

1. Western Maryland Railroad Depot (315 Railroad Avenue) – Two-story brick Romanesque Revival style train station, with broad hip roof, large overhangs, and timber brackets built ca. 1908 by Western Maryland Railway Co. It played a pivotal role in Elkins as a hub for booming coal and lumber industries that founded the area.



2. Hotel Delmonte (316-318 Railroad Avenue) – Brick three-story simple Italianate style with flat roof built 1899 as a railroad hotel; the western section was completed first and housed The Old Inn Hotel and Restaurant. The Delmonte Hotel restaurant was a popular spot and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt is said to have dined here.

3. Hutton Building (17-19 Third Street) – Brick two-story Commercial style built around 1900. Owned by Elihu Hutton, at one time this was the Randolph County Bank of which he was President.

4. Wilt Building (23-27 Third Street, 301-303 Davis Avenue) – 1898 Second Empire four-story brick commercial building, it was originally the Elkins Opera House built to replace the previous 1892 venue destroyed by fire in 1897. It cost \$11,000 to build and seated 800. In 1907, temperance crusader Carrie Nation presented here.

5. Harvey Building (305-311 Davis Avenue) – Three-story brick Commercial built 1897 by Granville B. Harvey. It was constructed on the same spot as the previous Harvey Building that housed Elkins' first formal school, est. 1890 as a temporary one-room quarters.

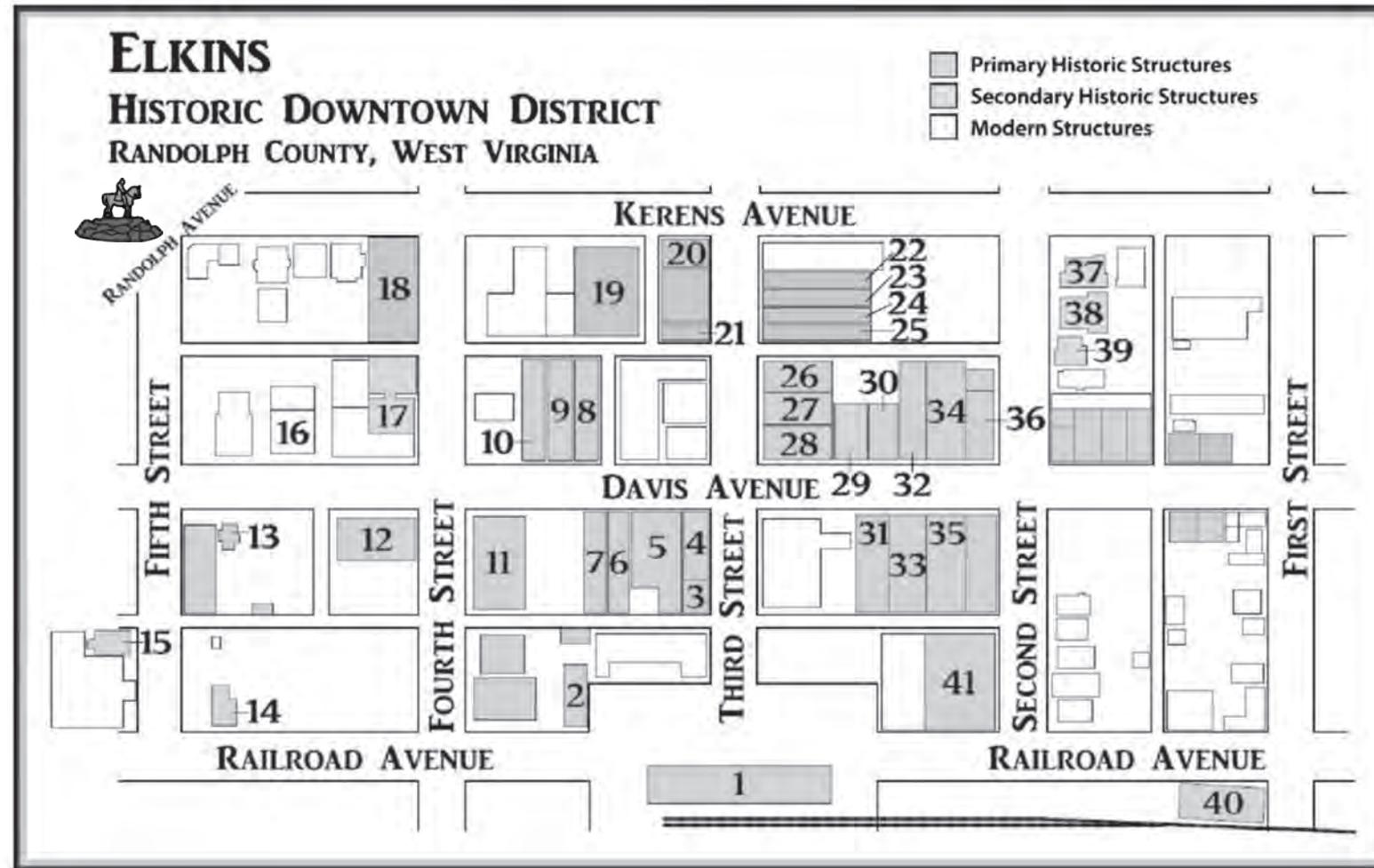
6. Elkins Cash Grocery Co. (313-315 Davis Avenue) – Rectangular three-story brick Commercial erected ca. 1903, it was once a post office. In 1919 it was bought by Elkins Cash Grocery Co. The Inter-Mountain paper acquired it in 1944 and published here for a while.

