



A Stroll Down Sandusky Street



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When Moses Byxbe, founder of the town of Delaware, and Azariah Root, Surveyor, laid out the village in 1808, their intent was that William Street would be the main business thoroughfare. The settlers, however, much preferred a north-south orientation and soon began setting up shops along this street, which they called Main Street. In the early days, homes and businesses were interspersed along the street, and most of the buildings were small frame or log construction. The residential district began to move north of Central Avenue in the 1840s. By 1870, the population had grown to 6000. Fewer and fewer of the original structures remained; they were being replaced by brick business buildings called blocks. The buildings along Sandusky Street today are eclectic in style and age. The earliest were built around 1840, and the most recent were built in the 1970s. While many of the storefronts have been altered at various times, you should look at the top of the buildings. Many of the original architectural elements



that help you date the buildings are still visible.

Sandusky Street had electric lights by 1890. A downtown parade was held in September of that year to commemorate turning on the lights.

Board walks and dirt streets were common in the early business district through most of the 1800s. By 1890, granite slabs or brick was used for sidewalks. Streets were covered by crushed stone; only the pedestrian crosswalks were brick.

The Delaware Sandusky Street Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and, in 1997, the City of Delaware established the Downtown Historic District with architectural review of proposed exterior changes to preserve the historic appearance of the downtown. The historic district generally includes the downtown business district, from the Delaware County Court House on the north to Ohio Wesleyan University on the south.

In 1998 the City of Delaware undertook a multi-year downtown improvement program, dubbed "Streetscape," to

replace sidewalks, underground infrastructure, light poles, traffic lights, and relocate electric lines to the rear of the buildings.

The Ohio Department of Development recognized the City of Delaware for its housing and development activities, in particular the downtown revitalization program in 1999.

1. Court House Square; the Delaware County Court House and the old Delaware County Jail and Sheriff's Residence. Construction of the Court House began in 1868 and was completed in 1870. It is an excellent example of Italianate architecture, designed and built by Nathan R. Jones, local architect and builder. It replaced an earlier court building, erected on the same site in 1815 and torn down in 1859.



The Civil War Memorial centered on the front lawn, was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1884. A committee had been formed soon after the Civil War to raise funds, and it took nearly 20 years to raise the \$5,000 necessary to purchase this monument. Today, monuments dedicated to veterans of World War I, World War II, Korea and Viet Nam have been added to the Court House lawn on either side of the Civil War Monument.

The former Sheriff's residence and jail are to the west of the Court House. This building was designed by David W. Gibbs of Toledo; construction was started in 1878. The architectural style is Patterned Masonry Queen Anne with a central tower. It is a fine example of grand residential architecture of the time, built with the mixed purpose of being the home and office of an important government official and his family, and also serving as the jail. This is the third jail facility at this location.

2. 101 N. Sandusky. Delaware County Commissioners Office and the Delaware County 911 Center. The Carnegie Library building housed the Delaware County District Library from 1906 until 1984. The building was made possible by the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie and was dedicated on September 1, 1906. "Carnegie Library" "Free to All" can be seen carved in stone above the door. This building has been enlarged to nearly twice its original size. The architecture and materials of the award-winning

addition were carefully matched to the original building. During the renovation of the original portion of the building, a grand central interior dome with a stained glass feature, hidden above a suspended ceiling for decades, was uncovered and restored.

3. 104 N. Sandusky. Seventh Day Adventist Church. This High Victorian Gothic building was erected in 1886 by the congregation of the John's English Lutheran Church; the original name is visible in the front gable. They occupied the building until 1950 when the congregation was disbanded.

4. 94 N. Sandusky. This residence was built by Milo D. Pettibone, an attorney, about 1850. It was later owned by the Minnelli family, who made Delaware their home after they retired from the vaudeville circuit. Vincent Minnelli attended school in Delaware, and later moved to California and became a well-known film director. He was married to actress Judy Garland for several years. Their daughter, Liza Minnelli, became a popular vocal artist/actress. The house has been used as offices for many years.

Central Avenue Intersects

5. 79 - 81 N. Sandusky Street. Reid and Powell Block. This block was built in 1871 on the site of an early hotel. The first floor contains two storefronts, the second floor several offices, and third floor was used for fraternal lodge hall rooms. The Corinthian-style columns are cast iron, popular for ornamental structural use following the Civil War.

