



20. 114-116 S. Main Street, one of the oldest buildings in town, it used to be the fourth frame building from the railroad. The 1880 Historical Registry states it was called Rose's Restaurant. A recent, extensive restoration project brought the building back to near original condition. H

21. Private Residence, 117 N. High Street, this white two-story home is an example of a Sears & Roebuck house which came in thousands of pieces by rail and was assembled by a local carpenter in 1916. Inside the house, the carpenter signed his name along with the date. 

22. Private Residence, 124 E. Taylor Street, known locally as the Willauer House, this house was the first home in the town with running water. Currently under restoration by the owner, the fine oak

paneling, woodwork, flooring and pocket doors are among the many original features of the home being preserved. Many photos of this home are also available in the Archival Library which have aided the owner in restoring the front porch.

23. Gulf Station, N. Main Street, another example of restoration activity in Mt. Victory. You may be lucky to find the owner, Mike Trout, at the station to show you around and tell you about this project. 

Mount Victory Archival Library
Open by appointment
or by stopping in library
Phone 937-354-4445 or 937-354-3334

800-883-2328
Plaza Inn
MT. VICTORY, OHIO
Casual Family Dining
and Caterers
www.plazainn.net

HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO

**Village of
Mount Victory**
est. 1851

**A Self-Guided Tour
of Mount Victory
Historic District**

Use this guide to visit Mount Victory's historic district. Expect a relaxed pace, off the beaten path where people say hello and greet neighbors by name.

www.MountVictory.com



Henry Martin Mural Park, N. Main Street, this park is located on the original site of Henry Martin's Store which was a three-story cinderblock building. It was destroyed by a fire in 1993. Purchased by the Mount Victory Community Development Association for \$12,000, the lot was developed through donations and the hard work of the organization and volunteers. The mural was painted by Jim Daly, a former Mount Victory student and the gazebo was styled to fit the railroad theme of the mural. Today, it is a good place to watch the estimated 3,000 cars and 1,000 trucks that come through the village daily.

In 1851, stores and cabins were erected mostly near the Town Cemetery and lumber and general merchandise were the principal businesses during the early years. There was also a brick factory located on Main Street, which produced the brick used to build early businesses and residences.

Land for **Mount Victory** was purchased in 1830 by Cyrus Dille. History states Cyrus' son, Ezra, founded the village in 1851 "just in the nick of time" as the land was to be sold off to Samuel McCullough who had laid out the nearby village of Ridgeway. When Ezra won the bid, it was declared a "Victory", hence the town was named Mount Victory. www.mountvictory.com

1. Brick Building at Corner of Main and Taylor Streets, this building was originally built by John Willauer and has been used for many businesses including a lawyer's office, newspaper office, one of the first Dairy Queens in the area, variety stores as well as antique shops. At one time, the children of Mount Victory bought their school workbooks and pencils here. A picture of the building with the original owner can be seen inside the business. H

2. Mount Victory United Methodist Church, 115 N. Main Street, the first congregation began meeting in 1832 at various homes, barns and schools in the area. This building's cornerstone was laid May 3, 1903 with the cost to build at \$15,000. Until the 1970s, the church had a fine pipe organ. The stained glass windows are Tiffany. H

H Denotes inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or a Contributor Building

4. 105 E. Taylor Street, this building was made from the brick produced by one of the three brickyards located in the village in 1903. Over the years, it has been a bakery, doctor's office, pizza parlor, and four different antique shops. H

5. Old Buggy Shop, 117 E. Taylor Street, this cinderblock building was also made from local blocks. In addition to a buggy shop, the building has been used as a Chevrolet garage, paint and body shop, and implement store. Today the building houses a locally owned business that machines manufacturing products. H

6. Park Place, 205 E. Taylor Street, this 1860 Italianate home was named "Park Place" when it was built by Peter S. Howe as his newly wedded residence. He was a banker and proprietor of a general store in Mt. Victory and lived at Park Place until 1885. This property has changed owners many times since in its 150 year history and today is both a private residence upstairs and a framing and antique business downstairs for the current owner. H





7. Corner of Hale & Taylor Streets, brick house was built in the late 1880's and the front door, including the screen door, are original. Iron fence was moved from a county cemetery. Property was purchased by the present owners in 1986 and it was uninhabitable at the time, including no ceiling plaster in any of the rooms. Shop is

an original barn on the property that was repurposed with recycled materials and white garage is also original to the property. Other buildings have either been moved from other locations or built by the owners for their collections. The garden was started in 1986 with the moving of some plants the owners wanted to save from a former business location and has evolved from that meager start.

8. 6` U W _ D g ` ,;Ei Týlo6 \ c d Street, established in 1936 and continued in business until 1988.

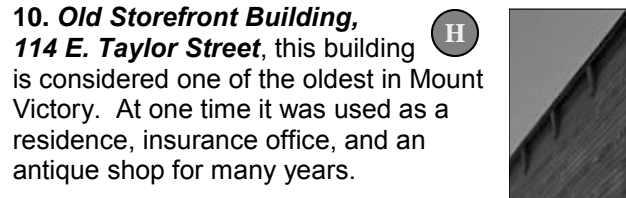


They bought fur skins from trappers in the area and ladies of the village fashioned the finished furs into coats and scarves. They also stored furs. The business bought and processed wool with 160,000 lbs. bought and sold in one year. Boston Woolen Mills and places in New York City were customers. This building is now empty.

