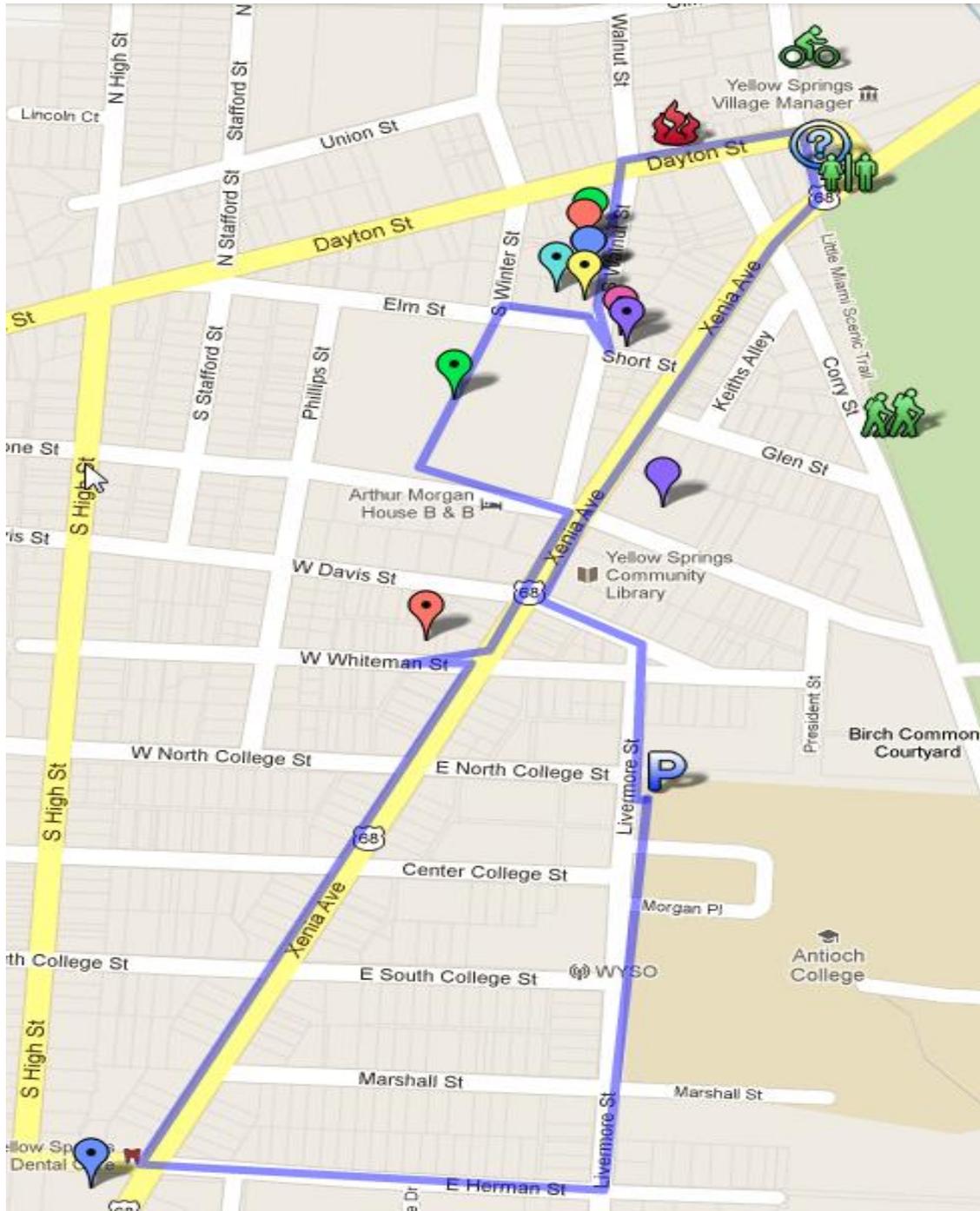


Yellow Springs *Historical*



Photograph courtesy of Antiochiana, Antioch College.

