

## *Welcome to Historic Findlay*

Once part of French claims to the New World, inhabited by the Wyandot Indians, the Findlay area was located in the western frontier during the American War for Independence. This watery region known as the Great Black Swamp, remained largely unsettled until the War of 1812. Prompted by the need to shore up the country's defenses, American forces led by General William Hull and Colonel James Findlay established a log fortress here to serve as a military outpost. Built along the Blanchard River, it was named Fort Findlay. Pioneers soon settled in the area and by 1828, Findlay became the county seat.

Farming was the main way of life until the mid 1880's. The discovery of gas caused the population to explode from 5,000 to 20,000 almost overnight. Business and industry rushed in to take advantage of the free fuel and sites offered by the town fathers to encourage development. Findlay became the second largest glass manufacturing city in the U.S. with at least sixteen factories operating between 1886 and 1901.

Oil reserves in Findlay were tapped by the newly formed Ohio Oil Company in 1887. Seventy-five years later the company was to become Marathon Oil.

As a result of the new found wealth, great building projects were undertaken. The "Boom Days" began to subside as fuel resources diminished, but Findlay was already on the way to becoming a thriving community.

Most of the homes selected for the tour were constructed during this boom and reflect the architectural character of the growth and prosperity which took place. These historic homes are only a representation of the many and varied points of interest to be found in Findlay. We encourage you to experience Findlay's heritage and hope it inspires further investigation and appreciation of it.

**Note: As a courtesy, please respect the privacy of the current residents.**

## **West Sandusky Street Mini-Tour**

### **1. Hull House**

#### **422 West Sandusky Street**

The Hancock Historical Museum was once the home of the Jasper G. Hull family in the 1880's. The museum was opened in 1971 to preserve the heritage of Hancock County for the enjoyment and education of future generations. It contains county historical artifacts and extensive glass displays. Open for tours Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays 1:00-4:00 p.m. Phone: 423-4433.

The Italianate influence of the structure can be seen in the low roof line, the ornate brackets under the eaves, and the heavy window hoods. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Behind the Museum is the Hemminger Log Cabin. Built by Samuel Crawford in the mid 1880s, it is typical of log houses constructed by pioneers of the homestead era.. Moved from its original location south of Findlay in 1972, it is furnished with authentic period furniture and utensils.

### **2. Burkett House**

#### **521 West Sandusky Street**

Jacob F. Burkett was a Findlay Lawyer who became Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court near the turn of the century. The desk he used during his days as Chief Justice is now on display at the 1833 Courthouse. Italianate motifs are present on the house, such as the brackets under the eaves and tall windows with ornate window hoods. Of particular interest is the rounded double window hood on the second floor.

### **3. DeWolfe House (c. 1900)**

#### **226 West Sandusky Street**

Once situated on West Main Cross Street, the DeWolfe residence was moved to its present location to make room for the city's first high school. Its design incorporates two architectural styles. One is Gothic with its steeply pitched roof, multiple pointed gables and wall dormers. The other style is Italianate Villa in its use of the square tower and brackets under the eaves.

### **4. Carnahan House**

#### **220 West Sandusky Street**

Theophilis Carnahan in partnership with his brother, owned the Carnahan Dry Goods Store once situated on main Street. At the turn of the century, their business failed as a tragic fire destroyed the store. Brackets found under the eaves give evidence of its Italianate origins.

### **5. Dressler House**

#### **602 Liberty Street Corner of Hardin Street**

Marie Dressler, known for her talented work as a movie performer with Wallace Beery, lived here in her youth. Marie and her father, Prof. Koerber, arrived in Findlay during the Gas Boom days. Observe the elliptical window casing with matching shutters and the intricate woodwork on the porch.

# Old South End

## Mini-Tour

### 6. Peabody House (c. 1885)

2131 South Main Street

The northeast corner of South Main Street and Edgar Avenue is occupied by the Peabody residence. R.E. Peabody was the owner of a glass factory located here during the Boom Days of gas and oil. Constructed in the Romanesque style, it features a heavy stone foundation and rounded arches. Notice the turret window arrangement in the front.

### 7. Joy House

2203 South Main Street

David Joy, a civic and political leader, built this house during the turn of the century. With his brother as a partner, he operated the Joy House, the biggest and most prominent hotel located downtown during the Boom Days. Of particular interest is the semi-circular window in the front gable with radiating bars called a fanlight.

