

# Champion Ohio Walking Tour

Long Version, 3 miles



Before you begin your walk, look around Veteran's Park...a park that has been called one of the most photogenic town squares in Ohio. Admire the domes of the City Hall and the Courthouse. Marvel at the foresight of Henry Champion, surveyor and investor in the Connecticut Land Company, who gave this park to the city in 1805, under the condition it always remain a park. The Gazebo is the stage for band concerts and seasonal events. Walk east to the (2) **Civil War Memorial** and Lincoln Marker. A wrought iron fence of a type commonly made in Painesville a century ago surrounds the 48 ft. monument. R. F. Carter made this monument of Vermont granite. It was delivered in 10 railroad cars and erected in 1880. The large granite boulder is the (3) **Lincoln Marker**. Its bronze plaque commemorates Lincoln's visit in 1861 and the return of his funeral train a few years later. Now cross to the (4) **County Administration Building** and walk along the west wall. The solid granite and sandstone walls testify to its original use as the Cleveland Trust Bank. Those interested in architecture should note the detailing along the roofline and the display window.

Go east down Main Street noticing the (4) **old traditional downtown feel** of the shops on the south side of the street. At the corner of Main and State Street, you can continue north on State Street, or (longer route) head down Main Street hill to cross the Grand River (\*Note: This portion of the walk is more strenuous). (5) **Main Street Bridge** and (6) **Abbott's Mill**. In 1807 Joel Scott constructed the first dam across the Grand River and the first grist mill here. In 1894, Jonathan Abbott became the owner. In 1909 he erected a concrete dam that withstood fire and water. (7) **Evergreen Cemetery** – Many of the names you see on headstones here can be seen on many local road markers. There are two Civil War Generals (General Jack Casement and General Joseph Porter) buried here. Howell Burr Treat is the only recipient of the Civil war Medal of Honor buried in a Lake County cemetery. He is just one of the 330 Civil War veterans, including two African American soldiers, and 13 Revolutionary War veterans buried on the cemetery grounds.

If you go north on North State Street, you will pass the (8) **St. James Episcopal Church**, the city's tallest building. Built in 1866, the Victorian Gothic style church with its 14 turrets stands 185 feet high. The interior moldings, sanctuary ceiling, doors and seats are the original oiled chestnut.

The 1926 Skinner organ and over a dozen gorgeous stained glass windows give a warm serenity to the interior. At 231 N. State Street you'll find the (9) **Lewis Morley House** which was built in 1836 by Jonathan Goldsmith, the renowned pioneer of Western Reserve architecture. Restored to its original grandeur in 2001, it is the last known all brick Goldsmith in the area and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Walk past the church and turn right on Railroad Street to (10) **Railroad Depot**. Built in 1893 by the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad, the Richardson Romanesque style building was considered the jewel of Painesville. In 1914, it became part of the New York Central, and in 1971 the last passenger train pulled out of the Painesville yard. Ownership of the station transferred to Conrail who used it for a signal department until 1992. In 1993 Edward Dunlap purchased the depot and in 1997 donated it to the Western Reserve Railroad Association. The building, currently under restoration, recently received an Ohio Bicentennial marker.

(11) **St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church** was established in 1856, with additions in 1895 and 1940. Until the 1850's, Painesville was considered a mission of St. John's Cathedral in Cleveland. In 1955, the church was razed and the present one built on the same site. (12) **Painesville Telegraph**. Started in 1822, owner Eber Howe used the newspaper to express his ideas about slavery, Mormonism, and his activity in support of the Underground Railroad. The newspaper, which ran until 1986, is now the home of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services.

Walk back to the corner of Main Street and North State Street where you can enjoy any of our downtown restaurants, coffee houses or bakeries, or return to Veteran's Park to conclude your tour.