

## MAJOR FIRES

1883 May - Disastrous fire at Spanish and Merriwether streets. Destroyed were large foundry, the Betten home, and a large, two-story frame house that stood at the corner. An employee of the foundry was killed in the blaze

1891 June - Print office on Main Street

1891 Aug. 9 - Hirsch Building, occupied by The New Era newspaper office; post office building; August Bierwirth's cigar store. All on Main Street

1891 August - Casper Uhl building on Main Street

1892 March 12 - Lorimier Mills, owned by Otto Buehrmann

1894 August - Creamery in the former Hanny Brewery building

1894 November - P.H. Dempsey's corn warehouse on Themis Street

1895 August - Anderson Livery and residence on Good Hope Street.

1899 June 26 - Matteson Paint Mill in Happy Hollow. Mill used to manufacture Gold Brick Soap; proprietors were Roehl & Warren

1900 July 17 - Upper floor of William C. Bergmann building on Broadway burned

1902 April 7 - Third District Normal School

1902 Nov. 15 - Heavy damage to Henry Ossenkop's planing mill on Spanish Street

1903 October - Lorimier Hotel

1903 Nov. 15 - Warehouse of Cape City Mill

1904 Jan. 1 - Walter Albert building on levee, adjoining Riverview Hotel. Contents destroyed. Occupied by Western Poultry Co, which had lots of live chickens, turkeys and ducks in the building, as well as a big shipment of dressed poultry and more than 100 dozen eggs. First floor used by International Harvester Co., and a large number of machines were stored there. Albert Grocer Co. had 200 bales of hay on the first floor. All destroyed

1904 Sept. 9 - Riverview Hotel and Palace Saloon, Broadway near Water Street

1904 Dec. 10 - Lorimier Hotel at Fountain and Elm streets; housing South Cape Girardeau Store on first floor and hotel above

1905 April 2 - Two stables destroyed, one belonging to John w. Taylor and other to P.R. van Frank; Located on the alley between William and Good Hope streets

1905 June 2 - Building at Cape City Brick plant in the West End

1905 Sept. 9 - Buckner-Ragsdale Store in L.B. Houck building

1906 Oct. 22 - Old Fagan building

1907 Jan. 26/27 - Frisco car repair shops; destroyed were the building, 10 boxcars, a passenger car, valuable machinery. Loss: \$75,000

1907 Feb. 5 - Cross Printing Co. building; two-story brick on north side of Broadway, next to home of F.A. Kage (corner of Broadway and Spanish). House owned by Mrs. Wilson

1907 Nov. 16 - Two story frame building owned by M.E. Leming near Southern Hotel in South Cape

1907 Dec. 5 - Phillips Lumber & Fuel Co.

1908 March 16 - Interior of Gill Bros. Saloon on Main Street, near Independence; arson

1908 April 4 - Fire broke out in Miller & Kinder drug store on Good Hope street. Spread to roof of Hoeller & Anderson building adjoining, and the roof of both burned off

1908 April 23 - Fred Kain barn and Waters-Pierce Oil Co. stable yard 1908 Sept. 9 - Buckner-Ragsdale store in Houck Building at Main & Broadway; damage to all the stock. Loss valued at \$40,000

1908 Dec. 3 - Myrtle Mahn's millinery store on Main Street

1909 March 27 - Planters Mill, Independence Street at Main Street

1909 April 3 - Second-hand store adjoining big elevator of Farmers Milling Co. (Planters Mill) on Independence Street. Destroyed were the mill, elevator and the Pete Maul building. F.W. Vogt building, adjoining Maul's, badly damaged

