



Depot

Sikeston's Historic Depot, located at 116 West Malone Avenue in Downtown Sikeston, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1916 next to the busiest tracks in Southeast Missouri, the depot was closed in 1986. The dedication and hard work of local citizens restored the depot to a cultural center, which officially opened on March 3, 2000. Thousands of visitors have viewed dozens of permanent and rotating exhibits depicting the history, arts and culture of the area.



Malone Park Band Stand

Dr. Elias J. Malone served as Mayor of the City of Sikeston from 1906-1916 and donated most of Malone Park to the City. It was originally called "Wilson Park" and renamed in Dr. Malone's honor. The Malone Park Band Stand was dedicated in 1912 and cost \$1,200. The park served as the gathering place for community activities and continues to serve the citizens of Sikeston as one of its most beautiful parks.



Historic Marker

This marker attests to the spirit and determination of the founders of Sikeston. It reads, "To know the story of this Missouri look about you. Here from swamps and wilderness, stumps and clay, our forefathers cut a home land."



Sikeston DPS

Erected in 1931 as a federal post office, this building is currently the location of Sikeston Public Safety Headquarters. The structure was purchased from the federal government in 1970 for \$26,000 and functioned for a short time as Sikeston's City Hall.



Methodist Church Columns

The Neo-Classical Revival Methodist Episcopal Church South, later the First United Methodist Church, was built in 1912 and tragically destroyed by a fire in 1968. The stately columns are all that remain of the "old domed church."



El Camino Real Marker

Erected in 1915, by the Daughters of The American Revolution, this historic marker is located on the "Kings Highway," or the El Camino Real. Nearly 200 years ago, the El Camino Real was a major land route connecting New Orleans to St. Louis.



318 Baker Lane

Built six years before the Civil War began and five years before Sikes Town was laid out, this home is identified as the oldest in Sikeston. The original owners were the Joseph Hunter family from 1855-1888. The James W. Baker Sr. family occupied the "Old House" in 1888, and the Baker family still does to this day. Built almost entirely of cypress lapped on the walls, floors and ceilings, the Bakers added cypress tongue and groove throughout the house (using square nails) in 1888. Old news prints have been found between the tongue and groove and plain cypress planks, one item being a "sheet" (as newspapers were called in that era) of the Sikes Town publication in the mid-1880s.



Hunter Memorial Cemetery

This cemetery was established on land claimed by Scots-Irish Presbyterian Joseph Hunter II and his family in 1812. It remained in the Hunter family until the early 1950s when the land was donated to the Presbyterian Church. The Joseph Hunter family relocated to this area after the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812. Joseph Hunter II served his country in the Revolutionary War under General George Rogers Clark and also served as a Major in the War of 1812. He was named to the Territorial Council by President Madison, a position he held until Missouri became a state. Joseph Hunter II is one of the few Revolutionary War veterans buried in the area.



273 N. Ranney

This Queen Anne home was built in 1903 by Alice & Green Berry Greer Sr. During the Great Depression, the home served as a "room & board." Sometimes they would feed one hundred people a day at the noon meal. Most of the customers were downtown merchants, business men and workers. In the 1950s this home was separated into four apartments, but it was restored to a single-family home in the 1990s. This home had the first telephone in Sikeston-a line between the house & Scott County Milling Company.



274 N. Ranney

This Craftsman Bungalow was built in 1919. The original owners were Frank & Juanita Greer-VanHorne. "Juanita Flour," a fine-blend pastry flour still used today, was named after Juanita Greer.



American Cancer Society -originally People's Bank-

Built circa 1927, this Neo-Classical Revival structure has Art Deco details and was originally owned by People's Bank of Sikeston. The bank opened in 1928 and was out of business within a year, due to the 1929 stock market crash.



US Bank Mural

The mural was painted in 1956 by Mr. Chomyk from Ironton, Missouri. Mr. Chomyk took pictures of things he liked in town to incorporate into the mural, which took six weeks to complete. He had free reign as to what to paint, and he did ad-lib. For example, he took pictures of three churches and made them one church showing the architecture of the period. The mural can be viewed during regular bank hours.



City Hall-105 E. Center

Constructed in 1906, the McCoy-Tanner/Smith-Applegate Building was one of Missouri's premier office buildings of its time. The location of one of Sikeston's earliest post offices, the building also housed a hardware store, café, drug store and jewelry store on its lower floor, and physicians' offices on its upper floor. The City's administrative offices have operated out of this facility since 1984. Historic photos of the City and its leaders are on display during regular business hours.



211 Greer

This Queen Anne home was built circa 1908 by John A. & Annie Matthews. The cost to build the home was around \$10,000. When the lumber was delivered by wagons, Mrs. Matthews had every board inspected. If it was crooked or had too many knots holes, it was put on another wagon and sent back to the lumber yard. Lena, the last of John A. Matthews' children, lived in the house almost her entire life, having the same room for over 90 years.

