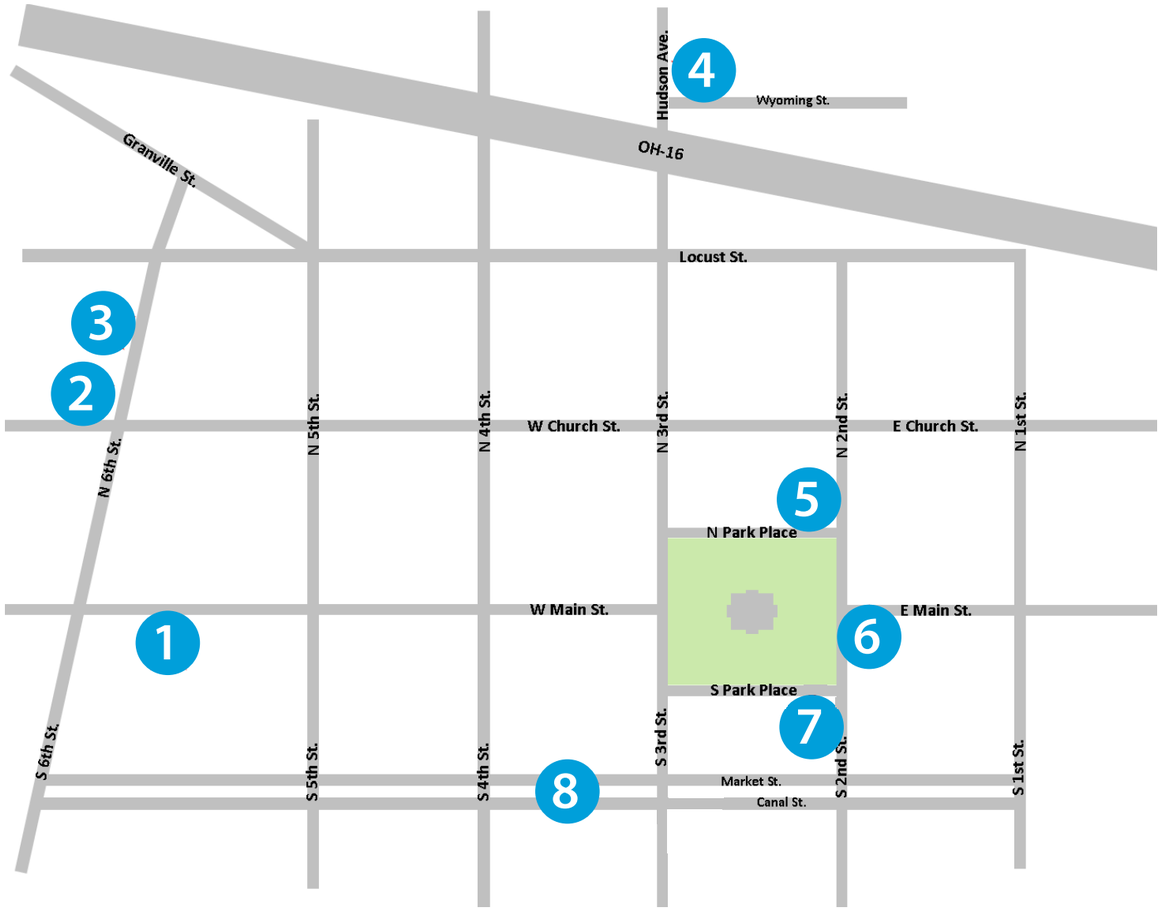
Haunted Locations

1. **Licking County Player's Theater** - 131 West Main Street
2. **Sixth Street Cemetery** - 5th Street between West Main and West Church Streets
3. **Buckingham Meeting House** - 5 North 6th Street
4. **Hudson Avenue B-52 Bomber Crash** - Corner of Hudson Avenue and Wyoming Street
5. **Legend of the Mason's Trowel** - Corner of 2nd Street and East Main Street
6. **Site of Carl Etherington Lynching** - Corner of 2nd Street and South Park Place
7. **The Captain's Ghost** - 15 South Park Place
8. **Old Licking County Jail** - 46 South 3rd Street