9. Ridgemont Public Library & Mount Victory Archival Library, 310 E. Taylor Street, originally built as the local meat locker, a portion of the building now houses the Archival Library developed by the Mount Victory Community Development Association (CDA). Designed to preserve the history of the village using modern technology, hundreds of photos are archived on DVD's in a room of this

public library. Both the public library and Mount Victory CDA cooperate to provide history lessons for the community throughout the year.

10. Old Storefront Building, 114 E. Taylor Street, this building is considered one of the oldest in Mount Victory. At one time it was used as a residence, insurance office, and an antique shop for many years.



11. South Side of E. Taylor Street, this brick building was once the site of the original fire station and village offices. The second floor of this building was used as a school while the Mount Victory-Dudley school was being built and was also used as a gymnasium for basketball.

The floor markings can still be found on the floor upstairs. In the 1920s, a local professional team known as the Dizzy Five, played here.

12. Mount Victory State Bank, 103 S. Main Street, one of the newer buildings in the Historic District, the bank recently celebrated 75 years. At one time, it was the only bank in the nation with the distinction of being run by all women and it had the first woman in Ohio named to the State Bank Board by Governor Rhodes.



13. East Side of S. Main Street, this section of downtown used to be constructed of all wood until it burned to the ground in August of 1903. The Archival Library has a picture of the fire. Rebuilt soon

after the fire, all of the current buildings on this side are contributing buildings or are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

14. Mount Victory Mill, 203 S. Main Street, this building was built in 1877 as a flour mill. Archady Feeds supplied customers in an 80 mile radius. In 1947, the mill began selling Purina "Checkerboard Chows" and the entire front used to be a red and white checkerboard. The top edge is a different brick due to repair following a combustion that blew out the top portion of the building. Today the structure is empty.



15. LeVan Garage, 213 S. Main Street, built in 1912, this building is one of four original car related buildings in Mount Victory named to the National Register.



16. Private Residence, 310 S. Main Street, originally the William Britton VFW Post, this property is now privately owned by a master gardener who has kept the environment in mind as she created the garden filled with

herbs, perennials, fruit trees, grape arbor, grasses, and many unique features. The home is made from local brick and said to have been decorated by the same artist that worked on the Mac-o-Chee and Piatt Castles located in nearby Logan County.

17. Fleetwing Station, S. Main Street, just by looking in the windows here you can imagine the pop cooler and roll top desk where men gathered to shoot the breeze. This historic place is now home to seasonal flower sales, Halloween pumpkins and Christmas trees.



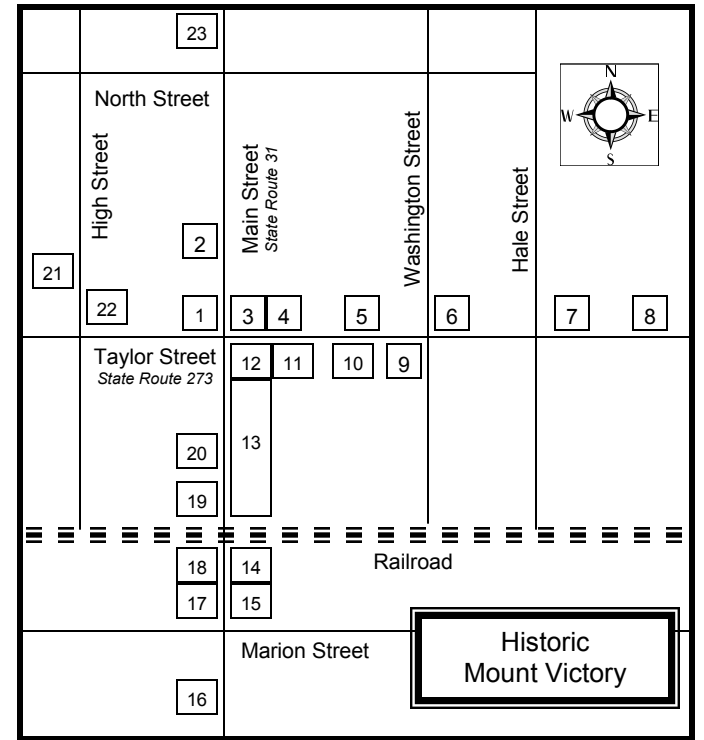
18. Mount Victory Elevator, 202 S. Main Street, two original concrete silos were poured by the Felts Construction Company of Toledo who at the time tried a new process called

"slip form construction" using electric jacks. The process worked well until the last five feet had to be poured in a snowstorm causing the winch to slip, breaking the boom and crushing the concrete mixer. The silos are 16 feet in diameter and 65 feet tall. Each can hold 8,500 bushels of grain.

19. Ford Garage, 122 S. Main Street, built in 1930 by Olin Willauer, this building was originally one of many local garages/car-related businesses in the town. Through the years it has housed various antique shops.



H Denotes inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or a Contributor Building



Railroad History

The rail system that runs through Mount Victory is responsible for the town being built where it is, and it supplied work for many men in the community for many years. It was the hardest work in the world as it was bitter in the Winter and hot, hot, hot in the Summer. The trains would stop at our depot (torn down) and people would board to visit relatives and friends in other towns. People would come here to visit or shop. In 1955, a passenger the train stopped for the last time to let the Senior Class off. They were coming home from a trip to Washington, DC and New York City. Mail traveled by this rail system until the trucks took over and railroad workers could be seen working at tables as they passed through town. The Post Master walked down to a hook beside the track (see our town mural) to hang the mail sack every day. The ownership of the railroad started with New York Central, then Penn Central, Conrail, and now it is CSX. The route goes from St. Louis to Cleveland and from there on to the East Coast. Visit the Archival Library for train photos.