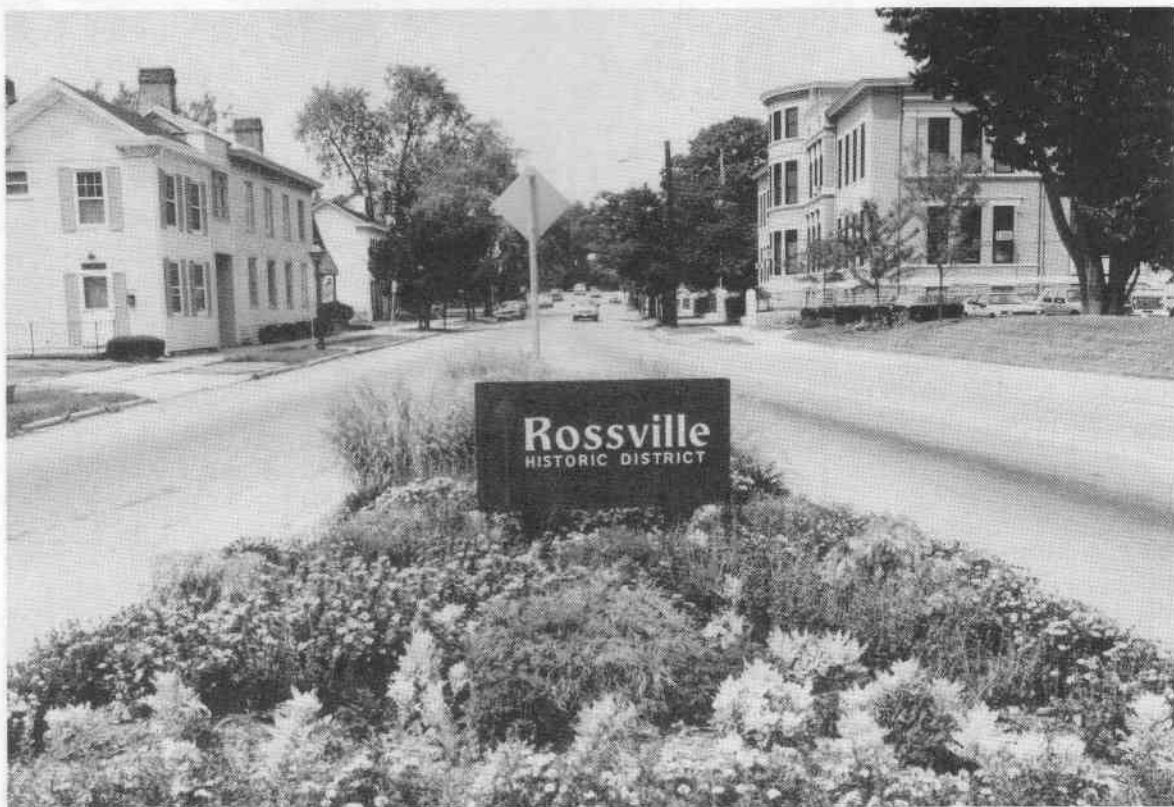


# Rossville 1994



**ABOVE:** Looking west along Main Street from B Street intersection in August 1994.  
**BELOW:** Rossville Historic District sign and median planting in foreground, looking west along Ross Avenue from B Street intersection. Photos by Gene Howard.



## Rossville Historic District recognized in 1975

*Residents of area and city cooperated in gaining status;  
preservation association incorporated in 1976*

The Rossville area gained recognition as a historic district in 1975.

Placement of the neighborhood on the National Register was supported by Hamilton City Council and the Hamilton Planning Commission.

The National Register of Historic Places inventory and nomination form was completed by the city in April 1975. It was filed with the National Park service, which maintains the registry.

Official announcement of acceptance of the Rossville Historic District came in October in a letter to Mayor Frank Witt from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Area residents formally accepted the designation in a program Nov. 22, 1975.

The district covers most of the area west from South B Street to South E, and south from Ross Avenue to Millikin Street and Amberly Drive, including C and D streets, and Franklin, Arch, Hueston and Home streets.

Talk of a Rossville historic area started in the early 1970s.

In 1972, the city created a Historic Resource Task Force to evaluate Hamilton's historical assets. That led to the recognition of three historic neighborhoods - German Village, Rossville and Dayton Lane.

