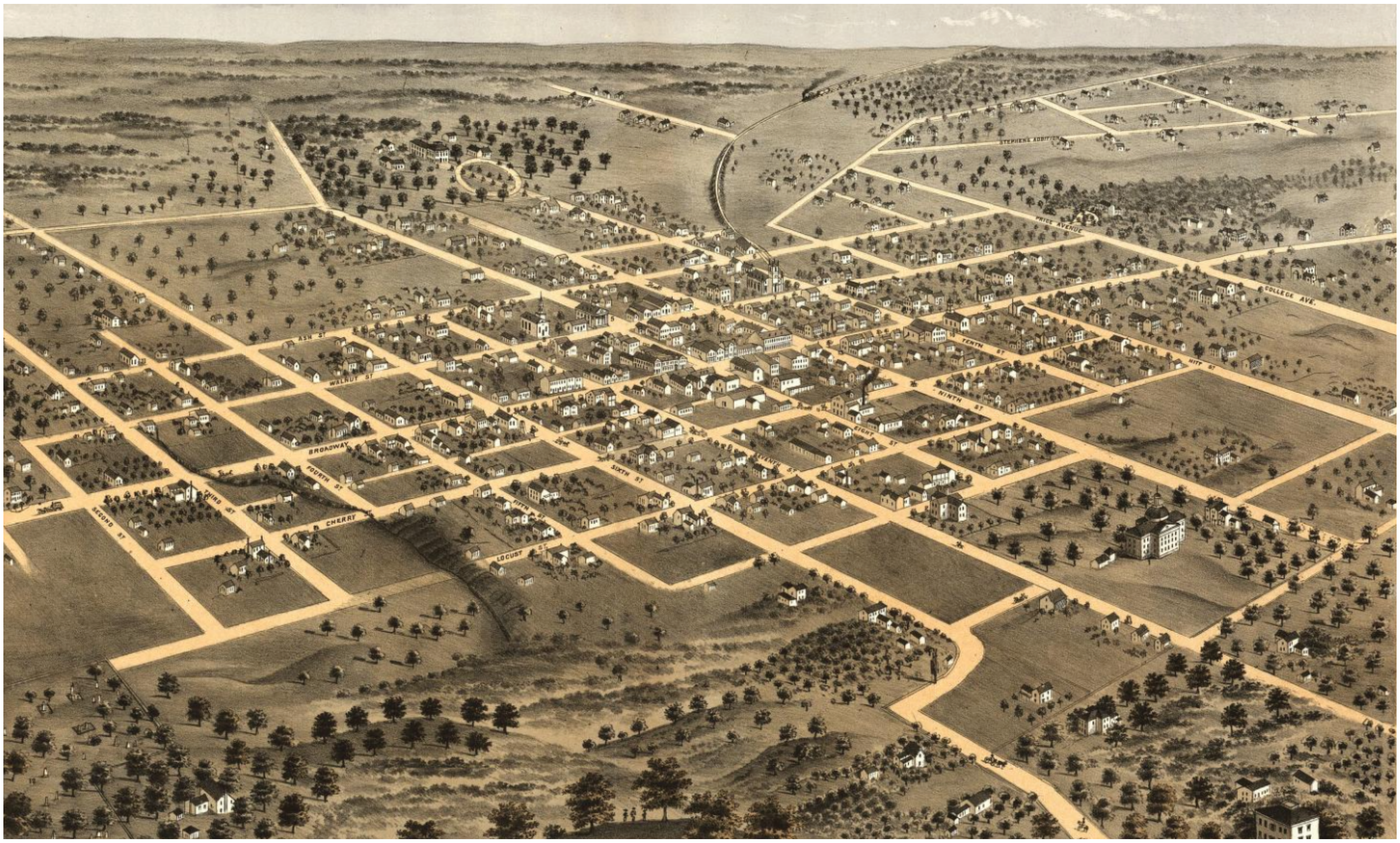

[Bird's Eye View of the City of Columbia, Boone Co., Missouri, A. Ruger, 1869]

History of Columbia

Columbia began with an idea. Its founders were Americans, White and Black, who in the early 1800s relocated into a region of central Missouri known as "The Boonslick". The city was founded in 1821 to serve as the county seat of Boone County but its cultural origins are much older. Early Columbians came from the East, overwhelmingly Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. They brought with them the cultural practices and architecture of the early United States, which in turn had their origins in Europe (England) and West Africa.

