

Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Louisville Women's History Tour: Suffrage Sites



Objectives:

- * To inspire interest in Louisville and women's history
- * To honor and recognize women who contributed to our community heritage
- * To celebrate important roles that women played in Louisville history
- * To reclaim our past to prevent losing the contributions & landmarks of women's history

Our History

Women have always played an active role in developing Louisville, Kentucky. Today, citizens enjoy this rich history that honors women who came before us. While women have made history in Louisville for centuries, their stories have been long overlooked.

Our City

By sponsoring this tour we plan to bring history to life in our community. Visiting historic sites and hearing stories of your foremothers will help you be able to visualize their lives and be inspired to make a difference in our community too. The tour will touch on some of the major institutions created by and for women, some historical realities that shaped women's lives, and the fight to obtain the right to vote. This program is a resource that honors and recognizes where Louisville women made history and will heighten awareness and appreciation of these significant contributions.

The Tour

Using this guide, visit the actual historical locations where women developed their winning plan to insure the passage of the 19th Amendment and to learn about some of the first women doctors, attorneys, ministers and elected officials and the institutions they impacted.

1. 1895— First Unitarian Church—800 S. Fourth St.
In 1895, the Unitarian Church hosted Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Chapman Catt as they conducted a southern organizing tour.
2. 1908-1912 Louisville Free Public Library— 301 York St.
Louisville suffragists frequently used the Public Library for chapter meetings and public forums during these years.
3. 1913—Mrs. Augustus Schacher Home— 844 So. Fourth St
At this location suffragist used the Schacher front yard to promote the cause as the Kentucky Educational Association met next door.
4. 1889—Susan Look Avery Home— 847 So. Fourth St.
Susan Look Avery was a key figure in both the women's club and suffrage movements.
5. 1889-1920 Caroline Leech Home — 1249 So. First St.
Caroline Leech seems to have been the Louisville suffragist who served the cause the longest from 1889 – 1920
6. 1909 –1911—Virginia Robinson Home – 101 W Broadway
Virginia Robinson was instrumental in transforming the Louisville Chapter of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association from a small, often inactive group into a large, active and effective reform organization.
7. 1907 – House Beautiful – Metro United Way 334 E. Broadway
The Women's Missionary Union (WMU), an interdenominational women's foreign mission movement was the largest of the 19th century women's movements. At this site they opened a School in order to train female missionaries and managers, where women took classes and ran a settlement house.
8. 1891 Linderkranz Hall— 172 Market St
Louisville hosted its first convention of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association which was formed in 1889 and replaced the nominal Kentucky Women Suffrage Association in 1881.
9. 1853— Masonic Temple —SW Corner of 4th & Jefferson St.
Lucy Stone, New England abolitionist and women's rights advocate, spoke here in 1853. After the Civil War, Stone, her husband Henry Blackwell and their daughter, Alice Stone Blackwell, all became prominent national suffrage leaders. Pictured on opposite page.
10. 1881 – Old Opera House 400 So Fourth St.
(formerly Public Library of Kentucky – currently the Kaufman-Straus Building inside the Galleria) This was the site of the 1881 meeting of the American Woman Suffrage Association, the first time Louisville hosted a national suffrage event. The convention also gave birth to the state's first organization, the Kentucky Women Suffrage Association.
11. 1911 & 1919—The Seelbach Hotel – 500 So. Fourth St.
The Seelbach was the site of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association convention of 1911 and 1919, as well as the site of the annual meeting of the National American Women Suffrage Association in 1911
12. 1910 –Armory Building— 525 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.
Ida B. Wells, leader of the African-American women's suffrage movement spoke here at the national convention of the National Association of Colored Women in 1910.