



*Rossville Historic District  
Walking Tour*

R 977.1751 R CMR 3126  
Rossville Historic District  
walking tour  
REFERENCE--DOES NOT CIRC.

In the early 19th century, Rossville and Hamilton were separate towns, their borders marked by the Great Miami River. Rossville was laid out in 1804 and named for Senator James Ross of Pittsburgh, who was a friend of George Washington and General St. Clair. In 1803, Ross was instrumental in establishing free navigation of the Mississippi river — an important step in opening the Midwest for development.

This entire area was once part of the Hueston Farm. Matthew Hueston came to the area in 1793 and joined General Anthony Wayne's expedition against the Indians as a supply contractor. He bought 200 acres of land in Butler County in 1800 and within a year was the county's largest landowner with 2,600 acres. He served as justice of the peace from 1808 to 1831 and was also a county commissioner.

Rossville joined Hamilton in the spring of 1854. After a bridge was built to link Main Street to High Street, Rossville gradually became a bedroom community, and its agricultural businesses and famous breweries declined in importance.

The Rossville Historic District has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1975. This ten-and-one-half-block district comprises more than 130 buildings, chosen for their historical and architectural significance. The preservation movement in Rossville was started by residents who, working with architectural students from Miami University, researched and documented the history of the district. Their efforts led to the nomination of the District to the National Register. The Register listing assures the protection of the existing housing stock, while encouraging further preservation and rehabilitation.

This tour is designed to acquaint you with some of the Rossville Historic District's more unusual or significant homes. These homes represent a wide range of architectural styles common from 1830 to 1920 including Federal, Queen Anne, Italianate, Eastlake and several types of Revival. The tour begins and ends at 403 South D Street and should require less than one hour to walk. Parking along South D Street is free. An explanation of the District's architectural styles and details is included in the back of this booklet. Enjoy the tour.

### 1. 403 South D Street (circa 1910)



This Colonial Revival home features a gable dormer with exposed rafter tails, pendant, and vertical windows with a decorative glass pattern. The

roof has a slight bellcast shape, wide overhang, and exposed rafter tails. The full width porch is crowned by a central pediment that has an applied decorative pattern.

### 2. 401 South D Street (1906)



Local architect Frederick Mueller designed this Georgian Revival home, which was built for Will Andrews, a prominent contractor of the period.

Bowed bays on either side of the doorway contain three windows each of blown glass. The door and transom also contain blown glass. Both the front (South D Street) and side (Millikin Avenue) porches feature six Doric columns 1 and 1/2 stories high. The porches and entrance piazza are of Rookwood tile.

### 3. 399 South D Street (circa 1905)



This Bungalow-style home contains a distinctive rounded dormer with two diamond-pattern windows flanking a larger nine/one window and a

cone-shaped roof. The porch spanning the front facade has splayed columns and a balustrade clad with wood shingles. The family room to the right of the entrance is an addition executed in a style consistent with the original structure.

### 4. 379 South D Street (circa 1912)



This home is a fine example of Victorian Queen Anne architecture, the dominant style of domestic building from about 1880 until 1900. The style

borrows most heavily from late Medieval England. Note the classic gable and hipped roof that are characteristic of Queen Anne. The front porch of this Queen Anne Transitional contains Tuscan columns and a wood balustrade. The front gable peak features imbricated shingles and a hood over the window.

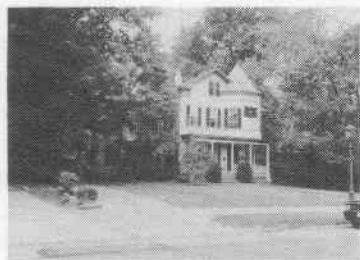
### 5. 375 South D Street



The late 19th century saw the beginning of a movement away from the less restrained architectural styles of the Victorian era. This Tudor Revival

home features the brick construction, steep pitched roof, and casement windows that are hallmarks of the style, rooted in 16th century Tudor England.

### 7. 341 South D Street (1870)



This Queen Anne home was built by Charles Hossfeld, an early businessman important to the development of Hamilton. The house has remained in the same family throughout its

existence and is currently occupied by the great-great-granddaughter of the builder. Note the tower with turret; Gothic arched windows on the attic gable; and wraparound porch with Tuscan columns, wood balustrade, and dentils in the frieze area.

### 6. 371 South D Street (1920)



An unusual Spanish Colonial Revival home incorporates red tile “awnings” and small turrets on the side facades, capped with tiled hip roofs. An iron

railing tops the portico over the central entrance. A parapet wall with rectangular openings tops the building. The house was occupied in 1927 by Christian Schantz, secretary of the Frank Schantz Co., a bedding manufacturer located at Seventh and Walnut.

### 8. 219 South D Street (1862)



Built by Isaac Robertson, a teacher and attorney, this white brick house is a fine example of Victorian architecture that incorporates elements of

Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Colonial Revival design. The entrance is covered by a pedimented gable peak supported by Corinthian columns. The central front bay – featuring a central gable peak, a round arched window, a balcony, and decorative bargeboard – accentuates the dramatic setting atop a

### 9. 133 South D Street (1922)



This Tuscan Villa – Romanesque home was built by local newspaper editor Homer Gard. Note the sculpted stone and fluted pilasters of the door

surround. The Spanish tile roof and front piazza paved in a herringbone pattern are also noteworthy.

