

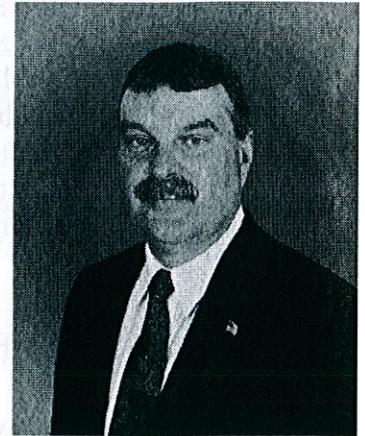
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS



WALKING TOUR

The Mayor's View.....

People have lived here since the early 1800's. By the end of that century, the community had achieved the status of an incorporated Kentucky city and had officially taken the name Erlanger. Our community continued to grow steadily throughout the 20th Century, and now, early in our third century, we are the 4th largest city in Northern Kentucky. Our city stands for many different things to each of us as citizens. Families, homes, businesses, schools, green space, government services, recreational facilities, doctors, lawyers, banks, and civic groups are all elements of a healthy community.



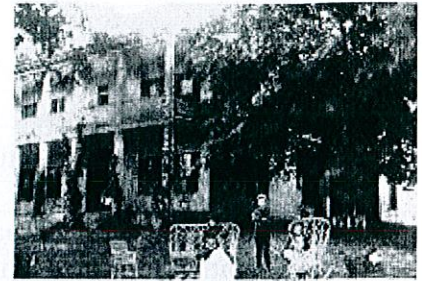
However, there are other elements that must be present for a community to achieve excellence. Erlanger has always, and continues to this day, to be characterized by honest, hard working people who have a common spirit and interests. We share a respect for one another's individuality and opinions, a sense of neighborliness, sincerity, and friendliness.

I am sure that as you read the Historical Highlights of Erlanger, you will agree that people of unusual vigor and vision have accomplished much to make Erlanger the community it is today. Our present opportunity, however, is to build upon that past to make Erlanger an even stronger and more welcoming community for future generations. That will require a renewed dedication from you, from me, and from all of our citizens. It is an exciting opportunity, and one that I look forward to sharing with you.

Marc T. Otto, Sr.
Mayor
Erlanger, Kentucky
May 2002

story log cabin on what is now called Commonwealth Avenue. Later, he built a larger brick house just across from the present-day Erlanger Baptist Church. He is still remembered because of the streets, Bartlett and Graves Avenues, named after him.

Other prominent landowners during this time included John Stansifer, William Timberlake, Benjamin Bedinger, David Riggs, and Thomas Buckner. Many of these names are still familiar because of streets in both Erlanger and Elsmere that bear their names.



Walnut Grove, the home of Bartlett Graves

The town of Erlanger was named for Baron Frederick Emile d'Erlanger, major stockholder of the railroad empire that connected Cincinnati to New Orleans. This rail line, known as the Queen and Crescent Route because of its connection of Cincinnati, the Queen City, to New Orleans, the Crescent City, became the element that led to the Erlanger we know today. As a point of interest, Queen Street and Crescent Avenue still reflect this heritage.



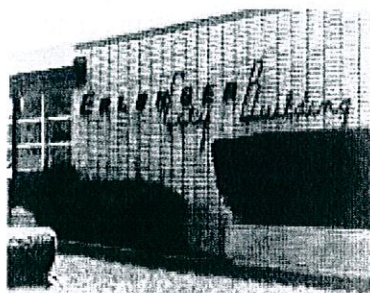
Baron Frederick Emile d'Erlanger

In the 1880's, the Erlanger Land Syndicate led by George C. Bloss, became instrumental in developing our community as an actual city. Development proceeded with the construction of the Erlanger Proper Subdivision that included 220 building lots. This area ran from what is now Crescent Avenue next to the railroad tracks to Hulbert Avenue, and from Division Street to Graves Avenue. Through subsequent decades, growth continued and included southerly areas to the Kenton County – Boone County line at Florence, westerly areas to

the county line at what is now known as Cherry Hill subdivision, and easterly areas that encompassed, through various phases, Dixie Highway to Turkeyfoot Road, and eventually Turkeyfoot Road to the Doe Run Lake area.

As growth has accelerated, in more recent years, the city's leaders have made provision for more public facilities and services. Children in the central and western portions of Erlanger receive public education in the Erlanger-Elsmere Independent School District, while children in the newer developments in the eastern part of town attend schools in the Kenton County School District. The Erlanger-Elsmere school system includes four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. The schools are named for prominent educators in the city's history. The high school, Lloyd Memorial, is named for John Uri Lloyd, a world renowned pharmacist and researcher.

