

Historic Findlay Walking Tour | Summer 2019

☆ A Little Background | Peek into Findlay's Past

Once part of French claims to the New World and 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.

Because of the newfound 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 that 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 current residents.**

☆ West Sandusky Street | Close to Downtown, the First Fashionable Homes Were Built Here

① Hull House | 422 West Sandusky Street

Jasper G. Hull built the Hancock Historical Museum in the 1881. The museum opened in 1971 to preserve the heritage of Hancock County for the enjoyment and education of future generations. It includes the Hall House, an Exhibit Center, The Oxley Government Center, Agricultural Center, Crawford Log House, the Marathon Energy and Transportation Building, the Davis House, and the DeWald Funk House. The museum's hours are Wednesday- Friday from 10am-4pm, and Sunday from 1pm-4pm. Phone: 423-4433.

The Italianate influence of the structure can be seen in the low roofline, the ornate brackets under the eaves, and the heavy window hoods. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places behind the Museum is the Crawford Log House, built by Samuel Crawford in the 1850s. It is typical of log houses to be constructed by pioneers of the homestead era. The DeWald-Funk House was originally in Basecomb, Ohio, and was purchased by the Preservation Guild and moved to Findlay. When the Preservation Guild merged with the Historical Museum, the house was moved to the museum's campus in 2009. It is set up as an 1860's small village house. The Davis Homestead was moved to the museum also in 2009. It is currently undergoing renovations to become the Davis Learning Institute. It was originally built in the 1840's.



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. 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 Grace Evangelical Church | 300 West Sandusky Street

The Grace Evangelical Congressional Church purchased this site from I.C. Porter on September 27, 1893. Built expressly for the congregation, the structure was very basic for a new congregation. The sanctuary, that seated more than two hundred people, was modeled after old time churches. In 1924, Grace Church joined the Evangelical Congregational Church. Later, the Grace Evangelical Congregational Church merged in the 1967 with the Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church. June 24, 1968, the Grace building was sold by the trustees to the Fort Findlay Playhouse.



④ DeWolfe House (c. 1900) | 226 West Sandusky Street

This house is an 1873 Gothic Revival. Mr. Eli Gibbons DeWolfe owned the Findlay Weekly Jeffersonian Newspaper, and was later appointed to Postmaster in 1876 by President Grant. He moved the post office from Court Street to South Main 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 call Central high school, and is now currently the Marathon Performing Arts Center. It is described as a gothic style gables with brackets under projecting eaves, gabled wall dormers and an off-center square Second Empire tower with a triangular trefoil window. The tower is dominated by its own patterned slate cut-off pyramidal roof enhanced with numerous massive brackets and projecting corbelled brick trim. The second story has rounded-arched windows with hoodmolds.



⑤ Alexander H. Hyatt House | 220 West Sandusky Street

Alexander Hyatt lived here, who was an 1858 Italianate. He owned his own business on South Main Street. In 1890, a one-story porch was across the façade with a small entrance area on the east side. A wrap-around porch was added by 1908, and later removed in 1945. It now has a bracketed portico at the entrance as its most decorative feature.



☆ Old South End | South Main St. Became a Fashionable Spot to Build Homes as Findlay Grew

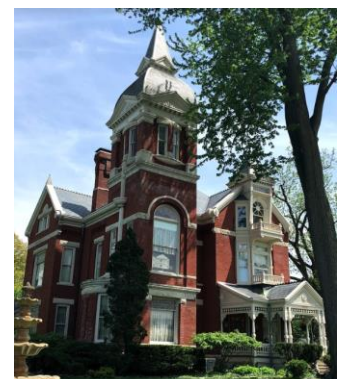


⑥ Linaweaver House | 1224 South Main Street

Dr. and Mrs. A.H. Linaweaver built this Greek Revival style house at the turn of the century. 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.

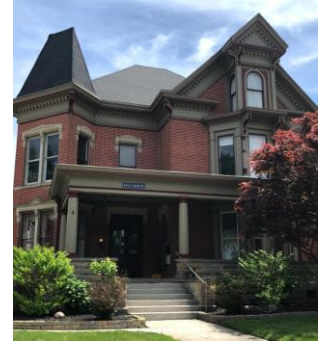
⑦ George R. Thompson House | 1127 South Main Street

Jeweler George Thompson built this majestic three story Queen Anne house that would see three generations of his family live here for a seventy-five year period. George finally started his own jewelry business in 1885. The first structural changes to the house were made in 1922 when his son Marshall Thompson moved in. In addition, in 1989 the house was passed off to a nonfamily member, Eric VanRenterghem.



⑧ 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 an active businessman, who served as mayor of Findlay in 1886 and later became a state senator from 1888 to 1890. A Queen Anne style played on the contrast of materials and their colors.



⑨ 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.

⑩ 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 Neoclassical 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, he became president. This later became the Marathon Oil Company.



⑪ Campfield House and Flats | 921 South Main Street & 927-929-931 South Main Street

William H. Campfield built the Campfield residence 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.

⑫ 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.

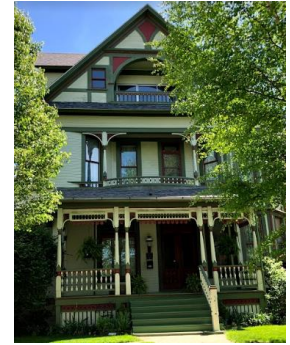


⑬ James C Donnell II | 839 South Main Street

James C Donnell built this house as a fifth year wedding anniversary gift for his wife in the 1900's. This was not the original house on the site, a Second Empire style home was built in 1875 and razed in order to clear this prime location. James was part of The Ohio Oil Company since he was a little boy and all throughout his life.

⑭ 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.



☆ The Courthouse Area | One of Findlay's Most Recognizable Landmarks

⑮ 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.



⑯ 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.

★ Historic Findlay Walking Tour | Map

