

Jordan's Row

The block of buildings just to the east of the Courtyard across Upper Street was called "Jordan's Row" in the 19th century. The origin of the term is unknown, and it does not exist today.

These buildings were dedicated to the offices of the courts, the Courthouse itself being too small to accommodate. At least one building still stands, and served as Henry Clay's law office.

William H. Townsend writes, "Lincoln also spent much time about the courthouse and the public square, just as he did back home. The presiding judge, Richard A. Buckner, intimate friend of Robert S. Todd, and many of the lawyers had their offices in the low brick buildings on the east side of the courthouse known as 'Jordan's Row,' and here Lincoln loafed, swapped stories, and talked politics with Judge Buckner, Judge [George] Robertson, George B. Kinkead, his wife's cousins, John C. Breckinridge [later U.S. Vice President and Secretary of War for the Confederate States of America] and Charles D. Carr, John B. Huston, and other members of the local bar.

George Kinkead would become Lincoln's lifelong friend and Lexington attorney. That relationship precluding a possible fifth visit in 1853 that did not occur because Kinkead represented Lincoln's interests.