The first official City Building was constructed in 1962. It housed the city offices, Fire Department, Police Department, and the Erlanger Post Office. It served our citizens well for over 35 years, and was renovated and expanded in 1999-2000. At that time, the post office moved to new larger quarters on Dixie Highway.

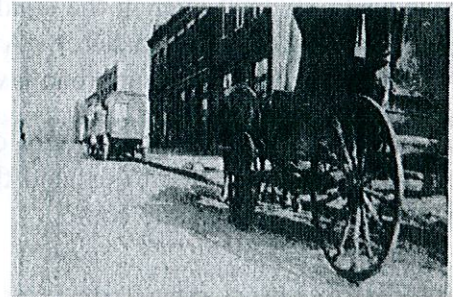


Fire Station #1 was constructed on Graves Avenue in 1979. It is interesting to note that the Erlanger Volunteer Fire Service was founded in the early 1900's and is one of the largest and most recognized volunteer departments in the

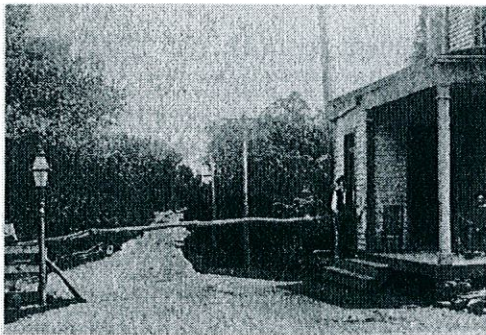
Erlanger continues to thrive as a result of our excellent location at the juncture of I-75 and I-275 and proximity to the international airport. However, it is the dedication of our citizens and the vision of our community leaders that will ensure Erlanger's growth continues in a healthy and balanced way.

ROAD SYSTEM INFLUENCES EARLY GROWTH

An important key in setting the stage for Erlanger's early development was the Covington-Lexington Turnpike. Chartered in 1829, this historic highway, which encompassed part of the present Dixie Highway, was the road traveled by Statesman Henry Clay and other notable Kentuckians of the day.



Dixie Highway at intersection with Commonwealth Ave.



Toll-gate on Erlanger Road. Peter Scheben House was toll-house.

Tolls were collected every five miles. The toll-gate was a long pole resting on posts on each side of the road. Tolls on the turnpike were set by the state but were exempt for children going to school, for funerals, people going to elections, church on Sunday, and for soldiers being mustered in or out.

This stretch of road immediately opened up countless opportunities for farmers to drive their livestock to the nearby Cincinnati market every year via the commuter train or roadway. As a result, stage coach lines were established, taverns began to spring up for the convenience of travelers and other businesses gradually began to open shop.

PRIMITIVE SCHOOL TEACHES ASTRONOMY, PHILOSOPHY

Prior to 1867, Erlanger's children attended school in nearby Florence to receive a formal education.

The first school in Erlanger was in an old log cabin in the back of a prominent doctor's house. The chimney built of stone and a barrel, was on the outside. Pupils brought their own tables and chairs. There was one small window allowing just enough light for reading and writing.

Miss Billings, a graduate from Mt. Holyoke College was the first teacher. She received an annual salary of \$1,000 to teach Latin, History, Rhetoric, Astronomy, Algebra, Geometry, French, and Natural Philosophy.

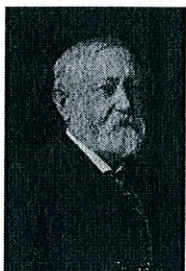
Later, when the old cabin could no longer hold up under the harsh winters and expanding class, a fund-raising drive was held. In 1907 a building known as Locust Grove

In addition to the five cottages that were constructed by the land syndicate during this time, other well-known homes were owned by the Bedingers, Finnells, Ballards , and the Victors.

A boarding house was located on the corner of Crescent Avenue and Locust Street, and a railroad section house was situated a short distance from the depot.

With the exception of a few scattered farm houses, a tobacco barn, the village store and an ice house, few other residences and business comprised the town until the land syndicate arrived on the scene.

ERLANGER'S FIRST BIG EVENT



Benjamin Harrison

One of the most memorable occasions in the history of this small town took place during the fall of 1888 when Grover Cleveland and Benjamin Harrison were seeking the presidency of the United States.

The Democratic Party sponsored a barbecue during this political campaign on the W.A. Price field. The event was attended by thousands of people from

hundreds of miles around. U.S. Senators Joe Blackburn and John Carlisle were guest speakers and the Honorable Theodore F. Hallam presided.