7. Mountain Valley Bank, N.A. (317 Davis Avenue) – Three-story brick Neo-Classical Revival erected 1913 for the People's National Bank. To survive during the depression they merged with Elkins National Bank. This is the oldest building still standing in town that has remained in continuous use as a bank since its construction.

8. Darden Block (314 Davis Avenue) – Three-story brick Italianate with large arched parapet built 1906 by Ralph Darden on site of an earlier Darden Co. structure. The second floor was once offices for Davis' coal mining operations. This is the only commercial building still standing in Elkins known to have a direct link with business concerns that helped found the town.

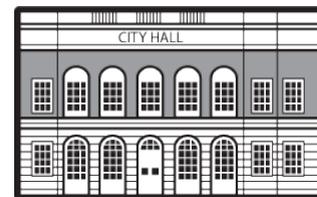
9. Brown Building (316 Davis Avenue) – Brick three-story Commercial Italianate with flat bracketed cornice erected 1906 by Paul F. Brown for his tailor business.

10. Stalnaker Block (318-320 Davis Avenue) – Three-story brick Commercial Romanesque Revival with third floor decorative cornice and arched windows. Erected by Mary Stalnaker and husband ca. 1901, it first housed King Brothers Saloon and a billiard parlor.



11. Elkins Garage Company (325-331 Davis Avenue) – Commercial style brick two-story built ca. 1915 by Elkins Garage Co. It is now home to The Old Brick Playhouse.

12. Elkins Post Office (401 Davis Avenue) – Neo-Classical Revival stone three-story built 1917, with second floor French doors and wrought iron railings. Now Elkins City Hall, this was the former Post Office and Federal Building for 50 years. It was later extended on the north end and across the rear, but the additions were designed to blend with the original and are nearly undetectable.



13. Ralph Darden House (421 Davis Avenue) – Less elaborate, Ornamental style 2 1/2-story brick Queen Anne with corner tower and pyramid roof. It was built in 1904 for merchant Ralph Darden who founded the Darden Company, a wholesale center. Now owned by the City and leased to Elkins Historic Landmarks Commission.

14. William Featherstone Building (422 Railroad Avenue) – Two-story L-shape with gable roof built ca. 1908, this is typical Elkins "boom town" wood frame architecture. It became the Black American Legion Post 76, chartered in 1930. Legion member and namesake William Featherstone, permanently handicapped in battle, was the first Black Elkins soldier to be wounded in WWI.

15. Shiloh Baptist Church (15 Fifth Street) – Built 1897 with support from Senator Davis, it's believed this traditional white frame church is one of the oldest churches standing in the county. It may also have been the first church solely created to serve the black community in Randolph County.

16. Elkins Randolph Public Library (416 Davis Avenue)

17. Elkins YMCA (400 Davis Avenue) – Three-story red brick institutional building constructed 1905-08 with a \$25,000 donation from Hallie Davis Elkins, wife of Sen. Elkins, daughter of Sen. Davis. It was one of the first organized in the state. The structure is substantially altered but still stands as a symbol of community life.

18. Bishop Apartments (115-125 Fourth Street) – 1915 Italianate style two-story brick row houses erected by Ray W. Bishop.

19. First United Methodist Church (315 Kerens Avenue) – Only brick Romanesque Revival church in Elkins, with two battlement towers and broad shallow gable roof, built 1904. Andrew Carnegie donated half the cost of the \$2,000 pipe organ. This congregation stems from Elkins' first church built 1850 for the Methodist faith.

20. Nathan Building (123-127 Third Street) – Three-story brick commercial Romanesque Revival built 1907 with elaborate metal cornice and entablature. In 1919, Benjamin Nathan sold it to the Fair Company. This is still one of the largest buildings downtown.

21. Family Drug Store (115 Third Street) – 1921 Italianate brick two-story commercial. It became the Family Drug Store ca. 1930-40, staying here over 50 years. It may have once housed a theater.

