

A WALKING TOUR OF GRANVILLE, OHIO

INTRODUCTION

The Village of Granville is unique in its warmth and beauty. Sheltered in the Welsh Hills, Granville welcomes the traveler to a place reminiscent of New England. Settled in 1805 by a company of men, women, and children from Granville, Massachusetts, Granville, Ohio still retains the wide tree-lined streets laid out by its founders. Many of their homes remain as well.

This walking tour is meant to give the visitor a brief introduction to some of the older homes and public buildings in the Village. Not every noteworthy or architecturally fine structure could be included. Therefore, as you walk down the streets, we urge you to look beyond the described buildings to the many other beautiful homes. We hope that the historical and architectural information this tour provides will make your examination of our village more interesting and pleasant.

1. The tour begins at the Granville Historical Society Museum. Built around 1816, this building is one of the oldest structures in Granville. The front is made of regularly coursed cut stone, while the sides received a more economical rough treatment. The Greek Revival doorway is a modern addition. The Museum building twice served as a bank under the auspices of the Granville Alexandrian Society, failing first in 1817, and then again in 1838, when it could not redeem its notes. The building later was used as a restaurant ("The Oaks for Meals"), and, in the final years of the Ohio Electric Railway, as a ticket office and depot. Since 1954, it has been the home and museum of the Granville Historical Society.

2. Next to the museum is St. Luke's Episcopal Church, designed by Benjamin Morgan and completed in 1838. It is a classic example of Greek Revival architecture, following the designs of New York architect Minard LaFever. The interior features walnut box pews, an ornamental ceiling with centerpiece, and the original chandelier.

3. At the corner of Broadway and Main is the Baptist Church, completed in 1883. This church is an especially fine example of High Victorian Gothic architecture, with rusticated gray masonry enlivened by tan bands, decorative woodwork, and a richly picturesque silhouette. For many years, Denison University held its commencement exercises in the sanctuary.

4. Cross Broadway to the First Presbyterian Church. Built by Worden in 1861, it replaced a frame church of 1816, in a similar style. The steeple was rebuilt a few years later to give it additional height. The original red brick exterior was coated in the early 1900s with tan stucco to resemble stone. The church is built on the site where the first church service in Granville was held. The stone tree stump in the churchyard contains the names of the original settlers of Granville.

5. The house at 128 West Broadway is in the Greek Revival style with an unusually broad facade. The upper parts of its Doric corner pilasters contain an abbreviated "Greek key" motif similar to that on St. Luke's Church.

6. Next door is the Drs. H. & W. Bean House, 130 West Broadway. Originally a two-story vernacular house with an Asher Benjamin entrance and a hipped roof on an extended cornice, this 1859 house was remodeled in the early 1900s with the addition of the Federal-style entrance and two-story portico.

7. Crossing back to the south side of Broadway at Mulberry Street, we come to the Nathan Going House at 209 West Broadway, with its handsome Greek Revival doorway. This five-bay two-story vernacular, also influenced by Asher Benjamin, was restored to its original condition when current owner Horace King removed the front porch and restored the entrance and side lights. Notice the six-over-six window in original glass. This house was built in 1848 and is a near-replica of Noah Webster's house at Amherst, Massachusetts, built in 1840.

8. Three houses down on the same side

of the street is the Dr. C.J. Gifford House, once a ladies' academy. Displaying excellent brick work and a fine molded cornice with gable returns, this three-bay vernacular was built around 1840. The porch is a later addition.

9. Crossing Cherry Street we pass the Busnell-Bancroft House at 337 West Broadway. Gerard Bancroft, housejoiner, built this house in 1833 for Deacon Leonard Bushnell, father of Henry Bushnell, an early Granville historian. Six years later, the Bancroft family bought it for \$513. In 1879 Levi Bancroft detached a portion of the house and moved it to the adjacent lot, forming the house to the east. Changes and additions to this house have since disguised the original section. Features of the Bushnell-Bancroft house are the six-over-six windows, interesting overhangs, and an excellent doorway.