Grover Cleveland

STREET NAMES UNIQUELY ACQUIRED

Most every town has intriguing stories behind the names of its city streets. Erlanger is no exception in this regard. Although many of Erlanger's names are derived from early founders and prominent citizens, a few streets are known for different reasons.

Commonwealth Avenue, for example, was appropriately named for the Commonwealth of Kentucky; Crescent Avenue was recognized for its unique shape; Clay Street for its preponderance of clay; Division Street for the dividing line of town and country; Lake Street for Silver Lake (previous name of Post Office and Railroad Station); Locust Street for the locust grove; and Elm Street for the name of Bartlett Grave's home.

COMMUNITY WORSHIP AT THE HEART OF THE TOWN



The old Erlanger
Baptist Church

Many citizens would agree that the backbone of Erlanger has been its devotion and commitment to community worship from the town's earliest days.

The first church, erected in 1888, was a place of worship for all denominations. Leading citizens responsible for organizing the union church included: T.W. Barker, R.J. Cody, John Tanner, and John Carpenter.

By 1892 the community had taken on a new social life as well. Dancing and entertaining became a growing part of the town's way of life. From about 1892 to 1896 Erlanger's Town Hall was the central "dance spot" for the belles and beaus from Boone, Kenton, and Grant counties.

FINANCIAL STABILITY ESTABLISHED

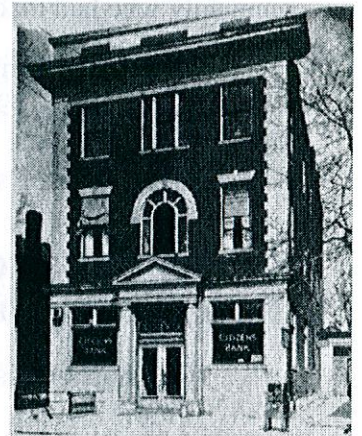
The Erlanger Perpetual Building and Loan Association, chartered June 17, 1890, was a tremendous help for many Erlanger families. The association made it possible for countless citizens to own their own homes through affordable financing arrangements.

The first bank in Erlanger was incorporated May 12, 1893. Known as the Erlanger Deposit Bank, it was thought to be one of the strongest banks of its kind when it opened for business.

Capt. W.H. Baker was the bank's first president. Others responsible for its incorporation included: W.A. Price, Daniel Bedinger, and Dr. W. H. Blanton.

The Citizens Bank of Erlanger, another well-respected, safe and conservative financial institution, was organized in 1911. It was chartered February 1, 1912 and opened for business November 18, 1912.

The Community Bank was established in February 1936. Some local business people and residents felt the need for a community oriented financial institution to meet the needs of the local area. Under the leadership of Andy Scheben, Sr., M.J. Mitchell, Philip Taliaferro, C.F. Blankenbecker, and O.M. Rogers and the investment of 29 shareholders, The Community Bank was incorporated.



ERLANGER MADE AN "OFFICIAL" TOWN

Erlanger was incorporated on January 25, 1897. For its first 57 years, Erlanger was governed by a board of trustees. By state law, the city had its own court presided over by a Police judge. Law enforcement was handled by a "Town Marshal". The first town officers at the time of the incorporation were: Louis Morrelli, police judge; A.I. Wyss, town marshal; Henry Mussman, Matthew Huerkamp, Isadore Hagan, George C. Bloss, and Larry Nusbaum, trustees. In 1949 Erlanger adopted the mayor-council form of government. The first mayor was elected in 1949 to begin serving in 1950.

The Police Department was established when "Town Marshal" Howard Thompson was appointed first Chief of Police in 1949. He was the only member of the department. The Auxiliary Police Department was formed shortly before their establishment as a City organization in 1959. This was a volunteer department that rode with full time police personnel and assisted in parades and sporting events. They were abolished in 1985 after 26 years due to liability and insurance reasons.

- ... The first store building was built on the Southwest corner of the turnpike and Erlanger Road by George Bedinger.
- ... The telephone company established its first exchange in 1904. Telephone customers numbered less than 50 in the early stages of the company's growth.
- ... The Erlanger underpass, a solution to traffic tie-ups (especially on Sunday afternoons) was completed in 1936.

ERLANGER COMES OF AGE

Just as the railroad and the improved road system were important reasons behind Erlanger's progress in the late 1880s and early 1900's, transportation is once again an important factor behind the town's modern-day growth.

North and southbound travelers no longer have to use Dixie Highway exclusively to get from one location to another. Travel time has been shortened considerably through the development of I-75 and I-275 to employment centers in Cincinnati, Covington and Newport.

