

# HURON

*Old Plat District* Ohio

## SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR

### 225 Williams Street - (8)

On February 10, 1835, a committee of Huron Presbyterian worshippers met in a schoolhouse on the NW corner of Lake Front Park. It was not until 1853 that the present church was built on the corner of Homan and Williams. The style, reminiscent of colonial churches found in New England, reflects those who came to Huron from that area.

### 317 Williams Street - (9)

The 1883 Folk Victorian home was built for Mrs. Myra Thomas and her daughter. Mrs. Thomas left her husband for unknown reasons and constructed this home. Her husband was granted a divorce from her in 1887 on the grounds of her willful absence. The front porch, though not original to the house, was added in 1927 and greatly contributes to the home's beauty.

### 325 Williams Street - (10)

This farmhouse style house was built by Horace K. Rand in 1883. The original stable/barn located behind the home still stands and was believed to be the stable for the fire and police departments.

### 333 Williams Street - (11)

In 1943, the library moved to its present location, then a school building owned by the Huron Board of Education. Parts of the original building are still visible on the north side of the building. A complete renovation and large addition was finished in 2002. The site where the library is now located was the location of several village school buildings.

### 338 Williams Street - (12)

Started by German-speaking settlers, the current sanctuary was erected in 1876 and was named St. John's Evangelical Church. The founding families were honored in 1910 with the addition of stained glass windows bearing their names. Today after a merger, it has become the United Methodist church. The church has a Schantz pipe organ, the original bell housed in the courtyard, and a Good Shepherd stained glass window above the chancel.

## LEGEND

1. 357 Main Street
2. 410 Main Street
3. 430 Main Street
4. 107 Wall Street
5. 125 Williams Street
6. 201 Williams Street
7. 210 Williams Street
8. 225 Williams Street
9. 317 Williams Street
10. 325 Williams Street
11. 333 Williams Street
12. 338 Williams Street
13. 110 Center Street
14. 116 Center Street
15. 120 Center Street
16. 304 Park Street
17. 128 Center Street
18. 132 Center Street
19. 301 South Street
20. 209 Center Street
21. 211 Center Street
22. 216 Center Street
23. 229 Center Street
24. 303 Center Street
25. 304 Center Street
26. 309 Center Street
27. 319 Center Street
28. 323 Center Street
29. 335 Center Street
30. 349 Center Street
31. 401 Center Street
32. 403 Center Street
33. 415 Center Street
34. 416 Center Street
35. 120 Ohio Street
36. 125 Ohio Street
37. 202 Ohio Street
38. 211 Ohio Street
39. 213 Ohio Street
40. 226 Ohio Street
41. 305 Ohio Street
42. 325 Ohio Street
43. 423/425 Ohio Street

W



Southwest Corner of South Street and Ohio Street

We welcome you to historic Huron's Old Plat.  
Thank You for staying on the sidewalk and respecting the privacy of the homeowner.

### Shirley Street

The street was named after Abiather Shirley, a Huron pioneer, who in 1834 platted and owned what was known as South Huron or Shirleyville. He donated the land for the Huron Cemetery. The Shirley Homestead at 509 Center was built in 1833 and currently is the oldest known home in Huron.

### Southwest corner of Williams and Shirley Street

Now privately owned, the structure housed two congregations. The Huron Methodist Episcopal Church erected the church in 1871 but became a victim of the Depression and disbanded. In 1932 the church sold the property to the Grange, an agricultural society. From 1963-1967, the Aldergate Methodist Church rented the facility from the Grange but left when they merged with the United Brethren. In the early 1980s, the Huron Historical and Cultural Society purchased the building and remained there until 1997. The Society now leases rooms from the Huron Library.

### 110 Center Street - (13)

This c. 1852 vernacular house was constructed by Alexander Ledgard, a ship's carpenter and veteran of the War of 1812. The house was built of various types of wood, likely whatever was left over at the shipyard.