10. Crossing to the northwest corner of Broadway and Plum, we stop in front of Solomon's Temple. Built for the Rev. Alvah Stanford in 1850, this charming example of a Gothic Revival-style cottage features vertical batten boards, a steeply sloped roof, and elaborate barge boards set on the gables. Alvah Stanford's son Solomon later lived in the house, giving it its nickname.

11. At the corner of Plum and College Streets is the Sidney Jenkins House, an early example of the Italian Villa style characterized by the prominent eaves, brackets beneath the eaves, and a low, sloping roof. The house immediately to the south is a later example of the Italianate style, with more elaborate brackets. The exact age of the Jenkins house is not known, but it does appear on the Granville map in the 1866 Atlas of Licking County and shows up in much its present condition in an 1871 photograph taken from Sugar Loaf.

12. After passing the lower campus of Denison University, we come to Sorority Circle. The first house at the west side of the Circle is the Elias Gilman House, now the home of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. The central portion of this house

was built in 1808 by Elias Gilman, a prominent member of the original community. As such, it is the oldest remaining frame structure in the Village. In 1811, it became the first home of the Center Star (Masonic) Lodge. Just west of the house is the old town spring.

13. Continuing along the south side of College Street, the next house is the Samson Talbot House, 129 West College. It originally stood on West Broadway but was moved to its present location in 1916. Built just prior to the Civil War, this house was the home of the Rev. Samson Talbot, D.D., President of Denison University from 1863 to 1873. It is thought to have been a station on the "Underground Railroad" because of a false ceiling above portions of the first floor. This late Greek Revival house is similar in style to number 7.

14 & 15. Crossing Main Street, we walk east on College Street almost to the corner at Prospect Street before coming to the nearly identical brick houses built by Allen Sinnett, a local blacksmith; the white house was built in 1822 and the red one in 1823. Early brick houses almost always were painted in this manner because the early kilns did not develop sufficient heat in firing bricks to make them waterproof and impervious to the weather. It is believed that the bricks for these houses were fired on the south side of nearby Prospect Hill. These vernacular Federal-style houses have windows embellished by sills and lintels of finely tooled local stone.

16. Looking across College Street, we see the Inskeep House, a simpler example of the Gothic Revival style than the Sanford House, which dates to the mid-19th century when this style first gained popularity. This house has been modernized and thus has lost its architectural details.

17. In the middle of the next block we come to 216 East College Street, a house similar to numbers 14 and 15. The front portico of this brick house was built around 1823, although there have been

(over)

later additions including the Italianate front porch. The iron fence is one of the oldest and finest in the Village.

18. On the northwest corner of College and Pearl streets is a beautifully preserved house which, until recently, displayed the name "Pen Coed," Welsh for "Edge of the Grove." It was built in the 1850s in the Stick style which flourished from 1850 to 1870. Joseph Sinnett is the first recorded owner of the property.

19. On the southeast corner of this same intersection, at 134 North Pearl Street, is a fine example of a square Italian Villa house. The elaborate brackets, which differ in style on the main house and the porch, and the segmentally arched windows and doors are hallmarks of the style. Also of note is the carefully worked sandstone foundation.

20. Turn south and return to Broadway. On the corner is the Ashley Graves House, built in 1842. It is an outstanding example of a Western Reserve-style Greek Revival home. The rich, heavy moldings of the entablature of the roof line, the wide paneled corner pilasters and the general proportions are Doric, handsomely translated into wood.

21. Across the street are four fine buildings, each one of interest. Starting on the left is the Buxton Inn. It was built in 1812 by Orrin Granger with a two-story veranda common to many Ohio inns. The Inn is an example of Federal-style architecture, popular through the 1820s. It has sheltered and fed travelers, townsfolk, and the ladies of the Granville Female Academy which was once located across the street.

