

## NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- **Barkcamp State Park** - Located three miles south of Morristown off Route 149, Barkcamp has a 117-acre lake and offers camping, boating, fishing, swimming, hiking trails, and other recreational activities.
- **Crooked Creek Golf Course** - This 18-hole public course is located one mile south of Morristown on Route 149.
- **Jamboree In The Hills** - Four day outdoor country music festival held each year in July, at its permanent site located three miles east of Morristown along the National Road or Route 40.
- **Great Western Schoolhouse** - National Road West. This little red schoolhouse was constructed in 1870 and still contains old-fashioned desks, McGuffey Readers and a potbelly stove. Call Belmont County Tourism office at 800-356-5082 for tour information.

## WHERE TO DINE

- **Bel-Morr Cruz Thru and Quizno's Restaurant**, Route 149, 1 mile south of village.
- **Mary Ann's Schlepp's Restaurant** - Family restaurant, Route 149, 1 mile south.
- **McDonald's** - Route 149, 1 mile south.
- **Fast Lane Café** - National Road, at east corporation limit
- **Mi Ranchito** - Authentic Mexican restaurant, National Road, three miles east of Morristown.



## Morristown Historic Preservation Association

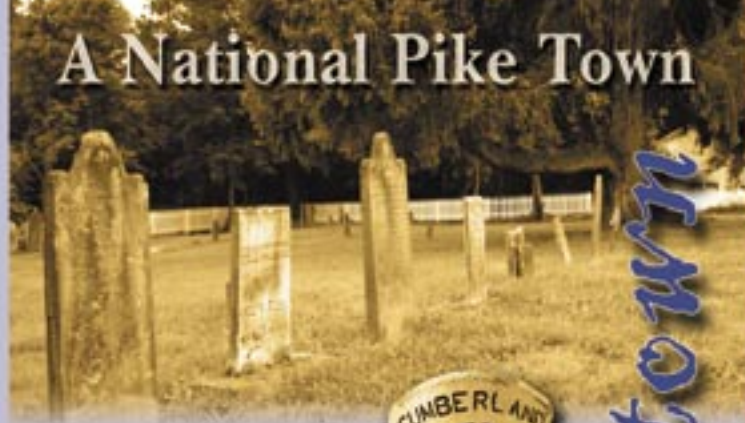
The Morristown Historic Preservation Association is a non-profit organization with the purpose of preserving and enhancing the historic integrity of the village and creating an awareness of its significance.

Organized in 1984, MHPA accomplishes its goals through a variety of means. Holiday home tours, National Pike Festivals, the Morristown Miniature series of houses and special events help the organization raise money to fund restoration and maintenance projects.

For more information write to:  
**Morristown Historic Preservation Association**  
 P.O. Box 102, Morristown, Ohio 43759  
 740-782-1161 or 740-782-1512  
[www.morristownohio.com](http://www.morristownohio.com)

This brochure funded by a grant from the Belmont County Tourism Council.

# A National Pike Town



# 1802



# Morristown



Milner Family at 317 Main Street

# Historic Morristown

## On the Old National Pike

Older than the state of Ohio itself, Jonathan Zane and William Chapline laid out the village of Morristown, Ohio on April 14, 1802, providing a new settlement for those willing to carve out a new way of life in the wilderness.

Morristown is named for Duncan Morrison, an early Justice of the Peace who operated a tavern in 1807 that would later become the Black Horse Inn. Travelers found Morristown situated along the National Pike.

In 1825, construction of the National Road began in Ohio. Soon it brought commerce to those who had settled here. According to the *1880 History of Belmont and Jefferson Counties*, the village "drove quite a lively trade." An important stagecoach stop, 600 residents supported dry good stores, hotels, shoe and saddler shops, blacksmiths, tailors and stonemasons. The village prospered and so did the people, who were able to replace their original log cabins with Greek revival, Federal, Italianate and wood frame structures.