Interesting Facts

- In 1789, the El Camino Real, also known as "The King's Highway," was marked out by orders from the King of Spain. It followed an Indian trail along the ridge from New Madrid to St. Louis. A depression in the earth from the wagon trail is still visible today from the corner of Tanner and N. Kingshighway looking north.
- The town of Sikeston was founded by John Sikes in 1860.
- In the early 1900s Sikeston boasted more millionaires per capita than any other city of the same size.
- Dr. Dewey Urban performed the first successful tooth transplant in Sikeston.
- In 1906, several area milling companies consolidated to form the Scott County Milling Company. At one time, it was the largest milling company in the Midwest with its products sold in 23 states and seven foreign countries.
- In 1931, J. Otto Hahs invented and patented the first coin-operated horse in Sikeston.
- From 1939 until 1944, the Missouri Institute of Aeronautics was established after General Hap Arnold asked flight training operations to triple their pilot training. The Harvey Parks Field, one of five civil training centers, was activated on August 29, 1940, fifteen months prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Approximately 7,500 cadets entered pilot training.

For a list of events or more information about Downtown Sikeston: www.downsikeston.org 573.380.3801

For community information contact the Sikeston Area Chamber of Commerce: www.sikeston.net 573.471.2498



Missouri
enjoy the show



Email: cvb@visitsikeston.com

www.visitsikeston.com

Enjoy our l-Brochure at

Toll Free: 888-309-6591

Phone 573-471-6362

Sikeston, Missouri 63801



Visit Historic Downtown Sikeston
and discover southern hospitality
and old time charm.



is located at the crossroads of
Interstates 55 and 57, and the junctions of
U.S. Highways 60, 61 and 62.

SIKESTON



SIKESTON
MISSOURI

HISTORIC
HOMES

WALKING & DRIVING

TOUR



I am going to start me a town...

In 1860, John Sikes recorded a plat with the Scott County Recorder. On it Sikes wrote, “I am going to start me a town, and I am going to call it Sikes Town.” From that dream grew a community of over 18,000 – one of the largest and most progressive communities of Missouri’s Bootheel.

Realizing transportation was a key to development, the railroad was extended to Sikeston in 1860, providing both transportation and mail service. By 1868, residents of Sikeston had established a tax-based public school. In 1875, the Town of Sikeston, with a population of 250, was incorporated by the State of Missouri.

During the next 25 years, Sikeston’s first newspaper was published and commercial telegraph and telephone services were started. The 1900s saw the establishment of passenger rail service between St. Louis and Memphis, the development of City water works and sewer system, and the establishment of the Sikeston Ice, Light and Power Company. Sikeston’s first electric generating plant was constructed in 1906.

By 1918, Sikeston’s population had almost tripled. Local swamps were being drained, trees harvested for lumber, and cotton became “King.” The 1920s were a period of great prosperity and economic growth. During this period, Sikeston was the home to more millionaires than any city of its size within the United States. Many of the buildings featured on this tour were constructed during this period in Sikeston’s history. We invite you to join us as we revisit this era of beautiful homes, buildings and churches.



Corner of Stoddard & Center
This Colonial Revival home was built circa 1912 by James E. Smith Sr. In 1930, it was purchased by St. Francis Xavier Church for a school and convent. It now serves as the church rectory. The St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church was built in 1938 and cost \$24,500.



214 N. Scott
This Colonial Revival home was built in 1916 by Leonard McMullin. Mr. McMullin was a large landowner and holder of the first Missouri commercial pilot license. He was a participant in the plans to drain the swampland in Southeast Missouri. The home has been occupied by influential families since it was built. An historic marker can be viewed at the northwest corner.



108 North
This American Foursquare home was built circa 1900 using square nails. It features a Mansard roof. The original owner was a veterinarian, Dr. Claude T. Old, who had a large barn in the back yard where he kept the animals.



412 N. Kingshighway
This Queen Anne home was built in 1906 by Reese Applegate. The home features the original stained glass windows. In 1907, the home was sold to John Tanner, Mr. Applegate's business partner. The Tanner family has had six generations in residence. Mr. Applegate built a home for each of his three daughters.



510 N. Kingshighway
Original owners Ralph & Inez Anderson built this Italian Renaissance home in 1923 for \$5,000. Mrs. Anderson gave piano and organ lessons. She had the piano moved to the front porch in December, so she could play Christmas carols for passersby. The home is still occupied by Anderson decedents.



513 N. Kingshighway
Built in 1917 by William F. Sikes Sr., this Prairie-style home, an architectural style pioneered by Frank Lloyd Wright, was designed to give each room three sources of natural light.