22. Parmesano Building (122 Third Street) – Erected 1899 for native Italian shoemaker Vincent Parmesano who operated a fruit and confectionary business. Along with the gray and yellow brick, metal cornice, and polygonal bay, this Italianate two-story once had a full cast-iron storefront and large first-floor metal pediment.



23. Poling Building (120 Third Street) – Two-story brick Commercial built ca. 1900, it stayed in the Poling family until 1951. It's thought to be the location of '89er M.M. Smith's Ladies Furnishings & Dry Goods store in the early 1900s.

24. Wimer Building (116 Third Street) – Italianate two-story brick structure built 1900 by '89er Charles H. Wimer who operated a barbershop here in 1902. He also started Elkins' first taxi service.

25. Brandley Building (114 Third Street) – Italianate two-story commercial building, erected 1894 by contractor John T. Ward for Swiss-born jeweler/watchmaker and 1903 Mayor, Arnold Brandley.

26. W.T. Grant Building (108-112 Third Street) – Italianate two-story brick commercial built ca. 1928 for A.E. Dann who owned two adjoining buildings. The original structure was one-story with the second story erected a year later and occupied by W.T. Grant Co.

27. Elkins Hardware & Furniture Co. (104-106 Third Street) – Commercial brick two-story built 1897 by W.H. Dann as identical to the adjoining westward building. By 1939 it was home to Kroger.

28. Dann Building (100-102 Third Street) – Large Commercial two-story brick erected ca. 1897 by W.H. Dann and H.R. Warfield for their clothing and dry goods store, Dann & Warfield.

29. Starr Hotel (224 Davis Avenue) – Romanesque Revival three-story commercial built by Dann and Warfield ca. 1900, it had five round-arched openings of which one remains as a breezeway. Once named the Kennedy Building, C.W. Kennedy had his Starr Hotel and Restaurant here in 1901, boasting 16 bedrooms comfortably furnished with hot and cold baths, available at a price of \$1.50 a night. It was later J.W. Poling's City Hotel and Restaurant.

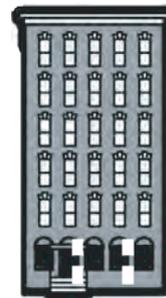
30. McHale Building (216-222 Davis Avenue) – Commercial three-story brick business block accented with floral motif roofline inscribed "McHale." Built 1905 by Irish stonemason Edward McHale, it held a clothing store and Singer sewing machine shop.

31. Cain Building (209 Davis Avenue) – Commercial style rectangular brick three-story erected 1923 by James and Marie Cain who owned it for over 50 years. One of the first occupants was Citizens National Bank who first opened their doors here in 1924.

32. Moyle Building (210-214 Davis Avenue) – Three-story brick Commercial with molded metal cornice edged with foliated brackets between garland-embossed panels, erected for D.V. Moyle in 1906. One section was a movie theater with a recessed arched entrance, while the other constantly held a barbershop since its construction.

33. Grand Theater (205 Davis Avenue) – Masonry two-story erected 1909 as one of the first movie theaters in Elkins.

It was the largest of four theaters ca. 1905-1910 and the longest-lived, continuing to operate for almost 70 years. It was also known as Roosevelt Theater and the Manos.



34. Tygart Hotel (206-208 Davis Avenue) – 1906 Romanesque Revival brick hotel with arcaded first floor, its seven stories are known as Elkins' only skyscraper. Gassaway Hotel operated here until 1923 when sold and renamed. In the '70s it was converted to apartments and the first floor façade was altered but it retains much of its architectural integrity. It is located on part of the "Public Square Block" set aside by Davis in the town's original layout.

35. Bonner Building (203 Davis Avenue) – Late 1930s Commercial two-story brick constructed as an infill. It was once Fred Bonner's Restaurant & Billiard Room with second floor sleeping rooms.

36. Kendall Building (200-204 Davis Avenue) – Italianate three-story with bracketed cornice and paneled brick façade, erected for M.A. Kendall who came to Elkins in 1891 and bought the property in 1901. He opened Kendall Furniture Co., Z. Kendall & Son firm, and a funeral home here with a bowling alley in the same section. The rear of the building was a warehouse and later the Traveler's Hotel.

37. Cecil Gross House (122 Second Street) – 1906 brick home of lumber dealer, Cecil Gross, featuring varied window treatments.

38. Lee Crouch House (120 Second Street) – Brick home built ca. 1910-23 for Councilman Crouch, cashier of Elkins National Bank.

39. Dr. J.C. Irons House (116 Second Street) – 1890 wood frame home owned by Elkins' first Mayor, featuring German siding, gabled roof, and decorative sawn work window heads.