6. 75 - 77 N. Sandusky Street. This Italianate style two-story frame building was built in 1871. The storefront is little changed from when it was built.

7. 68 N. Sandusky Street. The Delaware Gas Company was organized in 1859. The company built this Art Deco style building in 1914-15, and it was used by its successor, Columbia Gas of Ohio, until 1995.

8. 60 N. Sandusky Street. This building is Second Empire in style, built for A. Lybrand, a local iron manufacturer in 1869. It was called "French Roof," or "Mansard" style when built, named after Frenchman Francois Mansart. The decorative cornices are of iron and were manufactured by the proprietor.

9. 59 N. Sandusky Street. This Italianate style building was built by J. H. Mendenhall in 1874 for the V.T. Hills Grocery Co. The front business room was the grocery store with a warehouse in the rear. The storefront was modern-

ized during the early twentieth century.

10. 57 N. Sandusky Street. Steeves Block. Built of red sandstone in 1890 by Dr. Moses Steeves on the site of the last residence in the business district. There were two stores on the ground floor and seven offices on the second floor. The architectural style is called Richardson Romanesque after Henry Hobson Richardson, the architect which made the style one of the most popular of the time. High on the exterior of the south wall the name "Bodurtha" can still be seen. Their photographic studio was on the third floor; a large, north-facing skylight still exists.

11. 52 N. Sandusky Street. Latimer & Williams Block. Italian Villa style built in 1854. The stucco facing is a later addition and is tooled and scored to simulate cut stone. The north part of this building was the location of the post office from 1893 until a new Federal building (now OWU Ross Art Museum) was finished in 1911. Several interior skylights have been recently reopened and contain beautiful stained glass panels.

12. 51 N. Sandusky Street. C.F. Graff Block. Built in 1885 for Frederick Graff who was a boot and shoe dealer. The original cast iron columns are still in place although the entry doors are now set back.

13. 49 N. Sandusky Street. This building was built by J. & I. Day in 1850. The plain upper window style is a clue to its early construction date.

14. 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 N. Sandusky Street. Williams Block. This five-bay block was built in 1854 by Hosea Williams. The original architecture of the building made it one of the earliest Italianate business blocks in downtown. It replaced several smaller buildings on this corner. Some of the original limestone columns and lintels supporting the masonry wall above the storefronts can still be seen. Others have been replicated in an effort to restore the original appearance after storefront modernizations during the twentieth century. The second and third floors were used for multiple offices, and some of the original stairways are still in place. Although now painted over, the "Williams Block" name is still discernible in the center of the front cornice of the building. This building was modernized about 1890 with a completely new cornice design.

15. 43, 47 N. Sandusky Street. The Lamb's Block was built in 1871 by Henry Lamb, son of Delaware's first doctor, Reuben Lamb. Dr. Lamb had a drug store and residence on this corner. There were two first floor business rooms, offices on the second floor, and the third floor was a wool warehouse. This building was completely rehabilitated in the

1980s, with the original decorative cast iron columns still in place.

Winter Street Intersects

16. 41 N. Sandusky Street. The Peoples Building and Loan Association built this Art Deco style building in 1914. Note the "PBL" in the front cornice detail. While the lower portion of the façade has been modernized and covered with marble, the original architectural style can still be seen in the upper floors.

17. 40 N. Sandusky Street. This building was built in 1973 on the site of Delaware's first hotel. This contemporary building incorporates some materials and elements of Italianate architecture in its design, and was thought to blend well with the earlier buildings on the street.

18. 34 N. Sandusky Street. Delaware County National Bank was organized in 1854, and this building was erected in 1868. In 1885 the building was remodeled, and those changes can still be seen at the second floor level including the word "Bank." The first floor was modernized again in the mid-twentieth century.

19. 33 N. Sandusky Street. Built for J.J. Shur, this Second Empire "Mansard" style building was constructed about 1865 and occupied by a dry goods merchant.

20. 30 N. Sandusky Street. Reynolds & Frank Block, built in 1869. The Masonic Lodge rooms were on the third floor in 1870. The lodge rooms were later occupied by the I.O.O.F. for 65 years until they built their own building on W. Winter St.

21. 28 N. Sandusky Street. This two-story commercial building was built in 1869 by Leonard Bauereis who was a boot and shoe maker. It has been a shoe store for its entire history.

