HISTORIC URBANA OHIO
SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

SCIOTO STREET

Urbana is the county seat of Champaign County, Ohio. Established in 1805. It was the site of the first Scioto Street, laid out on March 1, 1805. The town’s founder was William Ward, named Urbana after the word urbe meaning sophistication & refinement.

Urbana grew slowly. In 1840, the town had just 1,070 residents. Twenty retail stores, four churches, two newspapers, two machine shops, an iron foundry, and an em mill existed in the community. With the completion of three railroads, which connected Urbana to the rest of the state most easily, the city grew, and by 1880, 6,252 people in 1,880. Five newspapers, eleven churches, four banks, and numerous manufacturing establishments existed in the town by 1886. The town contained three broom manufacturers, while other businesses produced stoves, carriages, leather, machinery, iron castings, and numerous other items. Urbana was also home to Urbana University, established in 1850 by the Swedish Congregationalists. During the nineteenth century, frontiersman Simon Kenton and Ohio Governor Joseph Vance both resided in Urbana. They are also both buried in a local cemetery in Urbana. The town was so named “Scioto” because it points a diagonal fashion. The appearance of the exterior of this house is an example of our Victorian ancestors’ skill in combining elements from different architectural styles. Note the Romanesque facade from door and the round-headed window at the gable: the Italianate brackets under the eaves and the Dutch influenced steep roof on both sides. The home has a ballroom on the third floor.

SCIOTO STREET

205 Scioto Street
Built on the original plat of Urbana, this home was built around 1857, but land records show it was owned in 1877 by James E. White. Doors between the parlor and dining rooms, have a central hall and elegant staircase. One of the owners in 1946 had a mural painted by local artist Ann Roth on the wall of the parlor.

293 Scioto Street
This beautiful home was built around 1850 and is a Central Gothic Revival design. It offers a central door, Doric pilastered entrance porch windows and a shallow pitch roof. This home has three bedrooms and 1.5 baths and is 3,028 sq. ft.

301 Scioto Street
This lovely home was built around 1850 and is a Colonial Revival design. It offers a central door, Doric pilastered entrance porch windows and a shallow pitch roof. This home has three bedrooms and 1.5 baths and is 1,893 sq. ft.

320 Scioto Street
This Georgian Revival was built in 1859 housing 2,924 sq. ft. with 4 bedrooms and 2 baths. Enjoy the elaborate central entrance with Ionic doorway & porch. Inside has French doors, 5 decorative fireplaces and behind it a beautiful carriage house.

332 Scioto Street
This house was built around 1853 and features pocket doors between the parlor and dining rooms, has a central hall and elegant staircase. Enjoy the decorative central entrance with Greek Revival window on the facade of the house.

335 Scioto Street
It is believed that this home was built around the 1830s and lived in by Abraham Shadleker and wife Elizabeth. They had three children: T.L., Albert, and James. Abraham was a carpenter by trade. The pleasing appearance of the exterior of this house is an example of our Victorian ancestors’ skill in combining elements from different architectural styles. Note the Romanesque facade from door and the round-headed window at the gable: the Italianate brackets under the eaves and the Dutch influenced steep roof on both sides. The home has a ballroom on the second floor.

Abraham C. Jennings (1847 – 1889) owned the Nutwood Farm house on N. Main Street (N. 600 South end of airport). The farm dates back to 1815 and is listed on the National Register Of His- toric Places in 1976. Edward & Abigail were born in Urbana in Urbana. They are also both buried in a local cemetery in Urbana. The town was so named “Scioto” because it points a diagonal fashion. The appearance of the exterior of this house is an example of our Victorian ancestors’ skill in combining elements from different architectural styles. Note the Romanesque facade from door and the round-headed window at the gable: the Italianate brackets under the eaves and the Dutch influenced steep roof on both sides. The home has a ballroom on the second floor.