In Missouri, the Americans absorbed and eventually greatly outnumbered the French who were the first Old World people to explore and reside in Missouri. Arriving in the 1600s the French sought natural resources like fur and lead. In the 1700s they made permanent settlements along the Mississippi River to facilitate this trade, including St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve. The Missouri River valley and central Missouri remained largely the domain of Indigenous Americans and although French traders and missionaries traveled along the river, they made no permanent settlement in Boone County. The most noticeable legacy of the French is in place names, often translations (or mistranslations) of indigenous place names. The Roche Percée (Perche) and Bonne Femme Creeks are well-known examples.

There is evidence in Boone County of human occupation spanning from the present day back to the PaleoIndian period, roughly 10,000 B.C.E. which is the oldest widely accepted period of human occupation in North America, although that date is now being revised much further back. At the time of European contact, the Indigenous People of central Missouri were the Osage (𐓷𐓘𐓻𐓘𐓻𐓟 𐓨𐓣𐓤𐓘𐓮𐓣) and the Missouria (Nutachi) nations, who spoke Siouan languages typically associated with the Great Plains. To our East was the Illinois Confederacy whose Algonquian

[Mo-Hon-Go (Sacred Sun), Osage woman & child. (SHSMO, Image Collection, 021180)]

languages are associated with the forest and coastal regions of the Eastern United States and Canada. Of course that is a simplification. By the time Europeans arrived in Missouri the Indigenous population had already been disrupted by pandemics and population displacement from the East Coast.

The Osage were a powerful and populous tribe who commanded the respect of Europeans. They were among the tallest tribes in North America, controlling a vast area of what is now Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas. It is likely that all these nations have ties to the city we now call Cahokia (near present day St. Louis) that reached its peak around 1100 C.E. A multicultural metropolis, Cahokia was the most populous Indigenous American city to develop in what would later become the United States. During the decline of the Cahokian Mississippian Culture in the 1300s, the late woodland people of central Missouri became associated with the Oneita Culture who became the historical Ioways, Otoes, Missourias, Kaws, Poncas, and possibly the Osage.

[Missouria Village, Utz archaeological site. mural Missouri DNR.]

["Missouria Indian, Oto Indian, Chief of the Puncas," Karl Bodmer, (1840)]

Local Indigenous Populations

Locally, in Columbia and Boone County, archeology demonstrates our greatest indigenous presence was during Late Woodland Period 500-1000 C.E, a time notable for the introduction of the bow and arrow. Many of our burial mounds and village sites date from this period. Typical is the Perche Creek burial mound in West Columbia. Some sites, like the Gordon Tract Archeological Site in Stephens Lake Park include evidence of seasonal villages, resource extraction, tool manufacturing, and of course burial mounds. It is possible, if not probable, that our Late Woodland people moved away to participate in the rise of Cahokia, whose sphere of influence extended into central Missouri.

Notably, there are more documented Indigenous burial mounds in Boone County than any other county in Missouri, partially because of selection bias, as the location of the University of Missouri we've had more eyes and archeologists looking, but they also represent a true concentration of Indigenous population drawing to the river and resources of the area. After more than 10,000 years of continuous occupation the Indigenous People were largely forced out of Missouri in 1830 with the passage of the Indian Removal Act, although some, mostly those who could pass as White, usually of mixed parentage, stayed in Missouri. In 1839, the Missouri Legislature made it illegal for an Indigenous person to be in Missouri without the written permission of a U.S. Indian Agent. In 2026 there are over 30,000 Missourians with indigenous ancestry. When Columbia was founded in 1821, the US did not have title to land North of the Missouri River. While the Osages had ceded it in 1808, it was not legally theirs to cede. The Ioways and Sacs and Foxes ceded Boone County and the rest of northern Missouri in 1824.

["Daniel Boone Escorting Settlers Through the Cumberland Gap," Painting by George Caleb Bingham, 1852].