### 11. 312 Ross Avenue (1836)



This Federal Transitional painted brick home is the oldest of three adjacent townhouses built flush with the sidewalk. Note the differences between this house

and 304-306 Ross Ave. which was built in the 1870's. The entrance displays bracketed entablature, pilasters, and recessed door with transom.

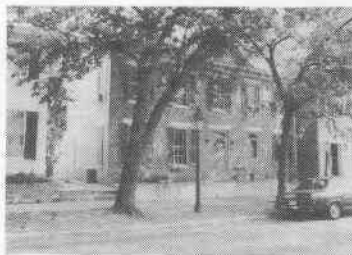
### 10. 404 Ross Avenue (1859)



This superb example of Federal Transitional architecture was the first building in Hamilton to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It was built by Daniel Rumble, a hardware merchant, and later became the home of George K. Shaffer, a prominent coal and grain dealer at the turn of the century. Note the hitching ring and block at the curb.

### 12. 304 - 306 Ross Avenue (1870 or 1871)



Also Federal Transitional, this row house is flush with the sidewalk and separated from its neighbor by a common wall. The Flemish bond brick structure

features stone lintels and sills and sits atop an Ashlar cut stone foundation.

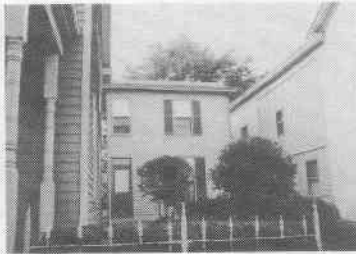
### 13. 35 South D Street (circa 1895)



This Victorian Vernacular residence was built by George P. Sohngen as living quarters for his groom. The home was built right up to the property line and has no back

door. The front gable peak features imbricated shingles and decorative attic vent. Recent renovations include a one-story dining room addition and glass enclosure of the front porch.

### 15. 27 South D Street (circa 1845)



This Federal brick structure originally comprised a single room. In 1880, a two-story addition was added to the front of the structure. Restoration took place in the late 1980s.

### 14. 29 South D Street



This two-story frame building features lap siding and rubble stone foundation. Two, two-story additions are elaborated at the rear of the structure – one behind the other.

The four adjacent structures in this block were purchased and renovated by Ann Antenen in 1985.

### 16. 23 South D Street (1840)



This simple Federal style two-story residence features a stone foundation supporting brick load-bearing walls. Radiating voussoirs top the full-length first-floor windows in front. Box gutters complement the gabled roof. An extensive renovation/restoration was conducted in the late 1980s.

### 17. 240 Ross Avenue (1898)



Currently a funeral home, this imposing Queen Anne house was built by George P. Sohngen, a prominent turn-of-the-century banker and civic leader.

The complex roof

contains a cupola in the center and large gabled dormers in the front and on the sides. The eclectic Queen Anne style is elaborated by a large round tower with a semi-spherical cap, topped by a large finial.

### 19. 216 Ross Avenue (circa 1900)



Architect George Barkman was an early resident and may have built this Colonial Revival home with its symmetrical façade. The

entrance door has leaded glass sidelights and transom. The front porch roof, featuring a strong front gable with crest and carvings, is supported by Ionic columns. The hipped roof dormer includes dentils and four attic windows flanked by pilasters.

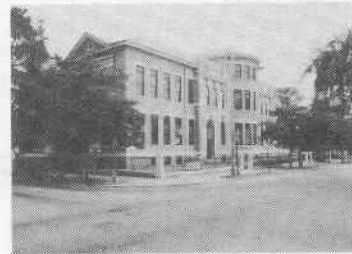
### 18. 228 Ross Avenue (1832)



The oldest known structure in the historic district, this Federal Transitional home was built by carpenter Alanson Stibbens. Asymmetrical brick windows include

splayed vertical brick lintels. The recessed door with arched brick surround is not original.

### 20. 140 Ross Avenue (1902)



Originally an elementary school known as the Miami School and the Adams School, this Classical Revival structure is now the Rossville Senior

Citizens Center. Round arch windows with brick surrounds and wood keystones are of interest. This design is echoed in the main entrance with its round arch, radiating stone surrounds with keystone, and quoins at the side.

**21. 103 South B Street (1870)**



This striking Federal residence was built in 1870 by Daniel Sortman, a merchant, for his son William, who ran a stable.

**22. 117 South B Street (1859)**



This Greek Revival brick home was built in 1859 by S.K. Lighter, a businessman who had owned a frame shop and stable on this same site.

Windows feature wood shelf lintels with brackets and plain stone sills. The door is recessed and has 3/4 sidelights and beaded molding. The portico with fluted columns is a later addition.

**23. 121 South B Street (1841)**



This Vernacular Greek Revival home was built in 1841 by William Leflar, a stockholder in an early turnpike company. Plain stone lintels and sills, along

with the recessed porch on north façade, articulate the style. The Pedimented hood over the entrance appears to be an alteration.

**24. 133 Ross Avenue (1845)**



This notable Greek Revival house was built by Benjamin Roberts on land purchased in 1838 and was later home to Hamilton Mayor Alexander Getz. A

rubble stone foundation supports common bond brick walls and a gable roof. The symmetrical facade includes windows with stone lintels and lug sills. This home received an award for outstanding restoration in 1984 from Miami Purchase Association.