

Marysville Driving Tour of Homes and Buildings
2016-2019 BICENTENNIAL EDITION

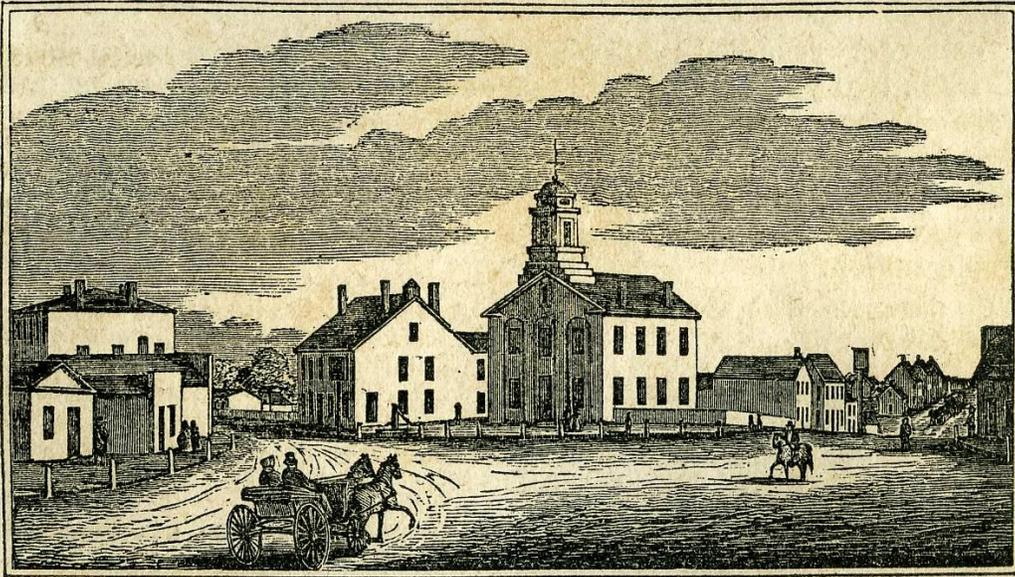


Welcome to the 2019 Marysville Driving Tour of Homes and Buildings sponsored by Team Marysville.

The City of Marysville celebrates its 200th anniversary in 2019! As part of this important celebration, Team Marysville has created a driving tour of interesting homes and buildings in Marysville that will serve as a sample of some of the town's history, heritage and architecture.

Marysville has many older structures. Residents and guests to the city pass these buildings often, but rarely are they aware of the rich history and unique story connected with each of them. The purpose of the driving tour is to provide a look at some of those stories, with the goal that it might help encourage an appreciation for the older structures and to help understand the importance of preserving these local landmarks. As our town celebrates its past, it is also important to protect that past for the future. We hope you enjoy your tour of Marysville.

Team Marysville extends its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Bob Parrott and the Union County Historical Society for providing information and photographs, and to Donald Boerger for spearheading the driving tour program!



Central view in Marysville.

Marysville came into existence in 1819. In that year, the Ohio Legislature began discussing creating a new county. Samuel Washington Culbertson, a resident of Zanesville, owned many tracts of land in the proposed area. He was an attorney, land speculator and developer. Culbertson saw an opportunity for financial gain if a county was established. He realized that the new county would need a county seat and he wanted that town to be located on his lands. This would allow him to sell town lots and to increase the value of his surrounding lands due to their proximity to the county seat.

Culbertson quickly employed Charles Roberts to survey a town on Mill Creek from his property. The survey was completed August 10, 1819. The original town plat had 96 lots and a diamond shaped public square. Culbertson named the town "Marysville" in honor of his daughter, Mary.

The Act creating "Union County" was passed January 10, 1820. The town of Milford was named as the temporary county seat until a committee could select a permanent county seat. Culbertson lobbied hard for Marysville. Culbertson promised that the proceeds from the sale of even numbered lots would go to the county to help construct public buildings and the sale of odd numbered lots he would keep. With this promise, Marysville was named the permanent county capital. This took effect in 1822.

From that time, the town grew. Churches, schools, a courthouse and other public buildings were erected. Business blocks for new businesses were constructed as were a wide variety of homes for the town's residents. As Marysville nears its 200th anniversary, many of the structures that played a part in the town's development can still be viewed today. The following buildings are a few of these.

2019
MARYSVILLE DRIVING TOUR OF HOMES AND
BUILDINGS



215 South Maple Street – Joshua Marshall House

Is there money hidden in this home? The house was built in 1851 by Union County Treasurer Joshua Marshall who would hide county funds at the home.

Marshall was born in 1807 in Columbus. He was a contractor and helped work on the Ohio Statehouse. He married Annette Coolidge in 1838 and two years later they moved to a farm outside of Marysville where they built a log home and barn.

Marshall was involved in his community and held several positions. He was township treasurer, justice of the peace and was elected to several terms as County Commissioner. He also helped purchase the land still used today for the Union County Fair. He was elected Union County Treasurer and since that was a daily job, he purchased a lot on West Fifth Street in 1851. There he built a two-story frame home at 308 West Fifth Street.

The Marshall family lived at the home during the time Joshua Marshall was County Treasurer. In those days, the county owned no safe or vault that the treasurer could use to hold the county funds. Every night, Joshua Marshall had to take the county treasury home with him for safekeeping. He put the cash in his pillow and slept on the money. On one occasion, some person tried to break into the Marshall home to steal the county funds. Mr. Marshall awoke from his sleep and ran the intruder off.

In 1891, Dr. W.F. White purchased the property. He intended to build a new home at the location. Dr. White had the Marshall House moved to 215 South Maple Street in April 1892, where it is located today. The home is one of the early houses of Marysville. The original hand-hewn beams can be seen on the second floor.



245 West Seventh Street – Reuben L. Partridge House

The Queen Anne style home at 245 West Seventh Street was built for Reuben L. and Maria Wolford Partridge. Reuben was born in 1823 in the State of New York. His family moved to Marysville in 1836. As early as 1855, Partridge began building wood truss covered bridges. In 1872, he patented his own wood truss design, known as the "Partridge Truss." He constructed hundreds of covered bridges throughout Ohio, many in Union County.

In the spring of 1895, R.L. Partridge announced that he would build a new home on West Seventh Street. O.N. White of Columbus and Charles Denman of Marysville both submitted a bid to build the new home for \$2,500. They were jointly awarded the contract to construct the Partridge residence. The foundation was started in June. By October, the house was nearly completed and ready for the plasterers. It was said to be "the finest and most imposing home in that part of the city."

In February 1896, the home was completed, and the Partridge family moved into their new house. A housewarming was held in April. The home was described as "a perfect house, having all modern comforts and conveniences." It was said that it "comes as near to the perfect ideal as human ingenuity can make it." "The entire building is well planned and elaborately finished in red oak. The rooms are well arranged and heated. The water is carried to every room by pressure, either cold or hot, soft or hard. There are clothes presses and water closets, bath rooms and other fixtures to ease labor and add comforts." The house had nine rooms and a slate roof.

Reuben and Maria would not live long in their new home. Reuben died in 1900, four years after the house was completed. He died from injuries sustained after being struck by a falling timber on a covered bridge he was dismantling. Maria died one year later, in 1901.



122-124 South Main Street – Dr. James M. Southard Home

The business block at 122-124 South Main Street shows a modern front once known as the Shaw Block, but behind it can be seen an early two-story brick house. This was the home of Dr. James M. Southard, a local physician.

Dr. Southard purchased the property in 1862. On the property was an 1833 frame house and an adjoining frame doctor's office built in 1852 by Dr. Jeremiah Curl. In 1872, Dr. Southard removed the old home and constructed a two-story brick house. The house was 36x50 feet and had 9 rooms. In its day, it was considered one of the fine homes in Marysville.

On August 9, 1879, Ohio gubernatorial candidate, General Thomas Ewing, Jr. came to Marysville. A reception was held at the Southard home. After the reception, Ewing was escorted by a parade through Main Street to the fairgrounds where he spoke to a crowd of ten thousand people.

Many businesses have been located in the brick residence and former medical office. In 1912, McAuliffe Brothers began business in the frame office. The Union County Farm Bureau had its first office in the brick home in 1922. In 1930, the Shaw family started an insurance agency in the brick home and added a photography studio in 1942.

In 1952, Weldon Shaw, owner of the buildings, planned to remodel the property. The 1852 doctor's office was moved from the property to 458 Raymond Road where it is located today and now used as a residence.

In 1953, an addition was added in front of the old Southard home which became Weldon Shaw's Photographic Studio. The addition extended south where the former frame building stood which became a retail storeroom.



325 West Sixth Street – Belle Woods Home

The home at 325 West Sixth Street is the second residence built at that location. The first was constructed by Abraham Morey in 1849. The residence and adjoining lands were purchase by A.G. Kirby, Jr. and subdivided into lots in 1904. Kirby moved the Morey house to 232 and 238 South Maple Street.

The first lot in the new Kirby development was purchased by Mrs. Belle Woods of Union Township in January 1905 for \$750. After her husband's death, Belle sold their farm with the intention that she and her two daughters, Nellie and Carrie, would move to Marysville.

The *Marysville Tribune* reported that the family "will build a fine residence at a cost of approximately \$4,000." In February 1905, Mrs. Woods awarded the contract to build the new home to David Sharrer & Sons. The firm of Sharrer & Sons were local contractors who built many buildings in Marysville. David Sharrer came to Marysville with his family in 1864 and engaged in the contracting business. Two of his sons, Harry E. Sharrer and Thomas W. Sharrer, joined him in the business. They constructed the Woods house which was completed in December 1905. Thomas later married Carrie Woods at the residence in 1910.

The *Tribune* of December 21, 1905 said "Mrs. Belle Woods and her two daughters, Nellie and Carrie, have moved from their late home on Big Darby to their beautiful new dwelling in West Sixth Street, Marysville. We are glad to join in the welcome to this estimable family, who have made no mistake in selecting Marysville as a place of residence." Local citizens organized a surprise house warming party for Belle and her daughters on Saturday, January 6, 1906.



705 West Eighth Street – Dr. Carpenter Medical Office

Although the building at 705 West Eighth Street is now located far from the business section of Marysville, it was once a well-known fixture on Main Street. It was originally built as the medical office of Dr. George H. Carpenter.

In 1878, Dr. Carpenter came to Marysville from Athens, Ohio to open a medical practice. Dr. Carpenter purchased the lot on the southwest corner of Main and Fourth Streets which had a two-story frame home on the property. He paid \$3,300 for the lot and house. He hired local contractor, John Weidman & Son, to construct a frame medical office just south of the house. The office was completed in June 1878 and described by the local newspaper as “the neatest little office building in town.”

In 1882, Dr. Carpenter bought the house across from his home on Main Street. He moved the frame office building across the street next to his new house. Later, he sold the house and office to Dr. R.H. Graham who rented the buildings to Dr. A.B. Swisher. In 1894, Dr. Henry A. Rodebaugh bought the Graham lot to build the Marysville Sanitarium. In order to clear the lot for the new sanitarium, the office was moved, yet again. This time it was moved to the northeast corner of Main and Fourth Streets on the Cole property in July 1895. Dr. Swisher continued his practice at this location.

The office remained on the Cole lot and was used for various businesses until the Cole property was purchased in 1936 by the United States Government in order to build the Marysville Post Office. The buildings on the lot were sold at auction. John V. Eirich bought the former doctor’s office and moved it in 1937 to its present location at 705 West Eighth Street where it was converted into a home. It has remained a residence since that time.



110 South Main Street – John H. Wood Block

The business block at 110 South Main Street was built by John H. Wood. He and his brother, Harvey S. Wood, operated a notions store known as J.H. Wood & Bro. The two sold such items as hosiery, gloves, hoop skirts, linens, towels, shawls, toys, and smoking sets - said to be “acceptable to most any one that indulges in the weed.”

The brothers were the sons of Dr. Ira Wood, who was the first physician in Marysville, coming to the town in 1825. Harvey enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War and was a prisoner at Libby Prison. John established a drug store in Marysville in 1856. He sold the business in 1869 and a year later opened his notions store with his brother. In January 1871, John purchased the property at 110 South Main Street and planned to build a new brick block that would match the Thomas & Long Block which adjoined on the south side. According to John “this building when completed will be used as a salesroom for the ten thousand notions we supply.” Groundbreaking took place in March and the building was completed in November 1871.

In 1899, B.F. Carmean purchased the building for his dry goods business. He remodeled the block in 1900, removing the back portion in order to enlarge the building with a 115 feet two-story brick addition and a one-story wareroom. The front was remodeled with large glass show windows. Sharrer & Sons did the work. George Fox was the brick mason. Once completed, the store was said to be “Union County’s handsomest dry goods emporium.” It included a steel ceiling plated with aluminum “making it shine like silver,” carved oak counters, showcases lit by electricity and rows of revolving stools “for tired shoppers.” On the second floor was the cloak and millinery departments. For a time, the Sousa Mandolin Club was also located on the second floor. In 1903-1904, Carmean remodeled the second story, including adding large show windows to the front of the second floor of the building. The Wood Block was said to be “admired by everyone” and “a credit to the town.”



116 - 120 South Main Street – J.J. Morelock Block

Josiah Jacob Morelock built the business block at 116 – 120 South Main Street. He was born in 1833 in Maryland and came to Union County in 1853 to work in his uncle's tannery. In 1855, Morelock worked in the tannery business of Asa Converse at Plain City. He married Asa's daughter, Candace, and became a partner in the tannery. In 1863, Morelock moved to Marysville and entered into a partnership with G.L. Sellers in a new tannery business located on the southwest corner of East Sixth and South Plum Streets. In 1869, Morelock bought out the interest of G.L. Sellers and ran the business alone.

J.J. Morelock was involved in several other businesses in the county and he sold the Morelock Tannery to England & Goodyear in 1874. He used the proceeds from the sale to develop his lot at 116 – 120 South Main Street. Morelock had purchased the property in 1864 and he lived in a frame house located on the property. After the sale of his tan yard, he planned to build a brick business block where his house stood. In March 1874, he removed his old residence and the following month, began the stone foundation for his new block. The building was completed in October. The two-story brick block originally had three store rooms. The first occupant of the building was Lewis Elbinger's Dry Goods Store. The second floor was used as the first library in Marysville. The Marysville Reading Room and Library Association was formed earlier and sold shares in the association. They rented the upstairs of the Morelock Block until 1878 when the library was moved into the newly constructed City Hall.

After building his block, J.J. Morelock entered into the business of breeding and selling blooded horses. He purchased a farm west of Marysville and imported European horses. In 1888, he purchased the home at 118 West Sixth Street. Morelock built a brick stable behind this home in 1890 for the sale of his horses. The Morelock Stables can still be seen behind the brick house at 118 West Sixth Street.



215 West Fifth Street - Union County Courthouse

The Union County Courthouse is the most imposing building in Marysville. It is also one of the most historic and architecturally significant structures in the town.