Pioneers & the Boonslick Region

Central Missouri was attractive to American immigrants for many of the same reasons it was attractive to indigenous people; it is a region that straddles the great ecological divide of North America: the wet Eastern Forest and the arid Western grasslands providing access to the natural resources of both. The area was "well-watered", not only by the mighty Missouri River and tributaries but by an abundant number of springs associated with our karst bedrock. Some of these springs, such as the one in Saline County known as Boone's Lick, were salty enough to manufacture salt for human use.

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 added Missouri to the young United States and the report of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806) fired American imaginations of the land West of the Mississippi. The sons of American pioneer Daniel Boone traveled up the Missouri River in 1806 to manufacture salt at the spring which would afterward bear their name. The Boone's Lick spring then lent its name to the wider Boonslick region.

The sons of Daniel Boone were soon followed by fellow Kentuckians who moved into the region before the federal government was comfortable with the idea. They hoped to secure choice land for farming and town sites. During the War of 1812 between Great Britain and the United States these early squatters were forced into small domestic forts along the Missouri River in Howard and Cooper counties, surviving attacks from (and sometimes attacking) British-allied Native Americans. One of these small forts, Head's Fort, was located on the Moniteau Creek about a mile North of present day Rocheport. In 1816, when news reached central Missouri of the war's end, occupants of Head's Fort crossed the Moniteau

and founded Lexington on Thrall's Prairie, the first American settlement in the future Boone County. They would soon be followed by many more.

With the newfound safety and a desire for new fertile land, American immigrants came on foot, horseback, and wagon, often moving entire households along the Boone's Lick Road, including enslaved African Americans. The Boonslick Region was booming and its unofficial capital was the Town of Franklin in the Missouri River bottoms just North of Boonville. By 1818 it was clear that the increased population would necessitate a new county be created from territorial Howard County. The Mouniteau Creek on the west and Cedar Creek on the east were obvious natural boundaries for a new county.

Founding of Smithton & Columbia

Believing it was only a matter of time before a county seat was chosen a group of land speculators and pioneers formed a group known as the Smithton Company, purchasing over 2,000 acres (8.1 km²) at a government land auction and founding the Village of Smithton near the present-day intersection of Walnut and Garth.

By 1819 Smithton was a small cluster of log cabins in an ancient forest of oak and hickory; chief among them was the cabin of Richard and Ann Gentry, a trustee of the Smithton Company who would become first Mayor of Columbia. In 1820 Boone County was formed and named after the recently deceased explorer Daniel Boone. The Missouri Legislature appointed John Gray,

[Richard Gentry, portrait by George Caleb Bingham 1837]

Jefferson Fulcher, Absalom Hicks, Lawrence Bass, and David Jackson as commissioners to select and establish a permanent county seat. Smithton never had more than twenty people and lasted less than two years. It was quickly realized that water well digging was difficult because of the bedrock. Freshwater springs were discovered across the Flat Branch Creek, so in the Spring of 1821 Columbia was laid off and the inhabitants of Smithton moved their cabins to the new town. They renamed the settlement Columbia—a poetic personification of the United States. Columbia's permanence was ensured when it was chosen as county seat and the Boone's Lick Road, which had previously traversed Northern Boone County, was rerouted down Broadway.

[Collins Log Cabin, (undated), SHSMO Postcard Collection]

["Greenwood Heights," undated HABS Photo]

[Boone County Courthouse, (c. 1900), SHSMO Postcard Collection]

Architecture on the Frontier

Although the first simple architecture of the frontier was the log cabin, more substantial structures were planned from the beginning. Columbia thrived on the Westward passage of Americans, many of whom settled in Missouri. They required more permanent frame and brick buildings and soon Columbia had a frame courthouse, and several red brick homes. The first structures were in an American vernacular architecture common to the Upland South, but the wealthier inhabitants preferred what we now call the Federal-style of American architecture. The wood for these structures was harvested from the old growth forest that originally covered the Columbia area: Oak, Hickory, and Maple. Trees used not just for homes but also for fuel, furniture, wagons, and tools. There were other trees in the old forest and they lent their names to Columbia's first East-West streets: Ash, Walnut, Locust, Cherry, and Elm.

