

Over 100 hundred years of Abilene’s growth is represented along North Buckeye, NW Third and N Vine Streets. The attitudes, styles and economy of the community are represented in the architecture found along the route covered in this guide.

A The Union Pacific’s passenger and freight depots, located at **201 NW Second Street**, were built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style in 1928, replacing the earlier Henry House Depot and Hotel (later called the Stanton House). Both are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The passenger depot serves the community as the Visitor Information Center, as a Civic Center, and also houses the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

B **214 N Walnut** was built in 1880 by John E. Johntz, early Abilene mayor, banker, owned a coal and lumber company. Mrs. Johntz was a sister to C.H. Lebold. The late Victorian era Italian Villa was one of the first houses of its size and significance to be built in Abilene. The home is listed in the **National Register of Historic Places**.

C-F **607 NW Third** was built in 1885 in the Queen Anne Style. It was purchased & enlarged in 1893 by Charles Harger, publisher of the Abilene Chronicle, and was remodeled in then popular Colonial Revival style in 1927. **611 NW Third** was built in 1886 by F.L. Parker, grain and coal dealer. **615 NW Third** was built in the Gothic Revival style in 1879 by A.W. Rice, early Abilene mayor, wholesale grocer and lumber company owner. The small Gothic Revival brick cottage at **619 NW Third** was built in 1877 by T.C. McInerney, early Texas Street boot maker.

G The Vine Street neighborhood is anchored by **106 N Vine**, Italianate Mansardic home built in 1880 by C.H. Lebold, banker, entrepreneur, and Mayor of Abilene. The house is built on the site of town founder Timothy Hersey’s dugout, which served as a stop on the Butterfield-Overland Stagecoach line. Mrs. Hersey gave Abilene its name, which she selected from Luke 3:1, the word meaning literally “City of the Plains.” Eliza also

gave birth to the 1st white child, Sylvia on April 27, 1859. The house has had a colorful and varied history, having served as an orphanage, a home for single female telephone operators, and as seventeen apartments before being restored to its present condition. The 23 room home is listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**.

H-I **813 NW Third** was built as an Italianate in 1886 by attorney Clarence F. Mead. The 1907 the large front porch was added, in 1924 the home was extensively remodeled. The Queen Anne at **821 NW Third** was built in 1895 by Dr. Harry B. Felty for his bride. It has many of the features that have made the style endearing through the years.

J-K **911 NW Third** was built by M.H. Hewett in 1887 and purchased in 1891 by Florence Taylor, the daughter of John “Jackie” Taylor, one of the wealthiest men in Dickinson County at the time. The home was restored to its present condition after serving as an apartment house for over thirty years. The Queen Anne home at **913 NW Third** was built in 1886 by Theo Mosher, a cashier at the First National Bank, also the same year that electricity came to Abilene.

L **820 NW Third** was built in 1887 by Dr. E. Hazlett, whose son, “Swede was a close lifelong friend of President Eisenhower. Hazlett was influential in persuading Eisenhower to apply for West Point. Now Abilene’s Victorian Inn Bed and Breakfast. Is now listed on the **Historic Register of Kansas Places**.

M-N A Queen Anne located at **316 N Vine**, built in the 1880’s by I.S. Hallam, owner of the Farmers Lumber Company. The home of attorney and land agent Hiland Southworth at **320 N Vine** was built in 1885. **D-P** **309 N Vine** built in 1909 by D.B. Landes, second generation partner in Shockey and Landes store. Other architectural styles represented on Vine Street are a very fine Craftsman bungalow at **307 N Vine** was built by John Johntz’s son, John Edward.

Q **600 NW Third** was built in 1886 by Christian Johntz, brother of John. Christian’s bride Alice had been a maid in the John Johntz home, and was determined to have a home that was equal to that of her former employer.

R-S **300 N Mulberry** was built in 1876 as a brick church and was damaged by a tornado in 1881. The Victorian Romanesque, was built in its’ place by the congregation. In 2008, Great Plains Theatre Foundation was created and the building was purchased from Terry Tietjens. Abilene’s first telephone was installed in the home of J. E. Bonebrake, **316 N Mulberry**, in 1879. Bonebrake, who made a fortune selling machinery and hardware to wheat farmers, established the Abilene Water Works and built the Bonebrake Opera House, a 700 seat theater.