The fact that Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport is only minutes away from Erlanger has made a difference in the town's steady maturity.

In 1920, Erlanger's population was slightly more than 1,100. By 1959, about 7,140 people made their homes in this northern Kentucky community.

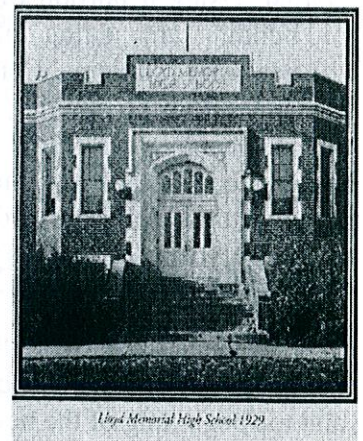
Today the population of the city is 16,676 with 5,402 acres of land and 89.5 miles of streets making up the city limits.

The city of Erlanger, which is mostly residential, contains about 12 square miles of land. A major percentage of the land is used for dwellings and streets.

There are now 11 churches in the city, all are on or near the Dixie Highway, Commonwealth Avenue, Stevenson Road and Turkeyfoot Road.

The present school system is a result of a unique decision made in 1928. The school boards of Erlanger and the adjoining city of Elsmere voted to combine the small school systems. This would enable the cities to offer more educational programs to the students. The Kentucky Legislature approved this change.

The Erlanger-Elsmere Board of Education has six schools: four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. Five schools were named after individuals who worked many years with schools and students (three former superintendents, one principal, and a school board member). The high school was named after John Uri Lloyd a world-renowned pharmacist and researcher from Florence.



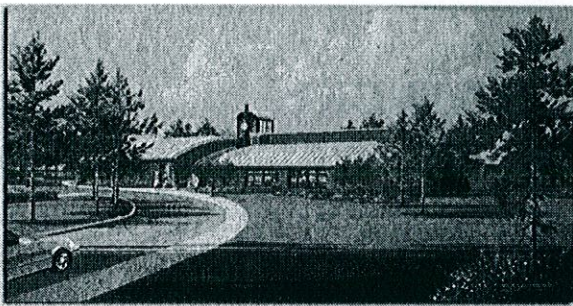
Lloyd Memorial High School 1929

Some Erlanger and Elsmere residents live in the Kenton County School District. This school district has 19 schools: 12 elementary, 4 middle schools, and 3 high schools.

In 1978, the town dedicated its first historical marker at 108 Stevenson Road in recognition of the Timberlake House built by Thornton Timberlake, an officer in the war of 1812.

The 80's brought critically needed reconstruction and realignment of the Commonwealth Avenue-Stevenson Road intersection. Another road improvement has also come about at the location of Commonwealth Avenue-Baker Street intersection and Graves Avenue extension.

As Erlanger continues to grow and prosper, its citizens have continued to make strides to maintain a healthy and productive community.



The anticipated completion date of the new Kenton County Library Branch in Erlanger is the fall of 2002. The new branch features a state-of-the-art facility more than twice the size of the current facility. A separate Children's Department, Audio-Visual Area, Computer Lab, Quiet Room, two study rooms, a reading garden and meeting room space to accommodate 250 people.

With the full support of its homes, churches, government, and industry, Erlanger has become well known and recognized as a creative, resourceful, and continually successful city.

RESOURCES:

This is not a complete history of the City of Erlanger. It is only meant to give a broad picture of this historic area. For additional historic information see:

1. "From Buffalo Trails to the Twenty-first Century: A Centennial History of Erlanger, Kentucky" – Wayne Onkst, editor.
2. Kenton County Public Library, genealogy section.
3. Kenton County Court House Records, in both Covington and Independence.
4. Talk with Betty Bush and Dixie Viox.

(Editor's Note: These historical highlights are only a brief scenario, compared to the entire history of Erlanger. A great deal of gratitude goes to all those people whose names do not appear in this account. For, without you, and the others mentioned here, Erlanger would not be the respected city that it is today.)

STROLLIN' AROUND ERLANGER IN THE 1930's

HISTORY

On May 31, 1887, the Erlanger Land Syndicate recorded in Kenton County Deed Book 47/641 their intention to create the Erlanger Proper Subdivision and divide the property into 220 lots. The area designated included: Graves Avenue, being 2112 feet long and 60 feet wide extending from the Lexington Turnpike northwardly to George Bedinger's land; Commonwealth Avenue from the Lexington Turnpike northwardly to George Bedinger's land; Erlanger Road northwardly from Lexington Turnpike to Dry Creek; Locust, Center, Clay, and Division Streets were to extend from Crescent Avenue northwardly to the Longmoor/Graves land. Elm, Queen and Lake streets were to flow in an eastwardly direction and be short connectors for the major streets initially proposed. Hulbert Avenue, Home Street and Cowie Avenue were established three years later in Deed Book 66/642.