SCIOTO STREET
543 Scioto Street

This property has a lot size of 25,215 square feet and was built in 1850. It was occupied by James M. Russell, who owned the Hitt and Fuller Dry Goods business in the square of Urbana. In 1872, the home was sold to Charles Oonk, who operated a livery stable and hotel. In 1889, the home was owned by Charles Oonk and his wife Liza. Oonk was a local tailor with a shop on Monument Square. This is a Victorian Gothic home with deep pitched roof and multiple gables surrounded by an ornamental iron fence.

452 Scioto Street

This red brick beauty was built in 1893 and was designed by Frank Packard of Columbus, Ohio. The home was built for Harvey Loudon, a partner of Kirby Hatchery. The house was sold to Read Real (President of Perpetual Savings and Loan). The family lived here for 60 years. The home features grand staircases, custom molded, cornered wooden shutters, wood floors and a grand staircase.

549 Scioto Street

Around 1875, this Queen Anne home was built for Portrait Sterling, a local painter. This house has fashionable fish scale shingles on the gables. The pleasing appearance of the exterior of the house is an example of our Victorian ancestors’ skill in combining elements from different architectural styles. Interior moldings are Greek revival and the house has four bedrooms on the second floor with an open staircase going up to the third floor. It offers a grand central dining room with beautiful marble fireplace. The dining room windows feature an etching in the glass which reads “Mr. Bennett’s 1892”.

511 Scioto Street

This lovely old Italianate style home has Grice Street to since 1849. When this house was built, there was no street or road, only a few houses were on the street. The house has 3,235 square ft. with a beautiful, large yard & garden. It was built by Christopher Kenpa and his wife Susan. In 1856, the home was sold to Jacob Lynden and his wife Liza. Loma was a local tailor with a shop on Monument Square. This is a Victorian Gothic home with deep pitched roof and multiple gables surrounded by an ornamental iron fence.

505 Scioto Street

Built in 1853, believe it or not, this house was moved to its present location. The house displays what is called musical sound which means that the border of each stone is beveled or curved. The roof features eave doors, which are windows shaped somewhat like eyes with the roof curving smoothly over the window. There are stained glass windows on the rest of the belvedere walls. The walls of the home are masonry and wood shingled with windows that have decorative and patterned panes. The Cupola has louvers to provide ventilation.

430 Scioto Street

The main house was built in 1872. Carriage house built in 1859 in the main house initially. In 1916 the carriage house was converted for cars instead of horses. Stucco was layered over the original clapboard and a large addition was added to the main house in 1917. The home was owned by Lemuel Weaver and Tornlannah Marshall who were co-inventors and developers of the "familiar red, green, water". The walls of the home are masonry and wood shingled with windows that have decorative and patterned panes. It is believed that James M. Russell built this home in 1888. In 1903 the mortgage transferred to Eliza-B. Berry. The Berry’s family, who owned a large clothing store in downtown Urbana. Griffinville. A local jeweler. This house has fashionable fish scale shingles, eyebrow dormers, which are windows shaped somewhat like eyes with the roof curving smoothly over the window. Around 1875, this Queen Anne home was built by Porton Bennett, a local jeweler. This home was built in 1899, the home was purchased by George and His Humphrey. Mr. Humphrey was an undertaker and founder of G. Humphrey & Sons (President of Perpetual Savings & Loan). The family lived here for 60 years. The home features grand staircases, custom molded, cornered wooden shutters, wood floors and a grand staircase.

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Did you know that Urbana University was established in 1850? It gracefully sits on 120 acres between Beavercreek and High Street. It shares the same corner as our Urbana courthouse. Our courthouse is an example of our Victorian ancestors’ skill in combining elements from different architectural styles. Interior moldings are Greek revival and the house has four bedrooms on the second floor with an open staircase going up to the third floor. It offers a grand central dining room with beautiful marble fireplace. The dining room windows feature an etching in the glass which reads “Mr. Bennett’s 1892”.

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