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A grant received in 2012 from the Belmont County Tourism Council allowed for the updating of the information and pictures.

For more information on the Belmont County Tourism Council, please write or call:

Belmont County Tourism Council
Ohio Valley Mall, Unit 485, St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950
740-695-4359 800-356-5082
www.belmontcountytourism.org



*This walking tour brochure was created by the
Office of the Director of Public Services
for the City of St. Clairsville.*

City of St. Clairsville Ohio



Walking Tour



Downtown National Historic District

Welcome!!

This brochure will guide you through a walking tour of the Downtown St. Clairsville National Historic District

St. Clairsville is located in the rolling Appalachian foothills of the Ohio River Valley in eastern Ohio. As the 2007 Champion of America in Bloom's 5,001-10,000 population category, St. Clairsville has united the public and private sectors towards several decades' worth of livability improvements.

Two nationally significant transportation routes have profoundly influenced St. Clairsville's development: Interstate 70, and secondly, the National Road. The latter is a federally designated Scenic Byway and more significantly an "All American Road". National Road was America's first federally funded multi-state highway and is the City's Main Street.

The community is also known for the restoration to its National Register of Historic Places Downtown District in 1994. St. Clairsville is largely a residential community, but the area around the City is the retail/service hub of the Wheeling, WV metropolitan area

David Newell of Pennsylvania settled in the area in about 1796. A village called Newellstown eventually grew up around the original settlement. By 1802 the village had been renamed to St. Clairsville in honor of General Arthur St. Clair, governor of the Northwest Territory. It became the capital of Belmont County in 1804. The town had about 400 people when it was incorporated in 1807.

On July 4, 1825, a ceremony was held in front of the courthouse (where the sheriff's residence is now) to break ground for the extension of the National Road. The town had many businesses catering to travelers, including taverns, hotels, saddler makers and blacksmiths.

Benjamin Lundy settled here in 1815 and started the very first abolition society with the sole purpose of eliminating slavery. His organization, the Union Humane Society, grew from 6 people to over 400 in only six months. Lundy left St. Clairsville in 1819 to pursue the cause of abolition throughout the nation. He died in 1839, twenty-four years before Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. His house is featured on the tour.



The Bikeway is the City's connector to people, parks, and places.

The City's Architectural Board of Review is among the organizations that work to preserve, protect, and promote the Downtown National Historic District.

Over \$6.2 million has been spent from 1990 to present to renovate and restore the District. Your support for this continued work is encouraged.



Visit our web site at:
www.stclairsville.com



St. Clairsville is home to the National Road Bikeway which is regarded as a model of a community based pedestrian corridor. Please visit the National Road Bikeway, located near the Historic District at the intersection of South Market Street and Woodrow Avenue. This scenic trail can be enjoyed by walking, skating, or bicycling.



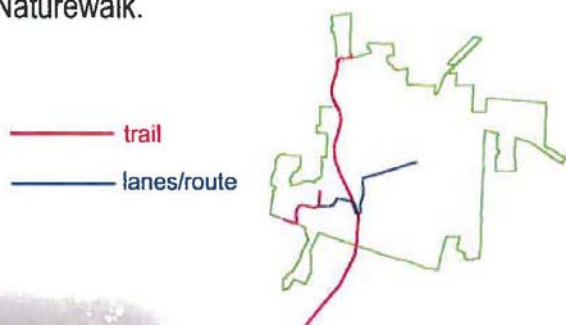
Directions to Parking Areas

Easiest Access: Exit 216 off I-70, South on Route 9, .8 mile to Reservoir Road (T.R. 278)

Favorite Route: At the 4-way stop behind the Court House, turn onto North Market Street, .9 miles to the Bikeway Crossing, turn right onto Ballfield Road (Riding the NRBw south is the builder's favorite route).

Chamber of Commerce Gazebo/Hub Park: Rt. 40 (Main Street) and Rt. 9 (Marietta Street) Intersection. One block west onto South Butler Street, Right on Woodrow Avenue, left on Hutchinson Drive. (Or) Rt. 40/Rt. 9 intersection, 3 blocks west onto Johnnet Drive, left onto Trabar Drive.

Best Short Walk: Rt. 40/Rt. 9 intersection, north on Rt. 9 onto Station Street. Walk south to tunnel, Hub Park, and Naturewalk.



Wilson Shannon was born in Belmont County in 1802 and later became a resident of St. Clairsville. He was elected governor in 1838 – the first native Ohioan to serve in that position. He also served as Minister to Mexico and governor of the Kansas Territory. He died in Kansas in 1877. His house is outside the Downtown Historic District but can be seen at 229 W. Main Street.