T-U **418 NW 5th** was built in 1886 and was nicknamed “The Showboat” because it looks like a riverboat. Mr. Brewer started his career as an errand boy in a grocery store and worked his way up to become one of the city’s leading merchants and served as state senator. **412 NW 5th** was built in 1884 by Ephraim F. Parent on the north side of this Queen Anne style home still shows the marred wood from the roaming longhorn steers. Their daughter had the first wooden tricycle in town.

V-W **400 N Cedar** is the brick house built in 1877 by D.R. Gordon, Abilene’s first railroad station agent & first telegraph operator. He built the first grain elevator in the city. The Gothic style Lutheran Church at the corner of **320 N Cedar Street** was built in 1878.

X **800 N Buckeye** was built in 1887 by T.H. Mallott, president of the Citizen’s Bank. The home was bought in 1915 by C.L. Brown, of the United Telephone Company. At one time, Brown employed 300 people in Abilene. The surrounding Spanish Revival houses were built for members of Brown’s family and executives. C.L. Brown also built a 250 acre amusement park, which was free to the public.

Y **902 N Buckeye** was built in 1887 by A. Fry, using the same mail order plans as 906. Although the home was built in the same Queen Anne style, it’s trimmed out differently to suit the builder’s taste. Some of the elements of that style have been replaced over the years with plainer features.

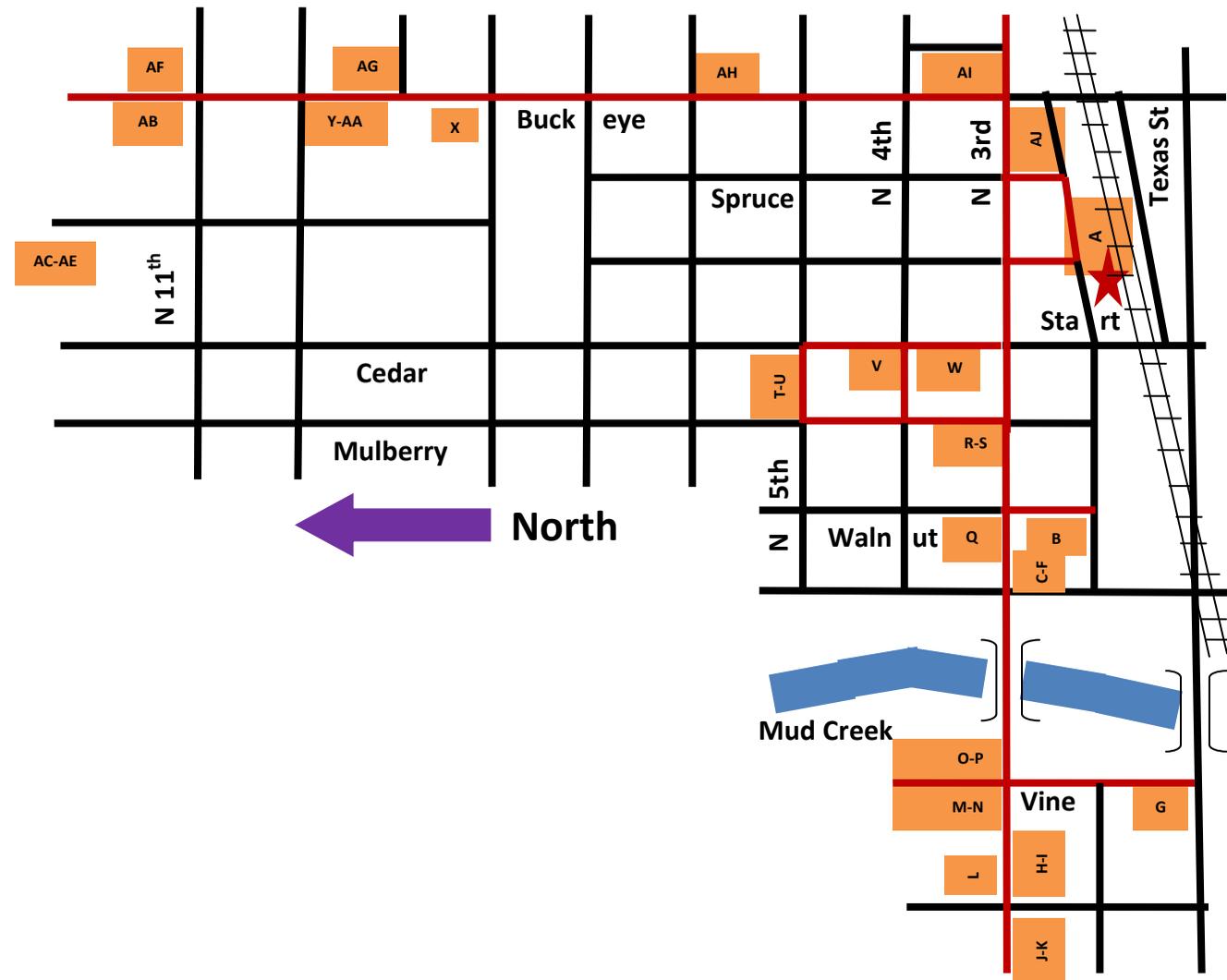
Z **904 N Buckeye** was built in 1890 by Ed Humphrey and was later purchased by Jacob Brown, proprietor of Abilene’s electric light and telephone company. **AA** **906 N Buckeye** was built in 1899 by W.H. Hoon an early Abilene haberdasher. The Queen Anne house features stylish Eastlake trim, and was built from a mail-order plan.