603 N. Kingshighway
This Craftsman Bungalow was built in 1917 by Laura Sikes Smith, sister of Sikeston founder John Sikes. The cost to build the home was \$5,100. Losing her husband early in her marriage, Laura reared the children, ran the plantation, and became a strong community leader. She originally lived in a plantation home and then built a large white frame home. In her later years, she left the large home to her children and moved into the “little house,” as Laura called it.



615 N. Kingshighway
This Italianate home was built in 1888 by John E. Marshall, a Missouri State Senator. There have been weddings, receptions and funerals held in the double parlors. Four generations have lived in this home.



711 N. Kingshighway
This Dutch Colonial Revival home was built in 1914 by Dr. & Mrs. John Henry Yount. Mrs. John Yount was reared in the old Hunter-Marshall home (circa 1888 on 615 N. Kingshighway). The home is still occupied by the Yount family.



817 N. Kingshighway
This Neo-Classical Revival home was built in 1910 by J.W. Baker Sr. It features an upstairs ballroom, which is now filled with 19th century clothing retained by the Baker family. The house is still occupied by Baker family descendants.



108 Salcedo
This Neo-Classical Revival home was built in 1905 by Liam Darby. It was sold by his wife, America, to the Lewis Baker family in 1906, at Liam's death. Located in the county, the farm produced dairy products and alfalfa. The Alfalfa Dairy Plantation railed large shipments of alfalfa during WWI for the army, which was not yet motorized.



1023 N. Ranney
Built in 1923, this Prairie-Foursquare home was originally owned by Harry C. and Maureen D. Blanton. Mr. Blanton was a local lawyer and was appointed U.S. Attorney for eastern Missouri by Harry Truman. The original price of the home and land was \$5,000. Mr. Blanton added \$5,000 in improvements to the home by adding the veranda and sleeping porches. This home is believed to be a Sears Roebuck Kit Home. (Sears once had an assembly plant located across the Mississippi River in Cairo, IL.) The home is still occupied by Blanton descendants.



1002 N. Ranney
This American Foursquare home was built in 1919. The original owner was Sam Potashnick Sr. The home features an indoor pool above the carport.



805 N. Ranney
This American Foursquare home was built circa 1916. The original owner was Lilly May McGee. The land was originally owned by Reese Applegate, brother to Ranney Applegate, for whom Ranney St. was named.



669 N. Ranney
Built circa 1915, the original owner of this American Foursquare home was H.W. Baker Sr. It features “fish scale” boards on the front porch. Located on the northwest corner is one of four brick pillars which marked the north end of the early city limits.



657 N. Ranney
This Queen Anne Cottage was built in 1912 by Charles Prow. Many social functions were held on the wrap around porch.



226 Tanner
Built in 1908, this Neo-Classical Revival home was originally owned by R.G. Applegate. The gorgeous curved glass windows on each end of the house have curved screens to fit each window, making this home unique.



312 Tanner
This Neo-Classical Revival home was built in 1909 and designed by Matthews & Clark of St. Louis. The original owners were Lynn Mark Stallcup and Francis Lawrence Stallcup. The Stallcup's granddaughter was married to John Dean, President Nixon's attorney during Watergate. All of the older homes in this area feature a separate servants' quarters and carriage house. This home features the only servants' quarters/carriage house that can currently be viewed by the public.



305 Tanner
This Colonial Revival home was built circa 1911 by Needham Bledsoe. It was once the home of *Sikeston Standard* newspaper editor Charles “Pole Cat” Blanton, who was featured in *Time Magazine* in 1939.



188 Tanner
Mr. Reese Applegate built this Queen Anne home circa 1898. The third floor was converted to an apartment that was designed with color-coded lights as a way to communicate with their son, who was deaf and mute due to childhood measles.



368 N. Kingshighway
This Neo-Classical Revival home was built in 1915 by C.F. & Mattie McMullin. The home features two entrances that were used to accommodate both carriages and motor vehicles. After Mr. McMullin's death in 1946, his widow turned the home into apartments. The original stained glass windows have been retained.



333 N. Kingshighway
Kate Greer was the original owner of this Queen Anne home. It was built circa 1920.



319 N. Kingshighway
This home was built in 1917 for Joseph and Lucile Matthews. With the assistance of two maids and a chauffeur/gardener, Miss Lucile lived in the home until her death in 1983, at the age of 89. This Colonial Revival home boasts a third floor ballroom, four sunrooms, an elevator and servants' quarters above the four-car garage.



250 N. Kingshighway
This American Foursquare home was built circa 1900. The original owners were Henry & Myrtle Welsh. Ms. Welsh gave organ, piano and voice lessons and one of her early students was Dale Evans, 1940s movie star, singer/songwriter, and wife of singing cowboy Roy Rogers.

