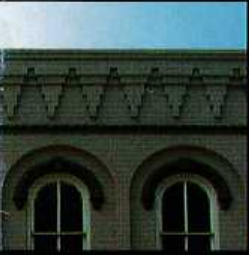




CANAL FULTON

HERITAGE & TOURISM



- GAME BOARD
- WALKING TOUR
- POSTER



Canal Boats & Grain Mills

Early 19th century northeast Ohio was the western frontier. Settlers moved west looking for good land and a new life. In 1814, the first area settlers chose the west side of the Tuscarawas River to establish the town of Milan. In 1825, the state canal commission chose the east side of the Tuscarawas River to build the Ohio & Erie Canal. A year later Mr. Lathrop and Mr. Christmas of Canton laid out the village of Fulton on the east side of the river.

As the Ohio & Erie Canal developed, Stark County's Tuscarawas River Valley sprouted 25 new villages. Ten overland routes converged on the newly named Village of Canal Fulton and two bridges connected the two villages. By 1830 Canal Fulton had a post office, three warehouses, two taverns, two stores, seven houses and a population of 40. This inland port's growing prosperity contributed to the 1853 annexation of an additional village—West Fulton—and its former rival, Milan.

Canal Fulton's downtown was anchored by the respectability of Public Square (Canal and Market) at one end, and the highly suspect character of Brimstone Corners (Canal and Cherry). The merchandising and storage district contrasted with the saloons and lodging houses—Brimstone boasted a liquor establishment on every corner, framing frequent spontaneous boxing matches.

The canal was lined with grain warehouses, their upper floor doors and extended gable peaks protecting winch beams jutting out over the street and canal. Small canal-era, wood frame buildings with Greek Revival influenced entablatures and cornice returns still stand along



Canal Street and the Ohio & Erie Canal. The town's double-parlor type houses are products of the canal era and many still have the log walls from their first days as log cabins.

Railroads & Coal Mines

By the 1870s coal mining drove Canal Fulton's economy. "Pinchgut," "Battle Axe" and "Crow's Nest" were some of the names for the 30 mines in the region that produced a high-grade hard coal. Industrial operations lined the west bank of the river. Manufacturers of coal mining equipment, such as the Canal Fulton Pit Car company and the Canal Fulton Tool Works added to the industrial base of the Victorian era economy.

Brick and stone commercial buildings replaced the timber frame and wood sided canal era structures. Large wood frame warehouses adopted more urban functions becoming hotels and even an opera house. The mining-era masonry buildings had ornate roof cornices, column

capitals, and window lintels typical of the Italianate and Queen Anne style buildings. Some buildings—such as the Robinson House—are a combination of both with a grand Italianate style house (1867) fronting a smaller and earlier (1840) Greek Revival house.

Fires & Floods

Canal Fulton's growing prosperity began to wane with the coming of the 20th century.

In 1901 a fire destroyed 10 businesses on Canal Street. The 1904 flood caused major damage to buildings along the canal and a year later the area coal mines were depleted. The flood of 1913 devastated the entire canal system, including the recent repairs made in an attempt to revitalize the waterway. Canal Fulton became a rural byway, sharing little in the new motorized industrial economy. The following 80-year period saw an increase of only 210 people in the town's population.

Although "progress" had by-passed early 20th century Canal Fulton, the remaining 19th century buildings give the town an authentic and charming character lacking in many other communities. The downtown, canal, and surrounding neighborhoods were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 as a Historic District. Canal Fulton is part of the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway and the CanalWay Ohio National Scenic Byway. The operating St. Helena III canal boat, the Old Canal Museum, the replica St. Helena II canal boat, the Hike/Bike Towpath Trail and Boardwalk, and the specialty stores and restaurants are some of the many attractions for you to enjoy in this 19th century canal town.

Cherry Street during the 1913 flood.



How well can you see the past in today's Canal Fulton? Look at the historic buildings on the walking tour and play the "Matching Past to the Present" board game. See if you can find the historic pictures of current buildings, or find the building that has one of the pictured architectural details.

When you open to the inside game board, each letter in a square of the outer band matches a number in a square of the inner band. Can you find today's buildings in the 19th century pictures? If you look closely at the buildings can you find the corresponding architectural details such as: stained glass, brackets and frieze panels, and roof pediments?



Can you match the past to the present?

How well can you see the past?

Out of 23 possible correct answers, how many did you get right—and what does it mean?

23 – 20 Correct

You firmly grasp the continuum of time, simultaneously valuing and desiring items past and present. It's a good time to go shopping. Then go dining.

19-15 Correct

You see some trees, but have difficulty visualizing the proverbial forest perhaps due to sun-glare, fatigue, and the wrong shoes. Seek immediate comfort and nourishment at one of Canal Fulton's fine restaurants. Then try shopping.