In 1880, a bill was passed by the Ohio Legislature to allow the county to sell bonds to construct a new courthouse for Union County. Land was purchased between Fifth and Sixth Streets. The design of noted Architect, David William Gibbs, of Toledo, Ohio was selected for the new building. Many Ohio courthouses and the Wyoming State Capital were also designed by Gibbs. A nearly identical Gibbs courthouse to the Union County building is at Henry County, Ohio. Both were built at the same time.

The contract for building the structure was awarded to Jacob Karst & William Woodruff of Toledo. Work began on September 22, 1880. The building was completed in 1883 at a cost of \$135,015. The new courthouse was dedicated on January 27, 1883.

The completed courthouse was a four-story building 96x109 feet, in the symmetric Second Empire architectural style. The building was constructed of Berea stone and pressed brick. The roof and tower are of galvanized iron simulated to look like stone but without the weight of stone. Four zinc eagles were placed on the pediments above the entrances and a 10 feet zinc statue of Lady Justice stands at the top of the courthouse tower. The tower itself was 168 feet high and had an observation room, 2,500-pound bell and a clock with four 7 feet tall dial faces.

At the dedication it was said "we feel confident that in transferring this building to the citizens of Union County, that for beauty of architecture, good workmanship, convenience and completeness, it is not excelled, if equaled, by any courthouse in the State of Ohio." The building was renovated in 1992 to 1994 and continues to be used for court purposes.



209 South Main Street - Marysville City Hall and Hyland Fire Station

The Marysville City Hall and Hyland Fire Station is the second city hall and the third fire station at that location.

In 1864, property at the southwest corner of Main and Sixth Streets was purchased for a city hall. A large City Hall and Opera House was constructed on the property in 1877-1878. The first floor had the council room, mayor's office, city calaboose, public library and fire department. The second and third floors had a large auditorium. The first program in the opera house was a lecture given by Susan B. Anthony. In 1930, the state fire marshal ordered the Opera House closed for safety reasons. At the same time, the Marysville School Board was building a Senior High School on West Sixth Street that had a large auditorium. The old Opera House was no longer needed, and plans were discussed to remove the outdated opera house and build a new city hall.

In 1933, during the Great Depression, a Public Works project was submitted to raze the old City Hall and Opera House and build a new city hall. The project was approved and in December 1933, 70 workers with the Civil Works Administration began dismantling the old City Hall. In January 1934, work began on the new city building and fire station. Workers reused the bricks and as much of the other materials salvaged from the old building as possible. The building was completed in June 1934 and opened in July.

In 1973-74, a new fire station was constructed south of the City Hall. The station was named in honor of long-time city worker and fire fighter, Chief Harold E. "Pappy" Hyland. A major renovation was planned of the city hall and fire station in 2012. The 1934 Depression Era City Hall was completely remodeled and expanded. The Hyland Station was razed and a new station constructed. The completed City Hall was dedicated on November 22, 2013. The new fire station continues to be named in honor of Fire Chief Harold E. Hyland.



508 - 510 East Fifth Street - Thomas M. Peacock House

The house at 508-510 East Fifth Street is one of the oldest on East Fifth. The two-story Federal style home was built in 1856 by Thomas M. Peacock. Peacock was a blacksmith. His home was located next to the residence of Rowland Lee. Lee operated a wagon business and Peacock's smith was near the Lee Wagon Works.

Thomas Peacock was born October 19, 1820 at Bainbridge, Ohio. He came to Marysville on May 2, 1840. In addition to operating a blacksmith, Peacock held a number of public offices. He was a member of the town council in the 1840s and Street Supervisor in the 1850s. In his later years, he graded and graveled several of the streets in Marysville. Peacock also was Paris Township constable and Marysville town marshal. Peacock opposed drinking and was a leader in the local temperance movement. In 1858 it was said "Marshal Peacock deserves the thanks of the public for the prompt manner in which he takes hold of peace-breakers and drunkards. He will put a stop to the disorder that threatens to reign supreme in Marysville."

Peacock was too old to enlist during the Civil War, but after the Battle of Shiloh in 1862 and the Battle of Stones River in 1863, he went to Tennessee to help care for the sick and wounded. He brought back wounded soldiers from Union County to be cared for by their families.

Thomas Peacock was a great walker. In his 70s he would walk from Marysville to Richwood to visit his son. He married Mary Westlake, who died in 1871. Thomas remarried, but the marriage was not a happy one. His second wife sued him for divorce in 1888 saying he was "flighty," meaning he took off on numerous occasions when her children and relatives came for visits. The divorce was not granted, and the judge ruled that "flighty" was not proper grounds for divorce.



210 West Fifth Street – First Presbyterian Church

One of the most beautiful church buildings in Marysville is the First Presbyterian Church. This is the third church building at this location. The Marysville Presbyterian congregation was formed in 1829. The first church was a brick building constructed in 1835. It was replaced by another brick building which was completed in 1870. In January 1902, the congregation began discussing the possibility of building a new church structure.

In the Spring of 1902, a building committee was appointed. The committee viewed a number of area churches including ones in Columbus. The committee selected Columbus Architect, Wilbur T. Mills, to design a new church. In May, the contract to remove the old church was awarded to George A. Fox. He was to salvage as much of the materials as possible for reuse in the new building. Demolition was completed in June 1902.

Work began on the foundation of the new structure in July 1902. The contract for the church was awarded in October to David Sharrer & Sons of Marysville. The Gothic style church was to be made of buff limestone with a tower on the corner. Philip Fish & Sons of Springfield was the stone mason. The roof was to be of slate. A Corner Stone Laying Ceremony took place on April 2, 1903. Art glass windows, designed by Bryant Bros. of Columbus, were installed, including the popular window showing Jesus knocking at a door with the inscription "Will you let him in?" The completed church was dedicated on March 13, 1904. The cost to build the structure was \$27,500.

Several notable marriages have taken place at the Marysville Presbyterian Church. Charles and Cornelia Fairbanks were married there in 1874. Charles became a United States Vice-President. Pauline Robinson and Marvin Peirce, parents of First Lady Barbara Bush, were also married at the church in 1918.



128 South Chestnut Street - William Bancroft House

The one and a half story, 5 room frame house, located at 128 South Chestnut Street was built in 1851 by William Bancroft. William was born in Marysville on August 19, 1829. He was the son of Richard and Mary Bancroft who were early settlers of Marysville coming to the town about 1822. William said he witnessed many changes in the development and growth of the town. He remembered in his youth that the only way for pedestrians to cross the Town Run on East Fifth Street was over a log which had a handrail.

William followed his father's profession of brick making. On April 15, 1861, a patriotic meeting was held at the courthouse in response to Lincoln's call for volunteers during the Civil War. Bancroft enlisted in the new company formed from Marysville, known as Co. D, 13th Ohio Volunteers. He later reenlisted in Co. F., 66th Ohio.

After the war, he returned to Marysville and was a day laborer. "Billy" was known to like his liquor. On July 4, 1876, he and others, "drunk with firewater," took an 1838 militia cannon to the fairgrounds where they charged it with gunpowder and ignited the charge. The cannon blew up nearly killing the group. A year later, Billy was sent to jail for being "on a regular tear about Marysville." In 1881, he was hit in the eye with a whisky bottle in a bar fight. It was said "a whisky bottle is a bad thing to be hit with, either externally or internally."

William married Jane Cochran in 1855. In 1881, she filed for divorce stating that she could no longer live with him "as he had failed to provide for her comfort as most men who try to live on whiskey alone." The court granted the divorce; however, "they began to flirt with each other again as of old; a short courtship of 3 days followed, and they were again united in the bonds of matrimony." William Bancroft died in 1905 and is buried at soldier's row in Oakdale Cemetery. His wife is buried in a different cemetery.



311 South Main Street - George W. Court House

The two-story residence located at 311 South Main Street was built as the home of George W. Court. Court was born in 1835. In 1856 he became a carpenter and school teacher. He entered into the mercantile business in Richwood in 1863 which he operated until he was elected Union County Treasurer. Court moved to Marysville with his family to serve as treasurer from September 2, 1878 to September 5, 1880. At the time, the Treasurer's Office was located in the back part of the Houston Block. After his term of office ended, he opened a dry goods store, then a shoe store. In later years, he engaged in the buggy and implement business.

His first wife died in 1893 and George remarried in 1896. His second wife died in 1899. On January 16, 1901, he married Elizabeth Margaret Pretz. The couple lived at the Oakland Hotel, however, George promised to build a fine new home for his bride.

In March 1901, George Court awarded the contract to build a new home and a barn on South Main Street to Marysville Contractor, Charles Denman. The house would be "modern in every respect." In late March, work began on the tile foundation. By mid-April, Denman had the frame-work raised and completed. John Rausch, owner of the Rausch Manufacturing Company of Marysville, was so impressed with the home, that he hired Charles Denman to build a residence for him at 226 South Plum Street using the same design. The Court home was completed at the end of July. On September 2, 1901, it was reported that "Mr. and Mrs. George Court went to housekeeping in their palatial new home on South Main Street." The 8-room house was 42x26 with hardwood and pine woodwork and floors. The cost of the home was \$1,850.

Six years later, George W. Court would build the Gray-Court Building next to his house on the north side where he operated his buggy and implement business. George died unexpectedly in 1909. Elizabeth continued to live at the home until 1918 when she sold the residence.



303 South Main Street – Gray Court Building

Few buildings have such a diverse and interesting history as the Gray-Court Building at 303 South Main Street. In 1907, G.W. Court and Albert Gray each owned property on the southwest corner of Main and Seventh Streets. The two men agreed to build a business building that would be located on both properties where they could each operate their businesses. The block was to be a two-story cement structure, 55x62 feet. G.W. Court would have his buggy and implement business on the first floor of the south portion of the building and Albert Gray would have his blacksmith shop in the north portion. The entire second floor was planned as an amusement hall for roller skating, dancing, basketball and other activities.

The contract to build the Gray-Court Building was awarded to William Kennedy & Levi Millice of Marysville. Contracts were also awarded to T.C. Tracy for the foundation and Jones & Maugans for the laying the cement block. In April 1907, excavation began on the new building. An unusual feature is that the structure is built over the Town Run which was spanned by I-beams. By October 1, 1907, the building was completed. A Grand Opening Dance was held in the upstairs hall.

When the building was opened, the second floor was a skating rink with a live band. After skating, the band continued to play for dancing. Admission for ladies was free but men paid 10 cents. Basketball, programs and banquets were also held in the hall.

In 1910, the Forester Cigar Factory moved into the first floor. The business was later taken over by the Tegge Cigar Factory where 200 women hand rolled cigars. Another interesting business was the F.&C. Pinball Factory, where Marysville pinball machines were manufactured from 1932 to 1934.

In 1912 to 1914, the second floor was used as a school by the Marysville School Board. Children attended in half day shifts at the building until the new West School was completed in 1915.



130 Second Street - Early Log House

Almost nothing is known of the history or story of the home located at 130 Second Street. What is known, and the reason it is listed on the Driving Tour, is that the building is made of logs.

The land where the cabin was located was first owned by Samuel W. Culbertson. Culbertson was the founder of Marysville, but he never lived in the town or Union County. He gifted the land to his daughter, Mary, and her husband, Joshua Mathiot. The town of Marysville is named for Mary. Joshua died in 1849. Mary sold the farm in 1850, consisting of 185 acres, to James A. Brainard. Brainard operated a farm and orchard. Brainard offered the farm for sale in 1858 stating "it is one of the best, if not the best farm in Union County." He also said it has proximity to a saw mill, flour mill and railroad depot.

It is doubtful that James Brainard built the cabin when he purchased the land in 1850. As he stated, sawmills were available at that time to construct a frame house instead of one of logs. More likely, the home was built at an earlier time by a renter of the Mathiot farm or by a squatter.

Christian Stiner came to the area on March 25, 1819. The town of Marysville was not yet laid out which was done in August 1819. Stiner said before the town was established, there were two squatter's cabins at or near the future site of Marysville. One was built by a Quaker, Jonathan Sumner in 1817 and was located across from the present site of the Marysville Post Office. Sumner built his cabin and cleared a patch for corn. The other cabin was built at the same time by Nathan Lundy, a relation of Sumner. Nathan "selected a spot for his cabin just north of Marysville and lived there six years." Whether the home at 130 Second Street is the cabin of Nathan Lundy, or someone else's cabin, is not known. However, the house is a good example of an early Marysville residence from the pioneer days of the town.



310 Oak South Street - Early Log House

One of the few surviving log homes in Marysville is located at 310 South Oak Street. The early story of the house, including the year it was built, is lost to time.

The land where the home stands was part of a 348-acre tract owned by the Joshua Mathiot heirs. It was subdivided into lots in 1851 and known as the Mathiot Addition. When the new Addition was platted, the house was located on In Lot 191.

The first mention of the structure was in 1853, when the lot was owned by John Coder, a Marysville blacksmith. It is unknown if the cabin was in existence prior to that date at that location or if it was moved to the lot from another location. It is doubtful that it was built at that time, since sawmills were operating in and around Marysville and milled lumber could be used to build a home instead of using unmilled logs. It is known, however, that the house has been on the lot at its present location since 1853.

In 1901, the house was purchased by George William and Anna M. Asman. The house was described by the Asman family saying: "It was a log house which had been framed over and sided with clapboards. A kitchen lean-to and a porch on the back had been added as well as a front porch and two rooms. There was a narrow winding stairway in the original log portion which led to an unheated second story. The only heat came from coals in the large stove located in the center of the original structure." The family also said the "logs were twelve inches or more" and "great walnut beams were found strung under the eaves." "There was no running water and facilities were a long brick walk away on the back end of the property, past the chicken house." "There was a garden and well just off the back porch. There was a fine brick root cellar and home-canned juice came out of the cellar as cold as if it were refrigerated."



302 South Main Street - Michael Gunderman House

A very beautiful early Marysville home can be seen at 302 South Main Street. This was originally the home of Michael John Gunderman, Sr. Michael was born in 1826 in Bavaria, Germany. At age ten, he made a three-month ocean crossing to immigrate to America with his family. The Gunderman family came to Union County in 1840.

Michael Gunderman was a master carpenter. The pulpit at St. John's Lutheran Church was crafted by him and is an example of his workmanship. Gunderman was also a contractor. Many of the houses and barns in the German Settlement area were built by him.

A building was first constructed on his South Main Street property in 1852. A substantial brick addition was built in 1855. Due to the early date of this residence and lack of records, it is unknown if Gunderman was the builder of his home, but it is likely he did the interior carpentry work. The brick mason and brick yard used are also unknown.

Gunderman married Elizabeth Barbara Boerger in January 1857. They resided in the home and raised ten children. As a long-time resident of Marysville, Michael Gunderman remembered the early days of the town. In 1854 when the first train came to Marysville, the citizens celebrated. Michael Gunderman fired off the town cannon and the explosion shattered the windows in the courthouse and downtown business buildings.

