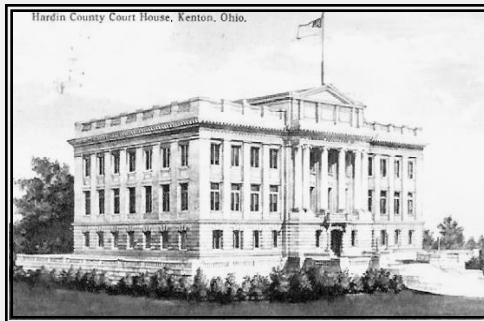


HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO

Historic Courthouse District



A Self-Guided Tour of Kenton's Historic Downtown & Residential Area

Use this guide to visit Kenton's
Historic Courthouse District.
Expect impressive architecture
and small town charm
as you stroll along
tree lined streets.



The **Historic Courthouse District** includes downtown Kenton plus the surrounding areas north on Detroit and Main Streets. Much of the District was constructed during the late 1890's and early 1900's. Today, it is filled with county and city offices, financial institutions, retailers and restaurants. The District is also the site of the Hardin County Farmers Market, Christmas Around the Square, and numerous holiday parades and events.

Kenton, the county seat of Hardin County, was named in honor of frontiersman Simon Kenton. In 1840, Kenton only had three hundred inhabitants. However, due to its location on the Scioto River as well as the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroads, Kenton grew quickly. By 1880, almost four thousand people resided in the town. Today, Kenton has a population of over 8,300 people, making it the county's largest community with over twenty-five percent of Hardin County's residents living here. www.kentoncity.com.

1. Sullivan-Johnson Museum, 223 N. Main Street, the Queen Anne style mansion was built in ca. 1896 for Daniel Sullivan and his wife, Louella Mohr. Today, the facility is one of Hardin County's historical museums. Featured exhibits include: a large display of Kenton Toys and Gene Autry Repeating Cap Pistols; a gallery devoted to Jacob Parrot, the Nation's first Congressional Medal of Honor recipient; plus a collection of paintings and prints by artist Frederick Machtetanz, former Kenton resident. The museum is open Monday thru Friday from 1- 4 pm or by appointment. Phone 419-673-7147 or visit www.hardinmuseums.org for more information.

2. First United Methodist Church, 234 N. Main Street, built in 1891, the south corner of the church features a column segment from Hardin County's second courthouse which was torn down in 1912. Ornate stained glass windows can be seen on the north, south and west sides of the church.

3. St. Anthony's Center, 220 E. North Street, was started in 1893 as a catholic school. In 1934, the school ended it's high school program and then officially closed in the 1970s. Today, the school is now a parish center.

4. Immaculate Conception Church, 215 E. North Street, dedicated in 1866, the rectory was added in 1869 and the tall steeple was completed in 1887.

5. St. John's United Church of Christ, 211 E. Carrol Street, dedicated August 16, 1903, the facility was built by it's original German congregation which formed at Christmastime in 1839. The church features large stained glass windows on the east and west sides, as well as much of the original woodwork. In 2004, an addition was added with the stonework closely matching the original structure.

6. Old Hardin County Jail, 125 E. Carrol Street, up until 2008, this facility housed the Hardin County Sheriff's office since 1855. Today, the building is empty and it's future is uncertain.

7. Masonic Temple, 202 N. Main Street, is a Second Empire style building once occupied by Charles Merriman. Today, the building is used by the local Mason and Eastern Star organizations.

8. Hardin County Armory, 128 N. Main Street, was built in 1893 and is one of Ohio's oldest and most unique armories remaining today. An example of Romanesque architecture, former Ohio Governor and later U.S. President William McKinley presided over both its cornerstone laying and dedication. It has served as the area's military, social and athletic center plus survived a major fire. Restoration efforts have saved this historic building which now hosts weddings, dinners and meetings in its ballroom. Phone 419-673-8955 for more information.



9. North Side of the Square

•**Sullivan Block, Pfeiffer and Damon Buildings.** During the 1800's, many of the buildings were stores for dry goods, plus a bakery and cigar maker. Today, not only the storefronts along this side of the square are occupied, but also the upper levels. Converted into lofts and apartments, these spaces feature exposed brick walls and open floor plans.

