

Mary Todd Lincoln's Downtown Lexington Quest Map



Mary Todd Lincoln House

578 West Main Street
Lexington, KY

www.mtlhouse.org

Mary Todd Lincoln's Downtown Lexington Quest

Answers

1. Mary was BORN in a house on this spot

Mary Todd was born in 1818 in a house that later burned down. From this home, Mary could walk to school, her father's store, or her Grandmother Parker's house next door. (Parker Place is named after Mary's grandmother, but the house that is there today was built in 1871.)

2. To mail them, she came to a POST office here

This is Lexington's oldest post office building. It opened in 1836. It was open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. every weekday and from 8 to 9 a.m. on Sundays. The cost of mailing a letter depended on how many pages it was and how many miles it had to go.

3. Henry CLAY, a Todd friend, practiced law in this place

Henry Clay was an important politician during the early 1800s. He served in the U.S. Congress for many years. Although he ran for president three times, he was never elected. He worked in this law office from about 1804 to 1810.

4. In fashion when it was built for TRANSYLVANIA

Transylvania is the oldest college in Kentucky. Mary's father, Robert Todd, was one of the many important Kentuckians who studied here. When one of its main buildings burned in 1829, this one was built to replace it. It contained a chapel, the school library, offices, and classrooms.

5. Its owner, Tom BODLEY, hired Todd as a clerk

War of 1812 veteran Thomas Bodley bought this house in 1814. As a young man, Mary's father, Robert Todd, worked for Bodley when he was the clerk of the Fayette Circuit Court. One of Bodley's daughters was a classmate of Mary's at the Mentelle boarding school (a few miles from downtown Lexington).

6. For John WARD'S academy stood on this site

Mary went to a girl's school in this building from 1827 to 1831. The teacher was a minister named John Ward. Mary probably studied reading, writing, math, history, geography, French, and religion. The building is the oldest home in this area.

7. McChord's CHURCH had services rather than masses

Mary's father was one of the founders of the Presbyterian Church that was located here. People called it McChord's after its first pastor, James McChord. Mary's cousin Elizabeth recalled that the girls wore long, narrow, white dresses on Sundays.

8. This site was also the town's COURT house square

This area became a public square in 1780. Courthouses have stood here since 1788, and the gray stone building was Lexington's fifth. Robert Todd's grocery store was somewhere on Cheapside, which was named after a market in London, England. Slave sales took place here too. Mary's father owned slaves, and after he died, one of them was sold.

9. Was a place where folks who loved sweets liked to SHOP

A confectionary was a store that sold baked goods and other sweets. A French man named Mathurin Giron opened one here in 1810 and built this building in 1837. According to family stories, Mary liked to buy sweets at Giron's. She may have also gone to dances and parties held on the second floor.

10. In 1832 the TODDS moved to this place

This house was built about 1805 as an inn. Mary was thirteen when the Todds moved here in 1832. In 1839, she moved to Illinois, where she met Abraham Lincoln. They were married in 1842 and visited the Todd family in this house in 1847. The house was sold two years later after Robert Todd's death.