Michael Gunderman is also known for organizing the first band in Marysville. In 1863, during the Civil War, local citizens led by Gunderman "believing in the elevating influence of music," established the "Union Band." In exchange for donations of money to buy "twelve good brass shoulder instruments of the latest style and one tenor drum" the band agreed to provide music "at any time or on any occasion when and wherever band music is required within one mile from the public square." These instruments are now on display at the Union County Historical Society.



310 South Court Street - John S. Fleck House

The two-story frame home at 310 South Court Street was built as the residence of John Samuel Fleck. John was born in Pennsylvania in 1827. He came to Marysville in the fall of 1844 as an apprentice to carpenter, Samuel Restler. In 1848, he began business on his own as a carpenter and contractor. He married Ann Rose in 1849 and purchased the lot on South Court Street in 1850. One year later, in 1851, he built the home. The house had seven rooms. The woodwork was made of walnut and the floors were ash and pine. It is unknown if he constructed his own home.

John Fleck built many structures in Marysville and Union County. In the 1860s, Fleck was in a partnership with Harrison Rice. Rice & Fleck built the large two-story brick Union School in 1861-62 which was located across the street from his house. Albert S. Chapman joined the partnership. After Rice retired from the business in 1875, Fleck & Chapman built a planing mill on South Main Street. By 1882, the business had sales of \$60,000, selling 4 train car loads of shingles and 200,000 feet of lumber per month.

John Fleck also constructed wood-truss covered bridges including one on Maple Street that spanned Mill Creek, which was built in 1872 with Reuben Partridge.

In 1871, Fleck sold the home to Albert S. Chapman. Several additions were built to expand the house, one by John Fleck in 1858 and one by Albert Chapman in 1875. Albert Chapman died in 1895. His widow, Martha continued to own the property. In 1904, she and her new husband, William S. Lee, moved the house to the north end of the lot. A new residence was built on the south part of the lot in 1905.

In remembering John Fleck years later, Eli Gabriel said of him "work was very much harder in finishing than now. Flooring, doors and window sash were all hand work and with old hand made tools. Some of his work can be found yet showing the skill and cunning hand of the old craftsman."



323 West Seventh Street - William P. Beightler House

In 1889, twenty-one year old, William P. Beightler, was appointed Union County Surveyor. On April 17, 1890, Beightler married Josie M. Sprague and a month later, purchased a lot on West Seventh Street to build a new home in which to raise a family. Shortly after, he built the two-story frame house at 323 West Seventh Street.

Will and Josie had three children, Robert Sprague Beightler, Donald Sprague Beightler, and Charles Sprague Beightler. All three boys grew up in the Seventh Street house. Donald became a successful attorney in Chicago. Charles attended the United States Naval Academy and attained the rank of rear admiral. Robert became a major general and is the highest-ranking soldier to have come from Union County.

Robert S. Beightler was born in 1892. He graduated from Marysville High School in 1909. He was an outstanding athlete and an expert marksman. After attending Ohio State, he enlisted as a private in the Ohio National Guard in 1911. He was promoted and entered WWI as a second lieutenant. After serving as regimental adjutant in France, he returned home as a captain. He was appointed Ohio Director of Highways in 1939. A year later, he was promoted to Major General commanding the 37th Ohio Infantry Division. When war was declared in 1941, the 37th "Buckeye Division" was sent to the Pacific Theater. The Division was in active combat from 1942 to 1945. Beightler led the forces that liberated Manila. When the Japanese surrendered the Philippines, Beightler was designated to accept the sword of surrender on behalf of the United States. After the war, President Truman and Congress commissioned him a Major General in the regular army. He was also appointed military governor of Okinawa.

General Beightler died in 1978. Fifth Street is dedicated in his honor and an Ohio Historical Marker commemorating his service is located at the public square. The Ohio National Guard Armory at Linworth is named the Beightler Armory in his memory.



263 West Third Street - Philip Snider Dry Goods Store

Marysville can boast many fine brick business buildings in the central district of the town. These were built at, and after, the Civil War. Before those buildings were constructed, the business section of the town was comprised mostly of frame business buildings. Many of these buildings are no longer in existence, but one good example of an early business building still survives and can be seen at 263 West Third Street. This was the business block of Philip Snider & Co.

Philip Snider came to Marysville in 1846. He was a butcher and elected Union County Sheriff. In 1849, he purchased a half interest in a dry goods business and became the partner of James Kinkade, Jr. They would remain partners from 1849 to 1873. In 1854, Philip Snider & Co. purchased the lot at 111 South Main Street. In March 1856, construction began on a two-story frame business block for their dry goods store. The building was completed in November. It was said of the building that "at the time of its completion, it was the finest business block in the county and was considered a marked advancement in architecture." Snider & Kinkade sold the building in 1866 and it was used for many other businesses over the years.

The building was purchased by Henry W. Morey in 1897. Morey planned a new brick block at that location in 1901 and offered the old Snider building for sale. John and Valorus Merritt bought the building for their grocery business. In August, Jesse Pinyard began moving the old structure to the Merritt property at 263 West Third Street. The building got as far as the public square when the Light Company obtained an order to stop due to damage to their wires. The building sat in the public square for days with vehicles driving around the structure. Eventually, moving began again and, by agreement, it was taken up Fourth Street and through the backyards to its new location on Third Street where it is located today. In addition to a grocery, Merritt Brothers also used the building for a broom factory which they started in 1903.

111 South Main Street - Henry W. Morey Block

The influence of the Morey family in the early development of Marysville cannot be overstated. One of the prominent members of that family was Dr. Henry W. Morey. He was born in 1849, the son of Abraham Morey and Abby Kinney. Although a doctor of dentistry, Henry joined his father, in 1880, in the furniture and undertaking business. Henry would develop that business into one of the leading enterprises in Marysville.

In 1897, Henry purchased the old Snider Dry Goods Building at 111 South Main Street. In 1901, Henry planned to build a new brick business block at the location for his furniture and undertaking business. He hired Columbus architect, C.A. Stribling & Co. to design the new building. They designed a three story business block with a front made of pressed brick and glass. Large windows were planned on all three stories to display the furniture. The Marysville firm of Sharrer & Sons was given the contract to build the block and George Fox was awarded the contract for the brick work.



The old Snider building was removed in August 1901, and Isaac Staley immediately began excavation for the new block. When the foundation was completed, a small flask of whiskey was placed in the foundation walls to christen the structure. Records do not state whether the flask was full or empty. After, George Fox started on the brick work. The brick front was finished in December. Interior work continued into 1902 including installing an elevator, operated by electricity.

The grand opening of the Morey & Co. Furniture Emporium was held on December 5, 1902. It was said the business had "three floors and a basement filled to overflowing with elegant goods. A modern electric elevator carries the customer or sight seer from one floor to another." A stone tablet was originally placed at the top of the building that said "Morey 1847 - 1901" recognizing the many years the company had been in business in Marysville.



235 West Third Street - Levi Phelps House

Some of the oldest homes in Marysville are located on West Third Street, between Main and Maple Streets. Many of these were not originally built on Third Street but were moved there at a later date from other locations. The two-story frame residence at 235 West Third Street is one of these.

The house was built as the residence of Levi Phelps and was originally located at 218 North Main Street. Phelps was born in 1789 in Connecticut. In 1810, he came to Ohio. He served in the Ohio Militia during the War of 1812. After the war, he and his brother, Sylvester came to Union County and built a woolen mill in Union Township. The mill was destroyed by fire. Phelps became a school teacher and later took up surveying.

In 1826, Levi married Sarah Cooper. One year later, he purchased seven lots in Marysville for \$100. One of these was the property on North Main Street. In 1828 and 1829, he built a frame home for his family. An addition was constructed in 1849, making the home a large two-story frame building. Phelps served as County Surveyor from 1820 to 1846; Auditor from 1824 to 1838 and Associate Judge from 1846 to 1852. He died in 1863. At that time, the property consisted of the house, two garden lots and several barn lots.

In 1905, Earnest G. McCann purchased the property with the plan to redevelop it for the new Robinson & Curry Co. Lumber Yard. In April 1906, McCann moved the Phelps house to 235 West Third Street. The house was placed on the lot, but turned so what was formerly an end of the building became the front. The building was remodeled and an addition constructed on the back. A bay window was added to the front and a large two-story veranda was built on the east side of the house. It is unknown if any of the 1820s parts of the house was moved but the main building is the original 1849 house.



240 West Fifth Street – James W. Evans House

Many fine homes can be found on West Fifth Street, between Court and Maple Streets. One of the oldest is the house at 240 West Fifth Street. This was built in 1851 as the home of saddle and harness maker, James W. Evans. He lived there a short time and then moved to Kansas. He sold the house to John Fletcher Sabine. The Sabine family lived in the home for over fifty years.

J.F. Sabine was born in 1802 in Vermont. His family moved to Lower Canada in 1806. When war was declared between the United States and Great Britain in 1812, his parents, with their nine children, made a tedious six-week journey by wagon to Ohio. In 1813, the family settled on the Post Road in Union Township where they built a cabin. Life was hard for the pioneer family. His father and several of his siblings died of milk sickness shortly after arriving at their new home.

John married Euphenna Clement in 1828. He was elected Justice of the Peace in 1829 and held that position until 1855. Sabine was a Free-Soiler and strongly opposed slavery. In 1854, he was elected Union County Auditor. He moved to Marysville with his family in January 1855 to take up his duties as auditor. He purchased the house, which was originally located at 246 West Fifth Street, from James Evans in 1856. The residence was a one and a half story frame house, 36x21 feet, and had walnut woodwork and ash floors. He also bought other lands on West Fifth Street which he subdivided in 1856.

The house remained in the Sabine family until 1904 when it was purchased by Henry E. Conkright. Conkright intended to build a new home at the location and the Sabine house was moved in April 1905 to 240 West Fifth Street, where it stands today. It was described at the time as "one of the landmarks of the city and constructed mostly of walnut lumber." An addition was added in 1905, giving the house 11 rooms. The exterior of the home is little changed today from its original appearance.



305 North Walnut Street - Marysville Foundry

Few people travel to the north end of Walnut Street. It ends at the railroad and at one time, this section was industrial with a number of factories and elevators. One of these is the two-story brick Marysville Foundry. The building has an interesting history.

In 1900, the citizens of Marysville voted bonds in the amount of \$50,000 to induce industries to locate in Marysville by constructing factories for their businesses. Adam Roley & Sons of Basil, Ohio offered to move their iron foundry to Marysville if the town would build a new factory for their foundry. The offer was accepted, and Walter Weidman designed plans for the foundry and workshop. The Marysville firm of Norris & Kleiber was awarded the contract to construct the factory for \$1,772. Work on the new factory began in May 1901 with William Diehl laying the stone foundation. The factory was completed in November 1901. The building was a two-story brick factory with a frame workshop. It included a furnace for melting iron and a power plant for running the machinery. The company made all kinds of metal castings, farm rollers, farm wagons and iron fences. The business was not a success and in 1903, the City owned factory was sold to Richard Turner for \$900.

Turner operated the Marysville Foundry and Machine Company. A number of interesting items were manufactured at this building, including iron bridges which were erected in the county. The metal grave markers at Potter's Field on Raymond Road were also made by Turner because he said it was not right that the graves were unmarked. In 1905, Turner purchased an engine from the Brennan Motor Company of Syracuse, New York. With it, he built one of the first automobiles in Union County at the factory. So many people came to see the car being made that Turner put up a tent inside the factory to conceal the work. The car was first displayed at the Union County Fair in 1905. It had a top speed of 20 mph and had a 2-cylinder water cooled gasoline engine. That car has been renovated and is on display at the Union County Historical Society.



270 West Seventh Street - Michael Forry House

Reuben L. Partridge is well known as the builder of wood-truss covered bridges, but he was also important in the development of Marysville.

Partridge married Maria Wolford in 1846. Maria was the daughter of Adam and Catherine Wolford. Adam died in 1863 and Catherine in 1865. Reuben and Maria inherited 18 ½ acres of land on what is today West Seventh Street. In 1877, the town council agreed to create a new street through the land, south of the West School building. That street was originally called Maple Street but was later renamed West Seventh Street and went from present day Court to Maple Streets. Once the new street was completed, it opened that part of town to development. Reuben subdivided his property into lots, known as the Partridge Addition.

One of the first to purchase a lot was Michael and Elizabeth D. Forry in 1881. They paid \$275 for a one-fourth acre lot on the northeast corner of West Seventh and Ash Streets. Michael and Elizabeth immediately began the construction of their new home. The house was completed, and the family moved into their new residence in April 1882. The house was a two-story frame building with a tile foundation. It had 9 rooms and hardwood floors.

Michael was an agent for the sale of Champion Reapers and Mowers. When he was transferred to Colorado in 1894, the family sold the house. In 1896, it was purchased by Byron and Emma Galloway. They remodeled the home and added an addition on the back. After completion of the work, the home was said to be "one of the handsomest dwellings in the city."



331 West Sixth Street – Frank Z. Ballinger House

One of the most architecturally appealing homes in Marysville is the beautiful residence at 331 West Sixth Street. It was built as the home of Frank Z. Ballinger.

Frank Zell Ballinger was born near East Liberty in 1866. Upon graduation, he began teaching. In 1892, he was hired as a teacher at Watkins and in 1896, he was promoted to school superintendent. In the same year, he married Cora Kilgore. Two years later, he was appointed county school examiner.

During the time Professor Ballinger was a school administrator, he studied law. After being admitted to the bar in 1902, he moved to Marysville with his wife and entered into the practice of law with Judge James McCampbell. Just three years later, he ran for Union County Prosecutor and was elected serving from 1906 to 1910. It was said that Prosecuting Attorney Ballinger was "the latest victim of the automobile fever" having purchased a Maxwell Runabout in 1909. He and others also considered manufacturing automobiles in Marysville with the Sommer Automobile Factory of Detroit.

In August of 1911, Ballinger purchased the vacant lot on the southeast corner of West Sixth and Maple Streets from A.G. Kirby, Jr. He paid \$1,500 for the lot. Ballinger hired local contracting firm, Weidman Brothers Co. to build his new home. The residence was designed by W.R. Weidman and J.C. Weidman. It was a two-story symmetrical house with yellow pressed brick and a red tile roof. A matching brick porte-cochere was constructed on the east side for his Maxwell automobile. The large front porch had a mosaic tile floor. It was said the Weidman Brothers "stamped upon their work an individuality that was thoroughly artistic." W.L. Weidman was in charge of the construction. Work began on the new home in October 1911. The interior finish work was supervised by J.O. Weidman using oak and pine. The staircase, pocket doors, mantles and built-in buffet were all made of oak. The house had beveled glass door and window panels and many art glass windows. The house was completed in July 1912.

2018
MARYSVILLE DRIVING TOUR OF HOMES AND
BUILDINGS



509 West Fourth Street - Thomas Brown House

The brick Italianate home at 509 West Fourth Street was built by Judge Thomas Brown. Brown was born in County Antrim, Ireland in 1819. He immigrated to America with his parents in 1824. In 1846 he came to Marysville and engaged in the mercantile business. He was elected the first Union County Probate Judge serving from 1852 to 1855 (but did not become an attorney until 1854). Brown also served as mayor of Marysville, infirmary director and probate judge again in 1860.

