

Stop 8. National Humane Alliance Fountain

The water fountain (Fig. 10) located near the intersection of Main and SE Third Street was made for multiple users. The upper level of the fountain was designed for horses and mules, the lower for dogs, and people could drink from the water emanating from lion-head spigots that once were attached to the fountain. This is one of at least 70 such fountains that were fashioned and distributed in various cities by the National Humane Alliance. Although the fountains have the same pattern, apparently different types of granite were used, with multiple origins and a variety of colors. The Alliance presented this fountain to Evansville in 1910; the city moved the fountain here from its original site at the Municipal Market, roughly three-quarters of a mile (1.2 km) away, during the late 1960s.

The fountain is made of a pink porphyritic granite. The size of the largest potassium-feldspar phenocrysts is between 3.0 and 3.5 cm. The granite, which contains distinctively zoned crystals, is possibly of the Rapakivi type.

Stop 9. Hilliard Lyons Building (Old Commerce Bank; Old Citizens Bank Building)

The exterior of the Hilliard Lyons Building, located at the corner of Fourth and Main, includes a faux marble. Evansville's



Figure 10. Looking down Main Street at the National Humane Alliance Fountain (Stop 8). The Old National Building (Stop 10) is in the background.



(Photo: Provided)

In 1910, the National Humane Alliance and Adolph Melzer, soap manufacturer and animal lover, erected a five-ton, granite horse trough in front of the Municipal Market, located in the intersection of what was then Market and Pennsylvania Streets. About 125 similar troughs were constructed throughout the county, most at busy intersections. The troughs, including Evansville's, were later deemed traffic hazard in an age of automobiles and were removed or relocated.

Horse trough-supporters protested the move, advocating for it to remain at the intersection in numerous letters to the editors. This photo, arranged by a photographer at the Evansville Press in January 1960, brought a horse to drink from the fountain for the first time in decades, only to find the water frozen.

In February 1962, the trough was moved to the grounds of Evansville Museum. During Main Street renovation in 1971, it was repurposed as a fountain on the walkway, where it can still be found between Third and Fourth streets.



