

# Historic Worthington WALKING TOUR



## WELCOME!

Worthington was founded as a planned community in 1803, the same year Ohio became a state. The New Englanders who settled Worthington introduced this heritage in the form of a village green and spacious town lots for homes, businesses and craftsmen, surrounded by farm lots. Worthington lost its bid in 1812 to become the state capital, but during its early years became known for its religious activity (Episcopalian, Methodist, and Presbyterian), educational opportunities (Worthington Academy, Worthington Medical College, and Worthington Female Seminary) and for its anti-slavery principles.

Now, 200 years later, Worthington, Ohio still retains much of their classic design including the town green and many buildings built during the early years of our city. We are very fortunate to have among these remaining links to our past 30 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We would like to share these great treasures with you and we hope you enjoy the tour!



**Old Episcopal Rectory:** The former Episcopal Rectory was built in 1841-45 near the church on the southeast quadrant of the village green. The interior features a cherry stairway and black walnut woodwork with crossettes and splayed bases (suggesting Egyptian columns.) It is an excellent example of a Greek Revival home. Today it houses the offices, doll museum and library of the Worthington Historical Society.

Our tour begins and ends at the Worthington Historical Society offices housed in the Old Episcopal Rectory building located at 50 West New England Avenue in Old Worthington. This tour takes approximately 1 hour and covers a distance of 1.3 miles.

The audio narration accompanying this walk can be downloaded for free from the Worthington Historical Society website or you can rent an audio player inside for a \$1 donation.

Each stop is numbered sequentially and corresponds to the Track number displayed on the accompanying map.



**Orange Johnson House:** The Orange Johnson house consists of the original six room house built by Arora Buttles in 1811 combined with a more ornate Federal-style addition facing High Street built in 1819 for the Johnson family. The six room house stood on a thirty-five acre farm just north of the village and is noteworthy as a pioneer home still on its original site. Orange Johnson was an influential businessman in central Ohio and supervised construction of the Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike. The house is owned, restored and maintained by the Worthington Historical Society as a museum depicting early nineteenth-century life.



**Worthington Village Green:** The Worthington Village Green was platted in 1804. Each quadrant measures approximately 100 feet by 300 feet. Before leaving New England, the founders of Worthington planned public and private properties and streets adjacent to the central green area. The green is significant as a vestige of New England town planning transplanted to Ohio.

# Instructional GUIDE & MAP



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