In 1869, Judge Brown planned to build a brick home on his lot on West Fourth Street. At the time, the Presbyterians were constructing a new church building and put their old 1836 brick church up for sale. Judge Brown purchased the church building at a cost of \$377. The materials were used in the construction of his new home. In May, his workers began removing the brick from the old church and work on Brown's brick mansion started in June 1869. In July, the first story was nearly completed and most of the walls of the old Presbyterian Church had been removed. By August, the home was under roof and it was completed shortly thereafter.

Local jeweler, William E. Baxter, purchased the house in 1873. His grandson, Warner Baxter, was a Hollywood film star in the early days of motion pictures. Local historian, Elwood Sawyer lived at the home for many years. Today the grounds are beautifully maintained by current home owner and master gardener, Carole Stolte-Brouillette.



206 North Maple Street – Presbyterian Parsonage

There have been several buildings built at the northeast corner of Maple and Fourth Streets. The first was built in 1858. That house was moved and relocated in 1872. A second home was built on the property in 1872. That house was also relocated in 1910. The Chicago millionaire, Almer Coe, became the owner of the property in 1912. The Coe's summer home was located across the street at 500 West Fourth Street.

In 1914, evangelism was sweeping the Midwest. Billy Sunday and other evangelists were holding revivals to bring new members into churches. Rev. C.S. Jordan was one of those evangelists. Local churches in Marysville pooled their funds to have Rev. Jordan come to Marysville to hold revivals in order to obtain new members. In 1914, a large one-story tabernacle, 130x60 feet was constructed on the site by volunteer labor for revival services. Revivals lasted six weeks. Nearly 250 converts were obtained for the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches. The tabernacle was removed once the revivals ended.

In 1915, Almer Coe offered to donate the lot to the Marysville Presbyterian Church on the condition that they build a suitable dwelling on the property for their minister. The offer was accepted. In November 1916, Sharrer & Sharrer was awarded the contract for building the house. The Marysville Lumber Company was given the contract to furnish the lumber. The new parsonage was completed in 1917. When finished, it was two stories, 28x40 feet, 7 rooms, with hardwood woodwork and floors and a slate roof.



275 West Fifth Street – Judge John M. Brodrick House

John M. Brodrick became an attorney in 1875. He served as city clerk, council member, prosecuting attorney, probate judge and common pleas judge. In 1895, he purchased the lot at 275 West Fifth Street at a cost of \$2,100. The existing house was moved to West Sixth Street and Brodrick planned to build a new residence at the location for his family. That home was not constructed until 1904.

In March, Judge Brodrick hired Architect, William Kennedy, of Marysville to design his new home. Those plans were completed in May and put on display at the Citizens Home & Savings Co. for contractors and builders who might want to bid on constructing the new house.

At the time, C.G. Jones & Co, of Marysville, opened a new business manufacturing artificial stone blocks made out of concrete. The blocks had the outward appearance of cut stone but were made to order from concrete at a significantly reduced cost. Judge Brodrick decided to have the first house in Marysville to use the new blocks. A new set of plans for his home was adopted in order to use the concrete block material. The Marysville Lumber Company was awarded the contract for construction of the home using the artificial stone. Since the Jones Company was unable to manufacture the block at their factory, temporary machinery and tools were set up in the back of Brodrick's lot. The artificial stone blocks were made on site.

The house was completed in 1904. The carpenter work was done by William Rubrecht and masonry by Maugans & Jones. When finished the home was two stories, 30x44 feet, with 10 rooms. A matching garage, 32x18 feet, was also constructed.



130 North Maple Street – Charles S. Chapman House

One of the finest homes in Marysville is the house at 130 North Maple Street. It was built as the residence of Charles S. Chapman. Chapman was born in Union County in 1846. In 1870, he moved to Marysville and worked for O.M. Scott in the agricultural implement business. In June 1870, Chapman purchased that business from O.M. Scott. The business was successful and in October 1873, he sold the enterprise back to O.M. Scott for a profit.

With the profit, C.S. Chapman went into the banking business. In April 1874, he organized the People's Bank with capital stock of \$20,000. Chapman served as the cashier-manager and later as the president of that institution.

Several years later, in 1876, Chapman purchased the lot on the southeast corner of Maple and Fourth Streets. In February 1887, Chapman announced that he intended to build a brick residence. Work began immediately and the foundation was completed by the end of May. By August, the brick exterior was finished. Just before Christmas, 1887, the family moved into their new home. It was described as a "palatial residence complete in all its appointments, elegantly finished and richly furnished throughout."

The Queen Anne style home was three stories, 48x64 feet, 9 rooms, hardwood and pine woodwork and floors with a slate roof. There was a large parlor on the first floor that could be expanded by pocket doors for the many social events held at the home. Upon entering the front doors, the foyer has a fireplace decorated with blue tiles imported from Hollard. An ornate staircase leads to the second and third floors. The house originally had a copper storage tank on the third floor fed by rainwater that provided water to the home.

Albert, a son of Charles Chapman, was born and grew up in the home. He later became president of the Eastman Kodak Company.



240 West Fourth Street – S.N. McCloud House

A house with some of the most unusual architecture is the home at 240 West Fourth Street. It was built for the family of Smith Newton McCloud.

McCloud was a druggist. In 1871, he opened a drug store in Marysville under the name of McCloud & Bro. McCloud was active in the Democrat party and was appointed postmaster of Marysville by President Cleveland in 1885 to 1890 and 1894 to 1898. He also served on the Marysville Village Council.

In 1886, McCloud organized a company to drill for natural gas. No gas was found but a vein of water was struck and the company developed a medicinal spring and bathhouse located on North Main Street. McCloud also bottled the water and shipped it across the country. He would later purchase the Davis Chair Factory and manufacture furniture. In 1891, McCloud helped form the Marysville Keeley Institute for treatment of alcoholics and drug addicts. He sold his interest in the Institute in February 1892.

Shortly after, he began plans to build a new home to replace his old house on West Fourth Street. In July 1892, the old residence was moved to Third Street where the family would reside until the new home was completed. Work began on the new house in July. George Emanuel Fox was awarded the contract for the stone and brick work on the home. Fleck & Chapman did the woodwork. The house was predicted to "be the crack residence of Marysville." The house was a large 3 story brick home, 42x46 feet, 10 rooms, with hardwood and pine floors and woodwork and a slate roof. The third floor has a large ballroom. The house was completed in 1893 and the family moved into their new home in November. The finished home was called "the finest of any residence in the city."



241 West Third Street – Jacob Ashbaugh House

The house at 241 West Third Street is one of the older homes in Marysville. It was built by Jacob Ashbaugh in 1849. Jacob Ashbaugh was born in 1777 in Cecil County, Maryland. He married Mary Buchanan in 1802 in Pennsylvania. He was one of the early pioneers to Ohio and came to Marysville about 1849. The home was originally located at 240 West Fourth Street.

Jacob died on May 4, 1851. Mary continued to reside in the home with her family until 1857 when the house was sold and became the residence of Alvin Thompson. Thompson had graduated from the Marysville Academy. He became Paris Township Treasurer and Clerk and Clerk of the Marysville Village Council. In 1861, he enlisted in the Union Army serving in the First Ohio Calvary for three years. Upon returning from the war, Thompson married Ellen Smith, a daughter of Rev. James Smith of the Marysville Academy. Alvin and Ellen lived at the home until 1868 when he was appointed by President Andrew Johnson as Marysville Postmaster.

Smith Newton McCloud bought the home in 1882 where his family resided for many years. McCloud was active in Democrat politics. In 1891, Ohio Governor James E. Campbell visited Marysville. A reception and dinner was held at the home for the Governor.

In 1892, S.N. McCloud planned to construct a new home on Fourth Street. In July, McCloud moved the home from Fourth Street to 241 West Third Street where it is located today.



729 East Sixth Street – Nicholas Brian House

Nicholas Brian was born in 1853 at Toledo, Ohio. He became a stonecutter. He married Amelia Finkler in 1879. In 1880, Nicholas began working with Woodruff & Co. of Toledo. That contracting firm later merged and became known as Karst & Woodruff.

Toledo Architect, David W. Gibbs, was known around the state for designing public buildings. In the 1880s, he began working on county courthouses. He submitted a design to the Union County Commissioners for their new courthouse project. His design was selected. The same plan had also been submitted to the Henry County Commissioners which was also approved by that county. In 1880, both counties began constructing similar courthouse buildings.

Karst & Woodruff were awarded the contract for building both the Union and Henry County courthouses. As one of their stonecutters, Nicholas Brian was sent to Marysville with other artisans in 1881 to begin the stone and brick work on the Union County Courthouse. By March of 1882, Superintendent William Burnap of Toledo; Tom Haley of Columbus, Pete Lee of New York, Johnny Marshall of Pittsburg, Nick Brian of Toledo, Joe Ammiott of Toronto, Wiley M. Colson of Columbus and Joe Williamson were credited for their elegant stone work on the courthouse including the "heavy, graceful columns and the massive stone porticoes."

After completion of the Union County Courthouse, Brian worked on other courthouse projects around the state. He moved his family to Marysville and purchased the lot at 729 East Sixth Street in 1888 for \$94. One year later, Brian built the two story frame home. The house was 16x44 feet, 7 rooms and had pine woodwork and floors.

Nicholas Brian died in 1892 from the effects of stone dust. The home remained in his family for several generations. The stonework of the Union County Courthouse is a permanent testament to his skill and craftsmanship.



554 East Fifth Street – William W. Merchant House

William W. Merchant came to Marysville in 1883. He studied law and became an attorney in 1888. In addition to practicing law, Merchant was also very active in local and state politics.

In 1895, he purchased a lot on East Fifth Street to build a new home for his family. The local newspapers said of the planned home that “it will not be the poorest in its neighborhood by a long, long ways.”

One year later, W.W. Merchant hired Architect, A.J. Solomon of Columbus to design his new home. The house was to be “a 10 room brick structure with bathroom, furnace, basement and all modern improvements and will prove the most showy and imposing residence in that part of the city when completed.” Bids were accepted to construct the new home and the contract was awarded to Charles W. Denman of Marysville. It was said of Mr. Denman that he “is a thoroughly first-class workman and Mr. Merchant and family are getting a substantial, convenient and handsome home.” By October, the exterior was completed, and interior work was underway. Contractors, Vaughn & Evans were hired for the work of plastering the new home.

By the end of December, the house was almost completed. On January 28, 1897, the Merchant family moved into their new home. The newspapers reported that “Mr. Merchant has just completed an elegant new brick residence on East Fifth Street and it looked too nice and was too attractive to permit to stand empty even a day and he therefore took advantage of a day when it wasn’t rainy and muddy to get into it. They are charmingly situated now and their legion of friends should give them a housewarming.” The house when finished was 2 stories, 30x45 feet, 10 rooms, pine floors and woodwork and a slate roof.



238 South Maple Street - Abraham Morey's First House

The home at 238 South Maple Street was built as the first residence of Abraham Morey. Morey came to Marysville in 1838. He opened a furniture, cabinet and undertaking business in 1848.

In 1849, Morey purchased a large Out Lot from Rev. Henry Shedd on West Sixth Street. Here he built the home, which was originally located at 325 West Sixth Street. The Morey family lived in the home until 1863 when he sold the property to local surveyor, Benjamin A. Fay. Morey built a new home at 319 West Sixth Street, just east of his old residence, which was completed in 1865.

The Fay family resided at the home until 1888. They sold the house to David S. Clements. The Clements family sold the residence and adjoining lands to A.G. Kirby, Jr. in 1904. With the purchase, Kirby owned the entire southeast corner of West Sixth and Maple Streets. Kirby began plans to develop the corner and he subdivided the property into lots.

As part of the development, Kirby hired Contractor, William Rubrecht to divide the 1849 Morey home into two parts and move them to two of his new lots on South Maple Street. In November 1904, the two sections were relocated to 232 and 238 South Maple Street. The house at 238 South Maple Street is the front part of the original 1849 Morey home. The house at 232 Maple Street was the back portion of the Morey house. That house no longer stands and was demolished in 1961.



118 South Maple Street - William C. Moore House

William C. Moore was active in many pursuits in Marysville and Union County. He was a civic leader, bank director, active in fraternal work, and longtime secretary of the Union County Fair Board. In later years, he was a highway contractor. In 1916, Moore was engaged in purchasing and selling wool.

With the success of his business, Moore began looking for a location to build a house in Marysville. Moore purchased the back portion of the Henderson lot on the south east corner of Fifth and Maple Streets. The new lot being 45x65 feet would provide a building site on Maple Street. The barn at the back of the Henderson lot would be removed. E.F. Sawyer, who owned the adjoining property on Sixth Street, agreed to move his barn as well, which would allow room for the new home.

In March 1916, William Moore awarded the contract for his "handsome new residence" to John E. Shelton & Sons of Broadway, Ohio. Moore wanted the home constructed quickly and it was said of the contractors that "they are pushers." By mid-April, the exterior of the home was completed. The contract for the lathing and plastering of the new residence was awarded to Everett Robinson & Co. As the interior was being finished, Ivy Jenkins was hired to paint the exterior of the home. A large scaffold was erected for that purpose. On June 5, Walter Honoble and Harvey Hornbeck, employees of Jenkins were painting at the roof line when the scaffold collapsed throwing the two men to the ground. The newspaper at the time said "Death Lurked Near When Scaffold Fell." Both men survived and after recovery they were able to finish painting the new home.



127 West Sixth Street – Southard Medical Office

The building located at 127 West Sixth Street was constructed in 1907. In that year, Harry Green Southard completed his medical training and returned home to Marysville to join his father, Dr. John Q. Southard, in the medical profession. Dr. J. Q. Southard was a successful Marysville physician. In order to accommodate both doctors, the Southards decided to build a modern medical office. On April 4th, 1907, the Southards purchased the lot at the corner of Sixth and Court Street as the site for their new building. The cost was \$2,850.

The local firm of W.R. Weidman & Co. was hired as general contractor, designer, and builder. In the design of the building, Walter Weidman introduced the first of several gambrel-roof structures. The first floor was brick, custom made for a dark brown color. The second floor was frame with half-timbering and stucco. The signature feature was an orange tile roof which was specially made for the project by the National Tile Roofing Company of Lima, Ohio.

The new Southard Medical Building opened in October 1907. The first floor contained the examination rooms, operating room, drug room and offices of the two Southards. It also had a “sleeping room” where Dr. H.G. Southard could be on call if needed. The second floor was the dental parlors, laboratory and operating rooms of Dr. Carroll A. White. Dr. White and his wife also resided on the second floor. The new office had a direct connection to the Union County Telephone Company in the Liggett building and prescriptions could easily be phoned in to the drug store.

Dr. H.G. Southard held many positions including Union County Director of Health from 1924 to 1940, Director of Health for the State of Ohio under Gov. George White, Marysville School Board President, Marysville Councilman, and President of the Union County Historical Society.



