

WALKING TOUR DOWNTOWN BELOIT

Please respect private property locations as you tour.

#1 VFW – 102 South

This building was constructed in the 1880s. It currently serves as the Post Home of the Beloit VFW Club. The west outside wall displayed the craftsmanship that went into the post rock limestone buildings early in Beloit’s history.

#2 Waconda Trader – 221 South Mill

The first business building built in Beloit. When completed in 1871 the first floor became a general store while the second floor served as a church, public meeting hall, and a residence for the owner, Mr. Williams.

#3 Beloit Plumbing – Exposed post rock limestone wall.

#4 Guaranty State Bank – 201 South Mill

This bank was built in downtown Beloit in 1958 and added to in 1972. The distinctive pink stone was quarried by Clarence Mehl at a quarry on his farm. A series of bronze plaques on the outside of the bank depict pioneer life in Mitchell County.

#5 The Laundry Basket – 200 South Mill

This building currently houses the city’s only laundromat. The exposed wall shows how the walls were constructed.

#6 South Side Masonic Lodge

The Masonic Lodge has its home on the second floor of this building. You can see the unique iron pull-down staircase.



#7 North Side of the former Kettle – 100 South Mill

The building showcases porthole windows at street level and arched window at the top.

#8 South Side Adoratio Foundation Building – Mill and Main

The last business to reside in this building was Carol Fleming’s Joint Effort hair salon. Built in the 1880s, the structure was home to numerous businesses over the years. The south wall of the building displays the intricate craftsmanship necessary to building such a structure.

#9 Woods and Durham – 201 South Mill – Exposed wall

#10 Municipal Building – 119 North Hersey

Another exhibition of post rock architecture.



#11 South Face of Beloit Motors – When the business recently changed hands, the metal store front was removed, exposing the limestone face of the building.

#12 Courthouse – 111 South Hersey

Fencepost limestone blocks were quarried from all parts of Mitchell County to build the county courthouse. Mitchell County was given official status by the State of Kansas in 1871. Work on the current courthouse was started in 1900 and in November of 1901 the building was dedicated.



#13 Three Hearts House

Built by Beloit’s first banker, Frank Heart. It took five years to complete and was finished in 1884. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



#14 Presbyterian Church – 321 East Main

A historic highlight of Beloit’s First Presbyterian Church is its church bell and tower. The church obtained one of only six replica Liberty Bell bells cast for the 1876 United States Centennial. That bell can be seen from the church grounds and still rings beautifully.

The church’s construction began in the spring of 1877; the first sermon was delivered in the new building in August, 1878 and was dedicated for service on December 1, 1878.

#15 St. John’s Church – 701 East Main (3 ½ blocks east of Courthouse)

St. John’s was built over a three year period and was completed in 1901. Its distinguishing characteristics are its two 100 foot high towers. When completed, the church was one of the larger places of worship west of the Mississippi.

#16 Beloit Train Depot

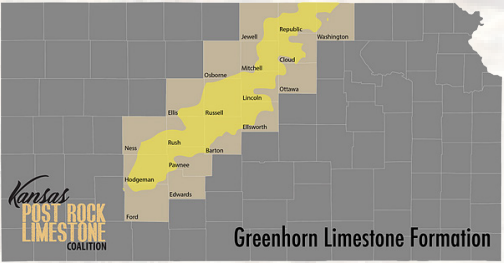
The Missouri Pacific train depot was built in 1911. It was the hub of activity in Beloit for freight service. Merchants and citizens would order merchandise through catalogues and it would be delivered by train to the depot where it was off loaded. Eventually train service gave way to motor transport as the main way of delivery of goods to Beloit.

