

# Historic Downtown Painesville

Long Version, approximately 2.92 Miles



## Start at the Gazebo

*Before you begin your walk, look around (1) 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. Next is the (5) Painesville United Methodist Church (National Register). With its 2 towers (114 ft. and 97 ft.), the 24 ft. rose window of this 1873 church is composed of 1371 pieces of stained glass. An electropneumatic Schantz organ installed in 1993 dominates the interior. Beside the church is the (6) Lake County Courthouse designed by J. Milton Dyer and completed in 1907. The Women's Relief Corps presented the (7) flowerbeds and sundial to the GAR in 1925. The (8) 1000 lb. eagle is 145 feet high with a 14-foot wingspan. The 10 ft. clocks strike the hours with 2500 lb. bells. Take time to read the tablets on the front and determine which statue is (9) Cain and which is Abel. **(Inside amidst the marble floors and gilt cornices is a memorial to Samuel Huntington. Take the elevator to the second floor to view the murals depicting Lake County history).***

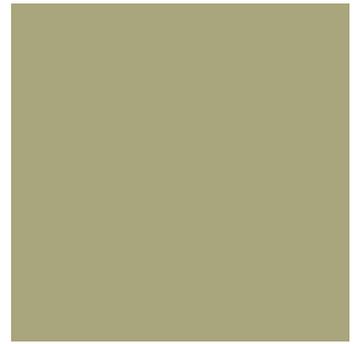


## As you proceed to City Hall...

As you proceed to City hall you will pass the (10) **Freedom Memorial** and **Old Post Office**. The memorial honors all who have served in the military. The post office, built of brick and sandstone like the courthouse is now the Courthouse Annex. Take a moment to examine its arched windows and Egyptian style columns.

As you approach the (11) **Painesville City Hall**, notice the Greek Revival annex to the right. This was once the Christian Science Church. The City Hall was constructed in 1840 as the original Lake County Courthouse. Its gleaming dome and Doric columns are its most eye-catching features. Go west past the Fire Department. The three flag poles are part of the (12) **9-11 Memorial**. Dedicated in 2011, the memorial is highlighted by an actual I-beam from one of the twin towers. At night, 2 spot lights shine upwards towards the sky, re Across the street is (13) **Fitzgerald's Irish Bed & Breakfast** (47 Mentor Avenue), a Tudor style home built in 1938. Next door is the (14) **Denton-Powers House** (55 Mentor Avenue), a wonderful example of Jonathan Goldsmith's architecture style. Built in 1820, this was the home of Dr. Denton, one of the area's earliest physicians.

(15) **Mentor Avenue Historic District** (National Register) is bound by Liberty Street (east), Washington Street (south), Mentor Avenue (north) and terminating at the intersection of Washington & Mentor near Lake Erie College. This district, which includes 54 buildings, is significant both architecturally for the variety and excellence of its buildings and historically for the people of both local and national reputation that lived there. Take time to wander down and back on (16) **Wood Street** for a quick look at the architecture. Except for six modest low-rise apartments and office structures, the District has few intrusions. Note the (17) **Ohio Historic Marker** in front of the (18) **Harvey Apartments** (143 Mentor Avenue). At the traffic light on Wood Street, cross Mentor Avenue and head west one block to Jefferson Street. On Jefferson Street, turn right and you'll see the oldest school building in the city, (19) **Jackson Street School** that serves as the school district's administration center. Diagonally across Jackson Street is the (20) **Miracle Revival Ministry**, the former Union Congregational Church, one of the city's oldest African American churches. Walking west on Jackson Street you'll pass the entrance to the (21) **Greenway Corridor**, a 4.4 mile trail maintained by Lake Metro Parks. Continue walking to (22) **St. John's Baptist Church** with its beautiful stained glass windows. Founded in 1893, the second oldest African American congregation was previously located on West Washington Street, opposite Lake Hospital. Walk past the church and turn left on Hayes Street and go to Mentor Avenue.



*Turn right and a two-block walk to (23) **Rider's 1812 Inn** will bring you to the walking tour's halfway point. A refreshing stop, this bed & breakfast has been in service since 1812. Ask for a tour of this historically significant stop on the Underground Railroad. Cross the street and walk back on the south side of Mentor Avenue to Hayes Street.*

For a shorter tour, turn left on Mentor Avenue at Hayes Street. When you arrive at the fork of Mentor Avenue and Washington Street, cross the street to (24) **Charter Oak Park**. The monument honoring Painesville's founder, General Edward Paine, stands in front of his grave. It was unveiled on July 2, 1901 by his granddaughter. Descendants of Paine, and the remainder by the S.A.R., the D.A.R, and area businesses raised half the cost of the

monument. Many of the large stately homes you see surrounding the park, such as the (25) **Johnson Funeral home**, the (26) **Pfabe Home** and the (27) **Steele Mansion**, were built as summer homes for wealthy Cleveland families. Ahead of you is the (28) **Smead House** (187 Mentor Avenue), a fanciful mix of turrets, bays and nooks. Across the street the (29) **Sessions House** (157 Mentor Avenue) is also called the Tuscan House. Built in 1873 for the widow of one of the earliest settlers and surveyors of the Western Reserve, it has been called the finest example of Italianate architecture in the nation.

Take time to wander around the campus of (30) **Lake Erie College** (National Register), formerly called the Lake Erie Female Seminary. (31) **College Hall**, the majestic administration building with the bell tower, is also home to several non-profit organizations such as the Painesville Area Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Lake County. For architectural buffs, visit the historic (32) **Morley Music Hall**, which houses a magnificent pipe organ and offices such as the Lake County Economic Development Center. At the eastern end of the campus is (33) **Dr. John Mathews' House**, which now serves as the college Alumni Center. Jonathan Goldsmith designed this physician's home in 1829. It was moved to the campus in 1952 in 3 pieces from its original site on North State Street.



College Hall





Continue down Washington Street to the former site of Thomas W. Harvey High School, named after the renowned educator who authored Harvey's Reader and Harvey's Grammar, successors to the McGuffey series of textbooks. Thomas Harvey also served as Superintendent of Painesville Schools, and as Superintendent of Schools for the State of Ohio. On the corner of Washington at Liberty you will see the (34) Lake County YMCA Historic Marker. Painesville is home to one of the oldest YMCA's in the state established in 1866.

**(35) First Church Congregational** was organized in 1810. This church was built in 1860 to replace the sanctuary that was damaged by a storm so powerful it blew the bell tower into the center of Veteran's Park. At 165 ft., it is the second tallest building in town. Its architectural style the unique Romanesque Revival that is reminiscent of medieval European churches. The walnut from the former church building was reused inside the structure, and the 1951 Aeolian Skinner pipe organ is one of the finest of its kind. Local rose breeders, Paul Bosley and Family, donated the Sanctuary's rose window and the abstract stained glass windows in the Chapel.

You are now back in the park.