

COLORING THE COMMONWEALTH

A KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL COLORING BOOK



The Barstow House, Frankfort, Ky, ca. 1973



2026

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Images by Karen Stevens



About the Kentucky Heritage Council

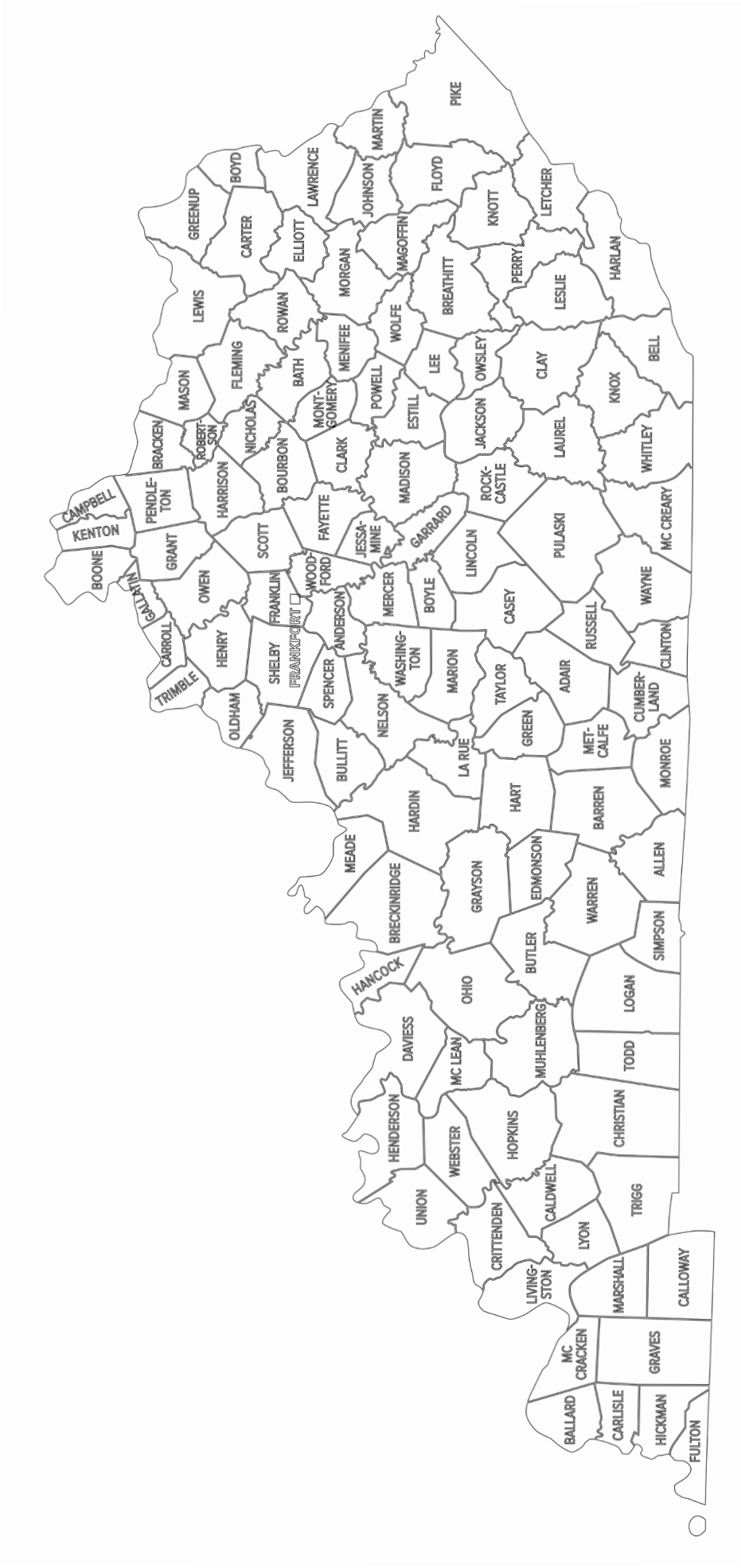
The Kentucky Heritage Council (KHC) is an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet and serves as the State Historic Preservation Office. KHC is responsible for the identification, protection and preservation of archaeological resources and historic buildings, sites and cultural resources throughout the Commonwealth.

Kentucky Heritage Council State Historic Preservation Office

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Let's color Kentucky!



Native Garden

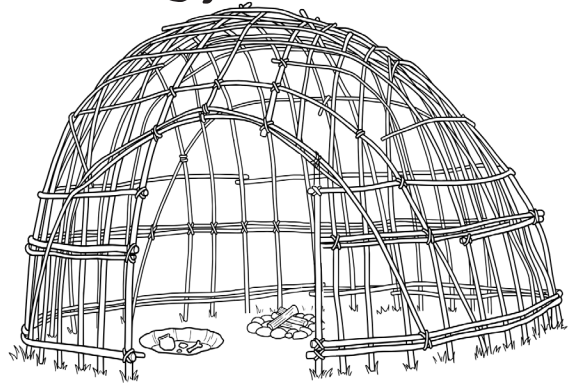


In Kentucky, Native Americans grew crops like sunflowers, corn, and gourds. They used these plants for food and to make everyday items. Because they took good care of the land over many years, Kentucky became a center of gardening that helped many communities grow.

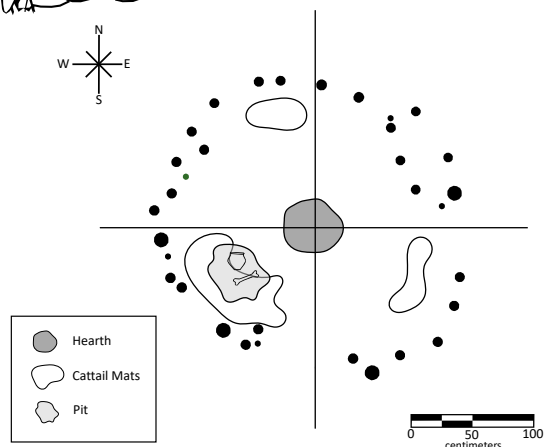
Early Homes & Archaeology

What is archaeology?

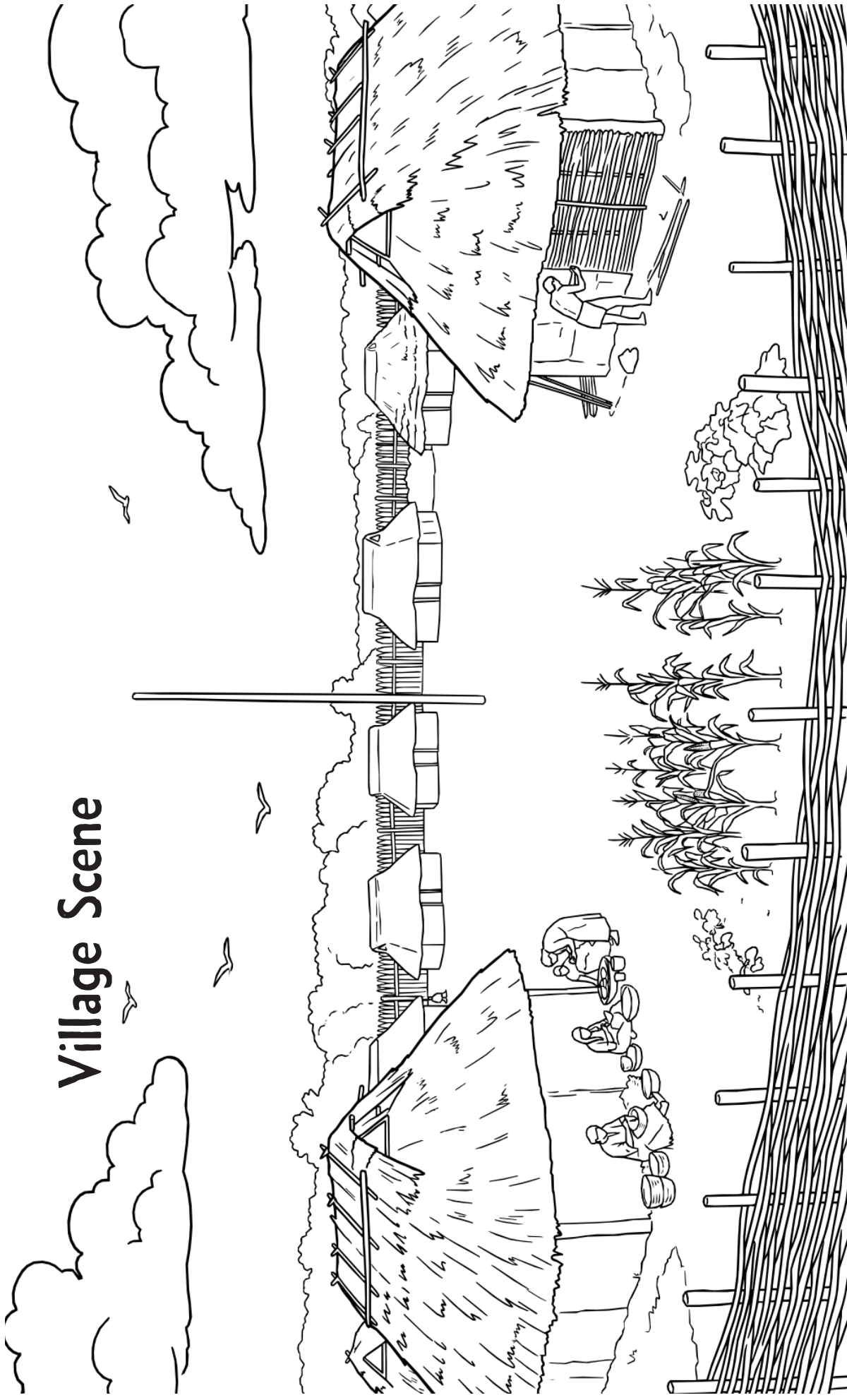
Archaeology is the study of human history through the things people left behind.



Indigenous peoples' homes were sometimes built using bent poles, wooden frames, and other materials. Often, these materials do not survive to the present day. Archaeologists look for patterns in the dirt, like postholes and fire pits, to see where these buildings once stood. By mapping these patterns, archaeologists can recreate the shape and layout of past homes and settlements.