ERLANGER

"Six miles from Cincinnati and 480 feet higher; a charming location on the Queen and Crescent Railroad Route; excellent water and purest air; commuters accommodated." By 1888, there were 30 houses in the vicinity and ninety lot owners. The US 1900 census listed Erlanger's population at 453. By 1930 there was a four-fold increase to 1,853 citizens.

GROWIN' UP IN ERLANGER IN THE 1930's - LOOKIN BACK

WHAT WAS IT LIKE? Town Hall was located at #6 Commonwealth Ave. (The Scott Building); Dwight Taylor was Mayor; Andrew Scheben Jr., Fire Chief; Edward C. Antrobus, Police Chief; James Rogers, Police Court Judge. City Council was composed of Edward Pohlman, Matthew Nierman, and John H. Bramlage. Council met every Tuesday night at 8:00 P.M. at the Town Hall. Edgar Arnett was Superintendent of Schools.

At this period of time electricity, gas, and water services were available, and most of the houses were one and a half story wood frame construction. In the 1900's foundations were usually constructed with creek stone and brick. Block foundations became popular in the 1930's. Early American architecture was common, windows were large and roofs were mainly hip or gable construction types. Every once in a while you'll see a mansard or gambrel roof. Brick homes were a rarity up to this period. Porches were a must so the occupants and friends could enjoy the fresh country air. Trees, both fruit and shade, were plentiful and the area abounded with goodwill.

As you stroll through the area, we ask that you recognize that most of the houses listed here are better than 70 years old and appreciate that time has forced many homeowners to cover their residences with aluminum/vinyl siding to protect the exterior wood from the elements.

Also, keep in mind that progress, especially around/near Commonwealth Avenue and Erlanger Road has changed the scenes that existed in the 1930's. However, don't let that distract you from enjoying your **"LOOKIN' BACK STROLL AROUND ERLANGER IN THE 1930's"**. Hopefully, the old-timers can reminisce a little and see if they recognize any of

#142-John E. Baker;
#145-John F. Highhouse;
#151-Thomas P. Cushing;
#155-Clifford Gartlemann;
#156-Alfred P. Hulbert;
#158-Charles O. Schneider;
#160-Herman R. Kittle.

CLAY STREET:

CLAY STREET: There must have been an abundance of clay in this area to come up with the name of Clay Street. Since both Center and Clay streets have rather steep road grades, they are what one refers to as low in the middle and high on the ends. During inclement weather bus riders routinely left for work 10 minutes earlier to overcome the additional walking difficulties.

#17-c. Built in 1930, Carl A. and Bertha Richards lived here in the early 1930's. Carl was an auto mechanic.

#24-c. Built in 1910. Note this combination construction type house.

#121-c. Built in 1920, Harry and Elizabeth Wissman raised their family in this story and a half wood frame house. Mr. Wissman was a builder of wooden stairs. Many homes in the Northern Kentucky area have stairs built by this company which was located in Covington.

#122-c. Built in 1923, Stanley M. and Marie Townsend raised their family at this neat location. Note the abundance of trees, the large front porch, the slate roof and other unusual construction features. The Townsend family was very active in civic functions, serving the City of Erlanger as both Council Members and as a member of the Board of Trustees. Stanley also served many of the local men by cutting their hair.

Many of the other houses on Clay Street were built after the 1930's.

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE:

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE: was appropriately named for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Many of the original buildings near the Dixie Highway have been replaced. Town Hall, #6 or the old Scott building is the site of the Veterans Memorial; Frank Kohorst's home, #9; Dr. Otis E. and Fannie Senour, #16 and John W. and Kathryn Bentler's #17 gave way to progress in the late 1950's.

#31-c. Built in 1889. Erlanger United Methodist Church records indicate that this site was donated by the Erlanger Land Syndicate for a non-denominational church. The Methodists, led by J.C. Tanner secured the title to the building in 1891. Around 1924 the church added a two-story addition. However, on a cold January morning in 1948 the church caught fire and had to be rebuilt. In 1930 the Rev. Paul C. Gillespie was pastor.

#30-c. Built in the early 1900's. Deed Book 111/575, shows that Col. Hubbard G. Buckner purchased this property on October 2nd, 1902. The original house was moved to #35 Erlanger Road. Then in 1912, the Buckners built their new home on #30 with very large rooms and a

#321-c. Built in 1926. Abbie Bird, a widower lived here in 1930.

