Platted in 1825 by trader William Digby, the original town was only sixteen square blocks. Thanks to its location at the northernmost navigable point on the Wabash River, and its transportation ties to the Wabash and Erie Canal and multiple rail lines the small town grew rapidly throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Lafayette has a diverse and unique collection of buildings dating from the mid 1800s to contemporary time. Examples of remaining early architecture include the John Purdue Block located at 6-12 2nd Street. John Purdue, the namesake of Purdue University, built the original row of twelve units for his business block in 1845. Four of the original twelve bays remain and now house a popular downtown bar and several office suites. The large arched windows on the west side of the building were used to load and unload merchandise on the Wabash & Erie Canal.

Other notable buildings in the downtown area include 536 Main Street (Built in the late 1860s, the Second Empire style building has served as the location of McCord’s Candies since 1912), 330 Main Street (Built in 1877, and featuring a cast iron facade, the former location of the Perrin Hardware Company has ties to the Perrin neighborhood—both bear the same family name) and the Big Four Depot, constructed in 1902 and moved to its current location at Riehle Plaza in 1994.

The most spectacular and imposing piece of downtown architecture is the Tippecanoe County Courthouse. Built between 1881 and 1884, the courthouse is actually the third built on the same location. The building style is Eclectic with a strong Second Empire influence.

Downtown and the courthouse square host a variety of activities and festivals throughout the year including Dancing in the Streets, the Taste of Tippecanoe, Downtown Gallery Walks, ‘Round the Fountain Art Fair, Uptown Jazz & Blues Fest, Art on the Wabash, Octoberfest, Dickens of a Christmas, OUTfest and Mosey Down Main Street to name a few.

Full a listing of downtown events, venues and festivities, visit these websites;

www.HomeOfPurdue.com
www.ReadySetGoDowntown.com
www.lafcal.com
www.tippecanoearts.org
Downtown Plaque Properties
Walking Tour

distance: 2.8 miles
1. **John Purdue Block**  
   14 N. 2nd Street, Lafayette  
   built in 1845, received plaque in 1990  
   Federal style

2. **Big Four Depot**  
   200 N. 2nd Street, Lafayette  
   built in 1902, received plaque in 1991  
   Craftsman style

3. **Wells Medicine Building**  
   120 N. 3rd Street, Lafayette  
   built in 1872, received plaque in 1991  
   Italianate style

4. **Tippecanoe County Courthouse**  
   305 Main Street, Lafayette  
   built in 1882, received plaque in 1992  
   Mixture of styles including elements of Second Empire, Beaux Arts, Baroque, Rococo, Georgian and Neo-Classical

5. **Lafayette Life Building**  
   300 Main Street, Lafayette  
   built in 1918, received plaque in 1990  
   Neoclassical style

6. **David E. Ross Building**  
   308 Main Street, Lafayette  
   built in 1918, received plaque in 1991  
   Gothic Revival style
First Merchants National Bank—Girardot, Strauch & Co. Building
316 Main Street, Lafayette
built in 1918, received plaque in 1992
Neoclassical style

Perrin Building
330 Main Street, Lafayette
built in 1877, received plaque in 1990
Italianate style

Handly—Sharp—DRTW Building
117 N. 4th Street, Lafayette
built in 1875, received plaque in 1991
Italianate style

Ruger—Dewenter—IDC Building
416 Main Street, Lafayette
built in 1862, received plaque in 1991
Beaux Arts style

Brown—Feuer (O.L. Clark) Building
426-430 Main Street, Lafayette
built in 1837, received plaque in 1999
Federal style

Sportsman—Hirsch Brothers—Shook Agency Building
427 Main Street, Lafayette
built in 1923, received plaque
Chicago style
13 **Clark—Clawson Building**
434-436 Main Street, Lafayette
built in 1858, received plaque in 1998
Federal style

14 **Heath—Pearlman Building**
210-216 N. 5th Street, Lafayette
built in 1863, received plaque in 1996
Italianate style

15 **Lafayette Printing Company**
511 Ferry Street, Lafayette
built in 1921, received plaque in 1991
Industrial style

16 **The Cracker Factory**
216 N. 6th Street, Lafayette
built in 1888, received plaque in 2007
Nineteenth Century Functional style

17 **Painters & Decorators Building**
217 N. 6th Street, Lafayette
built in 1920, received plaque in 1991
Renaissance Revival

18 **Sharp Block**
514-518 Main Street, Lafayette
received plaque in 2003
Neoclassical style
19 **Ball Building**  
527-533 Main Street, Lafayette  
built in 1867, received plaque in 1994  
Second Empire style

20 **Mars Theatre—Long Center for the Performing Arts**  
111 N. 6th Street, Lafayette  
built in 1921, received plaque in 1991  
Neoclassical style

21 **Lafayette Theater**  
600 Main Street, Lafayette  
built in 1938, received plaque in 2007  
Art Deco style

22 **Carnahan—Ross—Kaplan Building**  
622 Main Street, Lafayette  
built in 1892, received plaque in 1991  
Romanesque Revival style

23 **Orpheum Theater**  
638 Main Street, Lafayette  
built in 1914, received plaque in 1998  
Nineteenth Century Functional style

24 **Thomas Duncan Memorial Hall**  
619 Ferry Street, Lafayette  
built in 1930, received plaque in 1992  
Georgian Revival style
25 **Second National Bank—Heath—Henderson—Ross-Cole Building**
848 Main Street, Lafayette
built in 1873, received plaque in 1998
Nineteenth Century Functional style

26 **Douglas—Lafayette Street Railway—Madison Building**
901 Main Street, Lafayette
built in 1869, received plaque
Italianate style

27 **Weigle Townhouse**
927 Main Street, Lafayette
built in 1899, received plaque in 1995
Neoclassical style

28 **Ankeny—McCuaig House**
904 South Street, Lafayette
built in 1882, received plaque in 1997
Queen Anne style

29 **Christian Emdee House**
712-714 South Street, Lafayette
built in 1854, received plaque in 1999
Greek Revival style

30 **Gaylord—Reifers House**
12 N. 8th Street, Lafayette
built in 1916, received plaque in 1999
Craftsman style
31 Alward—Lafayette Conservatory of Music—Fitzgerald House
717 Columbia Street, Lafayette
built in 1863, received plaque in
Second Empire style

32 Second Presbyterian Church—Central Presbyterian Church
701 Columbia Street, Lafayette
built in 1895, received plaque
Richardsonian Romanesque style

33 Falley Townhouses
620-622 S. 6th Street, Lafayette
built in 1892, received plaque in 1993
Second Empire style

34 McHugh—Trueblood Building
424 Columbia Street, Lafayette
built in 1876, received plaque in 1991
Italianate style

35 Vater—Wilmes Building
10 N. 4th Street, Lafayette
built in 1866-1879, received plaque in 1991
Italianate style

36 Fowler National Bank—Lafayette National Bank—INB National Bank
337 Columbia Street, Lafayette
built in 1926, received plaque in 1992
Neoclassical style
The Rapp Co.—Vancalin—Duffy Building
309 Columbia Street, Lafayette
built in 1881, received plaque in 1993
Romanesque Revival style

Coleman—Stallard & Schuh Building
301 Columbia Street, Lafayette
built in 1872, received plaque in 1991
Italianate style

Spring, Emerson & Co. Building
14 N. 3rd Street, Lafayette
built in 1878, received plaque in 2000
Italianate style

Earl & Hatcher Block
8 N. 3rd Street, Lafayette
built in 1865, received plaque in 1995
Italianate style