AB **1100 N Buckeye** was built in 1908 by John Flack in the classic Prairie Style. The structure represents the return to simpler styles after the excesses of the Victorian era. Flack, a vice President and cashier of the Abilene State Bank, fled town after embezzling \$80,000 from the bank. He was tracked down by Pinkerton detectives, who found him operating a popcorn stand in New York City. Flack served time in Lansing prison for his crime.

AC-AE **1202, 1204, and 1206 N Buckeye** were built on large lots set far back from the street. They represent three different time periods as a result of the subdivision of the original large lot.

1202 Buckeye was built in the Colonial Revival style in 1924 by Everett Shockey, a second generation partner in Shockey & Landes. **1204 Buckeye**, featuring a towered mansard roof, was built in 1878 by John W. Birchmore, an early Episcopal priest. The Second Empire brick home was later purchased by Walter D. Nichols, a local insurance agent who served as mayor of Abilene from 1912 to 1924. The Colonial Revival home at **1206 Buckeye** features a unique picturesque window on the front gable. The house was built in 1912 by Herbert M. Howard, Nichols’ son-in-law and partner in the Nichols Insurance Company.

Abilene Walking Tour



Abilene Tour Route

Welcome to Abilene, Kansas, the town that raised a president! We are proud of our local architecture and invite you to take a closer look. Abilene was founded in the 1857 during the westward expansion. It sprang up out of the prairie as the original Kansas Cowtown, and later flourished with an agricultural economy.

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AF The imposing Georgian mansion at **1105 N Buckeye** was built in 1905 by Dr. A.B. Seelye, a patent medicine entrepreneur who maintained a laboratory and operated the Seelye Opera House in downtown Abilene. The house was listed on the **National Register of Historic Places** after being restored by its present owner.

AG The east side of the **900 block of N Buckeye** consists of several houses built in the 1920's, primarily by executives of the Duckwall Co. The block retains a strong identity and contrasts nicely with the row of Victorian era structures across the street.

AH **6th & Buckeye - St. John's Episcopal Church** was built in 1883 as a small wooden structure. In 1939, the entire building was encased in stone and some wings were added on to look as it does today. The "Church within a Church" is listed in Ripley's Believe It or Not.

AI The five-section brick business block located at the corner of **Third & Buckeye** was built in 1885 by local entrepreneurs. The buildings have served the Abilene community as retail businesses since that time. The RHV (Real Honest Values!) Hardware store has been located on this corner for over sixty years.

AJ The Post Office Block at the corner of **NW Third & N Buckeye** was built in 1885. The block housed the Post Office, a tobacco shop, jewelry store, dry goods store, furniture store, druggist and the Kansas Farm Mortgage Co., all under one unifying roof. Now it houses Patterson's Pharmacy and Steinhauser's Hallmark.