Many of the bricks used in building were fired on site and laid in the Flemish bonding pattern, a rarity for this region. It wasn't until the railroad bypassed the village to the south in the 1850s that Morristown's prosperity began to wane as trade moved to the rail.

Morristown was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 after a small group of preservationists realized its significance and began restoring the neglected historic structures. Spearheading the effort was Margaret "Peg" Dankworth, who helped found the Morristown Historic Preservation Association. Efforts by this non-profit organization continue as the group works to preserve and enhance the historic integrity of the village and create an awareness of Morristown's significance as one of the best preserved examples of a National Pike Town.



Storefront at 315 Main Street

## The National Road Scenic Byway

The 700-mile National Road was the nation's first federally funded interstate highway, conceived under the Presidency of Thomas Jefferson. The Road starts near Baltimore, Maryland and makes its way through Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana and Illinois to East St. Louis. Construction began in Cumberland, Maryland in 1811, reaching Ohio in 1825.

The Historic National Road was designated a state scenic byway in 2000 by the Ohio Department of Transportation and an All-American Road National Scenic Byway by the Federal Highway Administration in 2002.

The road that passes through Morristown and across the state is designated by official Ohio Historic National Road signs. Watch for them on your travels and discover the many reasons why the National Road is "The Road That Helped Build a Nation."



For more information about the National Road, pick up a copy of *A Traveler's Guide to The Historic National Road in Ohio* by Glenn Harper and Doug Smith, available through the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, 567 East Hudson St., Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030 or call 614-298-2000.

# Historic Morristown Walking Tour

The Morristown Historic District takes in Main and Church Streets from intersection of Church and West Main to East Cross Street. We suggest that you start at the Post Office and begin walking west on Main Street, making a loop that will bring you back to the Post Office.

## Main Street

The original National Pike

*The first three houses listed are located just east of the Historic District boundary.*

**124 Main Street** - Two story Federal brick home built in 1851.



**135 Main Street** - A Greek Revival entrance enhances this typical Federal brick home that was built in 1844 by John Berry, a tanner.

**137 Main Street** - This two-story brick located across from the Post Office was built circa 1855.

**Morristown Post Office** - Morristown claims site of the oldest postal service in Ohio and one of the oldest in the country.

**204 Main Street** - Kelly-Kemp-Braido Funeral Home - James H. Arnold was inspired by the Federal style and built this brick home in 1847.

**205 Main Street** - Court records indicate that Samuel Dillenbaugh purchased this property in 1839 and this Federal brick was built in 1841. The original brick may have been replaced or added on to.

**210 Main Street - Roseberry House** - David Roseberry, a stone mason, built this two-story Federal brick in 1849.

**215 Main Street** - Jacob Dovenbarger owned this property as early as 1815. James Harper owned the lot and a house in 1837 and this home is believed to be that structure that was "improved" by 1851.

**Morristown State Bank** - 301 Main Street - This tall, narrow frame building was built in 1867 as a nail factory and later was the site of the Morristown Cigar Factory. The Milners, a prominent Morristown family, operated the Morristown State Bank here for many years in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The original safe remains inside.



**Pioneer Cemetery** - This site was dedicated as a cemetery at the time Morristown was platted in 1802 and is one of the oldest in Belmont County. It is where Duncan Morrison is buried as well as many first settlers and soldiers of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. The Morristown Historic Preservation Association maintains this burial ground.

**304 Main Street - Eaton House** - Italianate in design, this house was constructed between 1876 and 1880 and is more in keeping with the Victorian style that was popular during that period.

**Gazebo Park** - Three historic buildings originally sat on these lots. The Morristown Historic Preservation Association purchased the land and erected the gazebo in 1998. Further development of this area is planned.

**311 Main Street - Swaney House** - Built in 1846, this Federal home of brick serves as a field lab for the nationally-recognized Building Preservation Technology program at Belmont Technical College. It was donated for this purpose by Peg Dankworth, founder of Morristown's preservation movement.

**306 Main Street - Brooks House** - Ebenezer Brooks, an early merchant, built this brick colonial in 1841.

**308 Main Street** - This frame structure was built in 1866 and the two large windows flanking the central entrance reveal its original purpose as a store.