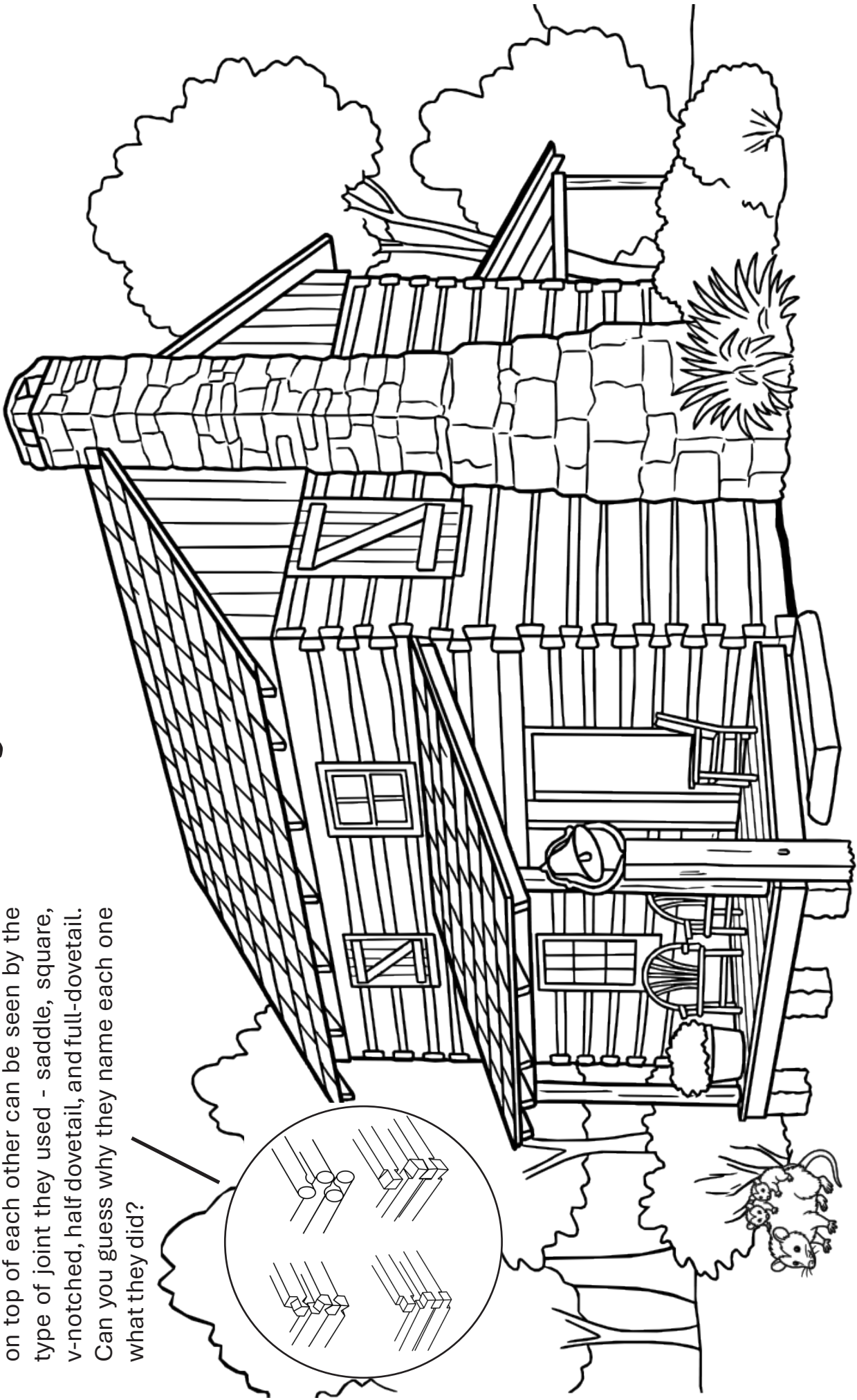
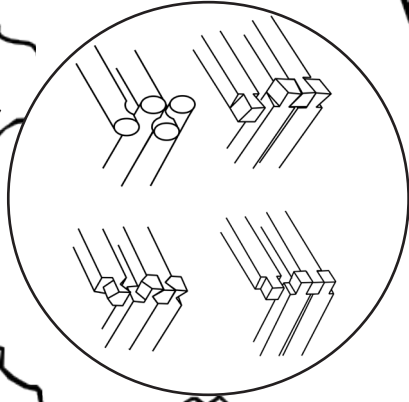
Village Scene



Native villages in Kentucky were lively places! People built homes, grew crops, prepared food, and made tools. These villages are where families lived, worked, and interacted with each other.

Log House

The way builders handled stacking logs on top of each other can be seen by the type of joint they used - saddle, square, v-notched, half dovetail, and full dovetail. Can you guess why they name each one what they did?



Log houses are made from stacked logs and were some of the first homes built by settlers in Kentucky between 1770s and 1840s. These sturdy homes kept families safe and warm. Many historic log houses still stand today.

Queen Anne



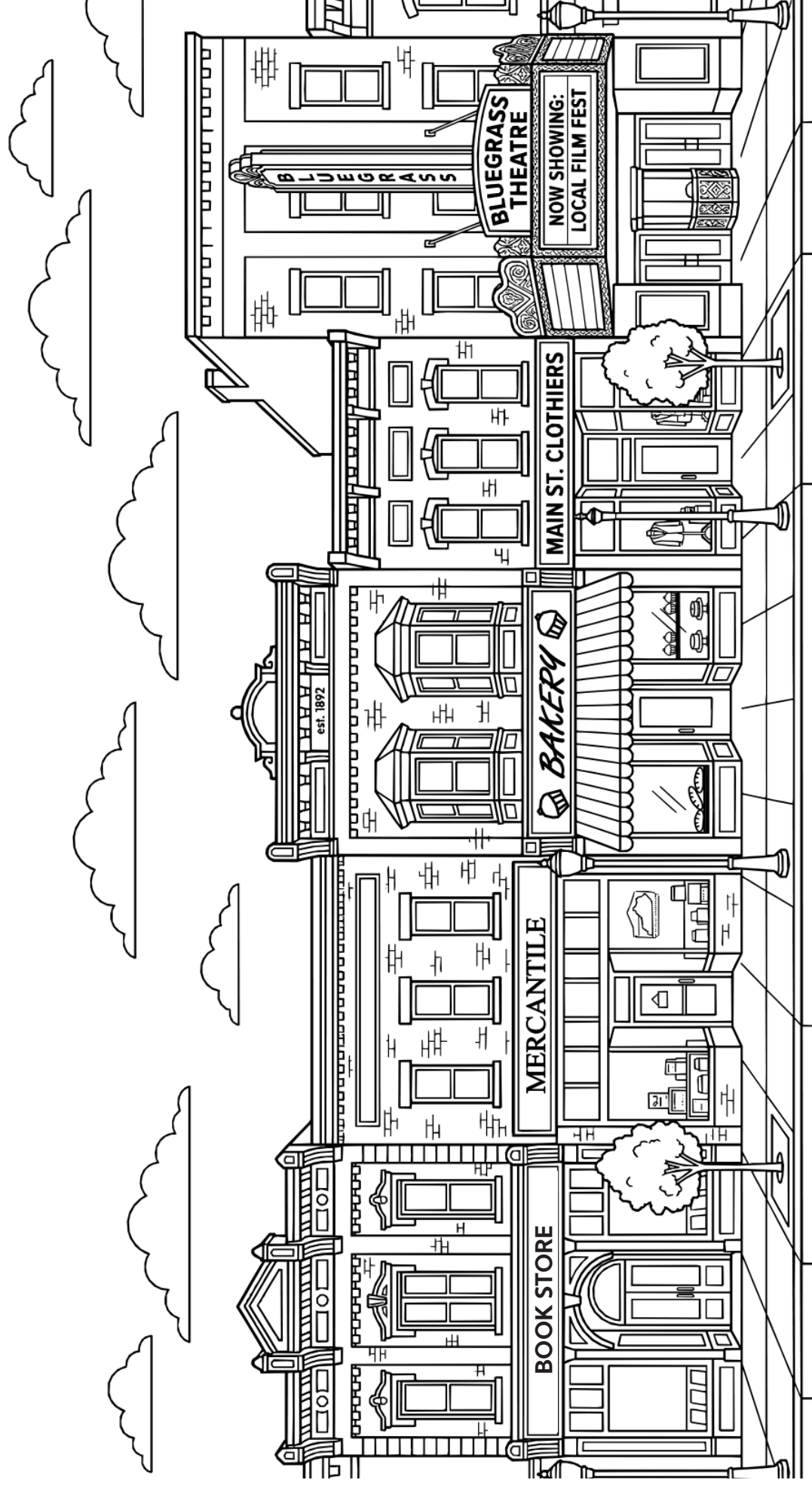
Queen Anne houses are easy to spot because they are colorful, detailed, and often have towers, turrets, and a lot of decorative trims. Built mostly in the late 1800s, these homes were meant to show off creativity and craftsmanship.

Sears House



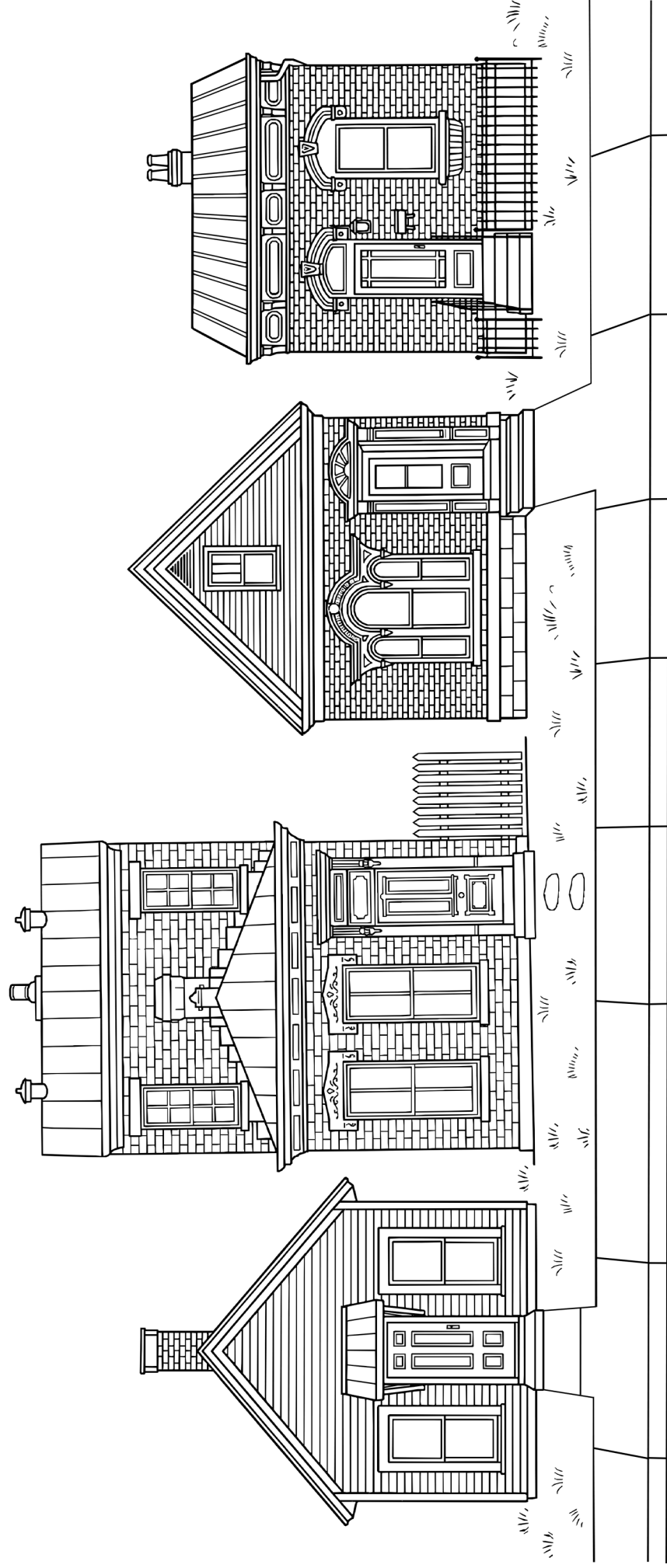
In the early 1900s, you could choose from different styles and order an entire house from the Sears catalog. The house would arrive as a kit with all the pieces needed to build it! The Alhambra model features stucco walls, red tile roofs, and graceful arches. Kit homes like these can still be found in Kentucky cities, like Frankfort, today.