### Lake Front Park

A map of Huron village recorded in Huron County, June 15, 1824, designated the park as the public square. North of the square were two streets, Williams and Lake, both claimed by lake erosion in the violent lake storms of the 1880s. The land has always been used as a park.

### 116 Center Street - (14)

From 1908-1940, Sears, Roebuck and Co. sold more than 100,000 homes through their mail order program. Built in 1938 by Perrie and Anna Brown, the house is believed to be "The Martha Washington" model.

### 120 Center Street - (15)

This home was built c. 1852 by John and Julie Sprague. Originally built in the Gothic Revival style, it has been significantly altered. The house features steeply sloping roofs and pointed gables, vertical siding that has been covered by aluminum siding and wooden verge boards under the eaves that were cut with medieval motifs that are still visible.

### 304 Park Street - (16)

Horace Waite, local bank cashier, purchased the home in 1938 from the widow of Frank Krellick, a baker. Located originally on Main Street where the BP Station is today, the 50-ton house journeyed slowly north on Main Street to its present location. An article in the Erie County Reporter said the move was the biggest social event of the season.

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### 128 Center Street - (17)

Sidney Detro, wife of builder Dana Detro who built this Cape Cod style home, sold it to Christopher and Marion Huttenlocker in 1939. It is one of the few structures in the area that feature Berea sandstone. The house replaced another that was torn down.

### 132 Center Street - (18)

The home of Eldon Roswurm, a Huron postmaster and photographer for many years, was built by C.J. Miller in 1903. Huron graduates recall having their senior pictures taken here. The Queen Anne home features ornate oak woodwork and pocket doors.

### South Street

The street was so named because it was the southern most street of the original plat surveyed and platted by Jabez Wright in the early 1800s.

### 301 South Street - (19)

Built in 1875 by Ramone and Sarah Shepherd, the house was best remembered as the McQuillen House. Mrs. McQuillen had a very popular lunch room and restaurant near the railroad depot. Various members of the Hugh F. McQuillen family lived here from the mid 1920s until 2002. The McQuillens added the wraparound porch.

### 209 Center Street - (20)

The circa 1839 Greek Revival has retained its original architectural features, an entry porch with columns, and a front door with narrow windows. It is said much of the wood in the house was harvested from Cedar Point. John Wickham, a prominent Huron businessman, lived here with his wife and two sons.

### 211 Center Street - (21)

Yet another variation of Greek Revival, the home was built in 1854 by John Burgess. An addition was added in 1903. Features of the home include an Ionic porch colonnade that creates an airy feeling and colored windows on the side of the front door that represent the four seasons. John D. Peterson, a lake ship captain, and John McCormick, founder of Huron Cement, also owned the home at one time.

### 216 Center Street - (22)

For many years, the residence was called the Hudson House. In 1850, Benjamin Hudson, a ship's carpenter, built the home. The home has been altered many times from its original form.

### 229 Center Street - (23)

Now Captain Montague's Bed and Breakfast, the dwelling has been a tourist home, an apartment and office building, and a private residence. John and Lucy Wickham built the Italianate style home in 1881. A written account refers to the newly built home as "an elegant structure the equal of which is seldom seen in Huron". Although much of the original exterior architecture has disappeared, it still features a bay window and a heavily molded, double entrance door. The interior foyer has a magnificent walnut hand-carved staircase, and the front inside doors have ruby glass panels that were made with gold. The bed and breakfast is named after Captain Charles Montague, a lake captain, who purchased it in 1900 and did extensive remodeling.

### 303 Center Street - (24)

Built in 1875 for John and Ocela Aicher, hotel owners, the home was once a single family, but the Aichers converted it into a two-family dwelling. A large safe still remains in the home. The house features a Widows Walk.

### 304 Center Street - (25)

For over 85 years, this home was a doctor's office and private residence. The home was built in 1855 by Andrew Brainard, a carpenter, and was sold to Dr. Joseph Esch in 1881. Next to own the house was Dr. H. L. Judge from 1892-1898. Dr. William Pollack owned the property until 1921 when he sold it Dr. Carl Swanbeck. Dr. Swanbeck and his wife Ethel, who served twenty-two years as a representative to the 13th Congressional District, lived there until the early 1980s.

