

The Twinsburg Historical Society Downtown Walking Tour

This tour, designed to take you on a stroll past many of the century buildings and other historical sites that are located within walking distance around the Square, will give you the opportunity to share the heritage of Twinsburg.

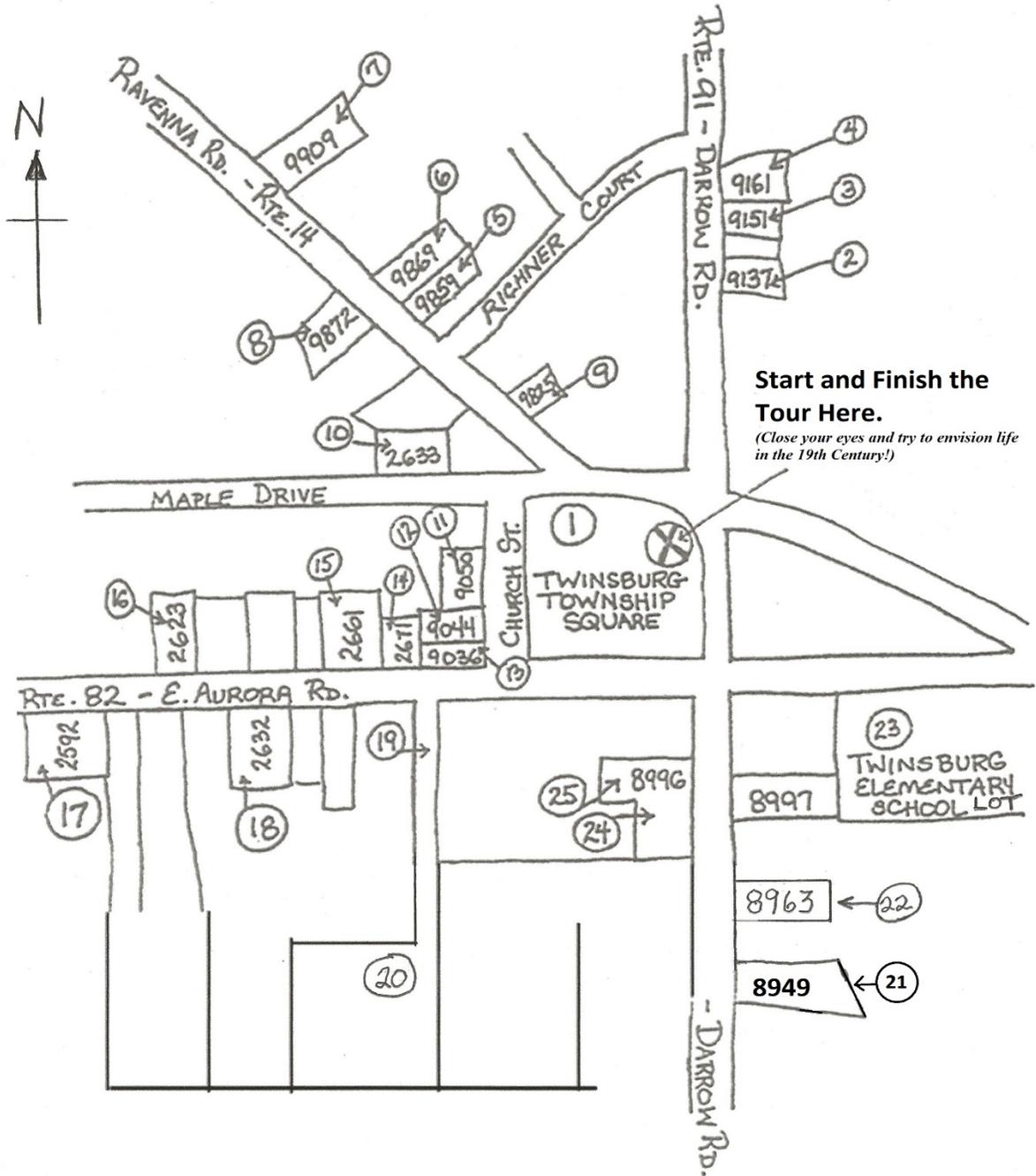
Some of the homes have been in the same family for generations, while others have been transferred by countless owners. Some can even be traced back to the original builders. Several of the buildings look much the same as they did when they were built, either by being carefully preserved or by being carefully restored to their original design. Others have been remodeled or added to, sometimes beyond recognition. Still others have suffered by time.