Throughout the years, downtown St. Clairsville has suffered through many fires. The most damaging fire occurred in 1866 in Jepson's Grocery Store at 126 E. Main Street. It burned most of the buildings between South Market Street and the alley to the west. Another major disaster was the tornado that struck April 15, 1887. This destroyed several churches and damaged some buildings in the downtown district.

On this tour you will find a variety of buildings, from Federal to Art Deco styles and a little of everything else in between. The structures mentioned in this guide are significant for historical or architectural reasons. Older buildings have many features that are not common on more modern buildings.

If you find a term that you are not familiar with, check the Architectural Glossary on Page 20 of this guide.

There is a map and directory on pages 15 & 16 showing the location of the featured buildings.

**Thank you for visiting the
Downtown St. Clairsville Historic District.
Enjoy the tour!**



1 Courthouse 1886

The Beaux Arts style courthouse was designed by Columbus architect Joseph Warren Yost. This structure replaced a courthouse built in 1814 just east of here, where the Sheriff's residence is now.

As is typical of the Beaux Arts style, this building has many details but retains a sense of rhythm and order. The walls are rusticated sandstone and feature smooth-faced belt courses between each story. The windows on each level are different in shape and decoration. The shapes and styles of the columns and pilasters are also different on each story.



The end bays project from the main part of the building and have turrets at the attic level. The turrets are topped with curved pediments and decorative urns. The center bay also has a pedimented roof and the statue "Blind Justice". The upper portion is made of metal and is decorated with intricate cartouches, carving and garlanded swags.



The base of the clock tower supports a round barrel with paired columns. The clock tower itself is octagonal with a tall dome. The carillon was installed in 1975. When the courthouse was renovated in 1993, workers uncovered stained glass panels in the 3rd floor ceiling.

ARCHITECTURAL GLOSSARY

balustrade a railing system, usually along a ledge, containing a top railing and balusters
balusters short vertical pieces that support the rail of a staircase or balustrade
bay a section of the building, sometimes protruding, or an opening such as a window or door
belt coursing a horizontal strip of a material that is different from the main portion of the building; often used to delineate stories
bracket a projection from a wall that supports a weight; often decorative
bridge chimney two chimneys that are connected with a section of brick
capital top part of a column, often decorative
cartouche an ornamental tablet framed with very decorative carving; the center may be plain or carved
corbel a series of projections where the one above extends further out than the one immediately below; most commonly found in brick
cornice trim that is placed on a wall where it meets the roof
dentils a series of small, square, tooth like blocks
dog-toothed bricks laid on a diagonal so that a corner projects from the wall (canine tooth)
dormer a structure, usually with a window, that projects from a roof
egg and dart a decorative molding containing an egg-shaped part alternating with a thin dart-like piece
facade the exterior front or face of a building
finial an ornamental top piece
frieze a decorative band near the top of a wall below the cornice
gable a triangular end piece, usually on a roof
hood a projecting cover over an opening or object
keystone the center piece of an arch, often decorative
lath horizontal wooden slats over which plaster is applied
lintel a horizontal piece over a door or window that supports the weight above the opening
mansard roof a roof with an almost vertical slope on the side and a very flat slope on top
mortise-and-tenon a method of construction where a tab cut in one piece of wood is fitted into a slot cut into another piece
oriel a window projecting out from an upper story
pediment a triangle-shaped structure, usually over a cornice; sometimes the top sides are curved
pilaster a column-like ornament that is decorative but does not provide support
rusticated a stone with a beveled or cut edge
sidelight a framed piece of glass alongside a door or window
transom a framed piece of glass that is above a door or window; sometimes can be opened
turret a small tower usually protruding from the corner of an upper story

36 117 W. Main

This restored brick building features cast-iron hoods over the windows. It has a deep cornice and paired brackets indicative of the Italianate style. It has housed a camera shop, a tavern, and several restaurants.



37 113-115 W. Main mid-1800's Thornburg Law Office

This building has a metal cornice with brackets. The center entrance has stone surrounding the door. There is an oriel on the side. The blonde brick is probably not original. In 1927 George Thornburg and Earl Lewis, lawyers, started practice in this building. Brokaw's jewelry store was also located here.



**Thank you for visiting the
City of St. Clairsville's
Downtown National Historic District.**

We hope you enjoyed the tour!