Our rich local clay deposits were collected and fired into the red bricks that still fortify our oldest buildings. Columbia would continue to support local brick making into the 1900s. At first the resources in The Boonslick were plentiful, hunters found deer, bear, beaver, racoon, even bison in the early days. Saltpeter was mined from bat guano in caves to manufacture gunpowder and soon it was discovered that under all of Northern Boone County lay a thick stratum of coal. The coal was easily collected from the surface where exposed, but the easy spots were soon exhausted and open air pits dug, then mine shafts, especially along Hinkson Creek.

[Academic Hall, Betty Brooks Photogrpah Collection, c. 1870, SHSMO, P0440, 016467-3]

Educational Institutions

Columbia was growing rapidly and education was deeply valued by its first citizens. From the time of Smithton they had included ambitious plans to secure the state university. The newly created Missouri State Legislature was dragging its feet, preoccupied with other issues of new statehood. Columbia did not wait. We founded Columbia College in 1831 for the education of men [Note: This is not the same institution as today's]. In 1833 the Columbia Female Academy was founded for the education of women. In 1839 James Sidney Rollins, a young lawyer and state congressman from Boone County, would lead the charge to gain Columbia the state university. Rollins donated a sizable portion of his own farm to the cause and beat five other central Missouri counties for the honor. The old Columbia College was transformed into the University of Missouri while the great work of constructing a building fit for a University began in 1940.

The cornerstone of Academic Hall was laid in 1840, just South of town, beyond the end of 8th Street. It was designed by architect Stephens Hills who also designed the first Missouri and Pennsylvania state capitols. The building was huge by frontier standards and included six Ionic columns and a great dome, both typical of the Federal-style of American architecture, a style influenced by Thomas Jefferson who consciously chose Classical designs from Ancient Greece and Rome to indicate the rebirth of Democracy and Republicanism. In 1847 William Jewell, Columbia's second mayor, aligned the Doric columns of the Boone County Courthouse with the columns of Academic Hall, turning 8th Street into what we now call The Avenue of the Columns.

The first President of the University of Missouri was unusual; a Yankee from New England. His capable hands laid a strong foundation during the first decade of the school, but as sectarian differences arose over slavery he was replaced in 1849 with

James Shannon, a charismatic Irish preacher and outspoken supporter of slavery. It was Shannon who became dissatisfied with Baptist control of the Columbia Female Academy and insisted his daughters be educated at a school controlled by the Discipiles of Christ denomination. His efforts led to the creation of Christian College in 1851, today known as Columbia College. The religious quibble resulted in the closure of the Columbia Female Academy in 1853. The Baptist regrouped and founded the Baptist Female Academy in 1856, in 1870 this school was renamed Stephens College, after philanthropy by James L. Stephens, one of Columbia's first merchants.

Columbia During the Civil War

Slave labor was an institution common to both the Mediterranean world and Africa. Those traditions merged in America to create a particularly brutal form of chattel slavery based on race. The White Virginians and Kentuckians who were the first Columbians brought this institution with them and Black labor was the foundation of much of their wealth. Most slaveholders in Missouri owned less than five slaves and lived with them fairly intimately, often in the same structure. There were however large farms approaching what we consider Southern Plantations today. These wealthy families dominated politics and business power in early Columbia and their surnames are still recognizable: Gordon, Rollins, Hickman, Bass. In 1865 slavery was outlawed in Missouri at the close of the Civil War, but for nearly 50 years it was both a common practice and point of contention among Columbians.

The sectarian squabbles over slavery, religion, and government erupted into violence on the western Missouri frontier in the 1850s, an era known as Bleeding Kansas. The Missouri compromise had temporarily kept the peace, but soon it was clear the country was headed into war. The Civil War in a border state like Missouri and city like Columbia was extraordinarily complicated. There were sentiments and outspoken advocates on both sides. But perhaps the city's complex attitudes are best represented by James Rollins, a loyal Union slave owner, U.S. Congressman, and key ally of Abraham Linoln. Being a slaveowning state there was much Confederate sentiment in Missouri, especially among the Anglo slave owning class, but Missourians were also Union supporters, especially the German immigrants in and near St. Louis.