1909 May 4 - Hobbs Furniture, Water and Themis streets

1909 May 7 - Apex Saloon, Good Hope Street

1911 Feb. 28 - Stables of Blue Ribbon Coal & Ice Co. and John Popp, Themis Street

1911 May 9 - Jim Miller livery stable in Haarg

1911 Dec. 28 - Phillips Lumber & Fuel Co. yards on Jefferson Avenue

1912 May 15 - Hobbs Furniture store, Water and Themis streets

1912 May 23 - Walter Albert Building on Main Street

1912 Oct. 28 - Three houses near College and Frederick streets

1913 Jan. 4 - Boiler room and sheds at the Cape Girardeau & Jackson Interurban Railway on North Main Street

1913, Jan 7 - St. Louis Oil Co., in West End

1913 Aug. 9 - Six home son North Street

1913 Oct. 4 - Hope-Cotner garage on Independence Street

1914 Feb. 21 - Centenary Methodist Church, Ellis and Bellevue  
 1914 April 5 - Old Metz Saloon building in Haarig  
 1914 June 15 - Stein and Lance Mill on Broadway  
 1914 Aug. 6 - Fuerth Foundry on North Main Street  
 1914 Oct. 8 /9 - Caldwell-Sherman store on Main Street  
 1915 Aug. 8/9 - Phillips Lumber and Fuel Co., South Cape  
 1916 Jan. 6 - Three buildings in Haarig. Heaviest losses: Meyer & Suedekum Hardware Store, Charles Kaess Bakery, Seib Cigar Shop, Maurer blacksmith shop, and Schwartz & Stein Saloon  
 1916 March 15 - Riverview Hotel, Terminal Hotel, Buckner-Ragsdale Clothing Store, Mrs. Florence Boone's Millinery Store, and two saloons, Downtown Cape  
 1916 April 7 - Lincoln School damaged  
 1916 May 8 - Hobbs store on levee  
 1916 Aug. 1 - Blue Ribbon Ice & Fuel Co., Themis and Sprigg streets  
 1916 Oct 11/1 - Ridgdon Laundry on Aquamsi Street  
 1917 April 2 - Three homes in Red Star  
 1917 Nov. 24 - Large mill of Cape Cooperate Co.; loss estimated at \$30,000  
 1918 Nov. 29 - Wulfers building, Broadway and Pacific streets. Housed Wulfers meat market and Clifton's Confectionery  
 1919 March 16/17 - Allison's Toggery, Main and Themis streets; building owned by Houck

1921 Jan. 22 - Thomas Lilly flour and feed store, Fountain and William streets  
 1921 May 11 - John H. Settle book store, 505 Broadway  
 1921 July 9 - Brewery barn on South Middle Street  
 1921 Aug. 4 - Tenzer Hat Factory and Cirrito Commission Co., located in Morrison building, 38 S. Spanish  
 1921 Dec. 12 - M. Samuels clothing store, Main and Themis streets  
 1922 Aug. 4 - D.A. Glenn Dry Goods Store, 31 N. Main  
 1923 May 16 - Explosion and fire destroy Night & Day Cleaning Co. plant  
 1923 Aug. 27 - Houck building on Independence and Middle streets; housed five businesses: Thomas S. Lilly feed store, contractor G.W. Vaughan, Blore Bros. Painters, tinner John Sandman and Pollack Bros. hides and junk  
 1923 Sept. 8 - Union Door and Sash Co., Forest Lumber Co., and Union Lumber and Mfg. Co., near Independence and Boulevard  
 1924 Dec. 3 - Riverside Lumber Co., 314 S. Ellis St.; three homes, barn with eight horses  
 1925 Jan. 6 - Cape Coal Co. barn, 44 S. Frederick St.; seven horses killed  
 1925 April 1 - Two residences and store building in South Cape; fire started in Tom Mahaney store  
 1925 June 22 - Johnston Hotel, 26 N. Main St., gutted by fire; damage to Johnston Cleaning Co. in same building  
 1926 Feb. 6 - Cape County Mercantile Co. store, Main and Broadway  
 1926 June 3 - Combined stock and feed barn at Riverside Ice & Fuel Co., on North Main Street  
 1926 June 4 - John Lando shoe store, 623 Good Hope  
 1927 April 7 - Pollack Hide & Fur Co. warehouse, Kingshighway  
 1927 April 24 - Drusch Building, Broadway and Ellis  
 1927 July 6 - Building at Independence and Middle streets, housing Cape Milk Co. and Joe Sandman, tinner  
 1927 Sept. 22 - M. Samuels building, 46 N. Main; upstairs gutted and downstairs merchandise heavily damaged  
 1928 May 13 - Riverside Ice and Fuel Co., North Main Street; 21 horses killed  
 1928 Aug. 21 - Leming Lumber Co. mill in South Cape; damage estimated at \$40,000  
 1929 Jan. 29 - Three-story building housing Kinder's Drug Store, Dreamland Confectionery and the National Guard Armory on Good Hope Street  
 1929 May 8 - Oakenwold — the Peironnet country home — on North Bend Road  
 1929 Aug. 1 - SEMO Packing Co., slaughter house and barn, Bloomfield Road  
 1929 Sept. 19 - Round barn on Little Valley Farm, owned by Giboney Houck, on South Sprigg Street Road