2 Arthur St. Clair Marker 2011 Governor Arthur St. Clair 1734-1818

Born in Scotland. From 1787-1802, was first governor of the Northwest Territory, which included Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota. St. Clair established territorial court system and Ohio's first nine counties, including Belmont in 1801, and named St. Clairsville its county seat. St. Clair's promotion to Major General in 1777 recognized his exemplary service to Washington in New Jersey during American victories at the battles of Trenton and Princeton. St. Clair was a delegate to Congress under the Articles of Confederation in 1786, and in 1787 was its president when it adopted the Northwest Ordinance and authorized the convention that wrote the U.S. Constitution. His 1791 attempt to break Indian resistance to American settlement in the Ohio County ended in bitter defeat. A Federalist, St. Clair disagreed with Jeffersonian-Republicans over the timing of Ohio statehood. This led to his dismissal as governor after 15 years in office. The historical sign shown below is located in front of the Court-house.



3 National Road Marker 1827, National Road

The milestone marker was originally about a half-block west. A ceremony was held in this location on July 4, 1825 to begin the extension of the National Road from Wheeling, Virginia to the west. This marker is located in front of the Courthouse.



4 Sheriff's Residence and Jail 1888-1890
Restoration in process.

The sheriff's residence was built about 1890. This Victorian Romanesque building features a recessed entrance and 2nd floor balcony. The curved sandstone hoods over the front and side windows are particularly noteworthy. There are several pairs of decorative chimneys. The roof is steeply pitched with metal cresting at the ridge. The building was last used as a residence in the 1970's.

The Romanesque style jail is attached to the residence and is of plain sandstone. It was designed by Yost and built when the courthouse was constructed in 1888. As is typical for jails, it has little ornamentation.



*Before
restoration*



*Updated photo
after
restoration*

5 Masonic Building 1929

This Art Deco building sits on the site of the brick schoolhouse. The Masons met on the top floor of the school building. The old school burned and a new one was erected in its current location in 1914. The Masons built their new lodge on this site in 1929.



34 147 W. Main
1st National Bank 1867



This building originally had a cast-iron facade with arched windows and door openings on the ground floor. It housed the First National Bank and was built by H.C. Welday, one of the bank's founders. The roof was torn off in the tornado of 1887. In the 1930's, the Ohio Valley Dairy remodeled the building to its current

Neo-Classical appearance. It has been used as county facilities since the 1950's. This was the site of the first dry goods store in town (1801).

This brick building has a limestone facade with rectangular pilasters and stylized Corinthian capitals. The balustrade on the top features stone paneled sections and turned balusters.

35 123 - 133 W. Main (site)



This site once contained four buildings. The westernmost building was built in the mid 1800's and was of brick with arched windows and a tin roof. The building housed various auto dealers from the 1920's until it was torn down after a fire in 1985.

The next building east was the George Gonot Building. It was a restaurant in 1934 and a Western Auto store in 1937. The library was in this building from 1941 until 1952. The building was torn down in the 1960's.



The next building housed Smith and Stranges Barber Shop and Oscar Moses' "The Peoples Store" in the 1930's. It was torn down in the 1960's after a fire. These buildings and the ones on either side of it are visible in an oil painting showing downtown St. Clairsville in 1937. A photo of the painting is in the Library.

The easternmost building was a Federal style brick building with a sandstone foundation. It housed the Dollar Savings Bank beginning in 1895. In 1922 it became the Hudson Restaurant, and it remained in use as a restaurant until it was torn down for a parking lot in 1988. The Belmont Bank, organized in 1816, was located in this building. The vault was in the shape of a baking oven with stone walls 55" thick and built upon a stone foundation sunk 8 feet into the ground. Inside this vault was a modern steel safe.

31 177 W. Main c.1815
George Brown house



This Federal style house features hand-split lath along with mortise-and-tenon beams and joists on the interior. The center door led to the residence, and the east-side door led to a shop. George Brown lived in the house and kept a jewelry business for many years. This building and

the one at 171 are being renovated into senior citizens housing.

32 171 W. Main 1825
Dr. Walker's residence



This Federal style building once had a bridge chimney and an open porch facing Main and Marietta streets. The boxed cornice features brackets and dentils, and there are decorative shingles in the

gable. The store-front and the brick addition were added in the 1940's. Around the turn of the century, Dr. Dale Walker lived in the house and had his office downstairs. It has also been a grocery store, a pizza parlor, and a hardware store.