COWIE AVENUE:

COWIE AVENUE: Since one of the trustees of the Erlanger Land Syndicate was named Charles S. Cowie, it would make sense that his name was used here. The oldest houses on this street can be found in the 3400 block.

#3405-c. Built in 1879.

#3408-c. Built in 1890.

#3409-c. Built in 1890.

In the early 1930's the residence at #3510 was home to W.R. & Edith Coe family. Their son was Dr. George R. Coe. A daughter, Florence, was principal in the Erlanger Public School System. Another Coe Family lived at

#3514, George B. and Lois; George was a conductor for the railroad. Many of the others residences were built in the late 1940's.

CRESCENT AVENUE:

CRESCENT AVENUE runs in a north/south direction for some four city blocks and parallels the railroad tracks. Crescent Avenue probably derives its name from the "Queen (for the Queen City, Cincinnati) and Crescent (for the Crescent City, New Orleans) Route" of the C.N.O. & T.P. Railway Company. In the 1930's this area was mostly residential. Maple trees abounded in the area. Nearly all of the homes are of wood frame construction with large porches and big windows. Beginning at the intersection of Division and Crescent, let's proceed southward and view some of the early American architecture and get to know some of the inhabitants who resided there in the 1930's.

#3210-c. Was Built in 1929.

#3214-c. Built in 1900. This three-story wood frame structure represents a good example of early American architecture. In the 1930's D.E. Castleman Sr.'s family lived here. Mr. Castleman was a prominent lawyer in the local area.

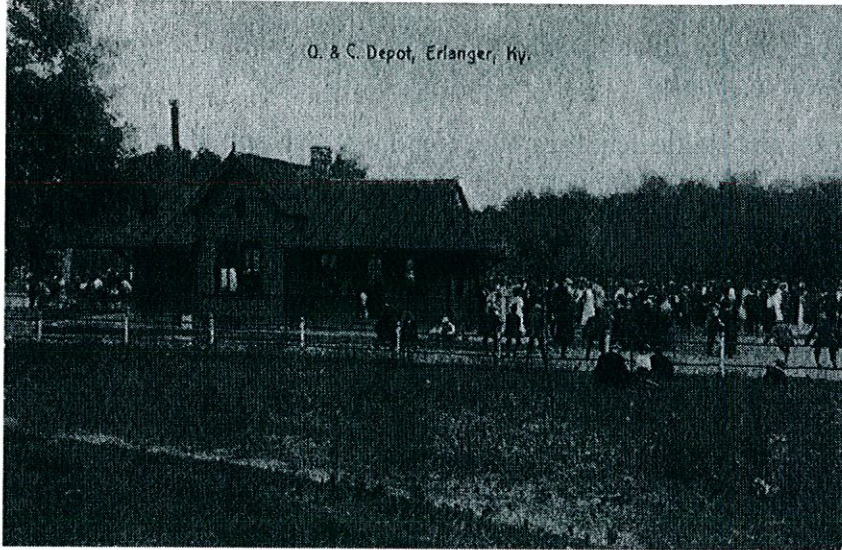


3214 Crescent Ave.

#3219-Boone Kenton Lumber Co, which was incorporated in 1919 dealt in lumber and building materials. They also specialized in mill work and planning. R.C. McNay was President/General Manager. Phone Dixie 7138.

#3220-In 1927 Mr. & Mrs. James Viox, Sr. moved to this location because it had a big yard, lots of trees and it looked like a nice place to raise a family. Mr. Viox, Jimmy, was a former professional baseball player with the Pittsburg Nationals.

ERLANGER, KENTUCKY DEPOT:



“In 1831, brothers William and George Longmoor purchased 400 acres of the Johnson/Watkins survey from Thomas Buckner and Benjamin F. Bedinger. This property was on the north end of the survey and includes the area where the Railroad Park and Crescent Avenue are now located”. Forty-three years later, the trustees of the

Cincinnati Southern Railroad announced that they would build a bridge over the Ohio River into Ludlow and that the railroad would follow the Lexington Pike to Florence. In June 1876, the laying of track was begun in Ludlow. It was decided that at the site where the railroad tracks crossed the Lexington Pike, a depot would be built for the convenience of both travelers and shippers of articles of commerce. Cochran, Brown, & Company built the depot a year later in Erlanger, at a cost of \$1,411.00. This Company built a total of fourteen depots between Ludlow and Somerset, Kentucky.