1930 April 14 - Building housing Clark Music Co., 116 N. Main, badly damaged  
 1930 May 2 - Ruehmann Hide & Fur Co. building, 330 N. Main St.  
 1930 Aug. 21 - Cape Coal Co. barn with four horses, 44 S. Frederick  
 1930 Nov. 21 - Old Cape Brewery building, 426 S. Middle, housing the manufacturing plant of Riverside Ice and Fuel Co.  
 1931 Oct. 18 - Fire, accompanied by an explosion, virgually destroyed the stock of the M. Samuel store, 46 N. Main St.; interior gutted, and loss estimated between \$15,000 and \$17,000  
 1935 May 27 - Mattress factory on South Spanish Street  
 1937 Feb. 4 - Bartels Mercantile Store on Broadway

1937 Feb. 11 - Community clubhouse in Capaha Park  
1938 Nov. 28/29 - Elks Building and Mrs. Ollie Kopper house, Themis Street  
1939 Dec. 2, 1930 - Braun Bros. Grocery

1941 Jan. 3 - Cape Cut Rate, 701 Broadway  
1941 April 23 - Blattner Bros. Packing Co., Highway 61  
1941 May 2 - American White Cross Laboratories Inc., 1 College St.  
1943 Nov. 16 - Roller rink on Highway 61 at Bloomfield Road and owned by L.F. Brenneisen. Automobile service station housed in building's east wing  
1946 Feb. 18 Church of God Mission, 421a Broadway, badly damaged; water damage to first-floor occupant, P & G Tire and Supply Co.  
1947 Feb. 4 - Jesse Millikan Motor Co. building, 221 Independence  
1948 Feb. 17 - Houck Field House, Broadway  
1949 March 4 - Planing mill at L.H. Landgr Lumber Co., 1949 Independence, gutting half of building and damaging 2,000 to 3,000 feet of good grade lumber  
1949 March 9 - Building housing business and living quarters: W.J. Pleger Battery and Auto Service Station, 216 Mason

