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 for buildings constructed from the 1880s until the early 1940s. 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 Modern.

The Downtown Walking Tour also includes six contributing structures in the Holden-Parramore National Register of Historic Places District. Designated in 2009, The Holden-Parramore Historic District encompasses approximately 20 acres of residential, commercial, and civic buildings that represent this early 20th century African-American neighborhood.

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.
This late Victorian structure was built for J.A. Colyer, an African-American businessman, and his sons also owned a number of other stores in Orlando.

The Dr. Wells’ South Street structure housed the offices of the Dr. Wells’ South Street Hospital, and in 1922, he constructed this brick funeral home designed by local architect F.H. Trimble. The funeral home was housed in the Dr. Wells’ South Street Hospital. A chapel was added in 1925, and the funeral home was incorporated into the Dr. Wells’ South Street Hospital in 1930. The funeral home remained open in the suburban Colonial Plaza Shopping Center.

This 1924 structure was designed by Murry S. King for Walter Rosen, a local developer and furniture manufacturer. The building was constructed of concrete and steel, with distinctive Art Deco-style elements, a popular motif for skyscrapers of the day. The building opened in 1924 with the bank occupying the first floor and mezzanine levels. The upper levels were rented as professional offices to tenants including attorneys, real estate brokers, doctors, manufacturers, and a Christian Science reading room.

This early 20th-century building was constructed by architect William Monroe Wells, a prominent local developer, and is noted for being the first black doctor in Orlando. His wife, Clifford Rice, was the first black doctor in America to open a private practice. In 1920, he constructed this brick funeral home to house his real estate offices. Tinker played a significant role in the area’s early development, establishing businesses across from the Dr. Wells’ South Street structure. The funeral home’s construction was an important step in the local African-American community. It was designed to be a vital business for the area, providing essential services to the black community.

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