246 West Fifth Street – Henry E. Conkright House

The home at 246 West Fifth Street was built by Henry Elmer Conkright. Conkright was from Richwood but came to Marysville when he was elected Union County Treasurer, serving from 1894 to 1898.

In 1904, former Union County Treasurer Henry E. Conkright purchased the old Sabine house at 246 West Sixth Street for \$2,600. His plan was to remodel and improve the building for his home.

Instead of remodeling the old residence, Mr. Conkright decided to build a new home at that location. He hired local contractors, Sharrer & Sons to build what was described as “another elegant mansion on West Fifth Street.”

The old Sabine home was sold to Moses Thompson who moved it east to the adjoining property in March 1905. That home still stands at 240 West Fifth Street. The Conkright family continued to live in the old house until their new home was completed.

Construction on the Conkright home began in May 1905. Fifth Street had just been paved with brick and it was said the first hole in the newly paved street was dug in front of the property in order to tap into the water main. The house was completed in February 1906. It was a three story frame building with large porch. The house was 35x35 feet, with hardwood floors and woodwork and a slate roof. The third floor had a large ballroom. Three art glass windows are part of a built-in oak buffet on the first floor.

In later years, the home became an attorney’s office and residence; then the Union County Welfare Office. Later, it housed the Union County Extension Service and 4-H office. Today, it is a business office.



500 West Fourth Street – Almer Coe House “Woodlawn”

Few houses are as architecturally and historically important as the home at 500 West Fourth Street.

Alfred and Lydia Scott lived in an earlier house on the large lot. Their daughter, Elizabeth, married Almer Coe. Coe moved to Chicago where he became a leading manufacturer of optical goods. Coe became financially successful. Alfred Scott died in 1906. The property was transferred to Almer and Elizabeth Coe. In 1910, Coe began plans to build a new house on the lot that would continue to be a home for his mother-in-law, Lydia Scott, and a summer home for his family to visit her.

Coe hired Chicago architect, Charles E. White, Jr. to design the new residence. A Boston architect, White moved to Chicago in 1902 to work with Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright and his architects pioneered a new architecture known as “Prairie Style.” In 1905, White opened his own architectural firm. In planning the Coe house in 1910, White employed a Chicago landscape architect. White said the home should be designed to complement the setting and not detract from it. Weidman Brothers Co. of Marysville was awarded the contract for building the new home.

Construction of the home started in August, 1910 and was completed in February, 1911. Coe called his new residence “Woodlawn.” The exterior was clad in darkly stained cypress boards. The oriental trimmed windows were painted a green to suggest aged bronze. Cypress trim was used in the interior and the design had many features similar to those used in Frank Lloyd Wright influenced buildings. The grounds featured a large fountain, summer house, tennis court, formal flower gardens, vegetable garden, and a double garage for their Peirce Arrow limousine with chauffeur’s quarters.

In 1959, O.M. Scott & Sons purchased the home to use as a corporate guest house. They sold the home in 1988 and it has since been a private residence.



118 West Sixth Street – Cyprian Lee House

The Federal style two-story brick home at 118 West Sixth Street was built by Cyprian Lee. Lee settled in Union County in 1822. Leesburg Township is named in his honor. In 1825, Lee moved to Marysville. He purchased land on West Sixth Street in 1828 and built a two-story log home. That home was used as a tavern in early days.

Lee was engaged in various businesses in Marysville. He was also County Treasurer in 1827 to 1828 and 1846 to 1852. He then served as Coroner from 1852 to his death in 1853.

In 1839, Lee built the brick residence in front of, and connecting to, the existing log house. Hand-hewn beams from the original log structure can still be seen in the back section of the building. Lee has been identified as participating in the “Underground Railroad,” assisting runaway slaves in their flight for freedom.

In 1866, Noah Orr purchased the property for his family. Orr was known as the “Union County Giant” standing 9 feet tall in costume. At the time, he was performing at P.T. Barnum’s American Museum in New York City. Orr’s father-in-law, John Brott, a champion prize-fighter, lived at the home also. Noah Orr died in 1882 at the home. His funeral took place there. It took ten men to lift the coffin and the only way it could be removed from the house was through the window.

After Orr’s death, the property was sold to Josiah J. Morelock. Morelock had been in the tannery business. The large stones in front of the entrance to the home are the tanning stones from the Morelock Tannery. Morelock also raised pure-bred horses. The brick structure behind the home is the former Morelock Stables.



204-206 East Fourth Street – Marysville Cabinet Factory Addition

The Marysville Cabinet Factory began as the John Rausch Manufacturing Company in 1892. In 1893, the company purchased an old factory building on East Fourth Street and began the manufacture of kitchen cabinets, cupboards and tables. They also provided contract carpentry for building homes, barns, verandas and interior woodwork.

The company expanded its inventory to include the manufacture of bank, store and office fixtures. Thousands of mail-order catalogues were sent all over the country and overseas advertising their products. Soon the company had annual sales in excess of \$100,000 a year.

With the success of the business, the company was reorganized and incorporated in 1903 as the Marysville Cabinet Company. A large addition was planned to expand the factory. The Cabinet Company purchased land west of the old factory. They also ordered 180,000 bricks to be made by the John Burns Brick and Tile Works on Weaver Road. The factory would be three-stories, 42x100 feet.

George W. Fox was awarded the contract for building the brick addition. Before he could start, several changes had to be made to the building site. A house and a blacksmith shop were moved from the property. Since the property also included the old Marysville cemetery, over two hundred bodies had to be removed and reburied at Oakdale Cemetery. The new addition was built over the Town Run and large retaining walls had to be constructed to support the new addition.

Work began in February 1903. Once the brickwork was completed, a large force of men described as "a small army" worked rapidly to get the building ready for use. At the same time, furniture production continued in the adjoining building. The addition was completed in August 1903.

The Marysville Cabinet Company closed in 1920. The original factory was destroyed by fire and only the 1903 addition remains today.



300 West Fifth Street – Col. Aaron B. Robinson House

An important soldier of the Civil War and later, Marysville business leader, was Colonel Aaron B. Robinson. The Robinson family came to Union County in the pioneer days. Aaron was born in 1833 and “learned to swing the axe, fire the old flint lock musket and do all of those chores which fell to the lot of a lad in early days.”

In 1859, Aaron was admitted to the Ohio Bar and began practicing law with his brother, James W. Robinson. On August 26, 1862, Aaron enlisted in the Union Army. He was elected Captain of Company I, 121st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Robinson was wounded in the battle of Chickamauga in 1863. Once recovered, he rejoined his unit and was promoted to Colonel of the regiment. He was mustered out at the close of the war on June 17, 1865.

After the war, Aaron returned to Marysville and resumed his partnership as an attorney with his brother, James. The two brothers also purchased the Marysville Woolen Mills and manufactured woolen goods. They built a business block on South Main Street as a place to sell their woolen products. In 1879, Robinson & Robinson constructed a second block on South Main Street and opened a new Factory Store in that building. The brothers sold the Woolen Mills in 1880 but continued to operate a mercantile business at their South Main Street building.

With the success of his woolen factory and legal business, Colonel Robinson bought land on West Fifth Street. In August 1868, he began building “a fine large cottage residence.” The home was completed shortly after. In 1897, a veranda was added as well as an upstairs dormer bedroom. The house was 1 ½ stories, 34x94 feet, 12 rooms with pine floors and woodwork. Many local civic and community events were held at the home. It remained in the Robinson family until 1943.



428 East Fifth Street – John B. Adams House

One of the nicest examples of a Marysville “cottage residence” is the house located at 428 East Fifth Street. It was built by John B. Adams.

In 1898, John B. Adams of Columbus married Bertha Tuller of Marysville. Adams was a travelling salesman for a wholesale lumber company in Cleveland. In November, Mr. and Mrs. Adams purchased the old Rowland Lee home on East Fifth Street for \$1,000.

In 1901, J.B. Adams began making plans to build a new residence to replace the old house. In March, the old brick residence built by Lee in 1843 was razed and the property was graded “preparatory to the erection of a new home which will be a model of neatness and convenience.” To help pay for the home, J.B. Adams sold 24 acres of land south of Marysville for \$2,000.

The Marysville contracting firm of Sharrer & Sons was hired to construct the new home. On April 10, 1901, William Diehl began laying the foundation for the residence. The house was constructed quickly. The exterior was sheeted by May 1st and the workman began installing the decorative shingle siding on May 2nd.

When finished, the house was described as frame, 1 ½ stories, 28x28 feet, 7 rooms, with oak woodwork and pine floors.

Adams sold the home in 1908 to Pearl McIlroy for \$3,500. McIlroy was one of the principals in the Marysville Cabinet Company. McIlroy resided at the home until 1946, when it was sold to the Boerger family who are the current owners.

The original brick sidewalk can still be seen in front of the home. The residence is well-known for its nicely landscaped yard and flowers.



303 West Sixth Street – Enoch C. Ashbaugh House
207 South Ash Street – Charles Rathbun House

The house at 303 West Sixth and 207 Ash Streets is connected as one long house; however, each section has a very different history.

In 1886, Enoch C. Ashbaugh purchased the land on the southwest corner of Sixth and Ash Streets. Ashbaugh was a stonemason and worked on many bridges in Union County. In April 1886, he began construction on a two-story frame house for his residence. He completed the home in August. This is the house at 303 West Sixth Street. In 1924, the house was purchased by Elba H. Creviston. Creviston had previously been in partnership with Henry W. Morey. They built the brick mortuary and funeral parlor at 110 South Court Street where they operated an undertaking establishment. In order to construct that mortuary, an old two-story frame dwelling on that property needed to be moved. The old dwelling had originally been built on West Fifth Street in 1852 as the home of Dr. Charles Rathbun. Charles Rathbun was a physician who came to Marysville in 1845. He also operated a drug store, dry goods store and mercantile business.

The Rathbun residence remained on West Fifth Street until 1873 when the Union County Commissioners purchased the lot to build the new jail and Sheriff's residence. The Rathbun house, kitchen and out buildings were sold at public auction. J.J. Morelock purchased them for \$101. In April, 1873, he moved the Rathbun home to his property at 110 South Court Street. It remained there until the Morey Mortuary was constructed at that location. The house was temporarily relocated to an empty lot next to the mortuary. In 1924, Elba Creviston moved the house to his property at the corner of Sixth and Ash and attached it to the back of the existing 1886 home. In 1926, he converted both buildings in to a duplex dwelling, one on Sixth Street and the other on Ash.



254 West Sixth Street – Dr. Charles Mills House

In 1891, Dr. Charles D. Mills of Fairfield County moved to Marysville to open his medical practice. He soon joined the offices of Drs. H. A. Rodebaugh and W.F. White. In 1895, Dr. Rodebaugh opened the Marysville Sanitarium on North Main Street established for the treatment of drug, tobacco and alcohol addicts. Dr. Mills later was superintendent of the Sanitarium. Dr. Mills practiced medicine until his death in 1935.

When Dr. Mills came to Marysville in 1891, he purchased a brick two-story home at 254 West Sixth Street. With the success of his practice and the sanitarium, Dr. Mills desired to build a new home for his growing family.

In May 1901, Dr. Mills began razing the old brick house. In the local newspaper, he advertised to sell “cheap” a large lot of old brick in excellent condition, some lumber, doors, window frames, sash and etc. from the old home.

At the same time, Dr. Mills was planning to build a new home, his neighbor, Henry Morey, was making plans to construct a new business block on South Main Street. C.A. Stribling & Co. of Columbus was the architect for the Morey Block. Dr. Mills hired the same architect to design his new home. E.H. Rickett of the architectural firm was put in charge of overseeing the new Mills home. Charles Denman was awarded the contract for building the residence. Work began in June 1901 and was completed in December.

The completed home was a two-story frame building, 36x60 feet, ten rooms, hardwood and pine floors and pine woodwork. The house cost \$3,500 to build and was said to be “modern in all its improvements.”

Dr. Mills was a well-liked local physician. He was president of the Marysville School Board and active in many civic affairs. His daughter, Mary, was a school teacher. Another daughter, Ferne, was the longest serving principal of Marysville High School. His son, Charles B. Mills, became president of the O.M. Scott & Sons Company.

2017
MARYSVILLE DRIVING TOUR OF HOMES AND
BUILDINGS



202 North Main Street – Marysville Post Office

The post office building at Marysville is an outstanding example of Depression era architecture. As early as 1929, a bill was proposed for the construction of a post office building for the town. In 1934, the post office project was approved as part of the Public Works Construction Program. Funding, however, did not materialize until 1936. \$89,000 was appropriated for construction of the building and the purchase of the site. This was later increased to \$107,000.

A site was selected in 1936 at the northeast corner of Main and Fourth Streets and after moving the existing structures from the lot, work began in December 1937.

The building was designed by Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect for the U.S. Department of the Treasury, using a Colonial Revival style. L.M. Leonard Co. of Columbus was awarded the contract for building the new post office. The building was 81 x 67 feet, made of brick and stone construction with a small cupola on top. A loading platform was built on the back for deliveries. The first floor included the postmaster's office; money order window; registry and C.O.D. window; parcel post window; stamp and general delivery window; sorting room and 171 post office boxes. The floors were maple and much of the new furniture was made out of solid oak. A 2,200 pound safe was placed in the vault. The basement had six offices for federal agencies including the Agricultural Extension Service and Farm Security Administration.

The completed Marysville Post Office was opened September 6, 1938. United States Postmaster General, James A. Farley, formally dedicated the building in a public ceremony on September 22, 1938.

In 1940, James D. Egleson painted the mural in the lobby as part of the Federal Arts Program. It depicts rural life in Union County and how the mail service helps connect farm communities to the outside world.



124 East Fourth Street - Col. Herman C. Doellinger Armory

The Ohio Legislature passed a law in 1909 to construct Ohio National Guard armories throughout the state which were to serve as headquarters for local military companies, drill rooms and an arsenal for the storage of military equipment and supplies. The armories would also contain meeting rooms for veterans of the Civil War and Spanish American War.

Local citizens began actively pushing for an armory to be built in Marysville. On June 1, 1910, the town was notified that the first armory in the state of Ohio under the new law would be constructed at Marysville. \$15,000 was appropriated for the building.

Charles Insko Williams was hired as architect and James Laughlin as the contractor. Construction began on October 13, 1910. The brickwork was done by local contractor, George W. Fox. The building was completed on September 1, 1911 at a cost of \$19,886. The additional amount over the appropriation was paid by the Village.

The armory had narrow caged windows and massive cypress doors said to be impregnable to enemy attacks and defensible against mobs. There was an ordnance room; officer's room; quartermaster's room; kitchen "adequate to mess a war strength unit;" a large drill room with gymnasium; shooting range and headquarters for the GAR and Spanish American War Veterans.

For many decades, the armory served as the center for military activities in the community. This was especially true during World War I and World War II. On Memorial Day, 1971, the building was renamed the Col. Herman C. Doellinger Ohio National Guard Armory. The Doellinger Armory was deactivated in 1992 due to state budget cuts.