1950 July 11 - Parkview Stables barn near arena Park; six horses, three ponies killed  
1950 Dec. 24 - Rust & Martin upholstering building, 615 Broadway  
1951 March 11 - Lorberg Furniture, 215 S. Sprigg St.; \$300,000 damage to 30-year-old building; only walls left standing  
1952 Feb. 6 - Southeast Missouri Lumber Co.  
1952 April 7 - Pollack Lumber Co. warehouse  
1952 June 24 - Severe damage to West Side Church of God on West Bloomfield  
1952 July 29 - Sport shop, printing office, doctor's office on South Spanish Street  
1952 Dec. 27 - Missouri Electric Works, Inc., Morgan Oak and South Middle streets, damaged  
1953 March 17 - John S. Cobb School, Merriwether and Pacific streets  
1953 Oct. 28 - Building housing Missouri Electric Works Inc., Frederick and Merriwether, destroyed; formerly Roth Tobacco Co. building  
1953 Dec. 15 - Sunset Motor Co., 2119 Broadway, heavily damaged by fire and smoke  
1953 Dec. 24 - Former Maurer Carriage Building on West Independence Street  
1953 Dec. 27 - Old Cape Brewery building, Middle and Morgan Oak streets  
1954 Jan. 23 - Eddie Erlbacher Foundry and Machine Shop, 1300 N. Water St.  
1956 Jan. 6 - Front office and show room of McDowell Motor Co.  
1956 Nov. 25 - Flight control building at the Cape Girardeau Municipal Airport destroyed  
1957 March 11 - Maple Avenue Methodist Church on South Ellis Street, badly damaged  
1957 July 14 - Texas Trading Post, 2110 S. Sprigg St.  
1958 Jan. 7 - Walther's Furniture Store warehouse department, Broadway and Middle  
1958 May 27 - Cape Boating Co., 10 N. Sprigg St.

1963 Dec. 11 - Cape Girardeau Country Club clubhouse  
1964 Aug. - Jim Wilson Co.  
1965 Aug. 14 Jim Wilson Co. warehouse, Themis and Spring streets.  
1966 July 15 - Lightning strike causes fire which destroys World War II airplane hangar at municipal airport  
1966 Nov. 17 - Shy's Rexall Drugstore, in Mid-Towner Shopping Center  
1968 June 29 - Fifty percent of the Idan-Ha Hotel building, Broadway and Fountain streets, destroyed by fire. Also destroyed: Milady's Shop and Rainbow Coffee Shop located in the hotel building  
1969 Jan. 29 - Hutson Furniture Co. warehouse, 25 S. Sprigg (former I. Ben Miller and Midwest Dairies building)  
1969 July 6 - Oglander's clothing store, 2 N. Main

1970 May 23 - M.E. Leming Lumber Co.; arson  
1970 Aug. 21 - Arson fires destroy mill operations at M.E. Leming Lumber Co. Five City Sanitation Co. garbage trucks destroyed in second arson fire  
1970 Aug. 23 - Carousel Beauty Salon, 121 N. Pacific destroyed; heat and smoke damage to adjoining women's fashion shop, Milady's Inc.  
1971 July 15 - Main hangar at municipal airport; 15 aircraft destroyed  
1971 Aug. 19 - Admiral Plastic Corp., division of General Sign, 351 N. Kingshighway, and 7-Up Bobbling Co. plant north of Admiral  
1972 Feb. 3 - Ruth's Bargain Center, 8 S. Spanish  
1972 Sept. 12 - Wieser Motor co., 1725 N. Kingshighway  
1972 Oct. 23 - Metal building used as garage and dust mixing plant at Cape-Kill Pest Control Co., 33 N. Frederick

1972 Nov. 7 - Old World Imports, 39 N. Main, and Dean's Motorola Sales and Service, 37 N. Main, both located in the same building  
1973 Jan. 2 - Cape Girardeau Civic Center, 1232 S. Ranney St.; arson  
1974 Oct. 11 - Two-story brick building at Elm and Ellis streets, owned by Odd Fellows Lodge No. 575 and occupied by silversmith Otto F. Dingeldein  
1975 June 18 - Suspected arson fire extensively damaged showroom, warehouse and lumber shed of Southeast Missouri Builder's Supply, 411 Jefferson  
1976 Feb. 2 - Pump island and front of United Oil Co. station, Independence and Kingshighway, considerably damaged in explosion and fire  
1976 June 17 - Cape Volkswagen, Inc., 208 Linda; Fire Chief Charles Mills and Fireman Lynn "Buzz" Smith were buried under pile of debris when the ceiling at the southwest corner of the building collapsed  
1976 Nov. 24 - Cape Hotel and Cape Cut Rate Store, 701 Broadway  
1977 June 4 - Sandbox tavern and restaurant, 635 N. Main St.  
1977 Oct. 7 - Third Street United Methodist Church  
1977 Nov. 12 - Simultaneous major fires at Missouri Dry Docks and Repair Co., 500 Aquamsi, and Roth's Department Store in Town Plaza  
1979 June 12 - Interior of Fashion House, Inc., 122 N. Main St., burned out, destroying most of merchandise and fixtures