Main Street Streetscape



A Main Street streetscape is a collection of historic storefronts, sidewalks, streetlights, and public spaces that make up the heart of a downtown. In many Kentucky towns, these blocks, often filled with late-1800s and early-1900s buildings tell the story of local businesses, community events, and everyday life over generations.

Shotgun & Camelback House



Shotgun houses are long and narrow with rooms lined up one behind the other. Legend has it that you could fire a shotgun through the front door and the shot would travel straight out the back without hitting a wall! In Kentucky cities like Louisville, shotgun and camelback houses (which have a small second story at the back) became popular in the late 1800s as affordable homes for working families.

Corner Building

 Find me in
Covington, Ky.



Corner buildings sit at the intersection of two streets and often have shops or offices on the ground floor with living spaces above. These buildings were designed to catch the eye of pedestrians and make the most of busy street corners. In addition, the doorway is often placed at the building's corner so it can be seen from either street.

Firehouse

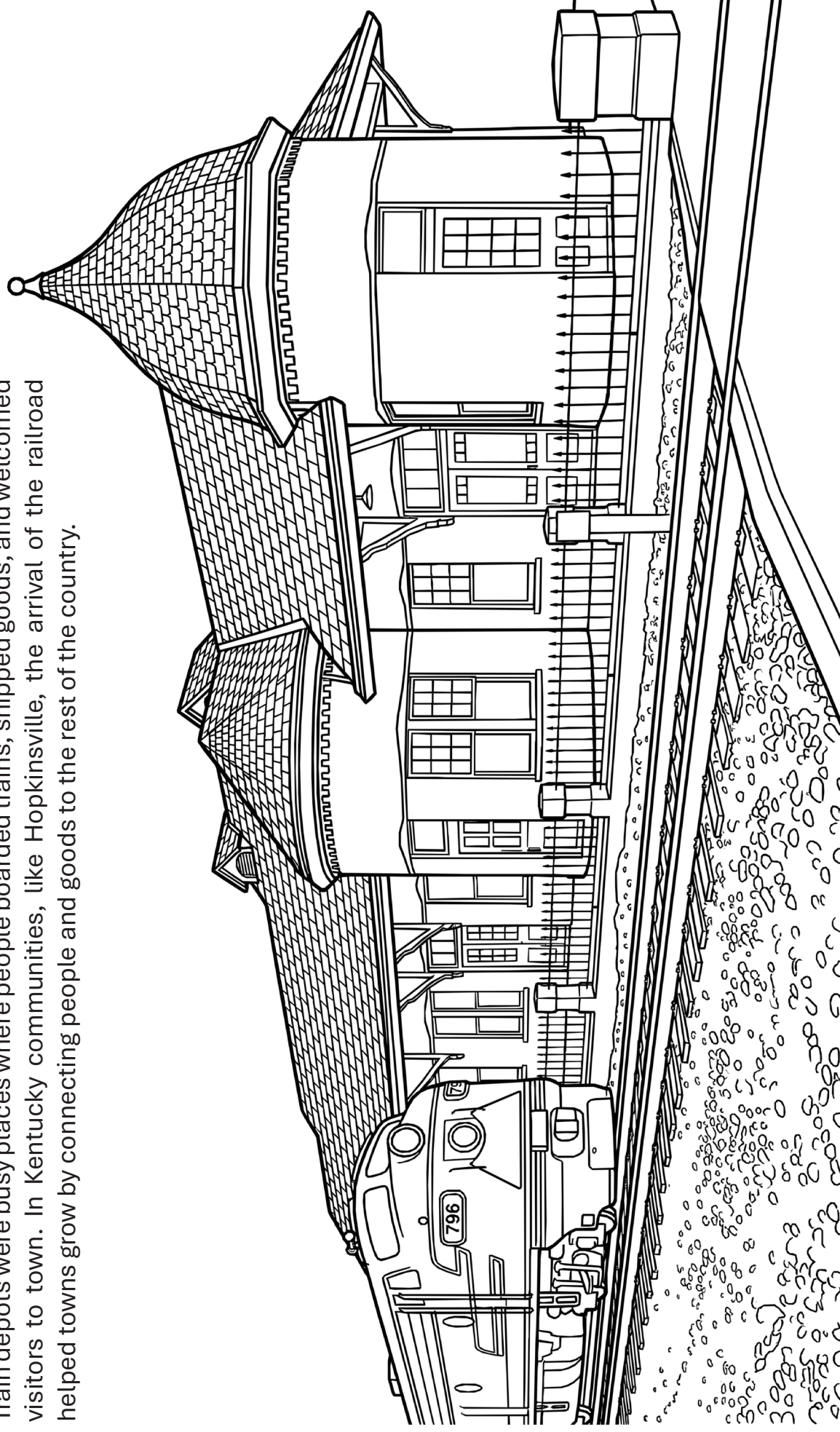
 Find me in
Lexington, Ky.



Historic firehouses in Kentucky often have tall doors for fire engines. Originally, when these firehouses were first built, the fire engines were pulled by horses!

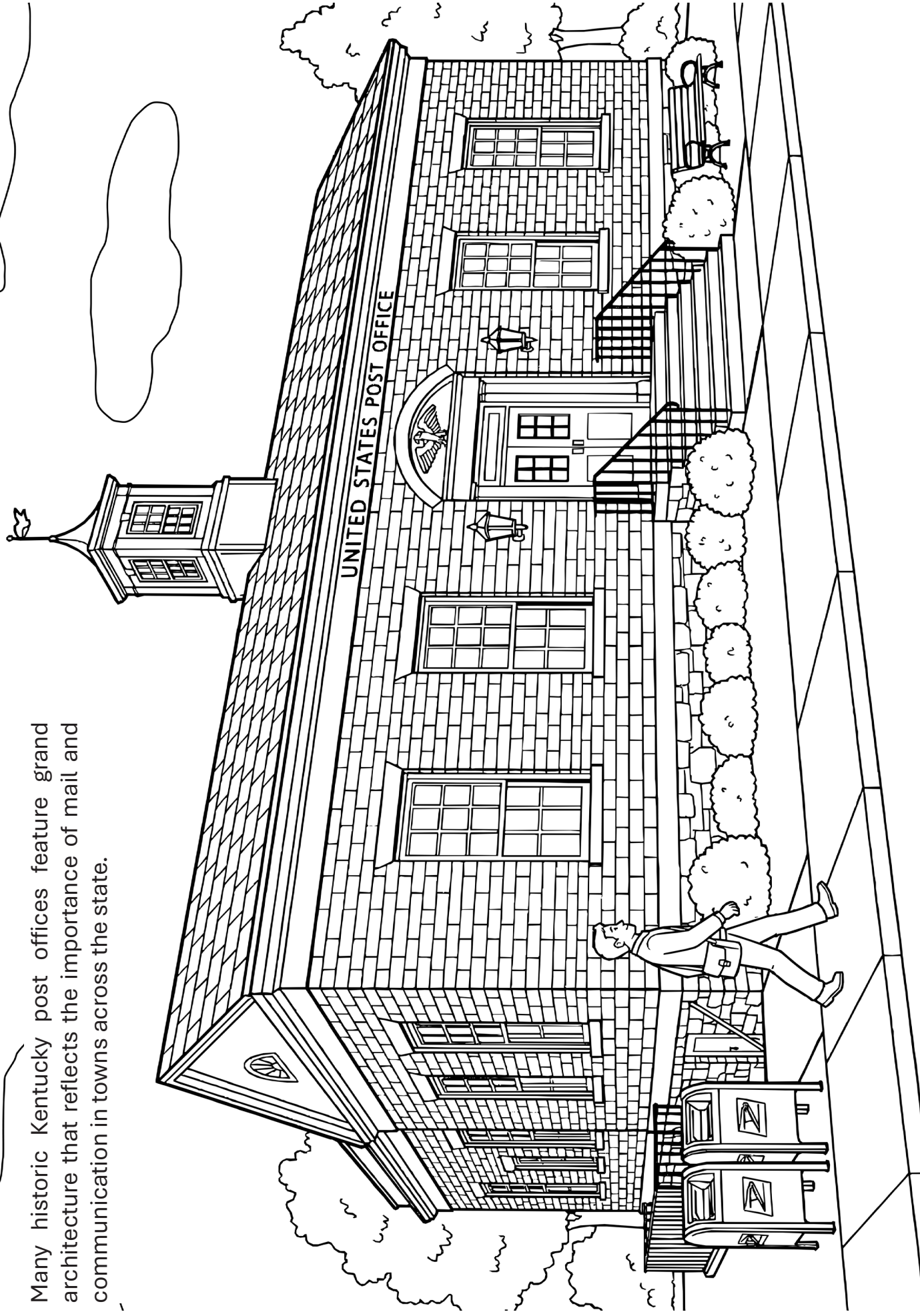
Train Depot

Train depots were busy places where people boarded trains, shipped goods, and welcomed visitors to town. In Kentucky communities, like Hopkinsville, the arrival of the railroad helped towns grow by connecting people and goods to the rest of the country.



