



# The Canal Society of Ohio

550 Copley Road  
Akron, Ohio 44320

The Canal Society of Ohio is the primary canal organization in the state. In 1961 the volunteer group was founded, dedicated to restoration, education, research and preservation regarding all Ohio's canals. Its early members were primarily from the northeast region of Ohio but it soon became a statewide society.

The Canal Society of Ohio, (CSO), is open to all. It hosts two daylong tours and three half-day mini tours each year, and publishes *Towpaths*, a quarterly journal of historical canal research.

The Canal Society supports funding for Ohio State-wide canal related historical markers, educational programs, and artifact preservation, through grants and volunteer involvement.

Presently we have supported and archived historic canal documents available in the archives of the University of Akron and Wright State University. We have also given a grant to the Ohio History Connection to digitize in high resolution, the maps of the Ohio Canal Commission and field notes available in that historic societies archives.

CSO resources are spread out around the state and there is no one permanent place to display and research all of the Ohio canals in one place.

Chillicothe has significant historical heritage, it was the Northwest Territorial capital and the first and third capitol of Ohio. Several governors and statesmen were residents and it has the Hopewell National Park, a world heritage site. Also included in this list is the (James) Emmitt Canal Warehouse.

Chillicothe has many canal era brick buildings along Water Street built after the April 1, 1852 fire that destroyed the original wood frame warehouses and dictated a change in law requiring the construction of brick structures. Most were completed within 2 years of the fire.

We support the creation of Preservation Hall and a Ohio Canals Museum with the Canal Urban Park on the original canal lands highlighting the 15 canals and feeders, feeder reservoirs, aqueducts, and locks, in the state.

With more attention given to the area via the World Heritage designation and an intact stretch of canal era buildings, this would be an ideal place for such a development.

Mike Morthorst, President  
The Canal Society of Ohio

Andy Hite, Vice President  
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