### 309 Center Street - (26)

One of the most unique and beautiful homes of the Old Plat, this Second Empire home was likely constructed using house plans published by Philadelphia architect Isaac Hobbs. Hobbs named this plan "An American Cottage". The house was built in 1876 by local builder Frank Garritt.

### 319 Center Street - (27)

Addison H. Winchell purchased Lot 49 in 1874 but did not build his opulent Queen Anne home until 1887. The house has original Tiffany lamp fixtures and the same hand-carved, walnut stairwell as Captain Montague's. Winchell, a grain, lumber, and fish dealer, owned the home for only a short time.

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### Huron Light House

By an 1834 act of Congress, Huron was granted a beacon light. Since then three different beacons (1835, 1857, 1936) have stood guard over Huron's harbor. The present light is on the National Register.

### Boat Basin

In 1967, the City of Huron, with federal assistance, embarked upon a controversial urban renewal program demolishing 38 commercial buildings and private residences. A "letting in of the waters" ceremony was held in the fall of 1971. The Huron Small Boat Mooring Basin was the focal point of the proposed new downtown. However, further extensive redevelopment of the area did not occur as envisioned.

### 357 Main Street - (1)

First Merit Bank is the only remaining building of Huron's old downtown. The structure, built in 1892, once housed three businesses and apartments. The facade has changed several times throughout the years. Today it is also the Erie County's Habitat for Humanity headquarters.

### 410 Main Street - (2)

Originally a farmhouse built in 1876 by Frank Garritt, Wright Stein purchased the dwelling in 1924 at a sheriff's sale involving the Thomas Sprowl estate. Since then, it has served as Huron's only funeral home.

### 430 Main Street - (3)

St. Peter's Catholic Church was built in 1969. The original church, built in 1890, stood behind the present church on the corner of Huron and Van Rensselaer Streets where the school now stands. The sanctuary seats 900 and is often used for community gatherings. The ultra modern, twelve-sided structure has twelve arches that represent the Apostles.

### Main St. or Huron Cemetery

One block south of the Catholic Church lays the burial ground that is the final resting place for many of Huron's earliest residents, Revolutionary War veterans, the Huron Rangers of the War of 1812, shipbuilders, Jabez Wright, and Rev. Samuel Marks. The last burial was in 1937.



*U.C. Phillips Home, 1908*

### 107 Wall Street - (4)

Now a private residence, it once functioned as a fish house. Built in 1877 by William Heymann, a prominent fisherman, the once rustic, red-sided building was turned into a home in the 1950s. The last remaining fish house is located on North Main Street beside the Bait Store.

### Wall Street

Known as the Lightkeeper's House, the residence was completed in 1874. Later it served as a boarding house for the Coast Guard. Huron Parks and Recreation now use the brick station directly east of the home. The house has been vacant for many years.

### 125 Williams Street - (5)

This Greek Revival house, built in 1839, is best known as the home of Rev. Samuel Marks and his second wife, Emmeline Minuse, who purchased it in 1850. Father Marks served Christ Episcopal Church for over forty years. In 1866 he helped found Marks Lodge, a Masonic organization. The picket fence was a popular feature of early homes in the village.

### 201 Williams Street - (6)

Built for Captain Pearl and his wife, the home was finished in 1898. In 1861, he entered the Ohio Volunteer Army and had an illustrious military career during the Civil War. He was captured twice, but both times escaped a rebel prison and was also severely wounded. Later he served as the pension agent for Erie County.

### 210 Williams Street - (7)

Hand-hewn beams in the basement and attic reveal a home that dates back to 1834. Horatio Nelson Bang, who had a drug and medicine store on Main Street, built the home. Captain Charles Montague lived there prior to his move to 229 Center Street. Only five people have owned the property.

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