Post Office

Many historic Kentucky post offices feature grand architecture that reflects the importance of mail and communication in towns across the state.

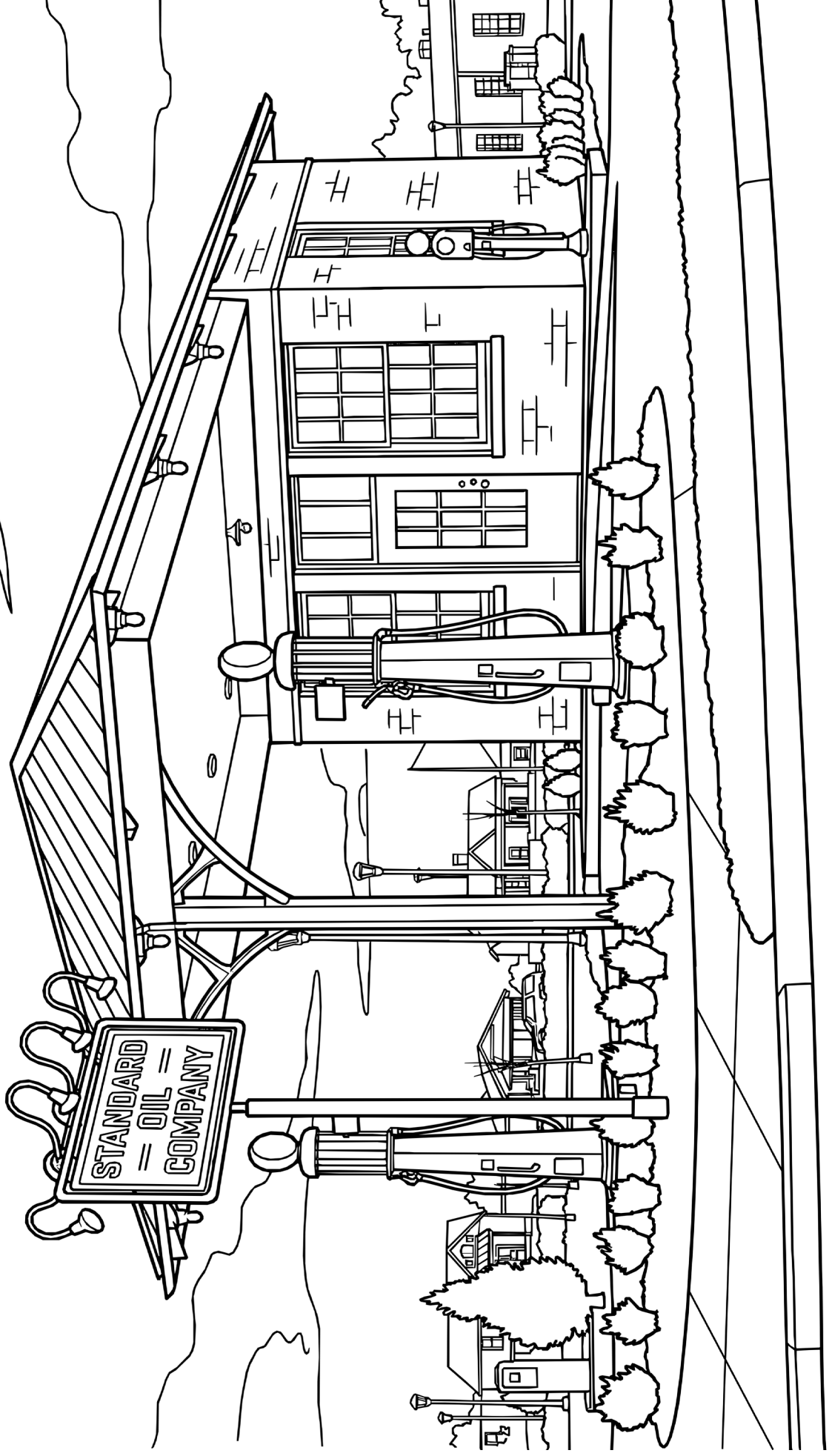


Gas Station

Many early 20th-century stations were also small hubs for travelers. Historic gas stations in Kentucky often have distinct architecture with creative designs.

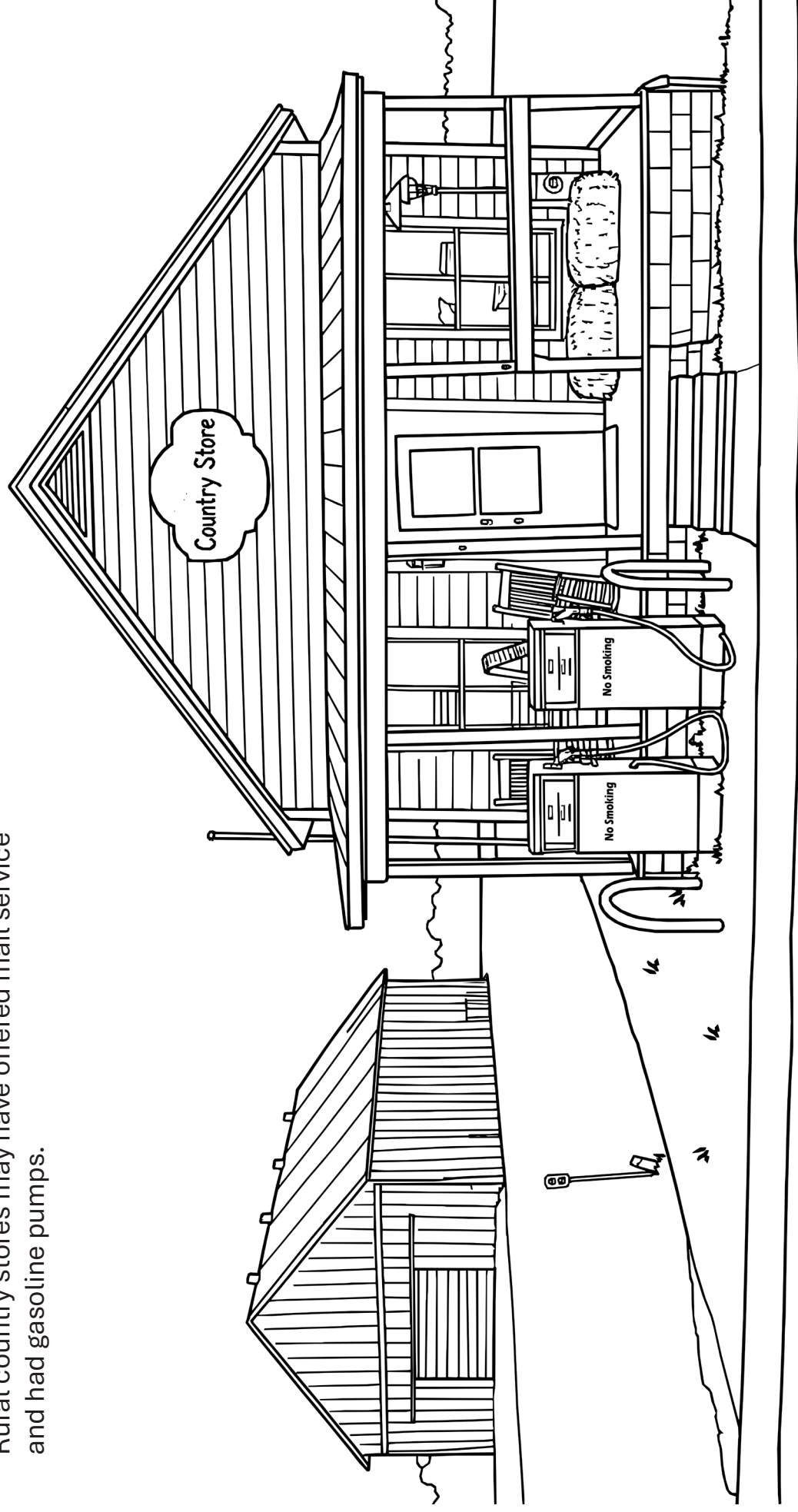


Find me in
Bowling Green, Ky.



Country Store

Country stores were the heart of smalltown life, selling everything from food to tools and serving as a place for neighbors to meet and share news. Rural country stores may have offered mail service and had gasoline pumps.