During the summer months the Railroad Park, which abounded with large shade trees, provided cover for picnics, family gatherings, and a playground for children of all ages. Every Fourth of July a committee was established to collect funds to support a large fireworks display in this area. After an extensive service period of over one hundred and thirteen years, it was decided to close the Erlanger Railroad Depot. It was scheduled for demolition, but in 1992, through the efforts of many local people/groups and the cooperation of the Norfolk Southern Railroad CEO's, the depot was donated to the City of Erlanger, provided it was moved 100 feet away from the railroad tracks. Thus, finally becoming known as the “Erlanger Historical Society Depot Museum”.



DIVISION STREET:

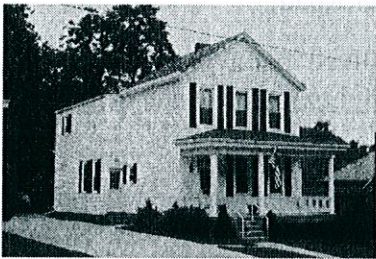
DIVISION STREET: In the original plat of the Erlanger Proper Subdivision, Division Street marked the division between the subdivision and the city corporation line. The lots on this street were supposed to be larger than those on other streets. “Lucille Haskell Houston commented that when her family moved to Erlanger in 1903, their property at #2 Division

Commonwealth Avenue. A spare key to the firehouse was always kept on top of the brick columns on Gurney's front porch. A big two and a half story wood frame house set way back off the roadway and was surrounded by large trees and a big side yard that required a substantial amount of time to cut was located at #23. The house at #34 was reported to have previously been two railroad section houses that were moved and set on a creek stone foundation. The original house burned in 1993 and was replaced by this charming one and a half story wood frame residence by V. Sallee.

#14-c. Built in the 1890's. Over the years this house has seen a number of different occupants. In the 1930's Paul A. and Margaret Metcalf lived here. Paul was a local barber.

The Kennedy Family built this attractive one and a half story wood frame home located at #24 in 1924. A salesman named Edmund L. Wayman and his wife lived there in the 1930's. Then, Russell and Martha Victor bought this home in 1943 and she has lived there ever since.

#25-c. Built in 1900. Home of Dr. Charles R. and Carrie Slater. Dr. Slater used the large front room of this residence as an office and examining room. The first telephone in Erlanger was reported to be at this location.



35 Erlanger Rd.

#35-c. Built in the 1890's, Col. Hubbard G. Buckner moved this house from Commonwealth Avenue to this location to accommodate his growing family. Three sisters of Col. Buckner then occupied this house until 1950, when Alice, the lone survivor, died.

#36-c. Built in the 1900's. Edward G. and Elizabeth Gebhard occupied this small cottage. Ed was a leatherworker for the Goldsmith Company in Cincinnati.

#39-c. Built in 1936. The Citizens Telephone Company purchased this property from the Buckner Family and built the first telephone exchange in the area to accommodate this rapidly growing communication link, Deed Book 250/294. However, some fifteen years later this exchange had to be abandoned for larger partners in Lakeside Park.

#40-c. Built in 1890. Robert J. and Addie Codey lived in this two story house. Jack Codey and some other citizens were instrumental in getting the charter for the Erlanger School District from the Kenton County School Superintendent.

#46-c. Built in 1889 it was the first schoolhouse for the Erlanger Public School System. In 1891 two brick additions were added to handle the increased enrollment. This building was used as a schoolhouse, meeting room and even a movie theatre until about 1909. It has served as a residence ever since. In the 1930's the John W. Taliaferro family lived in one side, while Edwin O. Victor occupied the other.



46 Erlanger Rd.

Progress has taken a number of the stately homes that were present in the 100 block of Erlanger Road back in the 1930's. The residencies of John C. and Effie Souther, #101; #107-John R. and Minnie Edgett; Wm. R. Shepherd family, #109; Fred Neal, #117; Thomas Allen, #125;

well-known attorney who became a state legislator in addition to holding various political offices in Erlanger.

GRAVES AVENUE:

GRAVES AVENUE: Named after Bartlett Graves, who is reported to be one of the first settlers in the area. There are a number of beautiful old buildings along this route.

#14- In the early 1930's August Wessling and Henry Wissman operated a blacksmith shop at this site. Dr. S.A. Hastings now operates a veterinary office at this location.

#22-Josephine Terrill and her mother, Hattie, a widow, lived at this brick residence in 1930.

#27-c. Built in 1904, Erlanger Christian Church – This church was organized with 34 charter members in 1901. The original stained glass windows were retained when the church was renovated in 1956. A new spire, which is visible from several blocks away, was completed in 1965. The congregation has continually sought the needs of their church and provided for the future.