22. On the southeast corner of Pearl and Broadway is the Willard Warner House. Built around 1815, this four-bay two-story Federal-style brick house shows Flemish bond brick work. The oval attic windows and "bull's-eye" lintels on the west side are also Federal-style features.

23. Two houses west is the Lucius Mower House, which was built in 1824

by Col. Lucius Mower, precocious merchant, financier, and backer of the Ohio and Erie Canal. Both Lucius and his wife, Lucy Munson Mower, died at an early age, and after their deaths the Mower house was used as a bank for some years; the iron vault from the Old Alexandrian Society Bank was installed in it. The house is noted for its Federal-style doorway with fanlight window above and for its effective cornice eaves treatment. Old features such as the boot scraper, rain splash blocks, and carriage mounting block are examples of skillful local craftsmanship.

24. Next to the Mower House is the Avery House. Built in 1842 after the design of architect Benjamin Morgan for Alfred Avery, this house stands as one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture to be found in this part of the country. In his design, Morgan drew extensively on the popular architectural pattern books published by Minard LaFever. Benjamin Morgan is also credited with designing St. Luke's Episcopal Church and was associated with the design of the State House in Columbus. The central portico of the Avery House is supported by four fluted Ionic columns, and the symmetrical side wings have handsome Doric columns.

25. Turning down the alley beside the Library you see the Sinnett House, built around 1840. This was once the home of Dr. Edwin Sinnett and his wife, Clara Anne Wright Sinnett, whose daughter, Clara Sinnett White, born in the house, donated the property for the site of a public library in 1924. The house was moved to the rear of the lot when the present library was built. This is another example of a Western Reserve-style Greek Revival house, like number 20, and features decorative pedimented lintels over the windows. Also note the fine dentilation of the pediment and cornice, and the especially effective doorway with two Ionic columns. The porches, although matching in style, are later additions. The interior includes a lovely cherry staircase and has been beautifully redecorated to serve as an activities center for senior citizens.

26 & 27. At the end of Library Court are two houses of interest. To the east is the Knowles Linnell House. Local tradition dates this house to around 1829 and characterizes Linnell as a clockmaker. The house is unique with its twelve-over-twelve windows and beautiful back-to-back fireplaces. To the west is the Ashley Azariah Bancroft House, where historian Henry Howe Bancroft was born.

28. A half block east, on the northeast corner of Pearl and Elm streets, is the Timothy Rose House, a basic wood-frame house with delicately molded cornice and gable returns. The entrance framing is in grooved boards with corner rosettes. The exact date of construction is unknown, but it is estimated to be the late 1830s.

29. Across Elm Street is the home of the late William Uter, much-loved Denison history professor, Granville Mayor, and author of a history of the Village. Although the roof brackets have been removed, the open brackets and other features on the original porch provide a good example of the visual richness of Victorian architecture of the 1880s.

30. Returning west we pass the George T. Jones House at 221 East Elm. This house was planned and built for G.T. Jones by Wallace Carpenter in 1861 and was given as a wedding gift by him to his bride. The house was occupied in turn by the Joneses' daughter, Miss Minnie Jones, artist, teacher, and traveler, and by their grandson, Arthur Wright Jones. Its famous garden, scene of many weddings, may be the oldest established garden in Granville. This house is an especially rich example of a rectangular Italianate Villa. Note the round-headed windows on the end bays with their wooden hood moldings. Numerous features, though, relate back to the Greek Revival style, such as the square columns on the porches and the pedimented lintels on the upstairs windows.

31. Continuing west you see the Henry Bancroft House, now the McPeck Funeral Home. Bancroft was a local merchant, banker, and carpenter. Built in Italianate style at the time of the Civil

War, this house was once surrounded by a beautiful iron fence with gateposts and corner posts. Of special note on the house are the elaborate brackets and handsome brick hood moldings over the windows.

32. Next door is the rose-covered cottage built in 1824 by Gerard Bancroft, as part of his planing mill. The roof has been raised and dormers added.