10. Hardin County Courthouse, One Courthouse Square, one of Ohio's largest Courthouses, the structure was completed in 1915 and was the third courthouse for Hardin County. The building is an excellent example of Neoclassical Revival architecture and includes 9 foot outer doors, marble floors, a leaded stained glass skylight, and murals of John Hardin and Simon Kenton. The Courthouse is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

11. East Side of the Square

- Price Block, a 3-story structure with a lion relief which was built in 1875 exclusively as a hardware;
- IOOF (Independent Order of the Odd Fellows) Building, this structure was built at the group's lodge; and
- Cantwell & Company, which was a major designer and distributor of mowers and reapers plus held several patents.

12. South West Side of the Square

- Goodin Block, built for David Goodin (ca. 1857), a hotelkeeper and real estate magnate;
- Letson Block, is the building to the west and was originally a haberdashery; and
- Kenton Theatre, 221 W. Franklin Street, is an old Schines House built in the early 1930's. The Theatre still operates today showing new movie releases.

13. Gene Autry Mural Park, corner of W. Franklin & Market Streets, this mural commemorates Gene Autry's visit to Kenton in 1938. Painted in 2004, the mural and park is now a tourist attraction for Autry fans as well as visitors to our area. Phone 419-675-4098 to hear more about the mural.

14. West Side of the Square,

- Brunson Block, was built in the mid 1860's by Benjamin R. Brunson. This area once included baths, a pharmacy, dry goods store and clothier; and
- Masonic Block, was built in 1877 and contained a fraternal hall and the Ashton Building.

15. Public Library Building, 121 N. Detroit Street, was built as a Carnegie fund project built in 1904-05. Today, it is home to Kenton Dental Care.

Residential properties along N. Detroit and N. Main Streets—numerous homes along these streets are registered with the Ohio Historical Society. Similar to the Sullivan-Johnson Museum, many of these homes were constructed during the late 1800's and early 1900's and include ornate wooden moldings, cut glass windows and unique architectural design.




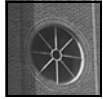







While touring the residential section of the Historic Courthouse District, you'll notice some properties still include original carriage houses. You'll also notice intricate iron fencing. Much of the fencing was produced in Kenton by the **Champion Iron Company.** The Company was built in 1903 and was billed as the largest producer of fence work at the turn of the century.



16. Doctor's Park, between N. Main and N. Detroit Street, is a large area surrounded by a stone fence. Originally, the fence surrounded the home of a Civil War General who retired to Kenton following the war.

17. The Grand Trillium Inn, 408 N. Main Street, an 1890's historic, three-story estate now operating as an upscale Bed & Breakfast with five guest rooms, full breakfast and afternoon tea. Site is perfect for hosting weddings, parties, or small conferences. Phone 419-675-2572, www.GrandTrilliumInn.com.

Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance
 (419) 673-4131 or 88 TO HARDIN or (888) 642-7346
www.hardinohio.org

	<p>Watch for plaques designating historic homes along Detroit & Main Streets.</p>  <p>Grove Street</p>			
		 <p>16</p>	Main Street	 <p>17</p> <p>Summit Street</p>
		<p>North Street</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Detroit Street</p>		<p>Wayne Street</p> <p>4</p> 
Market Street		 <p>1</p> <p>Carrol Street</p>		<p>3</p> <p>2</p> <p>7</p> <p>6</p> <p>5</p> 
		 <p>15</p> <p>Columbus Street</p>		<p>8</p>  <p>9</p>
		 <p>13</p> <p>Franklin Street</p> <p>14</p>		<p>10</p>  <p>11</p> 
		<p>12</p>		

Parking: Street parking is available on many of the Historic Courthouse District streets, plus there are multiple lots in the downtown area. Watch for signs designating restricted areas and time limits.

Restaurants: The Historic Courthouse District features some wonderful places to eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as coffee and a snack.

Shopping: Many unique specialty shops are also located in the downtown area.