#101-c. Built in 1929, this five bedroom two story brick house was built by Louis A. and Bertha Bentler. Louis was a druggist who operated a drug store in the Town Hall building.

#117-c. Built in 1924. James F. Whiteside, an engineer on the Southern RR lived here. Due to the large number of trees on the property, their grass had to be cut every other week.

#120-c. Built in the late 1890's, this typical early American structure was home to Leonard L. Childress. Mr. Childress delivered mail on horseback in the early days.

#124-c. Built in 1890, this stately brick home with the large columns was home to Carrie M. Thomas in 1930. Philip Taliaferro III now owns it.

#201-c. Built in 1929, Oscar L. Bungenstock, a plumber, built this one and a half story wood frame residence.

#208-c. Built in the 1890's, this old house is another example of one of the older homes that existed on the dirt road known as Graves Avenue back in the 1930's. Benjamin W. and Ida M. Cleek raised a daughter, Grace L. Cleek, here.

#211-c. Built in 1919, Everett B. and Jennie Yelton resided here in 1930. Jennie was a school teacher, while Everett was a salesman.

#312-c. Built in 1919.

#314-c. Built in 1917. In the 1930's this beautiful one and a half story, three bedroom, yellow brick house was home to the Oba Ratcliff family. Later on the well known W.R. Coe family moved from 110 Cowie Avenue, just around the corner, to this location and lived there for many happy years.

Other old houses along this route include:

#3212, (c. 1934); #3214, (c. 1925);

#3222, (c. 1939).

LOCUST STREET:

LOCUST STREET runs in a northward direction and probably derives its name from the abundance of locust trees originally present in the area. Two of the five cottages built by the Erlanger Land Syndicate were located on this street. One is located at #17 and the other at #21. Most of the older homes along this route are now single family units, with wood frame construction and creek stone/brick foundations. Typically the roofs were covered with shingles, however there are some metal roofs, e.g. #108. The first full time telephone operators are reported to have operated out of the location at #7 in the early 1920's.

#7-c. Built in the 1920's. A carpenter named Ben L. Rambler and his wife Pauline lived here in the 1930's.

#17-c. Built in 1899, one of the Erlanger Land Syndicate cottages. The Clarence Daily family resided at this location.

#21-c. Built in 1899, another Erlanger Land Syndicate cottage and home to Harry W. and Pearl Ryle.

#22-c. Built in the 1890's, this large wood frame house with a large front porch was home to Fenley J. and Mabel Fishback. Fenley was not only a carpenter but also the City Clerk for the town of Erlanger. The Edgar Riggs family occupied the other part of this large house. Mr. Riggs was part of the well-known Riggs Clan that lived around Erlanger. He was a hardware merchant.

#26- Home of Winfield S. Barton. Mr. Barton was Chairman of the Erlanger Board of Trustees from 1926-1929. Many of the Barton family still live in the area.

#101- This neat two story wood frame house was built in the early 1900's and was home to Joseph L. and Henrietta Mitchell. Joe was a butcher.

#104-c. Built in 1863, Fred and Theresa Ficke raised three girls in this house, Berniece, Kathryn and Regina.

#106-c. Built in 1924. The Ficke's neighbors, James and Kate Epperson also raised three girls, Anna, Clara and Lena.

#108-c. Built in 1854. One of the oldest houses on Locust Street. Note the metal roof, the wood siding, the large porch and big trees. In the 1930's it was home to Wilbur and Irma Roland.

#208-c. Built in 1925. Henry Schneider served in WWI, came home and married and moved to Erlanger with his new wife, Ethel, to raise a family. In 1993 Mr. Schneider, who was born in 1894, was honored as the oldest living resident and oldest living veteran. Henry liked to make wine in his spare time and he was a credit to the fermentation industry.

RESOURCES:

This listing of residents/residencies is certainly not all-inclusive for the Erlanger Proper Subdivision boundaries set back in 1890. It is only meant to give a broad picture of this historic area as it existed back in the 1930's period. For additional historic information see:

4. "From Buffalo Trails to the Twenty-first Century: A Centennial History of Erlanger, Kentucky" – Wayne Onkst, editor.
5. Kenton County Public Library, genealogy section.
6. Kenton County Court House Records, in both Covington and Independence.
7. Talk with Betty Bush and Dixie Viox.

KUDOS:

Lisa Hume-Administrative Assistant for the Erlanger Fire/EMS Department.

Jack Scheben-Researcher

Historical Society Committee for input and proofing.

Erlanger 1947 Zone Plan