22. 26 N. Sandusky Street. First National Bank Building. The first floor was built in 1865, and the second floor was added in 1873 specifically for the Masonic Lodge. The Masons used this space until their new building at the corner of William and Franklin was completed in 1899.

23. 24 N. Sandusky Street. This Italianate building, known as "Oak Hall," was built for Benjamin Powers on the lawn of his home that stood just to the north. The iron work at the upper floor windows appears to be original to the building.

The unique octagon tower was built as an entrance and stairway to the upper floors of the building to its south. When the First National Bank added its second floor, the

tower was used as an entrance to that building also. The ground floor has been altered many times; look at the top to see its original design.

24. 21 N. Sandusky Street. In 1909 this Greek Temple, Neo-Classical Revival style building was built for the Deposit Banking Company, whose name still appears in the pediment. The bank was organized in 1887 and closed during the Great Depression of 1929.

25. 17 - 19 Sandusky Street. Templar Hall, built about 1853 by the Sons of Temperance, was remodeled in the twentieth century to give the appearance of a fashionable, Italianate style, building. The first floor contained at least two store rooms. The second and third floors were used for offices and/or lodge rooms and, for a time, were used by the county as court facilities. The building has been remodeled and added onto several times.

26. 18 N. Sandusky Street. Once Miller's Restaurant & Bakery and many other uses over time, including several department stores. Built as an Italianate style commercial building about 1870-75, its features include round-arch windows separated by brick pilasters and a decorative patterned-brick cornice. A slate Mansard style roof with small dormers was a trendy later addition.

27. 12 N. Sandusky Street. The *Delaware Gazette* office from 1877 until 1951 when they moved to 20 E. William Street. Recently they moved to an upper floor of 40 N. Sandusky St.

28. 10 N. Sandusky Street. This Italianate style commercial building was built in 1878 by the Riddle & Graff Cigar Company. The cut stone façade was a very elegant look in Delaware. Cigar manufacturing was a major industry in Delaware before the turn of the 20th century. This company was out of business by 1926.

29. 6, 8 N. Sandusky Street. Built in 1882 by R. Stern, Clothier, this Italianate style cut stone façade was built to match the Riddle & Graff building to the north.

30. 4 N. Sandusky Street. Grove Block. The stone facade on this 1882 commercial building was designed to blend with the adjacent Stern Block and Riddle & Graff Block.

31. 5 - 7 N. Sandusky Street. Frank Block. This building belonged to the Frank family for almost 100 years. The wire cut brick front was added to an older building about 1917.

32. 1 N. Sandusky Street. Built by Sylvester Latimer about 1835-40, it was Joiner's Drug Store in 1845. While the building has undergone many changes, its simple

Federal style form can still be seen. There was a drug store on this corner for over 100 years.

William Street Intersects

33. 1 S. Sandusky Street. The Delaware Municipal Building is located on the site of Delaware's magnificent first city hall. Construction of the original Second Empire style City Hall and Opera House was begun in 1879, completed in 1882, and lost to fire in 1934. The present building, a design of the Works Projects Administration,



was completed in 1936 and has undergone several renovations. The carved stone gargoyles resting on either side of the Sandusky St. entrance are from the first city hall.

34. 22 S. Sandusky Street. The Evans Block was built about 1868. Mr. Evans operated a plumbing and tin shop here. The second floor was used by the I.O.O.F. lodge and later the Fraternal Order of Eagles used the third floor room from about 1905 - 1908.

35. 35 S. Sandusky Street. The Delaware Underwear Company came to Delaware in 1902, and erected this Art Deco "fireproof" building in 1909. The architect was W.E. Rubs of Akron. It became part of the Ohio Wesleyan University campus soon after the underwear factory closed about 1935. The original windows and doors have been replaced.

36. 40 S. Sandusky Street. Built for William N. Noble in 1909, and occupied by Swickheimer & Noble Furniture Store. The builder was J.J. Swickheimer, father of one of the owners. This building replaced several small brick buildings.

Spring Street Enters

37. Ross Art Museum. Now part of Ohio Wesleyan University, this Renaissance style building was built in 1911 to be Delaware's Post Office on the site of Delaware's oldest brewery.

38. 39. Ohio Wesleyan University Campus. Established in 1842. The Campus is designated as an "Historic District" and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.