Sources

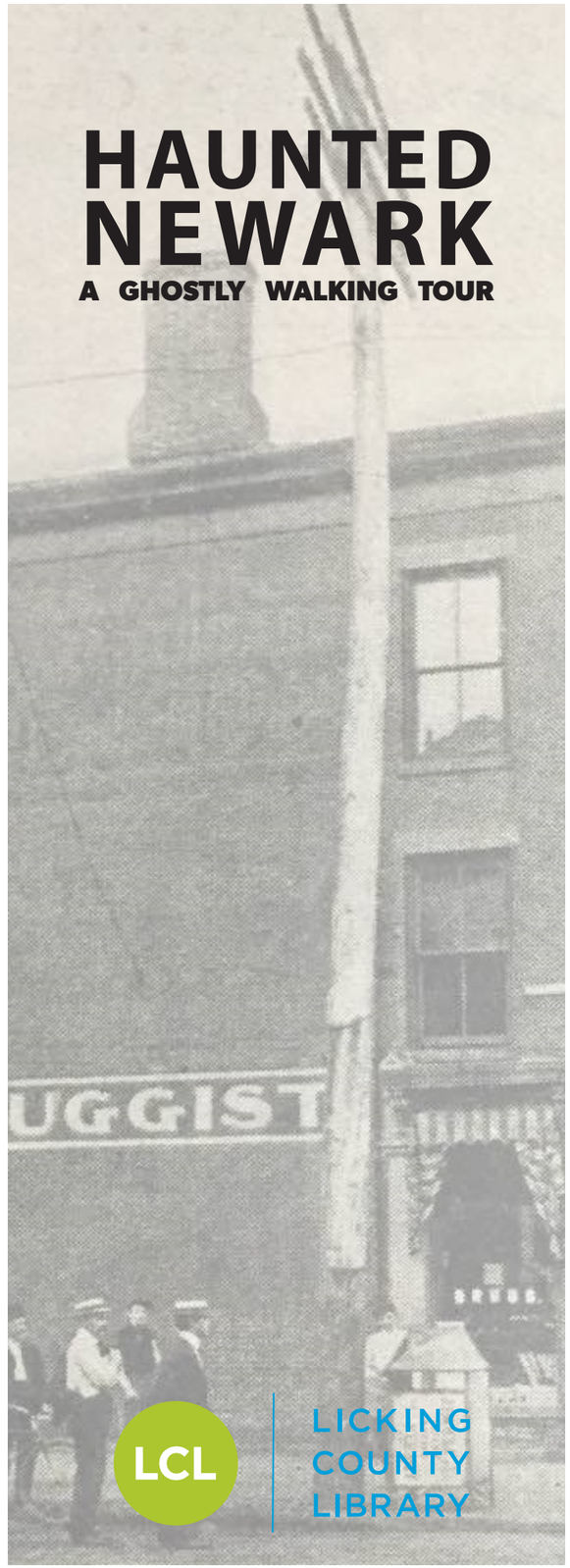
1. www.forgottenoh.com/Counties/Licking/playerstheater.html
2a. L.B. Whyde, "Bodies Buried Under Local Historic Sites," *Newark Advocate*, April 28, 2005.
2b. Jeff Bell, "Tombstone Discovery Revives Old Memories," *Newark Advocate*.
3. Dan Fleming, wiki.lickingcountylibrary.info/Legends_and_Hauntings
4. Dan Fleming, wiki.lickingcountylibrary.info/Legends_and_Hauntings
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6. Dan Fleming, Final Friday Local History Walk, July 31, 2015.
7. Crystal Stamper, "Legends of Licking County," *Community Booster West*, October 26, 2003, 1 - 3.
8. www.parajail.com

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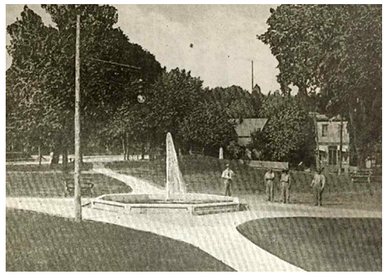


1 Licking County Players Theater



Prior to being home to Licking County Players Theater, this building was home to Criss Brothers Funeral Home. Paranormal activity has been reported at several locations within the building. The two most active areas are the makeup area and workshop. When the building was used as the funeral home, these rooms were used for embalming and preparing the body.

2 Sixth Street Cemetery



Veterans' Park on Sixth Street was once Newark's cemetery, which contained 282 plots. After the establishment of Cedar Hill Cemetery, no additional burials were allowed in Sixth Street Cemetery. In 1875, a notice was placed in the newspaper and a sign in the old graveyard that the families of the deceased were to rebury them at Cedar Hill. Despite the orders by the city, most of the bodies were not removed. As a result of the cemetery's disrepair, the city began removing the gravestones and burying them just under the surface of the ground. The exact number of bodies remaining is unknown; however, skeletons have been dug up, or even washed out by rain, as recently as the 1990s.