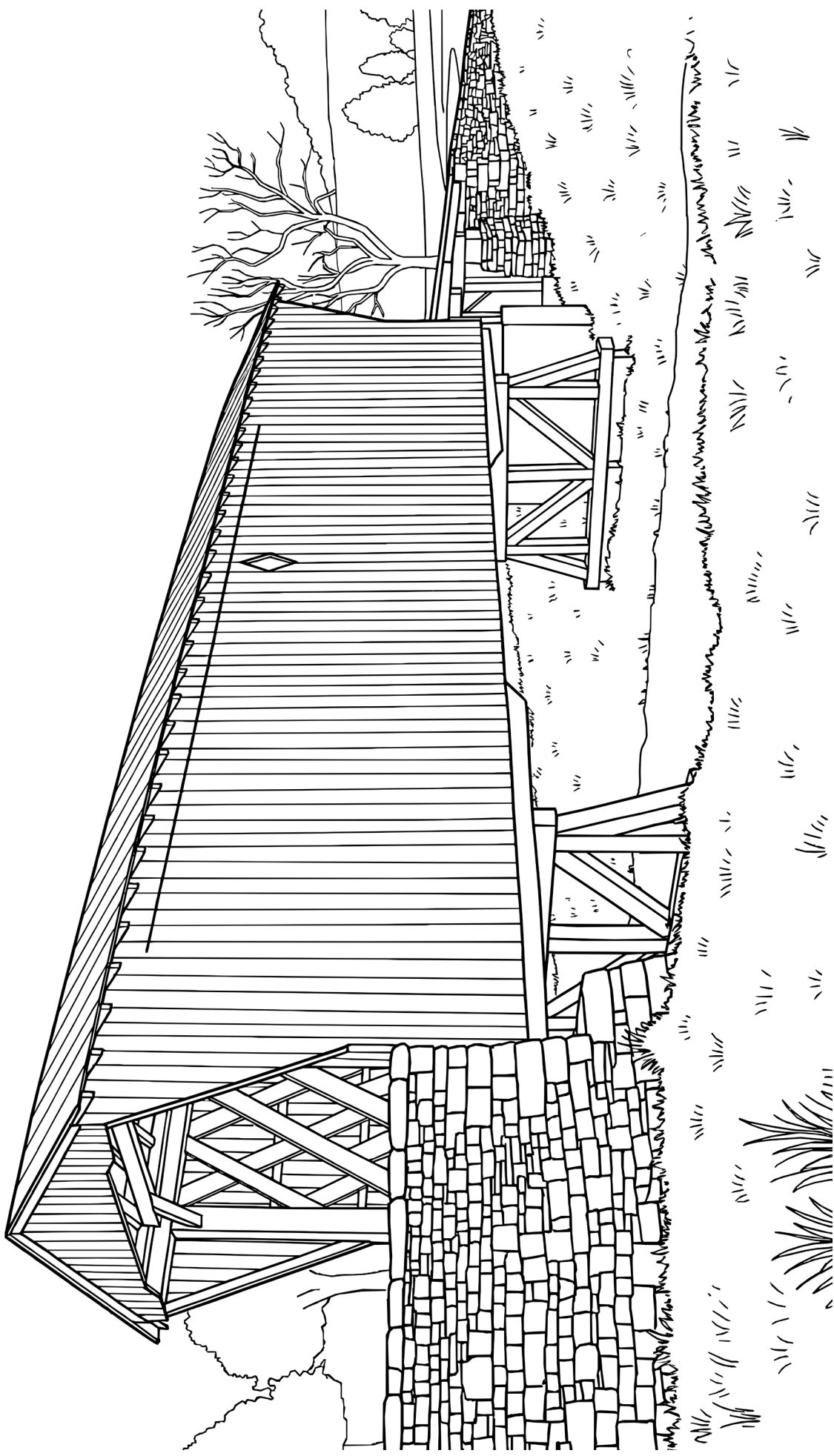


Covered Bridge

Covered bridges have a roof and walls that protect the wooden structure from rain and snow, helping them last longer. Kentucky has several historic covered bridges, some dating back to the 1800s.

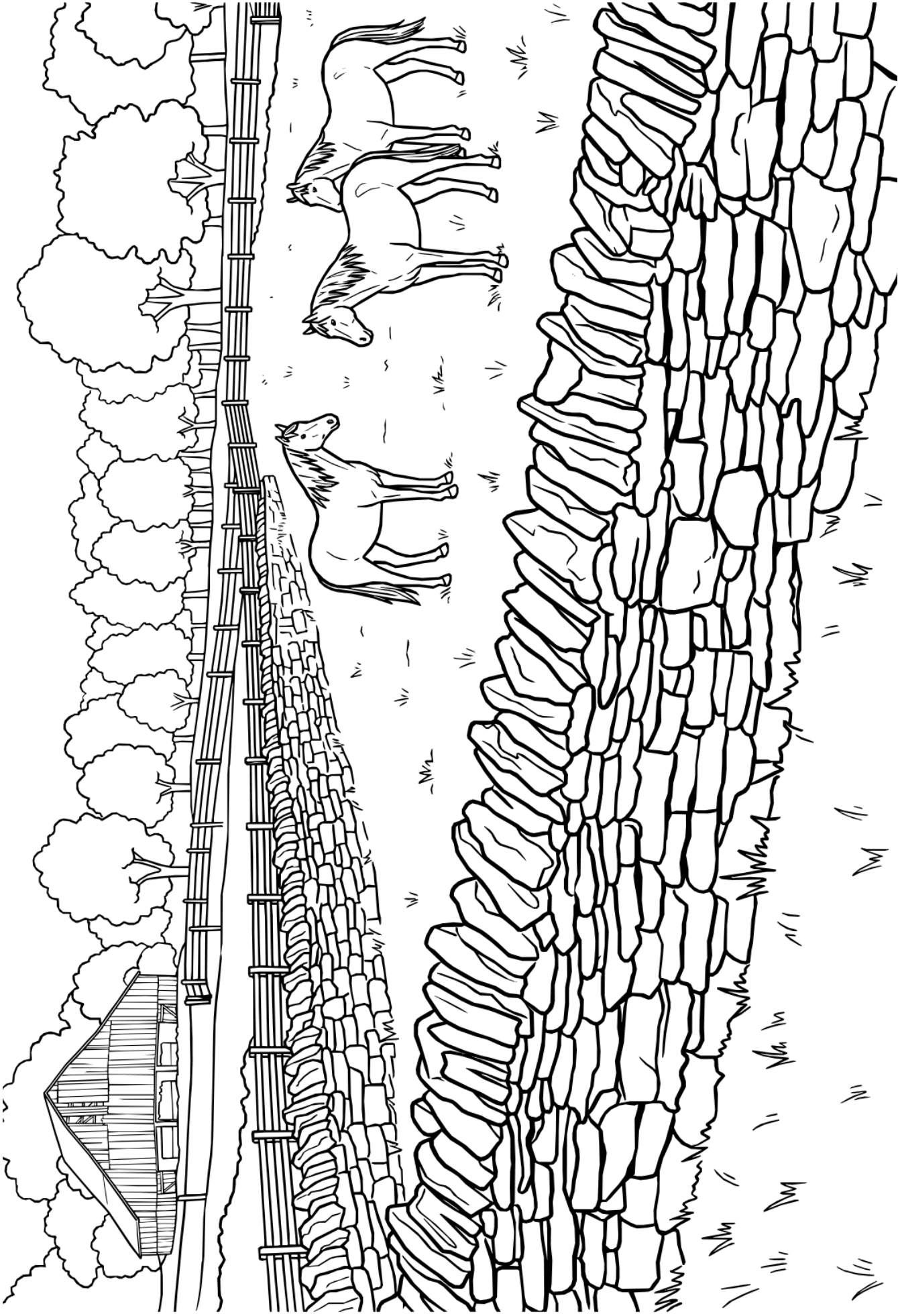


Find me in
Fleming County, Ky.



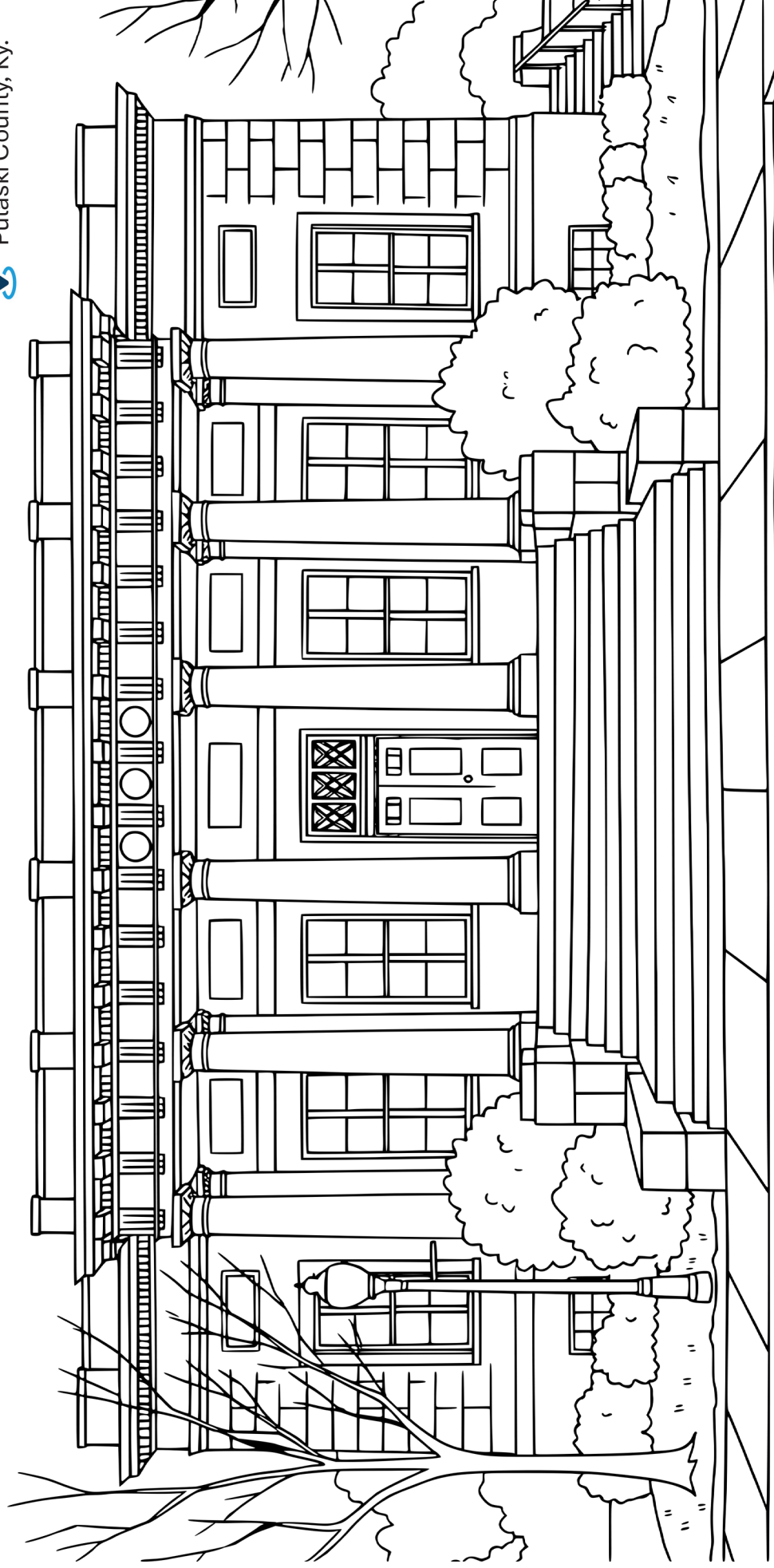
Drystone Fence & Tobacco Barn

Drystone fences are built by carefully stacking stones without using mortar. Early settlers brought this skill to Kentucky, and you can still see these fences in fields today. Tobacco barns have tall roofs and wooden slats for airflow. They were made to hang and dry tobacco, which used to be Kentucky's most important cash crop.