Surrounded by civil unrest, Confederate guerillas, and widespread lawlessness Columbia's economy suffered before, during, and after the Civil War. Growth largely stagnated. The Union Army occupied the University of Missouri campus, setting up their headquarters in Academic Hall which they also used as a jail. Classes were obviously canceled, library books were burned for warmth. When Confederate guerrillas threatened to burn Columbia down, a small band of Union irregulars known as The Missouri Tigers formed to protect the city, under the leadership of Rollins. They built a log blockhouse around a city well at 8th and Broadway, stationing a sniper in the cupola of the Boone County Courthouse. It is said that the fearsome reputation of The Tigers defense spared Columbia the same fiery fate as Lawrence, Kansas. So Columbia was spared the worst of the war.

Rail & the Economy

The agricultural economy that The Boonslick had built its fortunes on was upturned during the war and the area received the name Little Dixie for its pronounced Southern sympathies, although the Union never lost control of the region. The arrival of the railroad marked the beginning of Mid-Missouri's and Columbia's transformation into Midwestern culture. Industry and manufacturing

took off in towns like Moberly, Mexico, Jefferson City, and Boonville all towns located on a mainline railroad. Columbia remained a sleepy agricultural town due to its failure to secure a mainline railroad. Through the efforts of James Rollins and David Hickman a spur line was constructed to the main line at Centralia and later another to the Katy Mainline at McBaine. These spur lines were used mostly to move passengers and students. With the exception of the Hamilton Brown Shoe Factory and the E.W. Stephens Publishing Company, Columbia saw limited development. African Americans moved en masse from the countryside to cities. In segregated Columbia they would later develop their own thriving Commercial District known as the Sharp End.

Academic Hall Fire & Saving Ol' Mizzou

On a cold snowy January night in 1892 the greatest catastrophe in Columbia history occurred when Academic Hall was engulfed in a fiery conflagration that destroyed nearly the entire physical campus of the University, including the library, records, George Caleb Bingham paintings, museum, and the Jefferson tablet, which was recovered week lady still glowing from the heat of the fire. Immediately other towns and their civic boosters began calling for the removal of the University from Columbia and its relocation. Sedalia had the strongest claim, but the vote to move the University failed by one vote. The leadership of Governor David Francis and University of Missouri President Richard Jesse resulted in state funds being appropriated and a new campus designed by architect Morris Frederick Bell based on Thomas Jefferson's "academic village" concept. The eclectic Victorian-style mirrored the most well-to-do Columbia neighborhoods. Emphasizing romantic ideas of medieval towers, mosaic floors, stained glass windows, and hidden symbolism.

["MKT Train in Rocheport" SHSMO, Rocheport, Missouri, Photograph Collection, (c. 1900-1910) P0089-021726.]

[Academic Hall Fire, Norman Benedict Photograph Collection, (1892) SHSMO P0507 024357.]

[Academic Hall Ruins, Elizabeth Lacey Photograph Collection, (1892) SHSMO P0433 024350-2]

[" Bob's Tobacco Store Liquors" SHSMO, Missouri, Columbia Black Community Photographs, (c. 1960) C3902-016.]

["Third Street Market." (1962) Tapp-Elbert, Wynna Faye, SHSMO. C4057-f010-019.]

["Hinshaw Feed, 6th & Walnut," (Tiger Hotel in background) Tapp-Elbert, Wynna Faye, SHSMO. C4057-f010-027.]

The Sharp End & Black Institutions

For much of its 200 years, Columbia was two cities divided by race. During most of those decades, Blacks were not allowed to shop in white-owned stores, attend their schools and churches, or receive services from most white professionals such as doctors and lawyers. As a result, "The Other Columbia" materialized. It was largely independent from the rest of the city and was located within about 30 square blocks on the north side of Broadway in central Columbia.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Columbia's Black population began to solidify in the northwest reaches of downtown, where many of the social institutions of their community had already been constructed. Second Missionary Baptist Church (1894) and the St. Paul AME Church (1892) served as anchors for their growing community. As a result of this influx, Columbia's White business owners commissioned a, "Social & Economic Census of the Colored Population of Columbia, Missouri," in 1901. The census inventoried Black residents and nearly every detail of their lives, including their line of work and their weekly income. Some entries also included commentary on the character of certain residents, such as that of a young man named Pinckney Kelly, who was characterized as, "unreliable." However; several prominent members of the Black community were noticeably omitted, although they resided in the area, such as John Lange Jr., Annie Fisher, and JW 'Blind' Boone.

["Sharp End," SHSMO, Boone County Black Archives, (date unknown) C4057-F10-08.]

