

KENTUCKY'S HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM

MARKER #2075 - BIRTHPLACE OF HERMAN CHITTISON

Historical marker 2075 in **Flemingsburg, Fleming County** recounts the accomplishments of legendary pianist Herman Chittison, whose contributions to the evolution of jazz left an indelible mark on American music.

The son of a carpenter and a laundress, Chittison grew up in **Flemingsburg** and began playing the piano at age eight. He briefly attended Kentucky State University before touring as a musician.

Chittison gained fame for his style of piano playing (known as stride piano) and became a member of fellow Kentuckian Zack Whyte's orchestra. In the 1930s and 40s he toured Europe with Louis Armstrong and Willie Lewis and played "Ernie" in the radio series *Casey, Crime Photographer*. He passed away from lung cancer in 1967.

KHS is proud to manage Kentucky's historical marker program, with over 2,400 markers across the state, including **15 in Fleming County**. Download the free mobile app to learn more Kentucky stories at [explorehistory.ky.gov](https://www.explorehistory.ky.gov).

2022 Legislative Moments are brought to you by the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS), an agency of the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, is fully accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, and is a Smithsonian affiliate.



Herman Chittison, "Portrait of Herman Chittison," image courtesy of Library of Congress, at <https://www.loc.gov/item/gottlieb.01241/>.