33. Situated on a hill at the southwest corner of Main and Elm streets is the Old Academy. Constructed in 1833 in simple Greek Revival style as a two-story building with a full basement, the present structure once housed the "Granville Academy." Outgrowing this building, the Academy became the Granville Female College in 1838 and moved to a much larger frame building on the site of the present Granville Inn. In 1842 the Welsh Congregational Church was organized in the basement of the Old Academy building, and services in Welsh were conducted there well into the present century. Later it became the home of the Granville Grange, and it is now the property of the Granville Historical Society.

34. Walking north we come to the last two houses on the tour. The red brick at 121 South Main Street was built in 1863 for George Stephen Goodrich. This Italianate house was originally a two-family dwelling, but it was remodeled with the addition of the porch when it ceased being a double house.

35. Directly across Main Street is the Ahab Jinks House, known for its fan light doorway on the north side, which once faced the village green (a view now obstructed by the Municipal Building). Hoping to complete the house before winter set in, Jinks, the Congregational minister, ordered that work be continued on a Sunday morning in the autumn of 1823. The sounds of construction carried to the Congregational Church which occupied the corner where the Presbyterian Church now stands. Some members of the congregation were so outraged that a schism developed, with Jinks and his adherents leaving the Congregational Church and forming a Presbyterian congregation.

GLOSSARY

barge boards: the decorative carved woodwork at the edge of the gables.

dentil: one of a series of small rectangular blocks forming a molding or projecting beneath a cornice.

cornice: a horizontal molded projection that crowns or completes a building or wall. The uppermost part of an entablature.

entablature: the upper section of a classical order, resting on the capital and including the architrave, frieze, and cornice.

pediment: the triangular section topping the entablature and enclosed in a triangular cornice.

architrave: the lowermost part of an entablature, resting directly on top of a column in classical architecture.

frieze: a plain or decorated horizontal part of an entablature between the architrave and cornice.

gable: the triangular wall section at the ends of a pitched roof, bounded by the two roof slopes and the ridge pole.

pillar: a rectangular column with a capital and base, set into a wall as an ornamental motif. Can be found at the corners of Greek Revival buildings.

bay: a part of building marked off by vertical elements, such as doors and windows.

bracket: a simple rigid structure in the shape of an L, one arm of which is fixed to a vertical surface, with the other projecting horizontally to support a shelf or other weight. Found under the eaves of many older houses.

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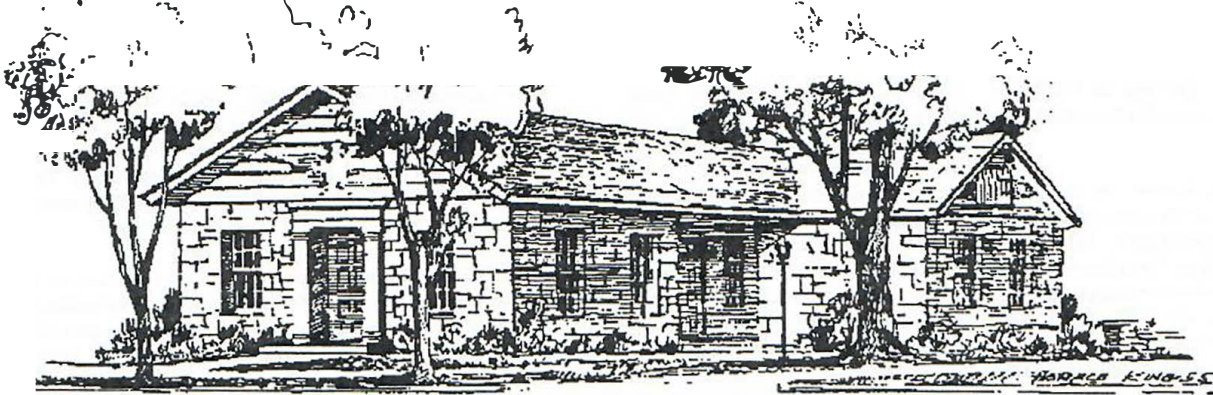
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