**310 Main Street - Hamilton House** - Robert Hamilton, a tanner, built this large frame structure in 1846.

**315 Main Street - IOOF (International Order of Odd Fellows) Building** - Merchant Samuel Hanauer built his business on this site in 1840. It became the International Order of Odd Fellows' lodge and later housed a grocery store.

**317 Main Street - Hanauer House** - Samuel Hanauer built his family this two and one-half story Federal home in 1841. It features a restrained version of the classical trim that is generally associated with the Greek Revival style. The Milner family purchased it in 1871.

**Black Horse Inn** - This building is a Morristown landmark. The original section, erected circa 1807, was where Duncan Morrison had his tavern. It was later known as the Horner House, Wright Hotel (*see cover photo*) and Shriver Hotel. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Black Horse had the reputation of being one of the finest supper clubs in the area due to its fine fare served by liveried waiters and three ballrooms where dinners, dances and political functions were held.



**402 Main Street** - A blacksmith shop was located here at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Row Houses - 403-409 Main Street** - Constructed in the 1840s, brick row houses like these were prominent in communities that prospered during the 1830-1860 period. The first important building block in a commercial streetscape, they share common walls in the Federalist style, which were relatively easy to construct and then alter.

## Church Street

Original Zane's Trace (Wheeling Road)



**400 Church Street - Dr. Ephraim Gaston**, a prominent doctor, built this home in 1845 atop a knoll on the old Wheeling Road. It is a typical example of the one and one-half Greek Revival style of architecture reflecting the emigration of the Scotch-Irish from eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware.

**401 Church Street - Fox House** - George K. Fox built this brick Federal in 1841. Records indicate that Duncan Morrison's first tavern was located on this knoll along the old Wheeling Road.



**405 Church Street** - Nicholas Rogers built this two-story frame in 1841. He and his son, Hugh Rogers, whose home is found at 417 Main, operated a tannery across the street from this house.

**Morristown Town Hall** - Erected in 1837 as a Baptist Church, the Morristown Town Hall serves as the seat of village government and community activities.



**303 Church Street - Hazlett House** - Morristown's first homes were log cabins that were replaced by the improved structures seen today. This house, circa 1836, rests atop the rough-hewn logs of the original log cabin that stood here between 1804 and 1832.



**404 West Main Street - Bernhard House** - The wagon maker Jonas Bernhard built this home in 1838 that is referred to as a half-house. Records show that a frame section was added on the back around 1845, but it rotted and was torn off during restoration. There were no nails found, only wooden pins and pegs. The frame section seen today was added in the 1990s.

**411 West Main Street - Robert Davidson** built this house in 1847 after the Gothic Revival style. It was sold to the Methodist Church in 1917 and served as the parsonage until 1964.



**417 Main Street - Rogers House** - A two-story brick with an interesting cupola, this house was built by Hugh Rogers before 1844.

**Our Churches** - Three churches, beautiful in their simplicity, stand along the old Wheeling Road. The Presbyterian Church was built in 1849; the Methodist Church in 1862; and the Christian Church, circa mid 1800s.



**Historic Note:** Morristown's first school stood on the expansive yard between the Presbyterian and Methodist churches. Fire claimed the brick structure in the 1940s and all that remains is the old well pump across the street where the children refreshed themselves.

### Other Notable Sites Outside Historic District

**Morristown School** - West Cross Street - Formerly known as Union Township School, this brick structure was built in 1938 and closed in 1998. The brick add-on in front was erected in the 1970s.

**Pike View Farm** - Main Street - Henry Bethel Staggs erected this brick home for his bride, Mary Bramhall (*see cover photo*), in 1864. A stone mason by trade, he fired the bricks for the house in a kiln across the street.

**Brick Road Segment** - A segment of the original National Road can be found adjacent to Route 40 at the east entrance to Morristown. It is one of approximately 22 relic portions of the National Road that have been documented.