

# A BRIEF TOUR OF HISTORIC WORTHINGTON

## Historic Worthington Tour Route - Start at 956 High Street

Begin . . .

**A - Orange Johnson House, 956 High St.**  
Pioneer section built in 1811 by Arora Buttles. Federal section with elegant fanlight entry dates from 1819. Orange and Achsa Maynard Johnson lived here more than 40 years. Worthington Historical Society Museum. Open Sunday 2-5 p.m. Weekday tours by appointment. Call 885-1247.

**B - 12 E. Stafford Ave.**  
Home of the High Road Gallery. 1818 brick residence with front room facing High Street which could be used as store or professional office. Home of Arora and Harriet Kilbourn Buttles in 1820s. Later owned by merchants Abner Henry Pinney and Sidney Brown. (Office)

**C - Village Green.**  
Surveyed in 1803, this public square was surrounded by 164 inlots, including school and church lots, as planned by the Scioto Company pioneers in New England. It remains the heart of historic Worthington and the site of major public ceremonies and festivals.

**D - 773 High St.**  
Worthington Presbyterian Church, built in New England architectural style in 1827, is on the site of the congregation's first church built in 1830.

**E - 753 High St.**  
1827 brick section built for Dr. Kingsley Ray, early village physician and clerk of session of the Presbyterian Church, is the oldest brick building on the Village Green. Frame additions are late 19th century. (Residence)

**F - 64 W. Granville Road.**  
This fine example of Italianate architecture was built c. 1870 by Lucy Hart. Later home of attorney Henry Fay, who developed the subdivision along Granville Road between Oxford and Evening Street. (Residence)

**G - 721 High St.**  
Earliest Federal-style frame residence in Worthington was sold to James Kilbourn's son-in-law, Demas Adams, in 1818. For many years it was operated by William Bishop as a boarding house and then became the residence of Methodist minister Rev. Uriah Heath. (Residence)

-- SUGGESTED ROUTE

**H - 679-681 High St.**  
Oldest commercial building in Worthington. Built for James Kilbourn c. 1808. Ground floor was the site of the first Worthington Manufacturing Company retail store and the first central Ohio newspaper, the Western Intelligencer, which began publishing in 1811. Second floor was residential.

**I - 649 High St.**  
The oldest section of the Worthington Inn was built in the 1830s as the home of R.W. and Laura Kilbourn Cowles. It operated as the Bishop House hotel during the Civil War and as Hotel Central late in the 19th century. Worthington Inn now contains condominiums and restaurant/banquet facility.

**J - Snow House, 41 W. New England Ave.**  
Oldest Federal-style brick home still standing in

Worthington (c. 1815-1816). Purchased by John Snow in 1817. Snow was Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Ohio and organized first Commandery of Knights Templar for Ohio Masons.

**K - Old Rectory, 50 W. New England Ave.**  
Built in 1840s as St. John's Episcopal Church rectory, this house originally stood south of the church facing the Village Green. This Greek Revival house was moved twice. Now the headquarters of the Worthington Historical Society, it houses the Doll Museum and Gift Shop at the Old Rectory. (Open Tuesday through Friday, 1 to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and by appointment. (Phone 885-1247.)

**L - Turk-Gilkey House, 108 W. New England Ave.**  
Built in 1834 as a rental property for the Wiley family. The Wiley and Lewis families were active members of the Worthington Methodist Episcopal Church, a force behind the Underground Railroad in the Worthington area prior to the Civil War. The house was sold in 1865

to Henry and Dolly Turk, the first African-Americans to own their own home in Worthington. (Residence)

**M - 25 Fox Lane.**  
Oldest section built c. 1814 as a boarding house for Worthington Manufacturing Company employees. Became private residence after company collapsed in 1820s. Briefly used during Civil War when this area was Camp Lyon, a training camp for the 46th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. (Residence)

**N - 38 W. South St.**  
Residence built in the local vernacular style of pioneer towns by Elias Lewis, an early leader in the Worthington Methodist Church. The original portion, c. 1834, is unlike most early Worthington homes since it had a mortared brick foundation instead of fieldstone. (Residence)

**O - 600 High St.**  
Worthington United Methodist Church occupies property that was 19th century Female Seminary.

**P - 38 Short St.**  
Carpenter Gothic home was built (c. 1830 and 1871) as residence for Worthington Female Seminary principals. It formerly stood east of High Street, south of the present Methodist Church. (Residence)

**Q - Ripley House, 623 High St.**  
Built before 1820 for use by Christopher Ripley as a combination store and residence;

family entrance was on the south side. Birthplace of Confederate General Roswell Ripley, a classmate of Ulysses S. Grant at West Point. (Offices)

**R - 634 High St.**  
The original New England Masonic Lodge #4 brick building was completed by Arora Buttles in 1820. Note Classic arch brickwork facing High Street. Now Masonic Museum, open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

**S - 700 High St.**  
St. John's Episcopal Church was completed in 1831. Congregation was organized in 1804 and chartered in 1807. Burial ground dating from 1804 contains families of many of the Scioto Company pioneers.

**T - 752 High St.**  
Now vacant James Kilbourn Memorial Library building, constructed in 1927 on land donated by the granddaughter of Worthington's founder, had additions made in 1931 and 1956. It served as the community library until 1979, and from 1979 to 2000 as the school administration building. Occupies original school lot and site of the 19th century Worthington Academy.

**U - East Granville Road and Hartford Street.**  
Built in 1856 with school rooms on the ground floor and I.O.O.F. Lodge rooms on the second.

Served many years as Sharon Township Hall. Now owned by Episcopal Church.

**V - 700 Hartford St.**  
Frame home with double gallery porches may have been a student boarding house, c. 1837-1838. Home of the Skeele family after the Civil War. (Residence)

**W - 137 E. Granville Road.**  
Imposing 1861 residence built for Horace and Henrietta Tuller Wright is highlighted by arched stone entry. Now Sharon Twp. Memorial Building.

**X - 92 E. Granville Road.**  
Brick residence remodeled by Dr. James Topping in Second Empire style, c. 1842 and 1883. Slate mansard roof is highlighted by arched double window in central dormer. (Residence)

**Y - 682 Hartford St.**  
Oldest section is very early frame house which once faced northwest quadrant of Village Green. (Residence)

**Z - 72 E. North St.**  
Federal-style brick home moved from southwest corner of High and North Streets in 1932. 19th century owners included antislavery activist Ansel Mattoon; Rev. Thomas Woodrow, grandfather of President Woodrow Wilson; and Worthington physician Dr. Peter Goble. (Residence)

\*Property in National Historic Register