33 163 W. Main 1875, 1910



F. Troll and Sons Store

This building was the site of a dry goods store owned by Frederick Troll. Frederick's brother Conrad had coal mines in the area. The Troll family was in business in this location from

1875 to 1966. There was a glove factory in the back that employed about 50 women between 1900 and 1920.

The western part of this building was the original store. It features ornamental brickwork at the cornice. The eastern building was constructed around 1910 as an expansion. This part has terra cotta medallions in the cornice.

6 131-115 E. Main c 1935
Theater

This Art Deco building was the home of the Old Trail movie theater. The center door was the entrance to the theater and there were stores on each side. The porthole at the top originally had a decorative window.



7 153 E. Main 1828
Rev Dr. A.P. Happer residence

Note the carved stone lintel with an eagle over the door.



8 157 E. Main (site) 1820's
Judge Kennon's house

On this site stood the home of several judges, most notably Judge Kennon, who was a Congressman and sat on the Supreme Court of Ohio. The house was built in the 1820's and torn down in the early 1960's.



The house at 159 was once the residence of Leland Frient, whose family owned at clothing store as early as 1850. This structure was recently restored and renovated. The original house at 161 E. Main was torn down with a new structure being constructed to historical specifications.



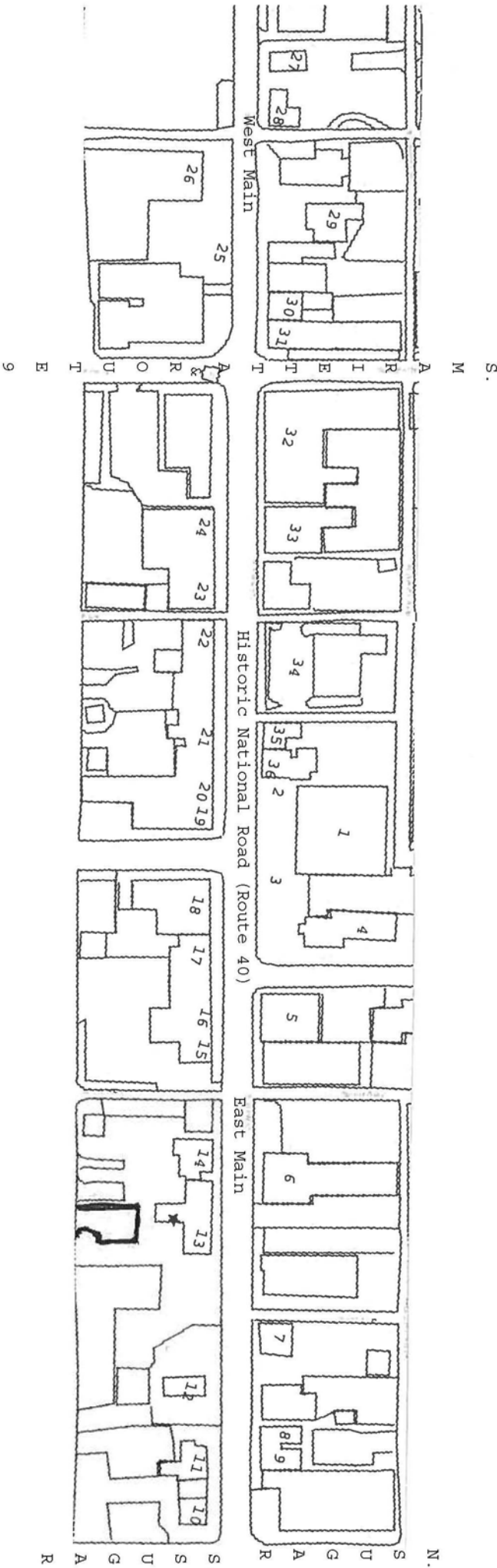
10 164 E. Main 1815
Benjamin Lundy house

This Federal style house was the home of Benjamin Lundy, an early leader in the abolition movement. Lundy was born in New Jersey of Quaker parents. He visited Wheeling as a young man and witnessed the horrors of slavery. After his marriage, he moved to St. Clairsville. In 1815, in this house, he organized the Union Humane Society, the first society whose only purpose was the overthrow of African slavery in the U.S. It started with 6 people and within six months had over 400 members. Lundy dedicated his life to the cause of freedom. He worked to provide homes for former slaves that had been voluntarily freed by their masters. He edited a newspaper, *The Genius of Universal Emancipation*, first in Mt. Pleasant, then in several other cities. For a short time in Philadelphia., the paper was called *The National Enquirer*, but it was later changed to the *Pennsylvania Freeman*. Lundy moved to Illinois in 1838 and died in 1839. He was instrumental in converting William Lloyd Garrison to the cause of slavery; Garrison co-edited the newspaper for awhile. Garrison went on to start his own newspaper, *The Liberator*, and became the most famous spokesman for abolition in the years preceding the Civil War.