Construction of the commercial heart of the Sharp End District was completed c. 1911. Standing on the southeast corner of Walnut and Fifth Streets, the building contained seven storefronts, which began to fill out over the following decade. By the end of its heyday in the 1950s, the Sharp End had grown to house as many as 30 Black-owned businesses; from barbershops and cafes, to pool halls and nightclubs, which drew prominent touring musicians into the 1960s. At one point, local newspapers were referring to the Sharp End as, "Columbia's Harlem."

The growth of this time period also gave rise to many of the landmarks that remain to this day, such as the Second Christian Church (401 N. Fifth Street (c. 1923), Frederick Douglass High School (301 N. Providence Road, 1917), and the Vess Bottling Company Building (17 N. Fifth Street, c. 1940). Vess Bottling operated in this location into the 1960s. The building is significant as one of the few remaining Sharp End resources.

[Columbia Land Clearance Commission from, "Urban Renewal Brought a Bitter End." (2015) Columbia Daily Tribune.]

Urban Renewal

Even in the face of desegregation of schools in 1954, and the 1957 Civil Rights Act, discriminating practices were not halted. The Land Clearance & Redevelopment Authority was created in 1956, and by 1958 their urban renewal plan was submitted for Federal approval. The plan identified the vast majority of the Sharp End area for redevelopment, citing blight as the primary justification. The boundary for the original plan was drawn along the alley between Broadway and Walnut Street, which would include the lively Black commercial district, and much of the supporting residential neighborhood to the north.

The vast majority of the area from Broadway, north to Park Avenue, and from Providence Road, east to Seventh Street, which had been Columbia's Black cultural center, was razed during this period of upheaval.

["Columbia's Historic Sharp End," Columbia Daily Tribune. May 20, 2015. Rudi Keller.]

Providence Family Townhomes is the modern name of the public housing development bisected by Park Avenue, which was constructed in the wake of the Land Clearance Authority and the Douglass School Urban Renewal Project. The nearby Jesse Wrench Apartments were also constructed in conjunction with the project in the early 60s. Per the Plan of Action developed to guide the redevelopment process, the Douglass School area was. "...a badly depreciated, substandard district doing both social and economic damage to Columbia." The report stated that it was, "...well known that slum conditions result in delinquency and disease and these cannot be confined within the boundaries of the slum district, for slums have an insidious way of spreading..." Furthermore, the report claimed, "A community effort to eradicate these conditions cannot help but be of benefit to the entire community..." In accordance with the Plan of Action, the City of Columbia acquired private property, demolished the existing structures, and constructed the apartment buildings.

As of the writing of this plan, the apartments have been demolished and the site is being redeveloped by its current owner, the Columbia Housing Authority.

The Douglass School Urban Renewal Project modified the street grid in the area bound by North Fifth Street, Rogers Street, North Third Street (now North Providence Road), and Park Avenue. The combination of city squares created a super-block containing Frederick Douglass High School. The City demolished the houses on the northern edge of the block to consolidate into the park. The pool and poolhouse had been constructed during the Great Depression; these structures were subsumed by the greater Douglass Park.

The history of the Douglass School Urban Renewal project has left a lasting impact on modern-day Columbia as evidenced by the public housing developments, roadway changes, and loss of older housing stock. Additionally, the project caused the loss of several African-American businesses and irreplaceable community touchstones. The area touched by the Douglass School Urban Renewal Project is an important piece in the creation of modern Columbia.

["Survey to Identify Historic Resources within the North-Central Neighborhood (Phase I)." Row 10 Historic Preservation Solutions, LLC, (June, 2017).]

[Park Avenue Construction, Douglass HS, (1961) Tapp-Elbert, Wynna Faye, SHSMO. C4057-f010-021.]

BELOW: [Columbia Post Office, from, "Urban Renewal Brought a Bitter End." Columbia Daily Tribune. May 20, 2015.]

Growth in the 20th Century

Columbia entered the 20th century a new town with revived energy, new electrified street lamps and homes, indoor plumbing, brick paved streets, and a booming student enrollment at its three colleges. The steady growth continued even though the Depression of the 1930s, which saw several Work Progress Administration (WPA) buildings constructed, including The Armony (Art Deco) and The Howard Municipal Building (Beaux-Arts). The suburban expansion of Columbia that had begun in the late 1800s continued with expansion of the Benton-Stephens, West Ash, Stewart Road, and North Central Neighborhoods. The Bungalow of the Arts and Craft Movement became a Columbia architectural staple.