1980 July 19 - Extensive damage to two-story brick building at the northwest corner of Good Hope and Frederick streets, housing Good Hope Furniture store and the Good Hope Grocery store  
1981 May 23 - Shakey's Pizza Parlor, 801 Broadway  
1981 Oct. 4 - Kinder's Country Tavern and dance hall on Big Bend Road, severely damaged  
1982 Jan. 7 - Mid-South Steel Product & Co., 1500 Riverview Dr.  
1982 Oct. 19 - Speed Equipment World, 2126 Broadway  
1983 Jan. 1 - Building at 418 Broadway heavily damaged  
1983 June 4 - Boarding house at 18 N. Fountain St. gutted  
1984 Feb. 1 - Heavy damage to the interior of historic Free Will Baptist Church, 200 Broadway; arson  
1986 April 20 - Riverside Home Building Center storage building; arson  
1987 May 1 - Former Cape Furniture Manufacturing Co. building at 503 Maple, housing garage operated by Cletus Winchester  
1987 Dec. 16 - Southside Baptist Church, 805 Hackberry  
1989 Feb. 17 - Extensive damage to second floor of two-story building at 115 Themis, housing meeting room used by Alcoholics Anonymous; first floor occupied by Ervin's Metalsmiths Inc.  
1989 June 2 - Uncle Ralph's Furniture building, southwest corner of Spanish and Independence  
1989 July 7 - Broadway Park Apartments in former Idan-Ha Hotel building, 115 N. Fountain

1990 March 8, 1990 - Cape Girardeau's old Opera House, which housed the Royal N'Orleans restaurant, at Broadway and Lorimier  
1990 April 13 - Production line at Atlas-Alchem Plastics plant in Number Three building, 1 Atlas Drive  
1990 June 11 - Rose City Oil Co. storage building, 740 S. Fountain; danger of explosion forced authorities to temporarily evacuate houses on west side of 700 block of South Fountain  
1991 March 8 - Three people killed and another critically injured in house fire at 731 N. Spanish St.  
1991 Aug. 31 - Second floor of former Yellow Cab Company office, 530 Good Hope St., gutted  
1992 Jan. 26 - Small brick building at 605 Good Hope St., formerly was VIP Industries' recycling center  
1993 April 1 - SEMO Heavy Industries warehouse in Town Plaza  
1994 Nov. 13 - Six-unit apartment building at 137 S. Spanish St. gutted  
1994 Nov. 20 - Lanter Company and Plaza Tire at Kingshighway and William Street  
1995 July 11 - Three-story building at 115 N. Fountain St., which was once part of the Idan-Ha Hotel.  
1996 Aug. 10 - Sample's Floor Covering, 401 N. Clark St.  
1998 July 6 - Offices and workshop of Cooper Oil Co., 1301 Giboney St.  
1998 July 14 - Teen Challenge Thrift Store, 10 N. Sprigg St.

2000 Aug. 6 - Campbell Mattress Co. warehouse, 100 Minnesota  
2004 March 11 - Two-story brick apartment building, 225 S. Spanish St.  
2004 Aug. 17 - Cape Restaurant Supply, 340 S. Frederick St.  
2005 March 19 - Bella Italia restaurant, 20 N. Spanish St.  
2006 April 18 - Blaze destroyed the house at 221 S. Spanish St. and extensively damaged the house at 227 S. Spanish St.