15 – 10 Correct

Your perception of detail lacks clarity preventing the formation of focused parallel perspectives. Avoid the Canal water, but try some spicy foods at one of Canal Fulton's fine restaurants. Pause briefly to allow your head to clear—and then go shopping.

5 – 0?

You may not know what town you are in. Act on above advice early and often—and then go shopping.



National Register Historic District

Additional Sites:

- a** Oberlin House, 1847
- b** Ruch House, 1845

+++ Coal pit cars were manufactured in Canal Fulton
 +++ Canal muck boats provided passenger service until 1850
 +++ This bird was the logo for the town paper "The Signal"
 +++ Belgian Percheron draft horses pulled the canal boats

COMMUNITY PARK

TUSCARAWAS RIVER

Walking tour

FILL IN THE BLANK TO THE LEFT
WITH THE CORRECT MATCHING NUMBER.

A St Helena II Canal Boat, 1860 and 1870. Packet boats plied the Ohio & Erie Canal through Canal Fulton, connecting the outside world to the growing valley village.

B Sheldon-Rueling House, 1860 and 1870. The former "Live and Let Live Saloon" and a lime and fertilizer warehouse were moved to this site in 1973 and joined to create the Old Canal Museum.

C Blank Grocery and Warehouse, 1843. The gable roof peak extends to protect a winch beam that supported the weight of cargo being stored in the upper floor.

D Barber Shop Building, 1870. A "boom town" front with Italianate details makes a bigger façade for this small gable-front building.

E Gorman Tin Shop, 1870/ Hardgrove Building 1840s. Double gable peaks and Greek Revival details characterize the canal-era Hardgrove Building.

F Disebinger House, 1840s. Set back from the street, the community knows this small frame Greek Revival style building as Dr. Disebinger's House.

G Sullivan House/ Library, 1879. Originally an Italianate House, in 1949 the building was remodeled and expanded in the Colonial Revival style. The recently completed library expansion is consistent with the style of the original building.

H Salem Reformed Church, 1881. German immigrants built this church which features colorful stained glass and Bavarian influenced onion dome.

I Prexta House, 1870s. A popular 19th century house type, this Gabled-Ell features slender first floor windows and a small quatrefoil attic window.

J Albright House, 1868. An Italianate House with later Colonial Revival porch.

K Newt Myers House, 1878. A Queen Anne house with stick style decorative truss work in gable apex and hexagonal porch corner.

L Sts. Phillip and James Church, 1868. Original spire was tall enough to be the first sight to greet canal boats

M Blank House, 1903. The gambrel roof with curved lower slope caps this Dutch Colonial Revival House with numerous Queen Anne details, such as the oriel bay window and the cameo window.

N Vanderhoof-Bliler House, 1889. Overlooking the Ohio & Erie Canal, this house features a spindle work wrap-around porch and decorative roof gables and was owned by Canal Street haberdashers "Vanderhoof & Bliler: Clothiers, Hatters and Furnishers".

O Keller House, 1840/80s. This double parlor, vernacular canal-worker house became a "Saltbox" with 1880 addition.

P Early 20th century post-card looking down Canal Street shows a horse and buggy on a dirt road, but many buildings look familiar.

Q Finerock Furniture Building, 1906. The Finerock Brothers were furniture makers and undertakers. Part of the building's painted-on "Chew Honest Scrap" advertisement appears in historic photographs.

R Robinson House, 1840s, 1867. Built by "grain merchant prince", John Robinson, the high style Italianate house features ornate brackets and frieze panels. The original Greek Revival residence is attached to the back.

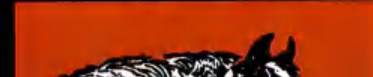
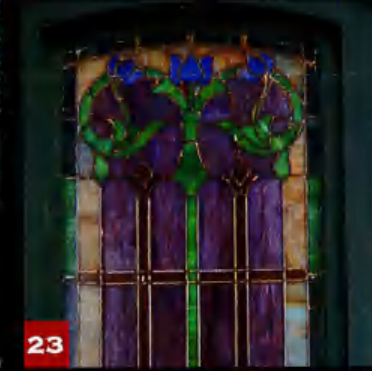
S Exchange Building, 1896. "Money Earns Money" states an 1899 advertisement for the Exchange Bank, reminding Canal Fulton "it costs you nothing to open a saving" [sic].

T An 1870 map of Canal Fulton illustrates the town's transition from a canal town to a coal mining and railroad town. "X" marks the spot of Public Square.

U Union Block, 1876/Billings Dry Goods 1880. These attached Commercial Italianate style buildings have original scrolled brackets, window hoodmolds, arched pediment, large display windows and cast iron columns.