40. Elkins Milling Company (101 Railroad Avenue) – Constructed in 1902 for Elkins Milling Co. and directed by Ralph Darden, it was aptly known as Darden's Mill.

41. The Randolph Company (200-210 Railroad Avenue) – Built ca. 1900 as three separate buildings for the Randolph Co., a grocery and building supply wholesaler. It was a model of warehouse design, with elevators and private switches to the main railroad tracks.

A Brief History of Elkins...

The downtown Elkins you see today is only about 120 years old. Well into the late 19th century, Randolph County remained primarily agricultural, with a few small towns and family farms in the valleys and vast virgin forests covering the mountains.

This area first caught the eye of railroad entrepreneurs Henry Gassaway Davis and Stephen Benton Elkins on an excursion with their families in the mid-1880s. Senator Davis realized that a potential fortune in timber and coal lay in central West Virginia, but could not be extracted without a railroad. The Tygarts Valley near the small community of Leadsville offered a suitable place for the main hub of such a rail line. Davis soon began extension of the West Virginia Central and Pittsburg Railway into the heart of the state.

Elkins was a planned city, laid out from the very beginning as a railroad community. The majority of the downtown, including the old rail yard, is located upon a 163 acre tract bought by Davis from Bernard Hinkle in 1888. By 1889, Davis and Elkins had formally laid out the city, and autumn of that year marked the arrival of the rail lines. In 1890, less than five years since their first venture into the area, the city of Elkins was incorporated.

Development thrived, feeding off the energy and economy of the railroad. The earliest businessmen to show up on the scene were known as the "Eighty-niners," named for the year they ventured to the newly-founded city. These men built the majority of the early commercial buildings in the downtown area. They were also the first to open businesses and the first to fill early government offices.

A devastating fire on March 17, 1897 wiped out most of the original business district. The fire probably started in an upstairs room above the Elkins Furniture & Hardware Store on Davis Avenue and caused losses amounting to some \$85,000. This fire forever changed the face of the Elkins downtown district. Building owners learned from the disaster, and rebuilt in brick and stone what had been wood-frame structures before the fire. Most downtown structures today postdate the March 1897 fire. One positive outcome from this fire was the organization of the first fire department in Elkins.

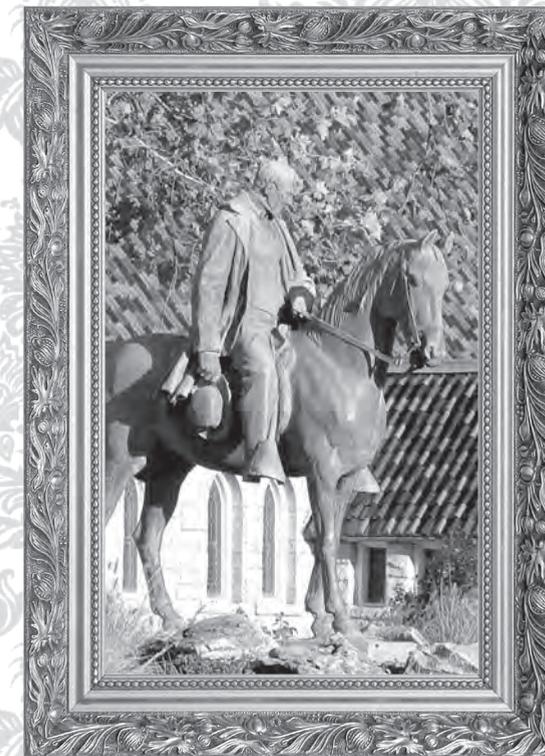
The population of the boomtown of Elkins grew quickly. Community leaders agitated for Elkins to become the county seat, replacing the much older but now much smaller Town of Beverly. After a series of elections, and a near-battle, a court ruling settled the issue in Elkins' favor, and the seat of county government was moved.

Elkins continued to grow over the next few decades and became a center of commerce and culture. Development was booming, and from 1900 to 1920 – the most prolific construction period of Elkins' history – most of the houses and business blocks you see now were built. Workers, managers, and merchants making a living from the railroad established residential and commercial areas in the new town.

To this day, Elkins continues to shine as the business and cultural hub of Randolph County. When the mainline railroad moved out, community leaders moved forward to rebuild the rail yard and downtown economy based on tourism and small businesses. While the purposes of some buildings have changed, walking through downtown will still give you a glimpse of what life used to be like in this industrial city and how, over 100 years later, social, cultural, and commercial scenes are alive and thriving in a new age.



Historic Elkins



Walking Tour

A Self-Guided Tour of the Historic Downtown District

This brochure is sponsored by:

- Elkins Depot Welcome Center
- City of Elkins
- Elkins Main Street
- Appalachian Forest Heritage Area

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