Rutland’s men’s wear store as a two-story building around 1941. Three additional stories were added in 1952. In the late 1960s, Rutland’s closed its doors until its death in 1995. The building remained open in the suburban Colonial Plaza Shopping Center.

Architect Murray S. King was born in Orlando in 1905 and died in 1980. King was the second of 13 children of Joseph Rutland, who owned Rutland’s men’s wear store in Orlando and supervised its development. In 1925, he moved the building to its final location on the corner of South Magnolia Avenue and East Central Boulevard.

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