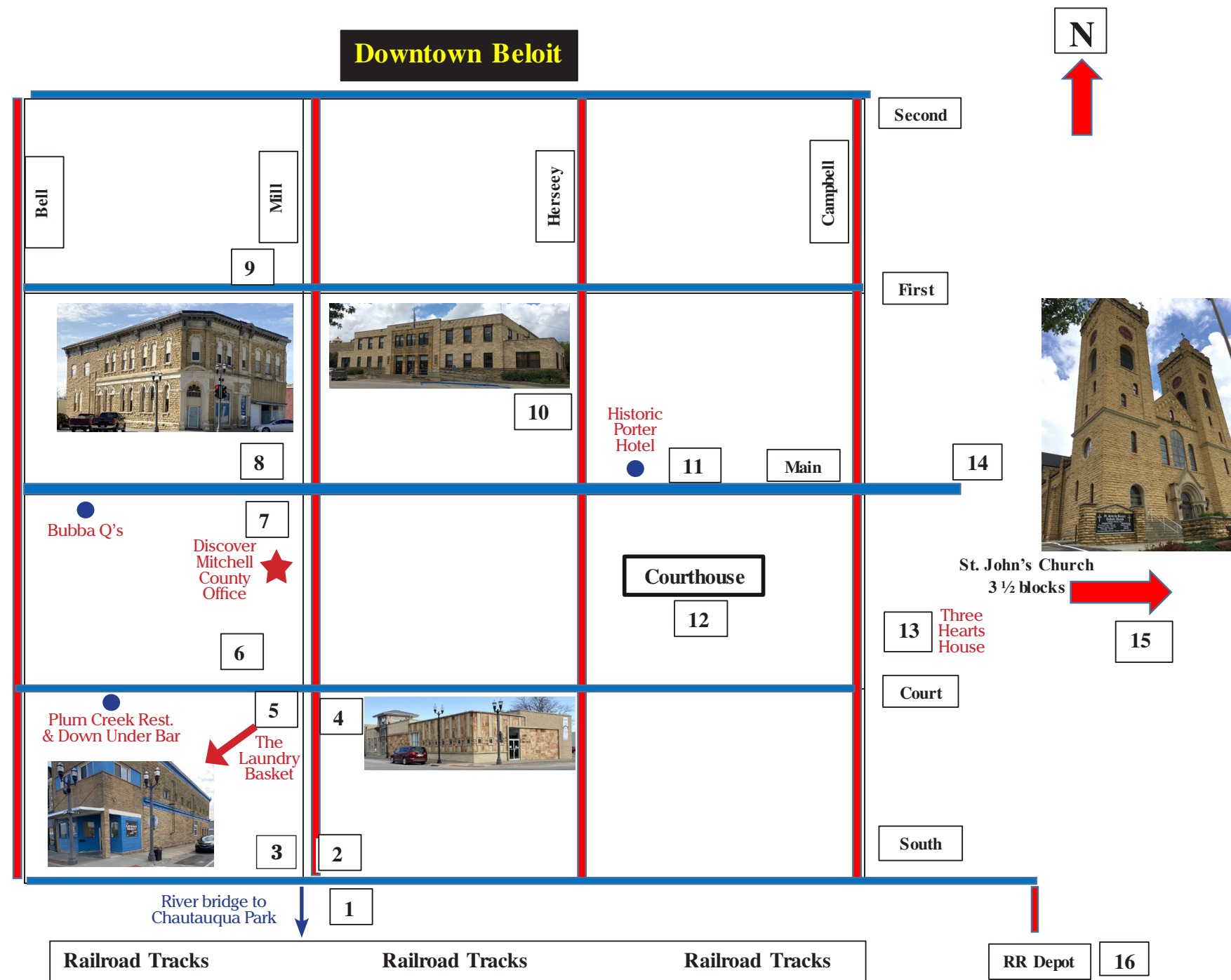
Walking Tour Downtown Beloit

Featuring Multiple Limestone Buildings

“Through determination, ingenuity, and skill, the early settlers of northcentral Kansas used a natural mineral resource -- *a ledge of limestone* -- so effectively that it became one of the keys to the area’s development.”

Land of the Post Rock by Grace Muilenburg and Ada Swineford





Map and historical information provided by Terry Bailey (updated 10-5-22)

"Post rock played a vital role as the central Kansas upland evolved from a treeless grassland—a favored hunting ground for American Plains Indians and an open range coveted by early cattlemen—to an area of cultivated farms. The homestead movement after the Civil War brought settlers to the area. Obligated to find a substitute for post timber, they began turning back the sod and splitting posts from the rock layer that for hundreds of centuries had lain dormant. In the 1870's the stone became a central factor in the development of that segment of the plains, as dug-outs and sod houses gave way to substantial dwellings constructed of stone."

Land of the Post Rock,
by Grace Muilenburg & Ada Swineford

Find More FUN
at the link below!



www.discovermitchellcounty.com



Perdue House, additional limestone house
located at 422 W 8th St., Beloit