Highway 40 & Interstate 70

Columbia grew slowly in the 1920s compared to nearby cities with better transportation infrastructure. But Columbia, having learned from its failure to receive a mainline railroad, was an early mover in the adoption of highways. The rising popularity of the automobile and the creation of a U.S. federal highway system brought new connectivity to a city that had been a bit of a backwater during the railroad era. Columbia received arguably the most important highway of them all: U.S. 40, also called the main street of America. Officially designated in 1826 it ran from San Francisco, California to Atlantic City, New Jersey. In Missouri it roughly followed the old route of the Boonslick Trail. Today it has been replaced again by I-70 and we know the original as the Business Loop. Proud of its new highway the new Columbia High School was constructed fronting U.S. 40 on David H. Hickman's farm. Hickman is one of several Columbia schools designed by St. Louis architect William B. Ittner, who has been called the most influential person in American School design.

20th Century Architecture

The 20s saw the construction of several landmark buildings including The Tiger Hotel, the first MIssouri skyscraper outside of St. Louis and Kansas City. Its red neon sign faced North to catch automobile travelers on U.S. 40. The Missouri Theater on 9th Street was constructed as a “movie palace;” one that would also host vaudeville acts and concerts. It replaced the older Hall, Columbia, and Varsity theaters, who had, in turn, replaced the Haden Opera House. The Missouri Theater was designed by the Boller Brothers, prolific theater architects based in Kansas City. Their interior design was influenced by the Opéra Garnier in Paris. In 1929 the Pierce Pennant Motor Hotel was constructed on Highway 40 across from the Columbia Regional Airport (now Cosmo Park). It was the finest example of a number of hotels, motels, and “motor lodges” that would line U.S. 40, including the Stephens Motel and the Arrow Head Motel.

St. Louis architects played an important role in Columbia’s architectural history. Jamieson and Spearl designed many of the buildings on the University of Missouri campus, including nearly the entirety of the collegiate gothic-style “White Campus”, named for the color of the local limestone quarried to face the buildings. The most impressive structure is the Memorial Union Tower, built in memory of students who lost their lives in World War I. With its brick construction, the older campus designed by Bell after the fire, contrasted and earned the moniker “Red Campus”. The two nearby, but geographically separated, campuses were unified with the construction of Ellis Library on Lowry Street (now Lowry Mall) in 1915.

The older Victorian neighborhoods surrounding The University, Columbia College, and Stephens have all been encroached upon by growing student enrollment and campus expansion. Very little of the residential buildings from the 1800s survives in Columbia.

Impacts of the GI Bill

After World War II and the passage of the GI Bill, promising free tuition, Columbia's population exploded. No longer needed for the war, the Quonset Hut, a quickly built stainless steel structure, was a common sight in Columbia. They were used to house students, but the period of 1945-1970 brought a boom of Mid-Century architecture, especially in student housing. The Dobbs Group, a collection of 7 story dorms at Stadium and Providence was typical of this period. Stephens College and Columbia College followed suit with smaller examples. Modern architect Eero Saarinen designed a chapel for Stephen College (and the St. Louis Arch). Mid-Century modernism was also a popular home design, and architects like Pon Chinn, a Chinese-American immigrant became locally famous for their designs. At the request of the City Council Chinn designed a concrete awning, almost brutalist in flavor, that covered downtown sidewalks along Broadway for decades. In the early 2000s a successful project to remove the awnings kicked off a restoration of Columbia's historic Downtown architecture, the benefits of which Columbian's enjoy today.

In Closing

The pillars of the local economy in the 20th-century were education, healthcare, and insurance. Although the economy continues to diversify, education still remains our foundation. In recent decades, Columbia has seen a remarkable expansion in population, doubling in size since 1990. This growth has been typical of the 20th century; automobile focused, single-family housing, strip malls, and true indoor malls. In 2025 the trend has somewhat reversed and efforts are underway to densify housing and provide comprehensive pedestrian infrastructure. The original Town of Columbia is still here; today we know it as Downtown.