At Sugar Street, cross to the south side of Main Street.

1. Courthouse
2. Arthur St. Clair Marker
3. National Road Marker
4. Sheriff's Residence and Jail
5. Masonic Building
6. 131-135 E. Main
7. 153 E. Main
8. 157 E. Main
9. 159 and 161 E. Main
10. 164 E. Main
11. 162 E. Main
12. 160 E. Main
13. 138-142 E. Main
14. 126 E. Main
15. 116 E. Main
16. 114 E. Main
17. 106 E. Main
18. 100 E. Main
19. 108 E. Main
20. 110-118 W. Main
21. 122-126 W. Main
22. 132-134 W. Main
23. 142 W. Main
24. 146-148 W. Main
25. Ohio National Road Interpretive Sign
26. 150 W. Main
27. Parking Lot (site)
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29. 193 W. Main
30. 185 W. Main
31. 177 W. Main
32. 171 W. Main
33. 163 W. Main
34. 147 W. Main
35. 123-133 W. Main
36. 117 W. Main
37. 113-115 W. Main



**11 162 E. Main c.1825
A.C. Darrah house**



This Federal-style house has Italianate brackets at the cornice. It is brick with a modern covering of stone veneer. Note the leaded glass arched transom over the main entrance. A. C. Darrah was an attorney and vice-president of the First National Bank.

12 160 E. Main (site)

This site was once the Boroff Brothers grocery store. The building was built around 1860. It was torn down in the 1930's and replaced by an Art Deco style gas station. There has been a gas station on this property since 1937.

13 138-142 E. Main c.1825



This building once housed a National Road tavern.

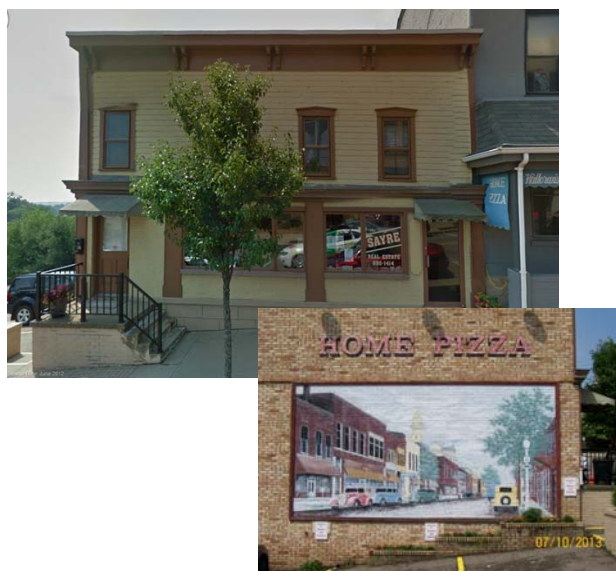
**13 126 E. Main c 1890
W. J. Walker house**

This Queen Anne and Victorian Gothic building was once the residence of W. J. Walker, an attorney. The roof is slate and has gables and dormers. The sandstone arched window lintels with carved end pieces are notable. The paint scheme emphasizes the decorative details of this fine building.



14 116 E. Main c 1830

This Italianate style building is reported to be of log construction. Note the mural on the east side that shows downtown St. Clairsville circa 1930. A front façade renovation was completed in 2013.



15 114 E. Main c. 1890

This Chateausque style building has a mansard roof of patterned slate. The third story has two gabled dormer windows with scroll ornamentation. A second floor oriel has decorative woodwork and a curved roof. The front cornice features decorative brackets.



**16 106 E. Main 1895
Frasier House**

This home was built in 1895 by James Frasier, a partner in Frasier-Clark undertaking. He lived here until the 1920's. The house features a recessed entrance and a balcony on the second floor. The window lintels are different on each side of the door. In the cornice, bricks are corbelled and support a recessed brick frieze. The door and sidelights feature beautiful leaded glass.



**29 193 W. Main 1829
Chandler Carroll house**

This Federal-style brick home features decorative corner blocks on the window lintels. The year "1829" is inscribed in the foundation on the west side. Chandler Carroll was a Probate Judge. There is a story that when Chandler marched off to the Civil War, his wife Mary hid in a back room so she could not hear the drumbeats calling the soldiers. Chandler served the entire war and returned home safely.