Walking or Cycling Tour



KEY:



Parking



Little Miami Scenic Trail



Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce & Information Center



Restrooms



Site of 1895 fire



Glen Helen Nature Preserve

History

The Village of Yellow Springs is known today as an eclectic village of artisans, educators, and musicians. Visitors come to Yellow Springs in order to enjoy local restaurants, unique shops, cultural events, and recreational activities that are offered throughout the village. In addition to the cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities Yellow Springs has a rich and diverse history waiting to be shared.

The Village of Yellow Springs has approximately 4,000 residents and is located in Greene County in southwestern Ohio. Yellow Springs has always had a special place in the hearts of many people over the years. Native Americans, including Tecumseh, once called the surrounding forests their home. In 1825, Yellow Springs was inhabited by the Owenites, a short-lived cooperative community. The Reverend Moncure Daniel Conway arrived in town with a group of free slaves, in 1862, who he believed could live a safe and prosperous life here in Yellow Springs. Yellow Springs became a place for new beginnings and rejuvenation. The healing waters of the Yellow Springs, where the village derived its name, spurred the development of resorts and health spas in the village.

The arrival of the Little Miami Railroad in 1846 provided further economic growth and prosperity to Yellow Springs. The railroad brought visitors to the resorts and goods to the local businesses. The opening of Antioch College in 1853 provided the village with a strong educational foundation. That same year, William Mills marked off the initial 436 lots on 37 streets of Forest Village which was incorporated into the Village of Yellow Springs.

Antioch College

Antioch College was founded, in 1850, by the Christian Church, as a non-sectarian, coeducational institution. Horace Mann, a leading authority on American education reform, was Antioch's first President. Mann promoted a liberal arts education focusing on history, science, and literature. Beginning with the Presidency of Arthur Morgan, (1920-1936), students alternated between the traditional classroom experience and co-op experience. Antioch College has produced a number of notable alumni, including Clifford Geertz, Coretta Scott King, and Rod Serling. In 2008, under the leadership of Antioch University, Antioch College was closed. The Alumni rallied together and raised enough money to purchase the College. In 2011, Antioch College reopened its doors as an independent, Liberal Arts Institution. Antioch College has gone through many reincarnations, and like a phoenix has always risen from the ashes.



1108 Xenia Avenue-The Hamilton-Carr House

This beautiful brick, Greek-revival home on Xenia Avenue has a rich and diverse history that has played a role in the history of Yellow Springs. From brick makers, early political leaders and local horticultural entrepreneurs, the former owners of this home have all had a social, economic, and political impact on our village. Tax records suggest that this house was built about 1854 by John W. Hamilton. Hamilton was a brick maker, Justice of the Peace, lawyer, and also served as the mayor of Yellow Springs for four different terms. The Hamilton's sold the property to Elmer and Margaret Bailey who soon thereafter began a horticultural business. In 1923, William Wallace Carr purchased the property and expanded his family nursery business. Carr and his sons created a thriving nursery business, shipping plants across the country.



111 West Whiteman Street The Octagon House

Tax records suggest that the Octagon House was built and occupied by Julius Cone around 1854. This style of house was popularized in the 1848 publication of Orson S. Fowler's *A Home for All* and may have inspired Cone to build this home. Julius Cone was a local surveyor, inventor, and was the Drum Major for the Ohio 154th Volunteer Regiment in the Civil War.



200 South Walnut Street Mills Lawn-the Means Property

This lot was originally owned by William Mills who is often considered to be the "father" of Yellow Springs. The original Mills home was built on this property around 1843. The grounds of the residence were filled with pathways and gardens and people were welcome to walk through the "park" at any time. It seems that this was Yellow Springs' version of 'Central Park'. In the 1920s, this was the site of a local drama between Pearl Means and Antioch College. The house served as a dormitory for Antioch College between 1922 and 1948. In 1949, Antioch College gave the deed for Mills Lawn to the Yellow Springs School Board and in 1953 Mills Lawn School opened. In 1966, the mansion was torn down and today the property continues to house Mills Lawn Elementary School.