246 West Sixth Street - H.W. Morey Home

The building that now houses the museum of the Union County Historical Society was originally built as the residence of Henry W. Morey. Morey began his career as a dentist, but in 1880 he took over his father's furniture and undertaking business. By the 1890s, Morey had built the business into one of the leading enterprises in town.

As part of his new success, Dr. Morey announced that he intended to build a new brick residence on his property. The old house was moved to Ash Street in 1890. Marysville Contactor, David Sharrer & Son, was hired to construct the new home. The brick work for the two-story Queen Anne style home was done by G.A. Emanuel Fox. The woodwork, including mantle pieces, porches and balconies were manufactured by Robinson, Curry & Co. Specially designed doors were made by the same company for the second floor of the house using curly yellow pine panels and white pine stiles. Dr. Morey displayed the doors at his business until they were installed in his home. The Morey family moved into their new residence in May 1891.

The house had quartered oak woodwork on the first floor and cherry mantels. Parquet floors are featured in the entry ways and dining room. A cobalt art glass window was placed in the front parlor. The house was lit by gas with brass lighting fixtures and had a zinc lined indoor bathtub filled by an attic cistern. Two painted porcelain sinks were placed on each floor. A speaking tube was installed to call the maid.

In 1954, the Morey Home was donated to the Union County Historical Society by Henry's son, Colonel Dana Morey. The front door of the 1964 addition on the east side of the building is from the Darby Township boyhood home of Vice-President Charles W. Fairbanks.



744 West Fourth Street - Joseph T. Richey Home

The talent and craftsmanship of Joseph Timothy Richey can be seen in the home at 744 West Fourth Street.

The property is located in the Longbrake Addition of Marysville, named for the original landowner, Levi L. Longbrake. By 1900, the land had been subdivided into lots and was being marketed by a developer. The developer became financially overextended and the lots soon went into the hands of a Receiver, J.D. Shearer. Dover Township resident Joseph T. Richey realized that a good opportunity could be had and purchased the lot at 744 West Fourth Street for \$200 in August 1908.

Richey was a master carpenter. He was also a house builder. He immediately began construction of a home for himself and his family on the property. The house was completed in 1908 at a cost of \$1,200. The Richey home was a two story frame house, 24 x 34 with 6 rooms.

Richey sold the home in 1916 and moved to Sandusky. The house was purchased in 1943 by Theodore G. and Minnie C. Streng. Streng was a dealer in Allis-Chalmers, New Ideal and Case farm equipment. The large cement block building at the back of the property was constructed in 1941 for the Ted Streng Implement Company and Store.

Today, granddaughter Carol Ann Griffith and her husband, Edward, own the Richey home and her grandfather's former Implement store.



203 South Maple Street – Charles E. Wharton House

The beautiful Victorian home at 203 South Maple Street was built for the family of Charles E. Wharton in 1893.

Charles Wharton came to Marysville with his parents in 1867. The Wharton family operated the Wharton Boarding House on South Main Street. In 1884, Charles and his brother, Joseph, opened the Wharton Jewelry Company next to the boarding house. The business sold clocks, watches, jewelry, silver and eye glasses. In 1891, his brother, William, built a storeroom next to the jewelry store for the Wharton Novelty Company. That business sold rubber stamps, ink pads, checks, badges, school books, stencils, door plates, house numbers, windows, advertising items, business signs and Wharton's Ague Cure and Chicken Cholera Compound.

With the success of his business, Charles purchased the lot at the southwest corner of Maple and Sixth Streets in 1891 in order to build "a neat and commodious residence." Construction was delayed as he was nominated to be the Prohibition candidate for State Senator. Having lost the election, Wharton continued his plans for a new home. Construction began in 1893 and the Wharton family moved into their new house in October 1893. The home was a two-story frame residence, 33 x 45, with a slate roof. It had nine rooms, parquet floors in the entrance hall and dining room, an intricate turned oak staircase and two art glass windows in the stairway. The cost to build the residence was \$1,600.

The home was sold in 1900 to Dr. Owen H. and Frances Thorpe for \$2,900. They resided in the home for many years. Charles Wharton moved to Kenton where he later became active in the Socialist Political Party running unsuccessfully for United States Congressman in 1908.



120-122 West Fourth Street – Two Room Brick School

The structure at 120-122 West Fourth Street is one of the oldest buildings in Marysville and the oldest surviving schools in Union County.

Education has always been important in Marysville. Early schools in the town were held in the homes of local residents. Later, the courthouse and churches were used for schools. In 1831, the first school building was constructed in Marysville, being a one-room frame building located on the southeast corner of Sixth and Walnut Streets. A private academy was started in 1839 for higher education and a building was erected for the academy west of the Presbyterian Church in 1844.

As the town grew, expanded school facilities were needed. In 1846, two lots were purchased for school grounds, one on the west side of town and one on the east side. Brick school houses were built on the properties in 1847. They were one story buildings with two class rooms. The structure at 120-122 West Fourth Street is the 1847 school house built on the west side of town. It continued as a school until 1863, when a large seven room Union School was built at Seventh and Court Streets. After Union School opened, the old school on West Fourth Street was sold and became a residence.

The building was purchased by local gunsmith, William Grauman in 1866. In 1870, Grauman remodeled the building. At that time, it was raised and a second story was added with a Gothic style tiled roof.

The building was purchased in 1993 by the Union County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board for residential community housing.



313 West Sixth Street - William T. Brophy House

The home at 313 West Sixth Street is a good example of a typical house in Marysville in the 1850s. It is Gothic Revival in design and has much of its original decorative bargeboard trim. The house when constructed was a one and a half story frame home, 27 x 50, with seven rooms.

Construction on the home began in 1852 by William T. Brophy. Brophy was a Marysville tailor. The house was not completed until the end of 1853. It is not known if Brophy ever lived in the house.

Mary Coe and her family were the first residents known to occupy the residence. Mary was the widow of Daniel Coe. Daniel had gone to California during the Gold Rush of 1849 with a group of men calling themselves the Darby Plains California Company. They described the venture as – first, telling their wives they were leaving; then tears from their wives and family; then trying to provide for their families while they were gone; and being told that no man who thinks anything of his family would go. Yet, they also said “they are men of energy; men who dare to do what they will.” While in California, Daniel Coe became seriously ill. He borrowed two ounces of gold dust in October 1850 from John Mead Moulder to pay for his trip back to Union County. Coe died shortly after his return, leaving Mary with their large family to raise on her own. Mary moved to the Brophy home in 1854 which she later purchased. She lived at the house until her death in 1893.

Mary had 12 children, 8 of which she raised at the Sixth Street home. She had many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, one of which became President of the United States, George W. Bush.



401 Chestnut Street - J.M. Lentz Butter Tub Factory

The brick building at 401 Chestnut Street was originally built as the Lentz Butter Tub Factory.

The Marysville Butter Tub and Spoke Factory was established in 1874. It was a saw mill and factory that made wooden products, such as buckets, butter tubs, pails, spokes, shingles, lath, doors and lumber. In 1884, the business was purchased by H.E. Conner and Charles F. Lentz. Lentz became the sole owner in 1887. He was joined by his sons, Ralph C. and J. Merritt Lentz.

By 1901, the Lentz Butter Tub Factory was a leading business in town with sales amounting to \$100,000 per year. A fire on April 22, 1901, completely destroyed the factory. The Board of Trade immediately voted to build a new factory and the Lentz Company deeded land to the Village for that purpose.

Walter Weidman prepared plans for the new building. Ousler & Son was awarded the contract to erect the factory for \$4,599.58. George W. Fox was hired as brick mason. Work began in May 1901 and was to be completed in 50 days. Just as the factory was nearing completion, the 62 feet high smoke stack being built by Richard Turner fell to the ground when a wire broke. On July 22, 1901, only three months after the fire, the new Butter Tub Factory opened. The building was a two-story brick structure with engine and boiler rooms. The engine was 100 horse power. The factory also had a large dry house for curing lumber. By September, the 50-employee force was turning out 800 butter tubs a day.

The Village sold the factory in 1916, which was purchased by J. Merritt Lentz who continued the business until 1927. His name can still be seen on the front of the factory. In 1939, the building was used for a farm machinery and truck dealership. A modern showroom was added to the front of the factory in 1949.



223 West Fifth Street - Seigman House

An earlier house stood on this property which became the home of Colonel James Wesley Tilton. Tilton was a veteran of the Civil War and came to Marysville in 1882. He engaged in the sale of real estate and insurance. His home was destroyed by fire in 1901.

In 1903, Colonel Tilton had plans prepared for a new residence to be constructed on the property. Those plans never materialized due to the sudden death of Colonel Tilton. The property was sold by his widow to Chester and Clara M. Seigman in January 1913.

Charles Seigman was a farmer from Millcreek Township. He came to the county in 1876 from Pennsylvania. Seigman remembered hearing the sounds of the Battle of Gettysburg when he was a boy which took place 12 miles from his home. In addition to operating a farm, Seigman entered into the livestock business. As a stock dealer, he was very successful.

After the purchase of the lot at 223 West Fifth Street, Chester and Clara Seigman hired Marysville Contractors, Sharrer Bros., to construct a new residence. The dwelling was to be built of red pressed brick with a red tile roof. The woodwork and floors were to be of quarter sawed oak. George W. Fox and his son, William, were the brick masons. Work began on the home in 1913.

The Seigman home was completed in 1914. The house was two stories, 40 x 48, with 8 rooms. A beveled glass door and side panels were used in the entrance.

The Marysville Tribune described the dwelling as "one of the finest residences in Marysville, modern and convenient in every respect and a great improvement to the city."



711 West Fifth Street - Judge John B. Coats Home

The house at 711 West Fifth Street was originally built at 315 West Fifth Street by Judge John B. Coats.

On December 4, 1853, John B. Coats purchased the lot at 315 West Fifth Street for \$80. He was engaged to be married and wanted to build a home for his new wife. Coats built a two-story frame house and a two-story frame barn on the corner of West Fifth and Cottage Streets.

Coats was an attorney who came to Marysville in 1849. In addition to his law practice, Coats was also the editor and owner of several local newspapers, including the Marysville Tribune. Coats was Justice of the Peace from 1851 to 1857; Prosecuting Attorney from 1860 to 1864; and Union County Probate Judge from 1870 to 1888.

Judge Coats died at his home on April 29, 1892. In 1895, the home was sold by his estate to E.F. Southard for \$1,800. Southard operated a local department store and was involved in banking, mining and other businesses. At one time, he owned 450,000 acres of land in Santa Domingo. Southard's wife died in 1900. Five years later, he began courting Anabel Schoedinger of Columbus. He proposed to her and promised he would build her a new home. In order to clear the lot for the new house, the 1854 Coats house was removed.

Southard gave the house to his brother, Sylvester Southard. In April 1906, the house was moved to 711 West Fifth Street. Sylvester Southard remodeled the house adding a large addition and modern improvements. When completed, the house was 42 x 24 and had seven rooms. Southard owned the home until 1946. He died in 1951.



740 West Sixth Street - Lustron Home

One of the most unusual homes in Marysville is the Lustron House at 740 West Sixth Street. Lustron Homes were produced after World War II in an effort to remedy the severe housing shortage caused by soldiers returning home from the war. Lustron houses were manufactured by the Lustron Corporation of Columbus, Ohio. The house was prefabricated on an assembly line at the factory. It was all metal, with a porcelain enamel finish on the exterior and interior walls, roof and ceiling. The finish would not fade and was made of the same material still used today on bathtubs and appliances. Being an all metal building, it was fire, rodent and insect proof. The house would never need repainting or reroofing. Radiant heat was built in to the ceiling panels.

After discharge from the Army Air Corps in October 1945, First Lt. Joseph W. Lentz and his wife, Martha, wanted to build a new home for their family. They purchased a lot on Sixth Street in January 1947. While attending the Ohio State Fair, they saw a display for a Lustron house. Later, they went to see a model home at the Columbus factory. Shortly after, they ordered a Lustron Westchester Deluxe Model No. 2 with maize yellow exterior and dove grey interior panels. The Deluxe Model had many built-ins including bookshelves in the living room, bedroom vanity-storage wall, numerous closets, overhead storage cabinets, china cabinet pass-through in the dining room, and a large picture and bay window. The couple saved \$215 by opting for a double sink instead of the Thor Combination Dishwasher-Clothes Washer. A Model G-2 garage panel package was also purchased with matching maize yellow panels. Once the home was ready, it was loaded onto a Lustron semi-truck in the order needed for building the home. The truck arrived in May 1949 at the site. The house was built by Lustron workers in about a week and was quickly ready for occupancy. The cost of the home was just under \$10,000.

The Lustron Company went out of business in 1950. In all, they made 2,680 metal homes. About 1,500 survive today. One of these unique homes is in Marysville.



500 Park Avenue - American Legion Building

After World War I, local veterans of that war organized American Legion Post No. 79 on August 21, 1919. The veterans also wanted a permanent memorial to honor those who served in the war. In 1927, the Legion purchased 24 acres of land west of town known as “Clement’s Woods” for a park. American Legion Memorial Park was opened to the public on August 24, 1927, and dedicated “To Union County Veterans of All Wars.”

In 1933, the Village of Marysville began discussing plans to build a swimming pool at Legion Park with funding from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Wilbur C. Harbarger of Canton, Ohio, was hired to design the pool and bath house. Construction began in 1935 and was completed in 1937.

At the same time the pool was being built, the Legion and Village applied for funds from the Works Progress Administration to improve the park. This included grading Park Avenue, building an entrance to the park, adding picnic facilities, paths and sidewalks and construction of a large shelter house.

Work on the Shelter House began in 1937 by the WPA. The Shelter House was a pressed brick enclosed structure, 40 x 78 feet, with a tile roof. It had three rooms and a central hall. The hall had a large stone fire place and an open cement floor for events and dancing. The building was dedicated as the American Legion Memorial Hall on July 4, 1938.

In 1960, the building was expanded by the construction of a large addition.

The Hall is used for many public and private functions. It also serves as headquarters for American Legion Post No. 79.



264 West Fifth Street - Houston House

One of the notable individuals in Marysville was Christopher Houston. He was born in 1829 in Ireland and came to America with his brother Frank in 1850. He settled in Marysville in 1852. In that year, Houston opened a hardware, grocery and notions store. It soon was a leading business in town.

Houston built several of the business blocks in Marysville. In 1865, he and several other businessmen formed a partnership to construct the large brick block on the southwest corner of the Public Square. The building was completed in 1866. An addition on Fifth Street was added to the block in 1882-1883. The entire building is now known as the Houston Block.

Christopher Houston lived on West Fifth Street in a brick home built in 1847. In February 1872, that house was damaged by fire and Houston began making plans for building a new residence. The old house was removed in May and construction on the new home started in June. It was completed later that year. When finished the large brick house was two stories, Italianate in design, 44 x 40, with 12 rooms. It had four bedrooms, a nursery, maid's quarters, ballroom, parlor, dining room and kitchen. The front entrance hall and dining room have walnut and maple parquet floors. The decorative plaster work throughout the home was done by Italian artisans. The house has seven fireplaces with painted mantles of slate and wood. An art glass window lights the main stairway. The home originally was on a large lot that extended from Fifth Street to Fourth Street. An iron fence surrounded the property. A carriage house and stables, washhouse and large orchard were also on the property.