V Fulton Signal and Colonial Market Buildings, 1880s. The town newspaper, *The Fulton Signal*, and a men's clothier occupied these Italianate style buildings.

W The E. R. Held Building, 1896. Grocer Held assured residents that "The children are always anxious to see the good things in the baskets that come from our Store"



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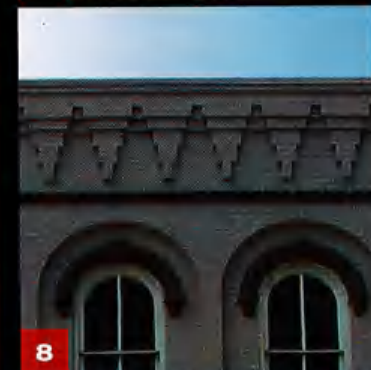
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1892

MAIN STREET
CANAL FULL



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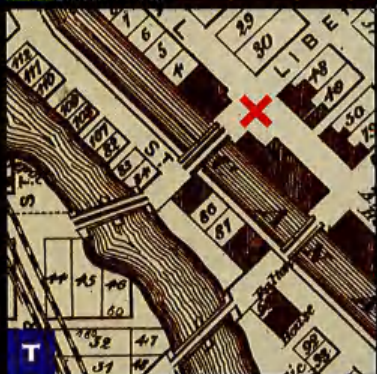
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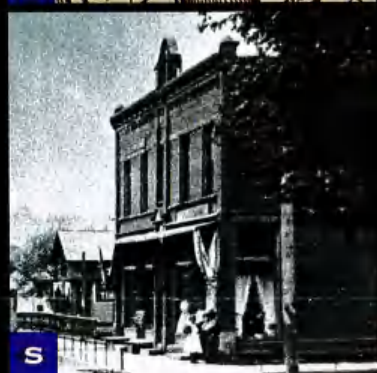
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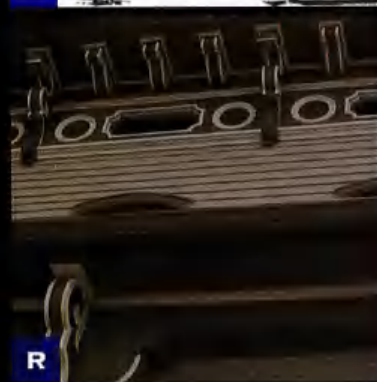
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18



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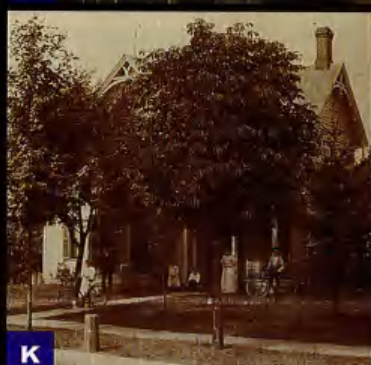
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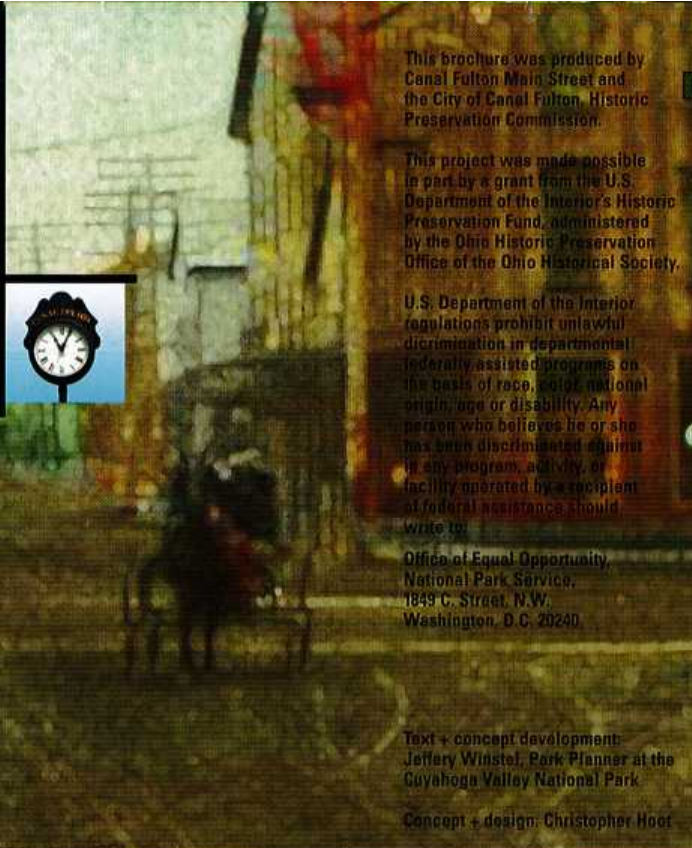


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