You will find, in this document, a map of the tour and a description of the sites, along with a little history about them. Each site is numbered on the paragraphs about them and a corresponding number on the map shows their location.

The tour begins and ends at the Civil War Monument on the Square. Suggested walking directions are north on Darrow Road (Route 91), across Richner Court to Ravenna Road, right on Ravenna Road, then loop back towards the Square. Make sure not to miss Dr. Chamberlin's house between Ravenna Road and Maple Drive. Walk south on Church Street, turn right on E. Aurora Road (Route 82) loop back and enter Locust Grove Cemetery. After reaching Darrow Road (Route 91) again, walk north on Darrow Road to the Square. Public street parking is available on Church Street.

We hope this tour will put you back into the nineteenth century, before the days of automobiles, when people walked around the town as a natural form of transportation. You may be surprised how many friends you meet along the way!

Twinsburg Historical Society Downtown Walking Tour Map



#1: The 'Square'

Being located in the geographical center of Twinsburg, this park has been the focus of the residents' social life through the years. Six acres of land for a park and \$20 to start a school were given by the Wilcox twins in exchange for renaming the town of Millsville "Twinsburg" in their honor. The park first served as a grazing spot for animals and has played host to many Home Days festivals and Christmas Lighting displays. The base of the Civil War Monument is solid sandstone quarried in Twinsburg. The marble upper portion of the monument is inscribed with the names of the 120 volunteers from Twinsburg who served in the Civil War. The top is surmounted by a large spread eagle. A replica of a civil war cannon is a recent addition to the park. A stroll around the Square reveals monuments dedicated to our veterans of WWI, WWII, the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War. There is also a Wilcox twins' memorial.

#2: 9137 Darrow Road

This home was built sometime in the 1840's. The home was known as the Isaac Jayne House. Mr. Jayne was a quarryman, Justice of the Peace, and Sunday School teacher.

#3: 9151 Darrow Road

This house was built before 1840 by Jared Atwater. He sold the home in 1840 to Professor John Fessenden, who taught music at the famous Bissell Institute. Mr. Fessenden was a band leader during the Civil War and formed the Criterion Band in 1884. This was the first organized band in Twinsburg.

#4: 9161 Darrow Road

The house next door to the Fessenden house, is approximately 150 years old.

#5: 9859 Ravenna Road

The original part of this house was built around 1850. Part of a butcher shop which was located across the street was moved to the rear of the house.

#6: 9869 Ravenna Road

This building was built about 1830 by a prominent Twinsburg merchant, Harvey McFarland. It was also owned by teacher, Eliza Reed. Over the years, it has been remodeled extensively and now houses apartments.

#7: 9909 Ravenna Road

This 'Shotgun' house was built in 1844. A shotgun house is small and square, and if a gun was fired through the front door, the bullet would exit through the back door.

#8: 9872 Ravenna Road

This century home is unique in Twinsburg because of its tower like structure on the side.

#9: 9825 Ravenna Road

The home of the VFW and Twins day Committee. Prior to that it was the home of the fire department and police station. It was built in the 1860'2 and was originally a Baptist church.

#10: 2633 Maple Drive

This century home was built by Ethan Alling in 1837. It is framed with 4 X 4 oak studding and sided with whitewood. The home was later owned by Dr. R. B. Chamberlin, and his son, Dr. Glenn Chamberlin, used it for his office. It has been owned by only two families in its one hundred seventy-five years existence.

#11: 9050 Church Street

This peaceful white church overlooking the Square was built in 1847. It is the classic New England style architecture with its toll spire and simple lines. Its design is attributed to master builder Simeon Porter. The bell in the tower was used to announce church meetings, fires, and deaths. It was tolled once for each year of the age of the deceased. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

#12: 9044 Church Street

Moses Roach, the village blacksmith, built this home in 1873. This century building has seen many uses over the years from single family residence to boarding house and apartments to housing several businesses. It is now the home of the Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center. The building has been purchased and renovated by the City of Twinsburg. The Chamber of Commerce offices also house a permanent collection of local artwork.

#13: 9036 Church Street

This home was built circa 1875 and was heated originally by a wood burning stove. The foundation is constructed of sandstone which was quarried in Twinsburg.