The Houston family resided in the home until 1979. In 1982, the Marysville Art League acquired the beautiful old home and it is now used for promoting the arts and local cultural events.



221 Ash Street - Lemuel Smith House

The house at 221 Ash Street is older than it may appear. It originally was located at 246 West Sixth Street.

In 1851, Lemuel W. Smith returned from California where he and several other Union County men had gone to seek their fortune in the Gold Rush of 1849.

Smith purchased the lot at 246 West Sixth Street in 1853 from G.A. Cassil for \$200. Cassil had been one of the men that went to California with Smith. Smith built a house on the lot in 1855. The builder is not known but the same builder also constructed a nearly identical home at 313 West Sixth Street. The house was a frame home, one and a half stories, with decorative bargeboard trim. The dimension of the original house was 30 x 60. It had six rooms and pine woodwork and floors.

Lemuel Smith sold the home to Dr. Henry W. Morey on December 19, 1873, for \$1,600. Dr. Morey and his family lived in the house until 1890 when Morey planned to construct a new brick residence in its place.

Dr. Morey purchased the lot at 221 Ash Street from his parents in 1890. He hired Edward Bruerd of Broadway to move the Smith house to the Ash Street lot. Everything went fine on the first day of relocating the building and the structure was moved to the intersection of Sixth and Ash Streets. On day two, however, as the contractors began to move the house onto Ash Street, a rope broke and William C. Carter, one of the workers, was struck in the neck by a stake "knocking him dead on his feet, falling forward a corpse." After the unfortunate incident, the house was moved to the new location. It has been used as a residence ever since.



427 East Fifth Street - Rawson Welch House

The brick residence at 427 East Fifth Street was built as the home of Rawson Welch in 1860. It is connected to the early woolen industry in Marysville.

Welch was born in 1819. His father died when he was a child and Welch was bound out until the age of 21 as an apprentice to Captain L. Lee to learn the woolen and weaver's trade.

After his apprenticeship, Welch came to Marysville and in 1848, purchased the carding machine business of Charles W. Rossette. The carding business cleaned and processed raw wool into cloth.

This business was greatly expanded by Welch but the factory was destroyed by fire in 1864. He then purchased a mill at Mechanicsburg which burned in the same year before he was able to take possession. After these two setbacks, Rawson Welch built a new brick woolen factory at Marysville. Welch later sold the business to A.B. Robinson and James W. Robinson who continued the Marysville Woolen Mills and Factory until 1880. The manufactured goods made at the mills were sold at a factory outlet store and the Robinsons built two business blocks on South Main Street for their store.

Rawson Welch moved to Indiana. He sold his fine brick home to James H. Roney who was a stock dealer and one of the largest shippers of livestock in the county.

The brick home when built was 20 x 44, two stories, with a slate roof. It had eight rooms. The woodwork was made of hardwood and softwood. The floors were pine.



230 South Main Street - Taber Randall House

Possibly the oldest surviving structure from the original town of Marysville is the home at 230 South Main Street. The lot was purchased by Taber Randall and his sister Phebe on March 16, 1830. Randall taught school in the courthouse receiving \$14 per month in pay. The house was constructed between 1830 and 1834 and was approximately 15 x 30 feet. Hand hewn beams and joists, some with the bark on the logs, can still be seen today in the early part of the home.

On December 12, 1839, the house was purchased by Philander B. Cole. Cole had married Dorothy Witter a few months earlier. In 1851, Cole added a 10 x 30 addition to the home. Cole was an attorney, editor and publisher of several local newspapers, three-term Prosecuting Attorney, member of the Ohio House of Representatives, Ohio State Senator and Common Pleas Judge. During the Civil War he was chairman of the county Military Committee and delegate to the convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln. His children were successful and his daughter, Cornelia, married Charles W. Fairbanks, who became Vice-President of the United States under Theodore Roosevelt.

In 1869, Presbyterian minister, William March, purchased the residence. He added the addition on the north side for his study. Allen and Mary Plate became the owners in 1902. Plate operated a lumber company on South Main Street. About 1908, the house was raised and a porch was added. The barn was converted into a second house.

Marysville can be proud of this building. For more than 180 years, the home has been a part of the history of the town. It is the 1848 birthplace of one of Marysville's most prominent individuals, Cornelia Cole Fairbanks, described as "the Second Lady of the United States; a leader in the women's suffrage movement; a pathfinder to politics for American women in the 20th and 21st centuries; and one of the best known women in the United States during her time."



319 West Sixth Street - Abraham Morey House

The home at 319 West Sixth Street was built as the residence of Abraham Morey. Morey was one of early citizens of Marysville. He came to the town in 1838. In 1848, Morey opened a furniture and cabinet business. A carpenter and master craftsman by trade, Morey improved his early manufacturing business by adding steam power to operate his equipment. As with any furniture business in the early days of Ohio, Morey also offered undertaking and funeral services, constructing wooden coffins as needed for the town.

In 1863, Morey purchased several properties from L.B. Kinney, including the lot at 319 West Sixth Street. He built a home on the lot in 1865. The Abraham Morey home as originally constructed was a one and a half story frame house in the Gothic Revival style. Fancy decorative woodwork framed the portico of the front door, most likely designed and made by Morey. The house sat on a hill overlooking Sixth Street. In 1877, Morey had his old shop on West Fifth Street moved behind his house to be used as a workshop. Three years later, Abraham Morey retired and turned the operation of the furniture and funeral business over to his sons.

Morey substantially modified the house in 1907, just a few years before his death. He raised the building and graded down the hill. A second story and an addition on the back was added to the home. When completed, the house was a large two story frame building, 36 x 42, with 10 rooms. It had pine woodwork and floors.

In later years, the large house was used as a duplex and for a time as a church. Today, the home is once again a residence.

2016
MARYSVILLE DRIVING TOUR OF HOMES AND
BUILDINGS



124 West Sixth Street – First Congregational Church

In 1864, members of a former Presbyterian sect established the First Congregational Church of Marysville. Land was purchased by O.M. Scott in 1869 to build a new church. Construction on the church began in 1871 but funds were only available to complete a one-floor meeting hall which was dedicated on August 7, 1872.

To complete the erection of their church, the ladies of the congregation came up with a unique idea. They proposed compiling a book of recipes and helpful household tips which they would sell to raise money for the church project. The plan was approved and in 1876, on the 100th anniversary of America's Independence, the *Centennial Buckeye Cookbook* was published by J.H. Shearer & Son of the *Marysville Tribune*. According to the title page, "bad dinners go hand in hand with total depravity, while a properly fed man is already half saved." Over a million copies of the cookbook were sold. From the proceeds, work began again on the church edifice in 1876. The building was completed and formally dedicated on March 14, 1878.

The church is said to contain 125,000 bricks. The bricks were manufactured by John Struble at his kiln near Milford Center. The brickwork shows the craft of master bricklayer George Andrew Fox. A limestone foundation originally could be seen a foot above the ground with a dated cornerstone; however, over the years, due to regrading of this part of the town, that foundation is now underground. The windows have cathedral glass imported from Italy. A thousand-pound bell was added to the tower in 1882.

The structure is a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture from the 1870s and can be called the House of God built by a cookbook.



621 West Fifth Street – Cornelius S. Hamilton Home

The home located at 621 West Fifth Street was built by Cornelius S. Hamilton. Hamilton was an attorney and editor of the *Marysville Tribune*. He served as member of the Ohio Constitutional Committee in 1850 and was elected to the Ohio Senate. Later, he was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as Internal Revenue Assessor. In 1866, Hamilton was elected to the United States House of Representatives.

As a new Congressman, Hamilton built a home in 1867 befitting his new position. The builder was Harrison Rice. Hamilton would not enjoy the new home for long. Just months after the home was completed, Representative Hamilton was notified by his wife that their son, Thomas, had gone insane. Hamilton rushed back from Washington D.C. He was in the process of committing his son to an asylum but before that could be done, his son surprised Hamilton in the barn and murdered his father by “mashing in” his head with a wooden plank. Thomas then entered the house with an axe in hand and threatened his mother. His twelve-year-old brother intervened and was struck in the shoulder with the axe. The family fled from the house and sought help from the neighbors. Thomas pursued them with the axe and threatened the neighbors. He was finally subdued by two brave neighbors. Shortly thereafter, he was committed to an asylum.

In 1924, L.H. Miller acquired the property and opened a funeral home at this location. The house has remained a funeral home since that time and was recently sold by funeral directors, Roger and Becky Mannasmith to Woody Wilson who continues the business.

The home retains its original Italianate design and features beveled leaded glass details in the front doorway. Known for nearly 100 years as a Marysville funeral home, the house is also connected with the murder of a United States Congressman.



315 West Fifth Street – Edward F. Southard Home

The residence at 315 West Fifth Street was built as the home of Edward F. Southard. Southard was involved in a wide range of business activities including merchandising, banking, mining and lumbering. In his early days, Southard operated a department store on South Main Street known as the Factory Store.

After the death of his wife, Southard remarried in 1906. In that same year, he unveiled plans for the construction of a “palatial home” for his new bride to cost in excess of \$22,000. It was said at the time to be “the costliest residential property in Union County.” The home was designed by noted Columbus architect, Wilbur T. Mills. Other works by Mills included the 1907 Columbus Carnegie Metropolitan Library and the 1910 Oxley Hall at Ohio State University.

The contract to build the structure was awarded to Marysville contracting firm, David Sharrer & Sons. George William Fox was the brick mason. The house was completed in the Spring of 1907.

The Southard home originally had 14 rooms, in addition to a large ballroom on the third floor. The interior woodwork is oak and pine and the floors are oak and maple. The exterior walls are gray pressed brick, trimmed with Bedford Indiana limestone. The roof is shingled in custom made green clay tiles. Leaded beveled glass is used in the front door, side panels and transom.

Today, the Southard Home is the office of the Marysville Grace Brethren Church.



267 West Fifth Street – Shearer House

The beautiful home at 267 West Fifth Street has been in the Shearer family since the 1880s. For this reason, it retains much of the original appearance and features as when it was first built.

In 1878, William Otway Shearer purchased the lot with a house from Harrison McFadden at this location. Shearer married Ella Baldwin in 1882 and the couple built the home in 1886 when Ella was pregnant with their first child. They would raise three children in the home. Glass plate images of the house, the children and their dog are part of the window panes showing the original occupants of the home.

W.O. Shearer was the publisher and editor of the *Marysville Tribune*. His father was the publisher before him and his half-brother continued the business after Will's death in 1913. It was said that the only time his father missed getting an issue of the newspaper out was the day Will was born. No paper was printed on the day of Will's funeral either.

The house was built by Marysville contractor, David Sharrer & Sons. It has an Eastlake style porch and original shuttered windows. An 1886 newspaper said "W.O. Shearer is completing a handsome residence on West Fifth Street." "Will and Ella will have a beautiful home in which to enjoy the fruits of industry and economy."

Today the home is owned by descendants, William Otway Shearer and Solveig A. Shearer.



260 West Fourth Street – Allen Chapel AME Church

In the 1700s, John Wesley of England established the Methodist religion. That movement spread to the United States where a young country was looking for a new religion that was different from the long established churches of Europe. Wesley was a strong opponent of slavery. Free Blacks in Philadelphia, under the leadership of Rev. Richard Allen, began a branch of this church for Black members which they called the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. AME Congregations sprang up across the country.

In Marysville, an AME congregation was formed around the time of the Civil War with 11 charter members. The members met in the groves in good weather and at various meeting halls in bad weather. A need for a permanent church was recognized and in 1879, a lot was purchased on Fourth Street from Samuel Amrine. Construction began on a church building in June 1879 with members of the congregation digging the foundation.

The one-room brick church was completed in 1880 at a cost of \$1,500. Some of the funds and materials for the church were donated by citizens of the town who were not members, but supported the project. Formal dedication took place on February 1, 1880. The building was named "Allen Chapel" after the founder of the AME sect.

In 1883, the congregation acquired the 1840 bell from the old courthouse that stood on the public square. That bell was used by the congregation for almost 100 years. It was the same bell that was rung to celebrate the end of the Civil War and abolition of slavery. It was also the bell that was tolled after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, the congregation donated the courthouse bell to the Union County Historical Society, where it is now on display.



226 South Plum Street – John Adam Rausch Home

By 1900, John Adam Rausch could claim to be one of the leading business owners in Marysville. In 1892, he established the John Rausch Manufacturing Company originally producing the patented Hylas Wood Kitchen Cabinet, but expanding to domestic articles such as churns, cupboards and tables. Later, he also manufactured bank, store and office fixtures. His business was called “one of the most extensive furniture factories in central Ohio.”

Business was so brisk in 1901, that a three story brick addition was constructed at his factory. In the same year, Rausch purchased the lot north of his home at 226 South Plum Street from O.M. Scott & Bros. for a new residence. He hired contractor, Charles Denman to build the home. It was to be a duplicate in design of the George W. Court residence built by Denman in 1901 at 311 South Main Street. However, Rausch insisted on a slate roof and a hot water heating system. The quarter sawn oak for the woodwork and floors were custom milled at his factory. The seven room residence was completed in 1901 at a cost of \$2,000.

In 1903, the successful Rausch Manufacturing Company was incorporated as the Marysville Cabinet Company with John Adam Rausch as its president. During this time, annual sales were over \$100,000. The Marysville Cabinet Company factory can still be seen with the original lettering on the factory building at 210 East Fourth Street.

The house remained in the family for many decades passing to John Rausch’s daughter, Matilda Conrad. Because of this, the home is substantially unchanged from when it was built. It continues to be beautifully maintained by its present owners.



504 East Fifth Street – Chester L. Robinson Home

Few people know that Marysville once had a brewery. It was built in 1866 by Peter Roush & Co. and was located on land that extended from Mill Creek to East Fifth Street. That brewery was purchased by William “Billy” Richter in 1872. Richter sold off lots from the brewery property on East Fifth Street. One of these lots, located at 504 East Fifth Street, was acquired by Chester L. Robinson.

In 1877, Robinson built “a handsome cottage residence” on the property. The eight room house had pine and oak floors and woodwork. The exterior of the home is noteworthy with its highly decorated gables and ornamental trim.

At the time the home was constructed, Chester L. Robinson carried on an extensive trade in the purchase and sale of sheep, hogs and cattle. He was also active in the wool business. In 1883, he established the Robinson & Curry Company of Marysville. That enterprise made interior woodwork, trim and mantle pieces for homes and businesses. Most of the area schools and residences had hardwood woodwork from this company. Fine examples of their craft can be seen in the doors, mantles and wood trim at the Morey Home, now the Union County Historical Society museum located at 246 West Sixth Street.