Library

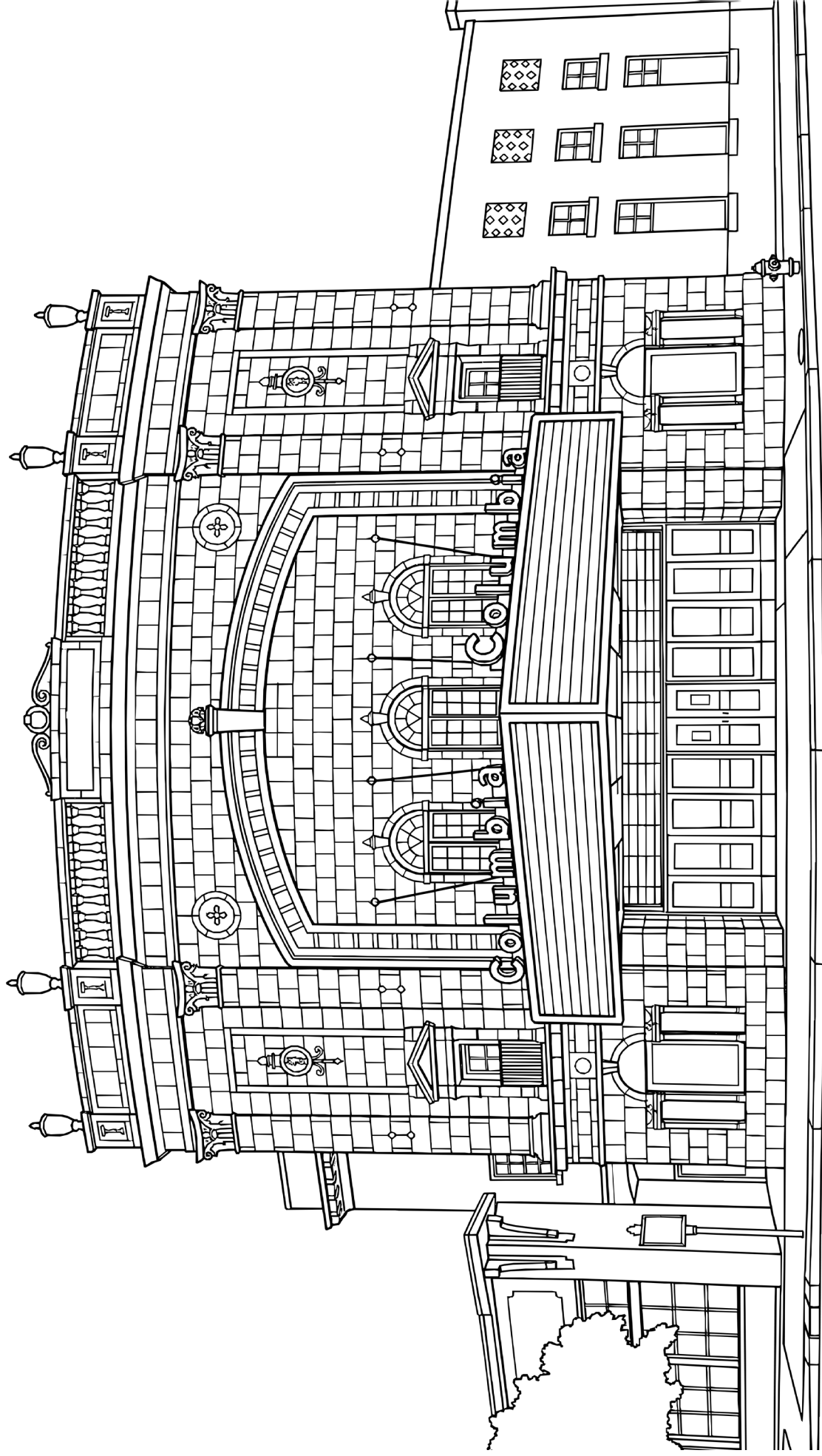
Find me in
Pulaski County, Ky.



Kentucky's historic libraries were built in the early 1900s to provide free access to learning, and became important places for education and public activities.

Theatre

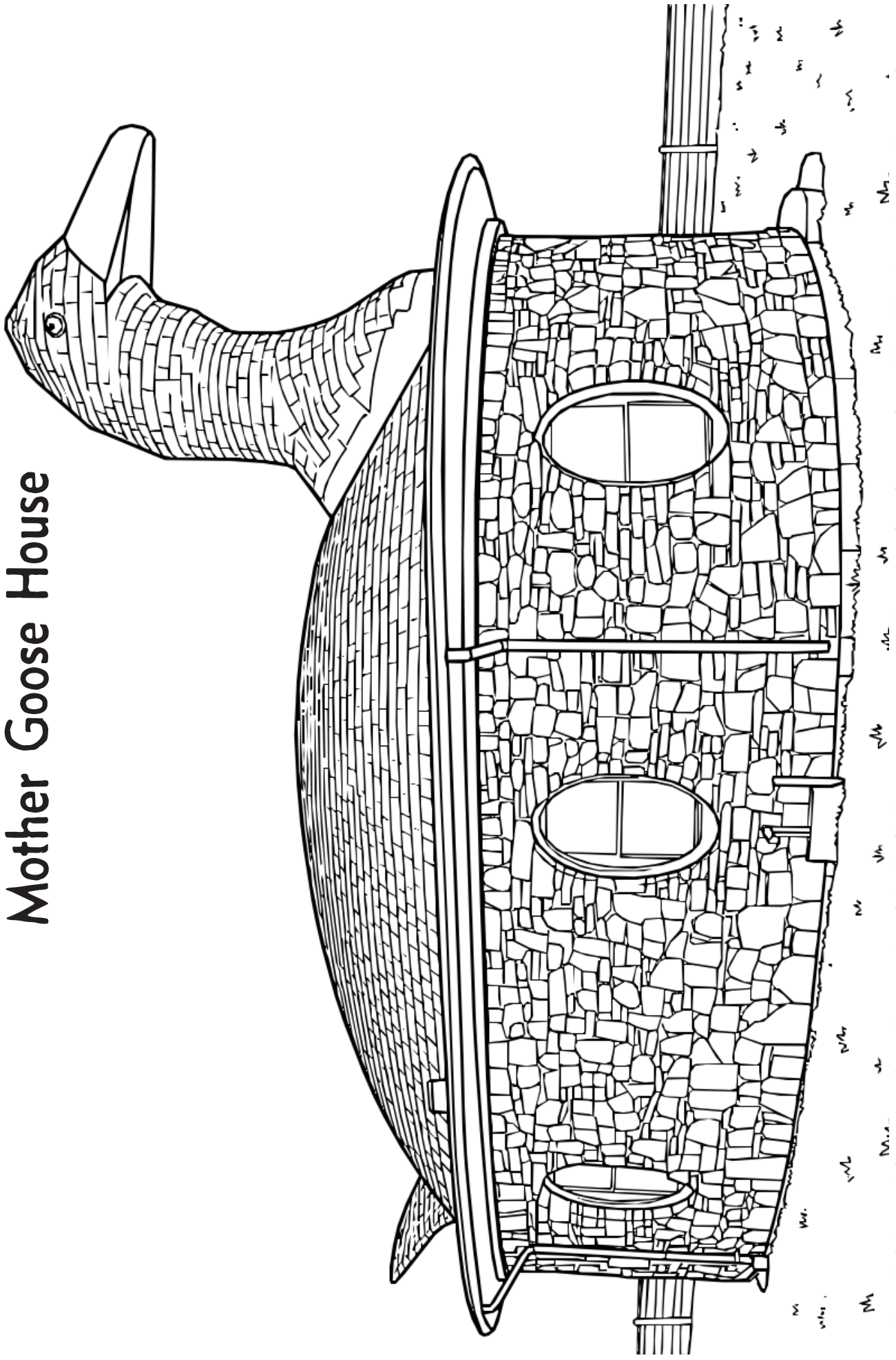
Find me in
Paducah, Ky.



Many downtown theatres built in the early 1900s feature marquees and fancy interiors. This made them exciting landmarks for both entertainment and community events.

Roadside Architecture

Mother Goose House

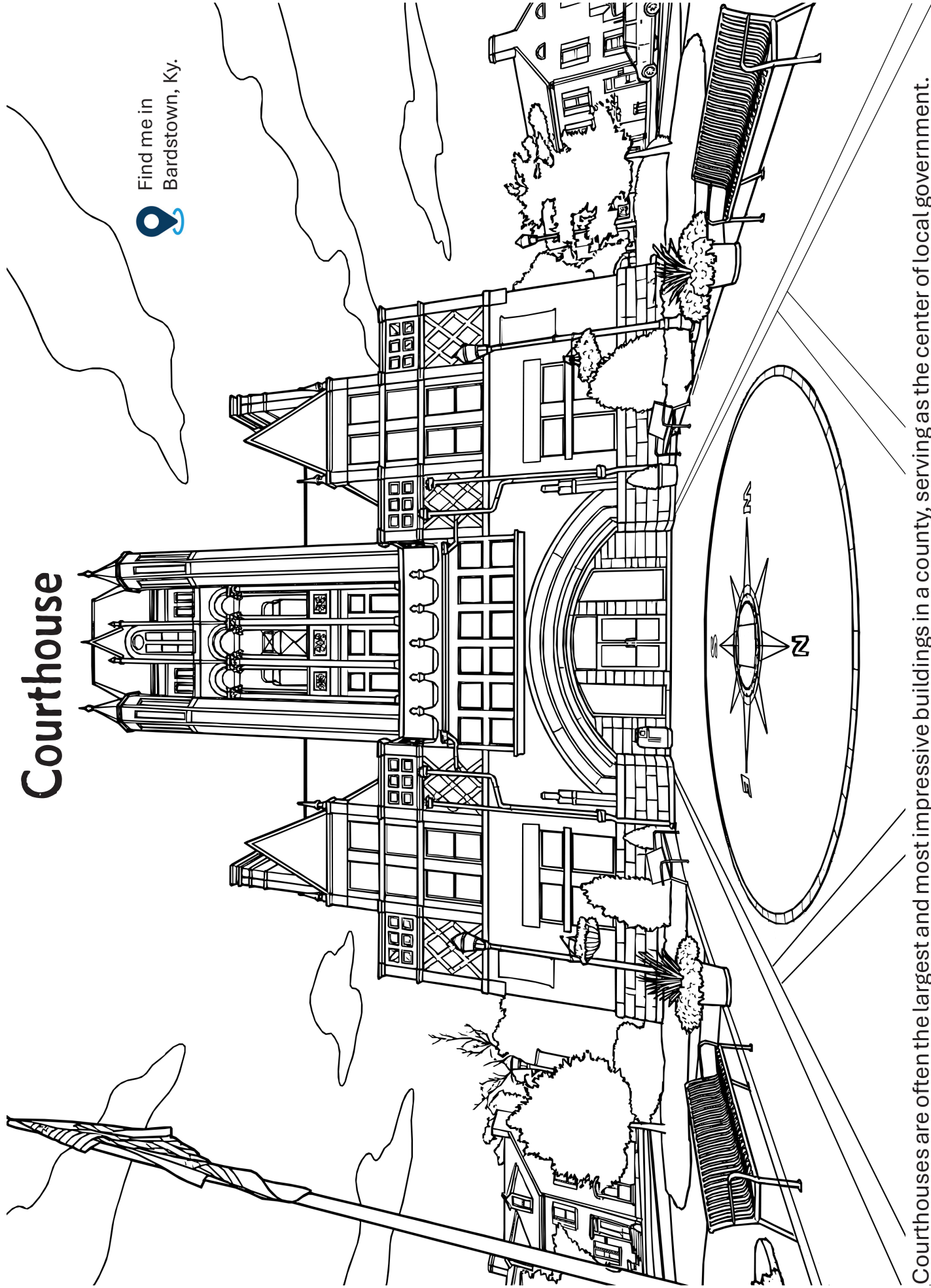


Roadside architecture is a fun and quirky building meant to catch motorists' attention. The Mother Goose House in Hazard, Kentucky is shaped like a giant goose showing how some towns used playful designs to attract visitors.