#14: 71 E. Aurora Road

The home was built about 170 years ago. The first known owner was Adam Stingle who was the village blacksmith. The original oak beams run through the center of the house and the floor joists of roughly sawed popular are still in the home.

#15: 2661 E. Aurora Road

This home was built in 1839 as the Methodist Parsonage. The lot was purchased by the church for \$100.

#16: 2623 E. Aurora Road

This house was built about 150 years ago and was the First Congregational Parsonage until 1927. Its first owner was Mrs. Lewis Alling and she donated the Western Reserve style home to the church.

#17 2592 E. Aurora Road

Across the street, this house was built before 1830. Its earliest known owner was Deacon Junia North who came to Twinsburg in 1824

#18: 2632 E. Aurora Road

Heading back toward the Square, we come to a home built around 1845 and owned by three doctors in succession. Each used the eastern wing as an office.

#19: Locust Grove Cemetery

Continuing down the road, the next point of interest is Locust Grove Cemetery. The 1½ acres for the cemetery was purchased by Ethan Alling in 1846 and the first burial occurred in July 1846. Many of the original settlers of Twinsburg are buried here, including the Wilcox Twins, Ethan Alling, and the Reverend Samuel Bissell. The cemetery is planted with locust trees and surrounded by a fence of stone quarried in Twinsburg. The historical marker at Locust Grove Cemetery is the only one in the state of Ohio marking a cemetery storage vault. Due to modern construction, Locust Grove Cemetery is now much more visible and surely reflects progress and history, side by side.

#20: Grave of the Wilcox Twins

Moses and Aaron Wilcox gave Twinsburg its name, and its Public Square. They were unique in that they married sisters, had an equal number of children, held their property in common, were taken ill of the same disease, died on the same day, and are buried in the same grave. Their grave stone has been replaced by the Twinsburg Historical Society and the original, much weathered, stone is on display at the Museum.

#21: 8949 Darrow Road (Torn Down)

This home was built around 1840 and was known as the John Clark House. The house has changed considerably over the years as it was remodeled. One complete wing was removed.

#22: 8963 Darrow Road

This is one of the most fascinating houses in Twinsburg. It was built in the 1870's by Dr. Luman Griste, one of the town's earliest doctors. All the outside entrances have stone headers and thresholds. An original brick wall still stands in the kitchen where the room was added. There is a story told by some that the house played an interesting part during the Civil War. Slaves were brought in from Tinkers Creek through a tunnel to the basement of the house and then transported to Hudson as part of the underground railway.

#23: 8997 Darrow Road (Torn Down)

This building, though not yet 100 years old, is historic to many in Twinsburg. It was built in 1921 to replace a wooden edifice on the same location, which was the first centralized school in town. It housed grades kindergarten through twelve until 1958, when R. B. Chamberlin High School opened. It continued in use as an elementary school until June 4, 1992 when it closed its doors as a school. It was the home to The Angel Wings Foundation, the Twinsburg Senior Center, the UAW Daimler Chrysler Training Center, and a branch of Kent State University. It will forever be known to residents as "the old school". It was torn down in 2018.

#24: 8996 Darrow Road

Presently the home of the Twinsburg Historical Society, this structure was built in 1860 by Reverend Bissell, largely with his own hands. Originally two stories high, the second story was removed when the building settled and became unsafe due to the weight of the stones. The building housed the Twinsburg Institute until Reverend Bissell's death in 1896 at the age of 98. In the course of his teaching, more than 6,000 students received an education. After remaining vacant for a number of years, it was sold to the Grange in 1917. A kitchen was added to the rear of the building and it became the social center of town where many dinners and dances were held. In 1963, because of the declining membership, the Grange donated the building to the Historical Society. The building has applied for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

#25: 8996 Darrow Road

Your last stop on the tour is this carriage barn built around 1870 by Dr. Seth Freeman. The Freeman horses were the fastest in town and on busy nights the doctor could be found sleeping in his carriage in the barn, dressed and ready for the next call. The foundation is constructed of sandstone quarried in Twinsburg, and the 40' by 60' barn has three stories, hand hewn pegs and rafters, an elaborate cherry staircase and individual stalls for six horses. The Mail Pouch Tobacco sign on the northwest outer wall is the last one painted by famous barn painter, Harley Warrick.