Among those promoting Rossville for historic designation was a group of about 40 to 50 residents of the neighborhood. From its meetings in 1974 emerged the Rossville Historic Preservation Association.

The association was incorporated in September 1976 by Jeanne P. Fisher, George Turnbull, Herb Webb, Kenneth T. Reed and Paul Thoms. Mrs. Fisher also spoke for the group before city organizations in the formative years.

"Trying to save the old brewery was one of the association's first efforts," recalled Thoms, who is president of the group as this is written in 1994. (The former Mason Brewery on South C Street, near Millikin, was razed in 1977.)

With city cooperation, the association erected district signs, enhanced by recent plantings. Most notable has been the flower bed in the median at the intersection of South B and Ross Avenue.

The group also has promoted neighborhood cleanup days, holiday decorations, periodic house tours and a meet-the-candidates night.

Members have compiled and updated a walking tour brochure for the neighborhood.

Activities have included out-of-town tours to other historic districts, the Rossville neighborhood picnic, an Oktoberfest and an old-fashioned summer garden walk.

Emily Reed was president of the association for 12 years.

"The City of Hamilton has been wonderful in working with us," said Thoms. A cooperative project on the drawing board for 1995 is a study of the South B and South C streets area, which could be a step in improving that section.

There are about 110 buildings in the district, according to Thoms. He said the association has more than 50 members, including residents and others interested in preserving the area.

Also promoting the area is the Main Street Area Association, which was formed in 1989. It includes leaders of more than 50 West Side businesses.

# Old Rossville

"Old Rossville" by Fannie Smith Tobey was published in Stella Weiler Taylor's Jan. 20, 1940, column in the Journal-News.

Old Rossville, we think of thee  
often these days,  
For the city has changed, and so  
have folks ways.  
In those days our Main Street had few  
stores and mills.  
And now it is crowded from bridge  
to the hills.  
At that time the lights came from  
lamp-posts (a few),  
And dim, smoky lanterns were  
carried then, too;  
The pigs and the cows wandered  
aimlessly on  
The doorstep, the brick walk, and  
over the lawn.  
Lace mitts were then worn, and hats  
that were flat,  
And ladies took care in the manner  
they sat.  
The waists were quite small, in fact  
some did pinch  
That they might just measure  
a correct 18 inch;  
Gaiters with tassels were worn  
on small feet,  
And trains of great length swept  
the dirt on the street.  
The Straub House - in Rossville -  
gave air to the place  
And drummers all flocked there  
its table to grace,  
For the meals that were served there  
were known far and wide.  
(In those days, old Rossville was  
called the "Best Side").  
What a shock would the old Straub House  
drummer receive.  
Were he to return! He would  
surely believe  
When he saw the paved streets and the  
cluster lights gay  
That he'd made a mistake and was  
on big Broadway!

*History and records  
are our business*



**Joyce Thall**  
**Butler County Recorder**

Paid for by Thall for Recorder, JoAnn Jonson, treasurer,  
695 Marcia Ave., Hamilton, Ohio 45013

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Anyone in the market for a nice Blanket will do well to look us over before they buy.

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**The Hamilton Hardware Co.**

No. 10 Main Street

Journal, November 1910

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NO. 31 AND 33 MAIN STREET,

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**Steel Ranges, Cooking  
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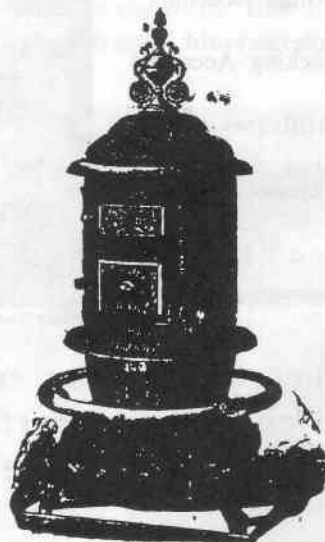
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Made by F. & L. Kahn & Bros., Hamilton,  
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Made Either Round or Square,

**USE WOOD OR COAL.**

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As we handle Heaters for any size building,  
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31 AND 33 MAIN STREET, HAMILTON, OHIO.

Republican-News, October 1901



Above is the two-story Straub House in a photo probably taken in the 1860s. Below, in an 1891 photo, is the three-story hotel on the northwest corner of Main and A streets. More details on pages 59-62.