Courthouse



Find me in
Bardstown, Ky.

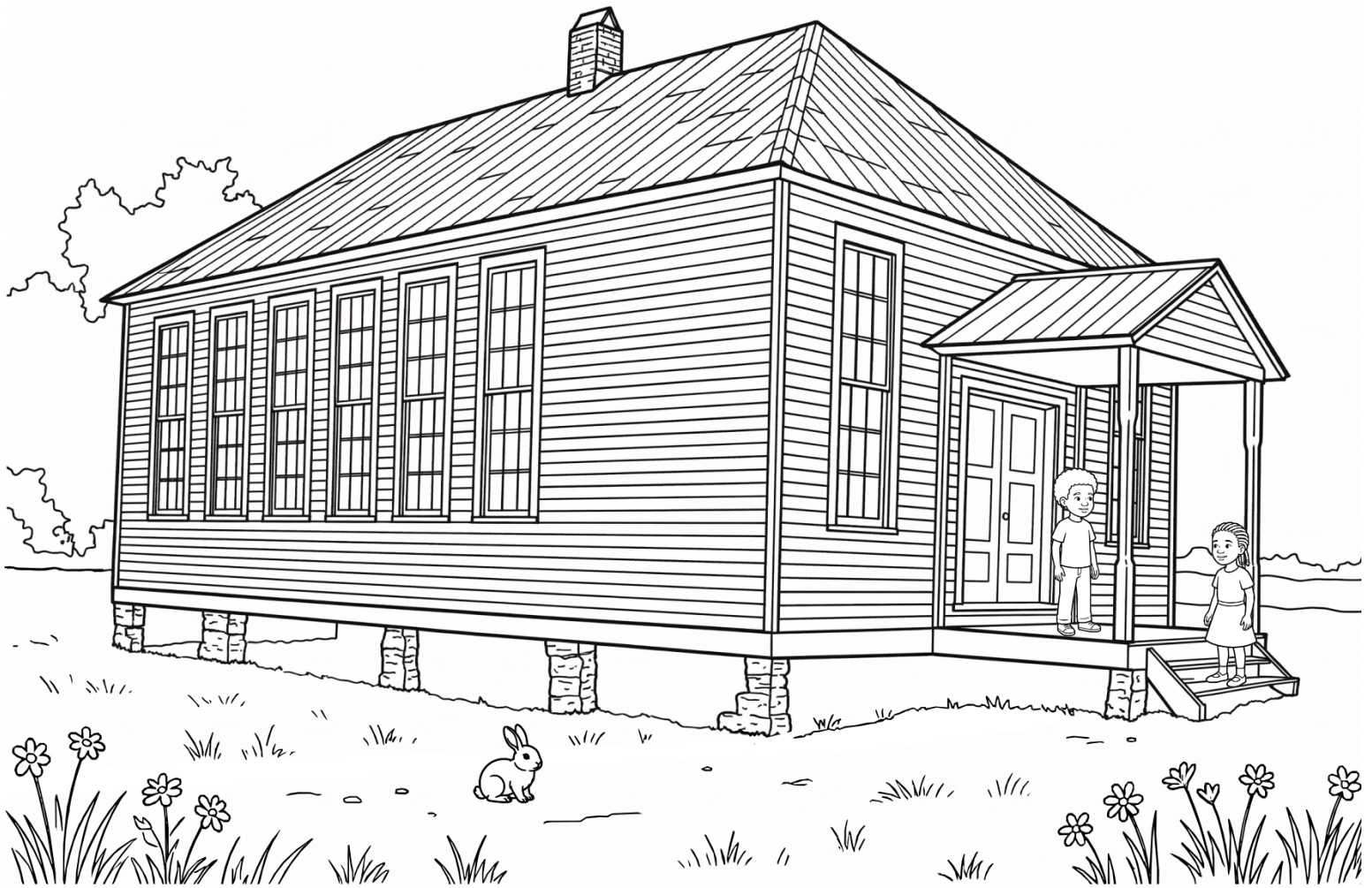


Courthouses are often the largest and most impressive buildings in a county, serving as the center of local government. In many Kentucky towns, historic courthouses sit in the middle of the downtown square.

Rosenwald School



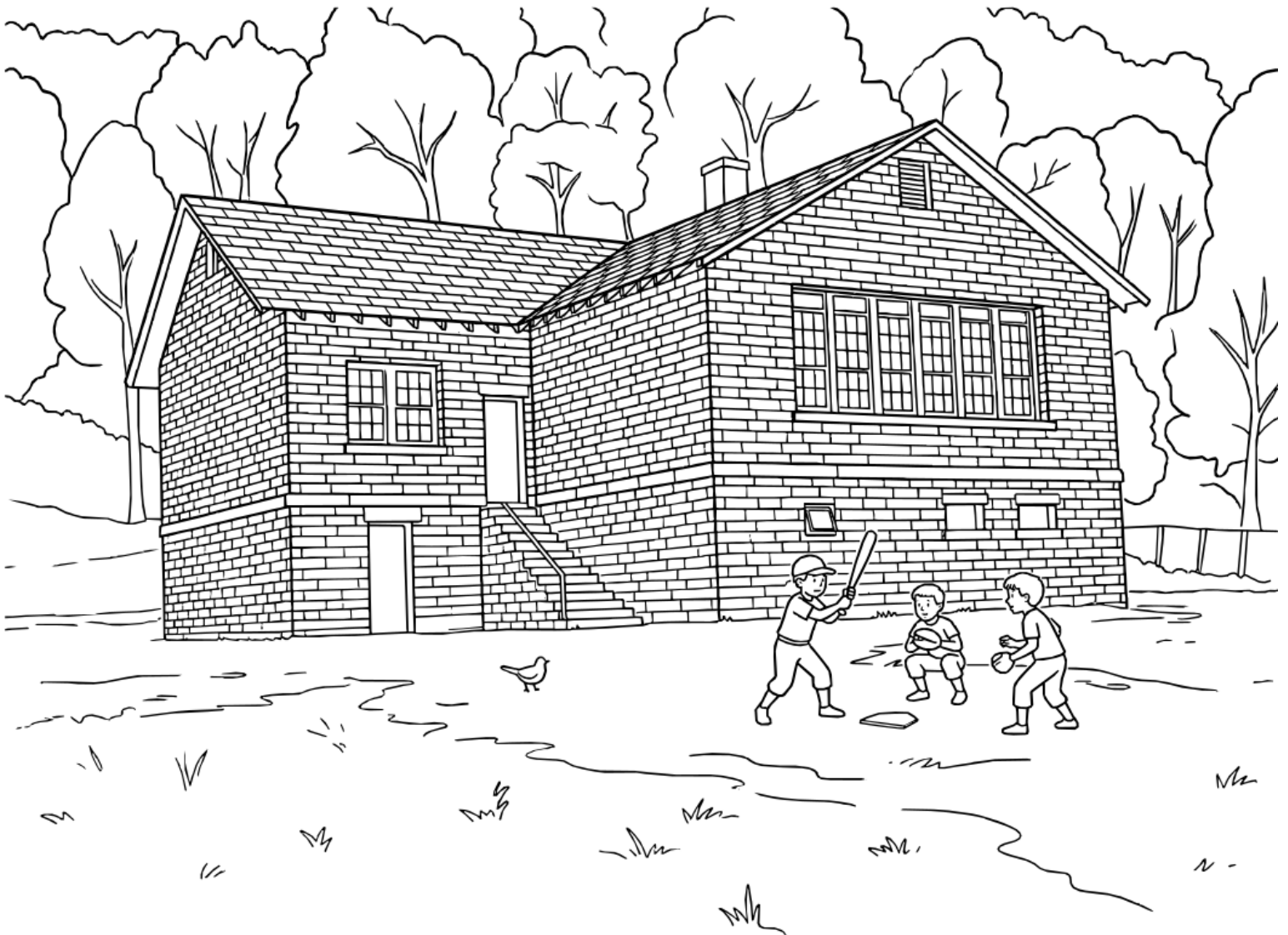
Find me in
Wayne County, Ky.



Rosenwald Schools were built in the early 1900s to provide education for African American children in the South. In Kentucky, these schools helped communities gain access to learning when public education was unequal. Many of these schools still stand as important reminders of history and perseverance.

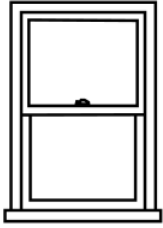
WPA School

 Find me in
Breathitt County, Ky.

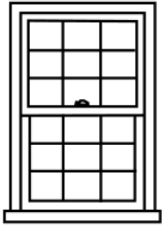


WPA Schools were built during the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration, a program that created jobs during the Great Depression. These sturdy schools were often made of brick or stone. WPA Schools not only educated children but also provided jobs for local communities.

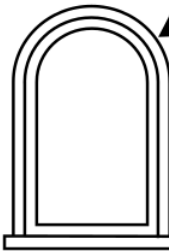
Architectural Features



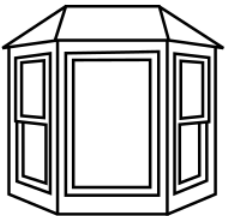
1/1 window A window with two sections that slide up and down. Each section is one single pane of glass.



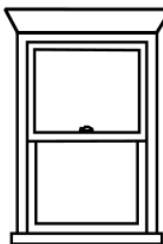
6/6 window A window with two sections that slide up and down. Each section is divided into six small panes of glass by thin strips of wood.



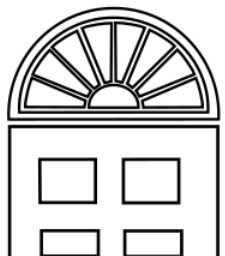
Arch A curved structure built over an opening like a door or window. The curved shape is very strong and helps hold up the wall above the opening.



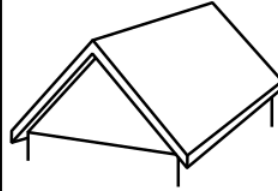
Bay window A window that sticks out from the wall of a building. It creates extra space inside and lets in light from more than one direction.