**30 185 W. Main 1910
John Troll residence**

This Queen Anne/Colonial Revival style home was designed by James Lindsay of Bridgeport. The original owner was John Troll, whose family was prominent in the coal mining business. The house features rounded bays with curved glass windows and several levels of roofline. The front entrance is oak and has columns, detailed carving and large leaded glass windows. The house contains a boxed cornice with brackets, columns on the second floor, and swag garland decorations. The windows are accented with large keystones.



26 150 W. Main
Johnston's Furniture (site)

This large brick building was the home of Johnston's Furniture Store and Funeral Home, established in 1869. Also in the building at various times were a dry goods store, a drug store and the 2nd National Bank. The building was demolished in the early 1970's.

27 Parking Lot (site)
Dr. Martin's house 1910

This red brick Foursquare house featured a beautiful front porch. The front door had leaded glass sidelights and a transom. The original owner was Judge Hollingsworth. Dr. Martin bought the house in 1925 and had his office here for over 50 years. It was torn down in about 1985 to make room for a parking lot.



28 197 W. Main c.1875
Judge W. W. Cowen House

This charming Italianate house was owned by Judge W. W. Cowen and his wife around the turn of the century. It features a boxed roof cornice with brackets and keystone window hoods. The basement window grilles are Gothic in style.



Continue down the street to Butler
and cross back to the North side of Main Street.

17 100 E. Main 1890
Clarendon Hotel

Built in 1890, this Romanesque Revival hotel was built on the site of the previous National Hotel (built 1817). The corner features a round turret with detailed decorative brick at the top. The entrance door is surrounded by a stone arch. The windows are different on each floor. Rows of sandstone belt coursing delineate each story. The window detailing at the first floor features egg and dart molding. The cornice contains elaborate brickwork.



18 108 W. Main 1930
Library



This Neo-Classical Revival building was originally the Second National Bank. The previous building was destroyed by a 1928 fire in which two volunteer firemen were killed. It became the library in 1953. The building features limestone pilasters and large arched windows. The elaborate detailing over the door includes egg and dart molding and a cartouche.

19 110-118 W. Main c. 1870

This three part commercial building was constructed by Isaac H. Patterson after the great fire of 1866. The east-dog-toothed cornice and beautiful leaded glass panels above the door and storefront windows. The center portion has cast iron window hoods on the first floor. The westernmost part has a dog-tooth cornice and flat arched windows on the second story.



20 122-126 W. Main c.1870
Jepson's Grocery

The previous building on this site housed Jepson's Grocery Store, founded in the 1840's. In 1866, a fire began in that structure and destroyed a half block of commercial buildings. The Jepson built this Italianate style building after the fire and continued to operate a grocery store here.

The building features decorative cast-iron window hoods, a dog-toothed cornice and recessed brick panels in the attic level. The two store fronts and center doorway each have different detailing in the brackets, cornices and dentils. The interior features a beautiful staircase.



21 132-134 W. Main c.1870
James D. Crossland Drug Store

This building looks almost the same as it did in 1910 when it was the James D. Crossland Drug Store and residence. James' brother John had a drug store across the street at 153 W. Main. This building has also served as a law office, a gift shop and an insurance office. The structure features an elaborately patterned slate roof and a dog-toothed cornice.



23 142 W. Main 1894
Gazette Building



This Romanesque building features an elaborate metal cornice with detailed brackets and finials. Also noteworthy are the rounded stone hoods over the 2nd story windows and the belt coursing between the first and second stories. This structure was originally the home of the *St. Clairsville Gazette*, a weekly newspaper.

Usually, a date inscribed in the upper facade of a building signifies the year it was built. This building, however, is a "liar"! The year 1812 was the founding date of the *newspaper*, not the year the building was constructed.

24 146-148 W. Main c.1880
McFarland Building

This large commercial building features ornamental brick work at the cornice and around the windows. Sandstone elements add contrast to the red bricks. The McFarlands had a hardware store in this building in the early part of this century. Mr. McFarland introduced sewing machines to Belmont County by carrying them to the small communities in his buckboard wagon.



25 Ohio National Road Interpretive Sign

Located on Route 40 near the Calvary Presbyterian Church, 100 S. Marietta Street, this sign was dedication on September 6, 2013. There is also a "Brick Road" Ohio National Road interpretive sign which commemorates the brick paving of the National Road during World War I, and is located along an original brick segment of the National Road in front of the St. Clair Auto Parts NAPA Store located at 48530 National Road W.