3 Buckingham Meeting House



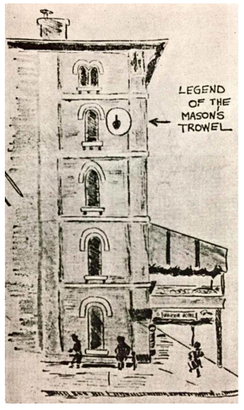
The Buckingham House, currently home to Licking County Historical Society, once belonged to Judge Jerome Buckingham. A number of strange accidents happened that accompanied the home's move from its original location on North Third Street to its present spot in Veterans' Park. The axle of the truck that hauled the house bent during the process, pieces of the home fell, and it took much longer for the building to be moved and secured. Since its relocation, both caretakers and guests have witnessed incidents. Judge Jerome's private bedroom is always drafty because his presence is still there, according to legend. Some have said his footsteps can be heard coming down a hall. Doors and windows occasionally open and close on their own despite being locked. A curator reported seeing muddy footprints in the hall that ended mysteriously in the dining room. In 1996, a bride at a wedding reception claimed to have seen Jerome's specter at the top of the staircase. The park where the house now stands was once the Sixth Street Cemetery.

4 Hudson Avenue B-52 Bomber Crash



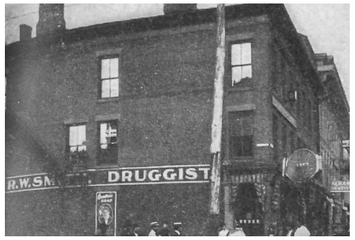
The story of the 1942 Bomber Crash on Hudson Avenue that killed eight men continues to linger on years after the crash. The current owner of one of the homes damaged in the crash believes that the spirits of two men killed in the accident maintain a presence in her home, specifically Captain Lawrence Lawver and Colonel Douglas Kilpatrick, the co-pilot and pilot of the crash. She has noticed that spirits routinely tilt picture frames on walls and break light bulbs. She also reported that her son has seen the ghost of Colonel Kilpatrick in a mirror and has even interacted with him.

5 Legend of the Mason's Trowel



The Hotel Warden, which used to stand where Wendy's is today, was once the subject of a mysterious legend dating back to the nineteenth century. The hotel was originally called Buckingham House, and it was a three-story brick structure that was built before the Civil War. During the 1880s, the building was expanded and a fourth floor was added. Legend states that a master mason fell to his death while working on the new fourth story, landing on the sidewalk below. As an omen of good luck, and to honor his memory, the mason's coworkers attached his trowel to the side of the building, pointing downward to indicate the place where he fell. They reportedly used a piece of metal around the handle of the trowel to hold it in place. When the hotel was demolished in 1966, the trowel was donated to Licking County Historical Society.

6 Site of Carl Etherington's Lynching



With the Temperance Movement, a vote was made in 1909 to make Licking County "dry" but many saloons in Newark boldly stayed open. A group of special detectives from Cleveland were hired to infiltrate Newark and identify the culprits. One of the agents was Carl Etherington, age 17. On July 8, 1910, detectives entered a saloon that had refused to comply with the vote, but they were no match for the crowd that had already assembled. Etherington was caught and beaten. He shot a police officer in self-defense and was taken to the jail. Over 5,000 people were gathered outside the jail and a group stormed in and took him. By 10:35 p.m. they had hanged him from a telegraph pole at the southeast corner of the square.

7 The Captain's Ghost



In the days of the canal, it was common to see rooming houses where those traveling by canal boat would stay. One of these houses supposedly occupied 15 South Park Place. According to legend, a captain of one of the canal boats was staying in this building. After a night of merry-making at Gingerbread Row (South 2nd Street, just south of the square), the captain returned to his room only to be murdered and thrown into the canal. After the incident, the building is said to have closed down as a rooming house, because the "Captain's Ghost" haunted the second floor of the building.

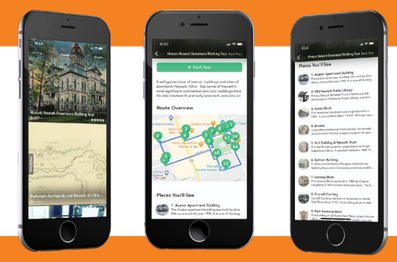
8 The Old Licking County Jail



The former Licking County Jail is one of the most haunted places in Licking County, if not the entire state of Ohio. The jail, which is over 125 years old, has been investigated by several groups of paranormal researchers. It has been featured on the Travel Channel show *Ghost Adventures* in 2014 as well as *Ghost Adventures: Aftershocks* in 2016. Over the course of history, the building has seen at least seventeen deaths under its roof, including four sheriffs whose deaths mysteriously took place in the same bedroom. Paranormal investigators have collected a large number of EVP (electronic voice phenomenon) recordings, as well as many pictures they claim validate the presence of ghosts or paranormal activity. One ghost that seems to appear often is that of the "crazy lady." She has been recorded as making unusual noises and screams, as well as speaking in words and sentences. Another spirit that supposedly appears is said to be of Mae Varner. Mae was an inmate who died tragically in 1953 after setting fire to her clothing with a match. Mrs. Varner had only been at the jail for approximately 45 minutes before she was discovered by the matron doing her nightly rounds.

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