In 1920, the residence was purchased by Herman C. and Velita Doellinger. Herman Doellinger was a veteran of World War I and II rising to the rank of Colonel. He served as Marysville postmaster from 1936 to 1957. The Ohio National Guard Armory located at 124 East Fourth Street is named in his honor.



347 South Court Street – George William Fox Home

Many of the brick structures in and around Marysville were built by members of the Fox family. This included George Andrew Fox and his two sons, George Emanuel Fox and George William Fox. All three were master brick and stone masons.

In 1880, George William Fox purchased the lot with an existing house located at the corner of Court and Eighth Streets for his residence. In addition to his contracting work, Fox also was a member of the Marysville Fire Department. He served as fire chief from 1881 to 1884 and again from 1888 to 1889.

As early as 1903, Fox began making plans to build a new home on his property. The home would be made of mottled pressed brick with the color being similar to the Morey Block that he had just completed at 111 South Main Street. One year later, Fox still had plans to construct his new home; however, his contracts to build other structures in Marysville prevented him from starting the project. Finally, in 1905, Fox found time to begin work on his new house. The residence was a two-story, 7 room brick house, with pine and hardwood floors and woodwork. A matching brick garage, which still stands, was also constructed. Both the house and garage originally had slate roofs.

The home was completed in January, 1906. When the Fox family moved into “their beautiful new home,” a surprise house warming was given to them by their friends, where the guests provided a big supper and, according to an account at the time, “a very merry evening was spent.”



120 - 122 East Fifth Street – Liggett Block

The business block at 120-122 East Fifth Street was built by Newton E. Liggett. Liggett began operating a drug store in Marysville in 1890. His pharmacy became one of the leading businesses in town. In 1897, Liggett announced plans to build a large three-story business block.

Liggett employed Columbus architects, Yost & Packard, to design the building. It is believed that the inspiration for the design came from a drawing of architect T. Kingsley Oliphant, which appeared in an architectural magazine in 1890. Yost & Packard were well known for other buildings including the 1893 Orton Hall at Ohio State University, the 1895 home of circus owner Peter Sells in Columbus, the 1895 Toledo & Ohio Railroad Station in Franklinton and the 1897 Southern Hotel on South High Street in Columbus.

Before erecting the block, Liggett obtained a signed agreement from the Citizens Home & Savings Company of Marysville for a long-term lease of one of the business rooms which would help fund the cost of construction. David Sharrer & Sons was hired as the contractor at a cost of \$7,275, excluding excavation. Work began in July 1897 and was completed in 1898. The exterior featured red and tan pressed bricks with light stone trimmings and a red tile roof. Lionhead details decorate the columns. The first floor had two large business rooms. On the west side was Liggett's drug store and on the east side was the bank. The bank vault is still in the basement. The second floor has two apartments. All first and second floor rooms had skylights for natural lighting.

Liggett was also the owner of the Union County Telephone Company and the first telephone business in Marysville was located on the third floor of the Liggett Block. He hired over a dozen ladies as switchboard operators, some of which were on roller skates to make connections. In 1905, Liggett sold his drug store to Charles Asman and devoted his entire energy to the rapidly growing telephone business. In 1927, United Telephone Company purchased the local telephone franchise and the phone operation was moved from the Liggett Block in 1928.

The Liggett Block was built during the Spanish American War when patriotic spirit was at a high point. Newt Liggett had a large flag and flagpole placed at the top of the front of his new building and declared he would not remove the flag until the boys returned from the war. The holders for that flag pole can still be seen today.

The Liggett Block is one of the most architecturally interesting buildings in Uptown Marysville.



318 East Fifth Street – Dr. David W. Henderson Home

The Henderson House was built as the private residence of David W. Henderson, a Marysville physician.

Dr. Henderson was born in 1823 and moved to Marysville with his parents in 1837. He graduated from the Marysville Academy and then volunteered for service in the Mexican War. After returning, he became a doctor and later enlisted as a surgeon in the 96th Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. After the war, Dr. Henderson practiced medicine in Marysville until his death in 1910. He and his family are buried in the beautiful Henderson Vault at Oakdale Cemetery.

In 1882, Dr. Henderson purchased the lot at 318 East Fifth Street and began clearing the property for a large house. The ten room brick Italianate home with slate roof was completed in 1884. The Henderson House had hardwood floors, carved mantles, nine-foot-high arched pocket doors and eleven foot ceilings. The woodwork throughout is a combination of oak, butternut and walnut. A beautiful decorative wood staircase leads to the second floor. Originally, the home had four large bedrooms and a maid's room on the second floor. His home was a show place in town and the center of many civic activities.

The large veranda was added by home owner, Charles Braun, in 1908, at a cost of \$1,500. In later years, the home became an Elks Lodge and boarding house.

In 1998, Barry and Susan Cordell purchased the property and spent enormous time and expense restoring the structure to its original 1880s splendor. As a result of their labors, the home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.



131 North Main Street – Marysville Tribune Building

The *Marysville Tribune* was one of the leading newspapers in Union County, tracing its origin to 1849. In 1851, the Shearer family began publishing the *Tribune*. This included John H. Shearer, Sr. and his two sons, William Otway Shearer and John H. Shearer, Jr. When the last died in 1924, the paper was sold to three brothers, J.H. Huber, John L. Huber and G.P. Huber. Local businessman, Walter M. Otte, later joined the firm as owner and publisher.

Otte believed the *Tribune* needed modernization. In 1925, he purchased the lot at the southwest corner of Main and Fourth Streets for a new office and printing headquarters for the paper. Before building, an expert from the American Type Founders Company came to Marysville to view the current operation of the *Tribune*. From this, the expert drafted a floor plan to maximize the efficiency of the facility. Columbus architects, Richard, McCarty & Bulford, were then hired to design a building using those plans to make the structure able to withstand the weight of heavy machinery and vibrations for new state-of-the-art modern presses. Other buildings designed by the same architects include the Columbus Museum of Art on West Broad Street and the Marysville Senior High School, now the County Office Building, at 233 West Sixth Street.

Ground breaking for the new building began in July, 1929. William A. Stabs of Columbus was the contractor. He was instructed to buy all materials possible from local businesses and use local men in the building's construction. The Davis Chair Company of Marysville milled dark oak for the interior woodwork and doors. All the furniture was custom made for the building by the same company. The building was completed in October 1929. The paper was published at this location until 1972.

Today, this beautiful and substantially built block is used for offices and is well preserved by the current owners.



131 North Main Street – Union Block

Union Block is one of the most impressive buildings in uptown Marysville. It is architecturally and historically significant.

In 1863, attention turned to the public square. It was decided to change the diamond shape of the intersection to a square shape. Businessmen W.W. Woods, C.S. Hamilton, A.J. Whitney and J.W. Robinson joined together to develop the northwest corner of the public square. In June, 1864, the partnership began removing the old frame buildings and digging the foundation for a large brick business block. One year later, in June 1865, the building was completed at a cost of \$15,000. It is surprising that a building of this size, with the necessary materials, could be constructed while the country was engaged in a civil war. The block was named “Union Block” in honor of the nation’s union which had just been preserved at the time the building was finished.

One of the unique features of the building was the two-story meeting hall, with stage, on the second and third floors known as Union Hall. Many public meetings, programs, dinners, dances and events were held in the hall. Some of the notable people who spoke to audiences in Union Hall include Frederick Douglas, Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Vice-President Schuyler Colfax and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. When the Marysville Opera House was completed in 1878, Union Hall was replaced as the public facility for meetings. After that time, it was used for other purposes including as an armory where the local militia drilled; a roller skating rink, indoor tennis court and archery range.

For more than 150 years, Union Block has stood on the public square of Marysville. As the town celebrates its bicentennial, Union Block has been a part of most of that 200-year period.



103-105 South Main Street – Houston Blocks

Just as Union Block was being completed on the northwest corner of the public square, another partnership was formed to develop the southwest corner. The partners consisted of W.W. Woods, Philip Snider and Christopher Houston. In order to help pay the cost of the project, an agreement was reached with the Union County Commissioners to move the Treasurer's Office from the courthouse, then located on the northeast corner of the public square, to a new office to be constructed on the Fifth Street side of the proposed block.

M. Cadwallader of Delaware, Ohio, was hired as the architect. Work began on the large two-story red brick block in August, 1865. The interior woodwork was done by Torrence & Kennedy. The building was completed in May, 1866.

When the block first opened, the first floor of the Main Street side had three business rooms. The south room was occupied by the grocery store of Houston & Keyes, the middle room with the dry goods store of Snider & Kinkade and the north room by Doll's Drug Store. The Fifth Street business room was the office of the Union County Treasurer. A new county safe was installed replacing an earlier safe donated by the Bank of Marysville that had gone through a fire in 1850 and had been blown up during a robbery.

In 1880, when the county began the construction of a new courthouse, the partners were notified that the Treasurer would move from the block once the courthouse was completed. Christopher Houston decided to take the opportunity to expand the block on the West Fifth Street side to the alley once the Treasurer moved out. In 1882, he began the construction of the addition to the block. J.W. Torrence was used again for the interior woodwork which was made of black walnut. The addition was completed in 1883. Much of the 1882-83 addition has remained unchanged. The Ohio Historical Society has said that the "unaltered conditions of the West Fifth Street facades make this a very significant building in Marysville architecture."



117-119 South Main Street – Robinson Block

The business block located at 117-119 South Main Street is only half of the original building. The matching south half was demolished in 1936 when the Avalon Theater was constructed. Even so, what remains is imposing and allows the viewer to imagine how the complete building once appeared.

The entire block was built by two brothers, Aaron B. Robinson and James W. Robinson. After the Civil War, the two Robinson brothers operated a woolen factory on East Fourth Street. In addition, they opened a factory outlet store on South Main Street where they could sell their woolen products. Needing a larger building for their store, a new block was planned. John Weidman & Son was hired as the contractor and George William Fox was the brick mason.

Construction began in April 1879 on the three-story Gothic Revival business block. The building was completed in December. It was said at the time that "Col. Robinson's new building is the boss building in town and its majestic dimensions, loftily towers above all the surround buildings."

When the block first opened, the factory store moved into the south half of the new building. The two sections of the north half were rented to S.L. Irwin for his harness shop and to O.M. Scott for his hardware store.

Scott was a man of action. In addition to hardware, he also sold agricultural implements, stoves, bicycles, buggies, carriages, copper-ware, sewing machines, tin ware, wood, hay, straw, coal, insurance and his own brand of weed-free seed. It was the clean seed that would later make him famous. The Scott hardware business used all four levels of the building. The first floor had hardware, tools, cutlery, sewing machines, bicycles and two wooden boxes filled with Scott weed-free seed. Buggies, carriages and stoves were kept on the second floor (brought down using a wooden ramp, block and tackle). Also, on the second floor was his seed cleaning machine. On the top floor, a dozen artisans made articles out of tin and copper. In the basement, paints, oils, nails and window glass could be found. In his first year at the new location, Scott had sales in excess of \$75,000. Year after year, his business continued to grow and today is the international Scotts-Miracle Gro Company.



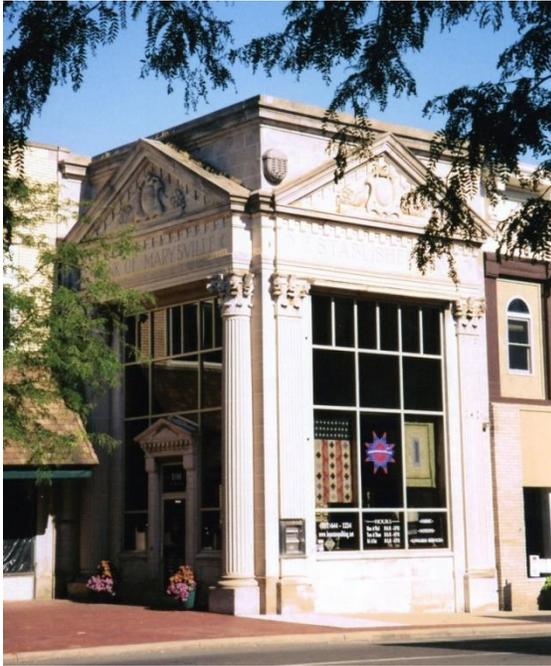
124 and 126-128 West Fifth Street – Thompson Blocks

The two high-Victorian style Thompson blocks were built by Alvin Thompson. Thompson was born in 1837. He was educated in the local schools, including the Marysville Academy run by Rev. James Smith. There he met Smith's daughter, Ellen, who later became his wife. In 1861, Thompson enlisted in the First Ohio Cavalry, serving three years in the Civil War as a sergeant.

After the war, President Andrew Johnson appointed Thompson as Marysville Postmaster, effective March 2, 1867. Two years later, Thompson purchased the lot and house located at the northeast corner of Fifth and Court Streets. In August of 1874, Thompson began building a two story brick business block east of his house at 124 West Fifth Street. That building was completed in December and the post office was moved from Union Block to the new Thompson Block.

Two years later, Thompson planned the building of a second business block. This one would be on the corner of his property at 126-128 West Fifth Street. In April, 1876, Thompson moved his house from that location to the Court Street side of his property and began the construction of the new business block. The second Thompson Block was a larger two-story brick building that adjoined the first Thompson Block. It was built by John Weidman & Son who completed the stonework in June and the brickwork in July. In September, 1876, the second Thompson Block was finished and the post office was moved to the west room of the new building. Thompson rented the other rooms in both of his business buildings and for a time operated a mercantile business at that location.

Thompson stepped down as postmaster on December 15, 1879. He retired from active business shortly after. In 1887, Thompson considered adding a third story to his blocks, but that idea never materialized.



108 South Main Street – Bank of Marysville

The bank of Marysville was established in 1854. It is said to be the oldest operating bank in Union County. In those days, the bank was owned by private individuals. W.W. Woods and C.S. Hamilton were some of the early owners.

In 1872-73, a three-story bank building was erected at 108 South Main Street. The third story was used as a lodge and later became the first hospital in Marysville.

As the bank grew, there was a need for a new building. Plans for a new block were unveiled by W.C. Pollock of Cleveland in August, 1916. David Sharrer & Sons were hired as the contractor to raze the old bank building and construct the new bank. Over 50 different contracting firms were used to

complete the various parts of the building. Marysville firms were used whenever possible.

The exterior was classical revival in style and built of Bedford stone. The building was two stories high, but had only one floor in the business section making the interior of the bank large and impressive. Skylights and immense windows in front were meant to flood the interior with natural lighting. Vermont marble and solid mahogany woodwork was used throughout. At the back of the bank was a mezzanine floor reached by a marble staircase. That section contained the directors and board offices, coupon booth, a ladies and men's retiring room, and sound proof telephone booths – one for the public and a private one for bank officials. The president's desk was located in the front of the bank for maximum visibility. All of the furniture was custom made by the Davis Chair Company of Marysville. Interior finish work was done by the Marysville Cabinet Company and Weidman Brothers. The grand opening of the bank was held on August 25, 1917.

In 1938, the bank was renamed the First National Bank of Marysville. The bank moved to a new facility at 204 East Fifth Street in 1966. The original vault door from the 1917 building was moved to the new location.