### 8. Byal House

2304 South Main Street

Built by Dr. William A. Byal, a son of an early settler to Findlay. Described as an elliptical fanlight with lanky, slender side lights, the entrance way is reminiscent of designs found in the Federal style of architecture.

### 9. Linaweaver House

1224 South Main Street

This Greek Revival style house was built at the turn of the century by Dr. and Mrs. A.H. Linaweaver. At the time it was constructed, few other homes were located in this part of South Main Street. The columns and pilasters detailed in the Corinthian style and a low triangular pediment gable are an example of the architectural design based on the classical Greek Temple. Ornamentations on the peak and corners of the roof are called an Anthemion, a common Greek floral decoration.

### 10. Carlin House (c. 1885)

1109 South Main Street

Built by William L. Carlin, grandson of Squire Carlin who helped to establish the town in the early 1820's. William was Mayor of Findlay in 1886 and later became a state senator from 1888 to 1890. A form of Victorian Gothic architecture, it is filled with decorative motifs. A massive tower, intricate brick patterns and elaborate woodwork are among these details.

### 11. Donnell House

1003 South Main Street

Completed at the turn of the century upon the marriage of J.C. Donnell and Elizabeth Meeks, this home features a number of Classical elements. Notice the front entrance which is topped by a broken pediment reminiscent of the Colonial Revival style. Donnell, a native of Ireland, came to Findlay from the oil fields of Pennsylvania. In the 1890's, he took charge of the Ohio Oil Company properties in this area and by 1911, became president. This later became the Marathon Oil Company.

### 12. Hosler House

1006 South Main Street

Built in 1887 this home is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style. The asymmetrical composition consists of a variety of forms, materials, and colors. Note the tower with conical roof, the textured siding, tall arcaded chimneys, carved porch detailing, and stained glass windows. The Hosler family was in the banking business and was instrumental in founding the Ohio Bank and Savings Company in the early 1900's.

### 13. Campfield House and Flats

921 South Main Street & 927-929-931 South Main Street

The Campfield residence was built by William H. Campfield in 1890. Mr Campfield came from Indiana to construct the present Hancock County Courthouse in 1886. In addition to the Campfield home, he added the apartment complex just to the south which contains three apartments built for each of his daughters. Note the repeating theme throughout all four units, such as the elliptical arches and stone lintels over windows.

### 14. Poe House

904 South Main Street

John Poe became one of Findlay's best known lawyers. He also served as a Principal of Findlay High School and later as Superintendent of Carey Public Schools. Worthy of note are the many arcaded chimneys, rounded porches and roof cresting.

## *Old South End (con't.)*

### **15. Patterson House (c. 1880)**

#### **823 South Main Street**

The original owner of this home, Joseph S. Patterson was the founder of the Patterson Department Store once Findlay's oldest retail establishment opened in 1849. The home features a projecting wall dormer seated over a two-story bay window and a large porch characteristic of those days.

### **16. 1833 Courthouse**

#### **819 Park Street**

Built in 1833, this structure served not only as a courthouse for the county, but as a public meeting place as well. Observe the symmetrical design of sideward facing gables, center doorway, balanced windows, and gable end chimneys. This early style can be termed Double Pile, due to its floor plan made up of four rooms, two on either side of the center hallway. Under the direction of the Historic Preservation Guild of Hancock County, its restoration became a focal point of the area's Bicentennial celebration in 1976. Today it serves as the headquarters of the Hancock Park District. Open weekdays 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Phone: 423-6952. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **17. 1888 County Courthouse**

#### **Courthouse Square**

Work on the present Courthouse was completed in 1888. Built to replace the 1842 Courthouse which burned at the same location, it serves as the county's third Courthouse. The first, built in 1833, is currently located on Park Street. The facade is designed with Georgian characteristics with symmetrical composition and Classical detailing. It also incorporates the Romanesque style with use of yellow sandstone. A 16-foot statue of John Hancock, the county's namesake, stands atop the tower. Note also the intricate stained glass windows. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **18. Findlay Publishing Company**

#### **Courthouse Square**

Built in 1865, brick for the structure was made by the Hancock Brick and Tile Company, located southeast of Findlay. Originally designed to serve as a church, complete with a tall spire, it also functioned as a military armory. In 1909, it became the home of the Findlay Publishing Company, publishers of the Morning Republican newspaper, now called The Courier. The building presently houses county offices.