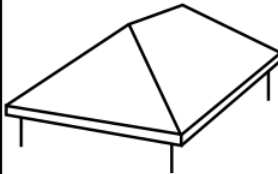
Lintel A beam placed across the top of a door or window opening to support the wall above it.



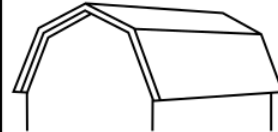
Fanlight A small, half-circle window above a door, with glass divided by strips that spread out like a fan.



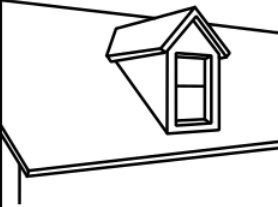
Gable roof A roof with two sloping sides that meet at a ridge in the middle, making a triangle shape at each end.



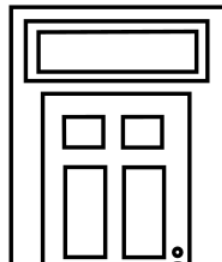
Hipped roof A roof where all four sides slope downward to the walls, with no flat or triangular ends.



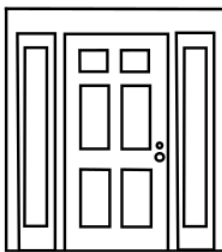
Gambrel roof A roof with two different slopes on each side. The lower slope is steeper, and the upper slope is gentler, meeting at the ridge in the middle. This shape is often seen on barns.



Dormer A small window that pokes out from a sloping roof, with its own small roof above it.

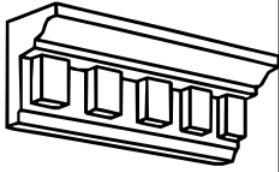


Transom A narrow window placed directly above a door or another window.

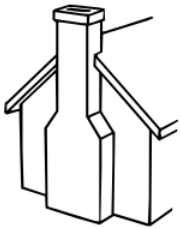


Sidelights Narrow windows placed on one or both sides of a door.

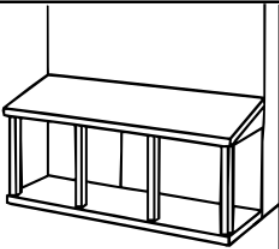
Architectural Features



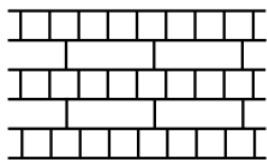
Dentil Small blocks or “teeth” in rows that are used as decoration along the top edge of a building, just below where the roof hangs over the wall.



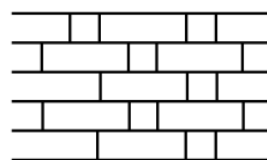
Chimney A tall brick structure that carries smoke from a fireplace out through the roof.



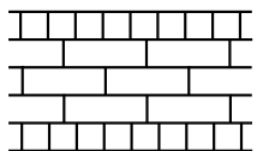
Porch A covered outdoor platform attached to the entrance of a building.



English bond A brick pattern where rows alternate between bricks with one row laid lengthwise and another row with the short ends facing out.



Flemish bond A brick pattern where each row alternates between a brick laid lengthwise and a brick laid with its short end facing out, creating a checkerboard-like appearance.



Common bond A brick pattern where several rows of bricks laid lengthwise are followed by one row laid with the short ends facing out. It is one of the most widely used brick patterns in American buildings.



Tuscan column The simplest column style. It has a plain, smooth body and a plain, flat top with very little decoration.



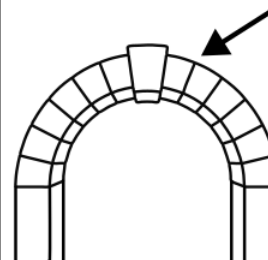
Doric column A plain, sturdy column style with a simple flat top and no base at the bottom.



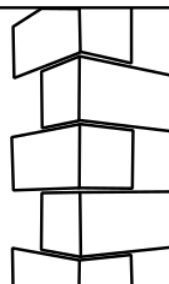
Ionic column A column style recognized by its top, which has two decorative scrolls curling out on each side.



Corinthian column The most decorative column style, with a top covered in carved leaves.

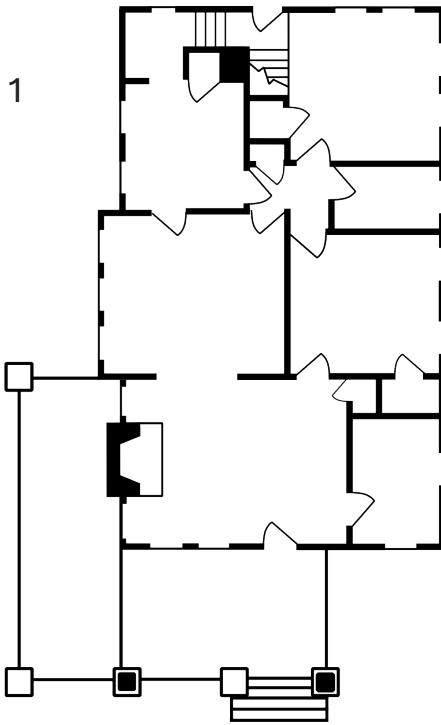


Keystone The wedge-shaped stone placed at the very top center of an arch. It locks all the other stones in place and holds the arch together.

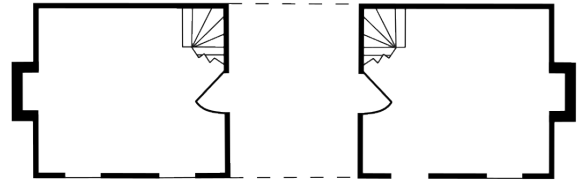


Quoins Large stones or bricks placed at the corners of a building, usually in alternating sizes. They make the corners stronger and often serve as decoration too.

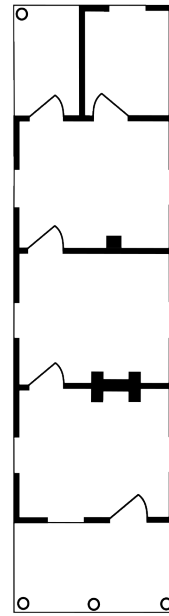
Match the Floor Plan to the Building



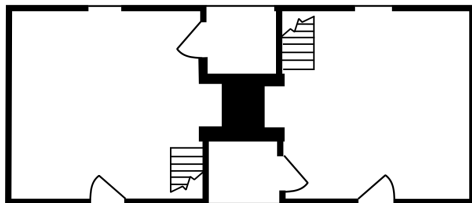
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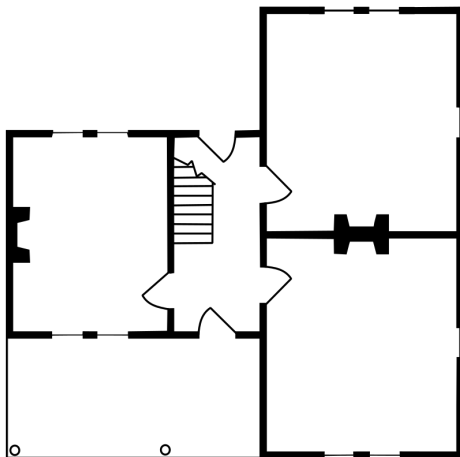
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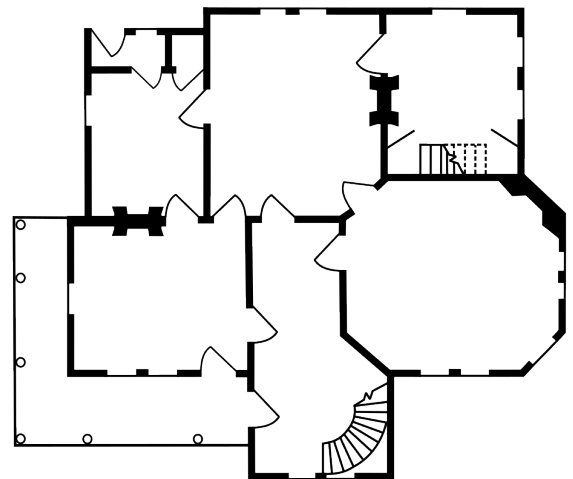
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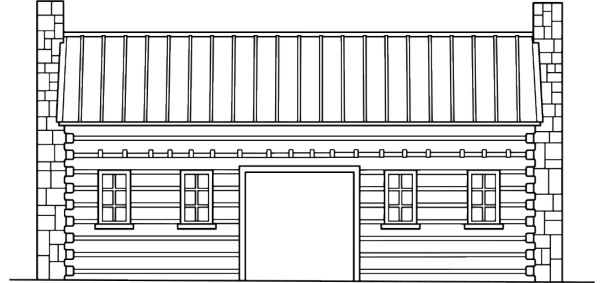


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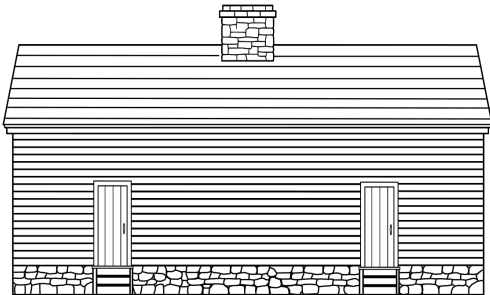
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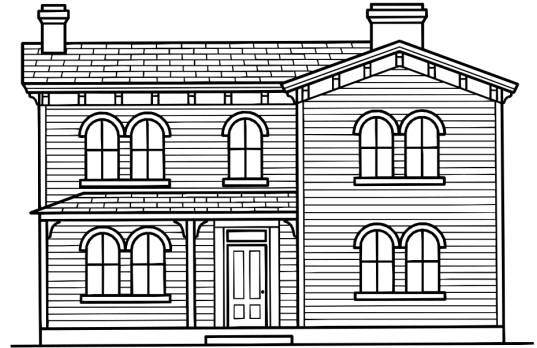
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C



D



E



F



COLORING THE COMMONWEALTH

A KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL COLORING BOOK

Step into the history of Kentucky and discover the places, buildings, and communities that shaped the Commonwealth. From gardens and early homes to historic downtown streets, schools, and unusual roadside landmarks, this coloring book invites you to learn about how people lived, worked, and built their communities. Complete the included activities to test your knowledge, explore history hands-on, and bring these stories to life with your own colors!



The Barstow House, home of the Kentucky Heritage Council, ca. 2025

Download additional coloring pages from our website!
heritage.ky.gov