212 Elm Street

Tax records suggest that this house was built by Calvin S. Pennell, nephew of Horace Mann and professor at Antioch College, about 1859. A local inventor, Jeremiah H. Little, who was also a local grain dealer once lived here. Later, in 1966-67, this house served as the Peace Corps Office for Antioch College.



136 South Walnut Street-The Cox House

Tax records suggest that this beautiful, Greek revival influenced home was built around 1850 by Samuel & Mary Ann Gilmore. According to the 1850 Federal Census, Samuel was a dry-goods merchant. This house was later owned by Calvin Pennell, nephew of Horace Mann and an early Antioch College faculty member. In the late 1860s, this home was owned by D.M. Moore, a former minister of the Presbyterian Church. The family of General William Rosecrans lived in this house for several years during the Civil War. Samuel Cox and family owned this property from 1885-1947. Cox was the town blacksmith and was also a veteran of the Civil War.



141-143 South Walnut Street-The Wolford House

Tax records suggest that this house was built around 1857 by Samuel Buckley, a local botanist. Deed and tax records indicate that Horace Mann owned this property from 1859-1863. Mann died in 1859 and the property was not sold until his estate was settled. According to some of the early deeds, the neighboring property (between the house and Deaton's) was the home to the original Antioch College Bookstore. J.N. Wolford, former editor and owner of the Yellow Springs News, owned this property from 1920-1928.



139 South Walnut Street-The Wolford Cottage

Tax records suggest that this brick Federal style cottage was built prior to 1848. Between 1853 and 1856 the property was owned by A.S. Dean, spouse of Rebecca Pennell (Horace Mann's niece). The property was owned by James McKinney, who was a Captain in the Civil War and an Antioch College Board member, from 1908-1914. In 1920s this cottage was home to the Yellow Springs News when the property was owned by J.N. Wolford, the Editor of the paper.



128 South Walnut Street

Tax records suggest that this Gothic influenced house was built about 1858. The property to the north, was once home to one of the local blacksmith shops. In 1952, this house was occupied by Thomas M. Tchou and family. Tchou was a leading authority on housing, social, and labor problems of China.



120 South Walnut Street

Tax and deed records suggest that construction of this house began about 1855 when the property was owned by Dr. Elihu Thorn. Tax records suggest that the construction on the home was not completed until the 1860s. The property changed hands several times during this period and there is no indication why the construction of the home stalled for so long. According the 1870 federal census, Joseph and Mary Parrot had several boarders living in the home.



114 S. Walnut Street

Tax records suggest that this Greek Revival influenced house was built about 1850 by Frances Kolp. Shortly after completion of the house, it was sold to Sarah and William Jackson. It was a very simple house with 3 bedrooms and an outhouse attached to the barn in the rear. In 1868, tax records show that a brick addition was added. An office was part of this addition along the side alley. Again in 1878, a second one story wooden addition was added. The history of the additions is visually authenticated by the difference in window lintel styles, and the change from brick to wooden building materials for the second addition.



Dayton Street

Dayton Street was the hub of the retail establishments in Yellow Springs until a fire in May 1895 destroyed much of the downtown area. The building located at 116 Dayton Street is the only original building that was not destroyed in the 1895 fire.



***The Depot-Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce
101 Dayton Street***

Yellow Springs Station is a replica of the 1880s train depot reconstructed in 2001 a few hundred feet north of the original location using pieces salvaged from the original building by local railroading enthusiasts. Today it serves as the office of the Yellow Springs Chamber of Commerce, an information center and public restrooms, offering a welcome respite to the thousands of cyclists annually riding the Little Miami Scenic Trail, a 150 mile multi-use path from Cincinnati to Urbana as part of the Rails to Trails program.



321 Xenia Avenue-The Barr House

Tax records suggest that this house was built by William Mills in 1844. In 1849 the home was purchased by William H. Grimes who was a local physician and druggist. The house was later owned by Rebecca Thompson and her descendants, from 1894 until 1987. Among the Thompson descendants was William Barr, for whom the house was named.

