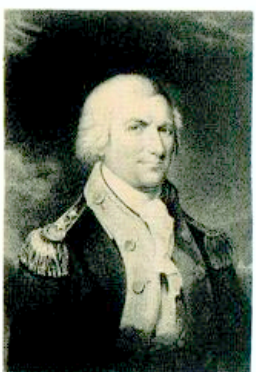




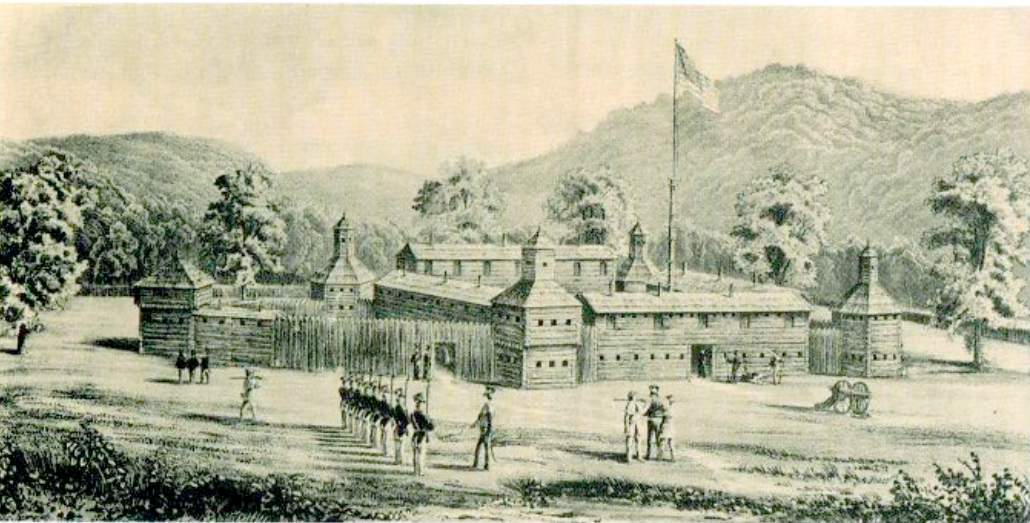
Most of Hamilton County was once owned by John Cleves Symmes, a Revolutionary War veteran, Supreme Court Judge and member of the Continental Congress from New Jersey. On October 15, 1788 Symmes received a charter for the Miami Purchase: one million acres of land bounded by the Great Miami and Little Miami Rivers and to the south by the Ohio River (see map at right). Symmes encouraged settlements in "the land between the Miamis" by selling portions of his claim to other pioneers. The first group, led by Benjamin Stites, arrived by flatboats on November 18, 1788 and founded Columbia, the second oldest permanent settlement in Ohio. Symmes founded the town of North Bend in January, 1789. His son-in-law, President Wm. Henry Harrison, also lived in North Bend.



General Arthur St. Clair was a close friend of George Washington and fought gallantly under his command during the American Revolution. After the war he served as a congressman from Pennsylvania, and became the first governor of the Northwest Territory on October 5, 1787. He arrived at Ft. Washington on January 2, 1790 to oversee military operations on the frontier. During his stay he created Hamilton County by proclamation and changed the name of Losantiville to Cincinnati. In 1791 General St. Clair led an ill-fated march from Ft. Washington against the Indians. His army suffered a major defeat along the Wabash River, losing over 900 men. The general had three horses shot out from under him and found eight bullet holes in his clothing after the battle.



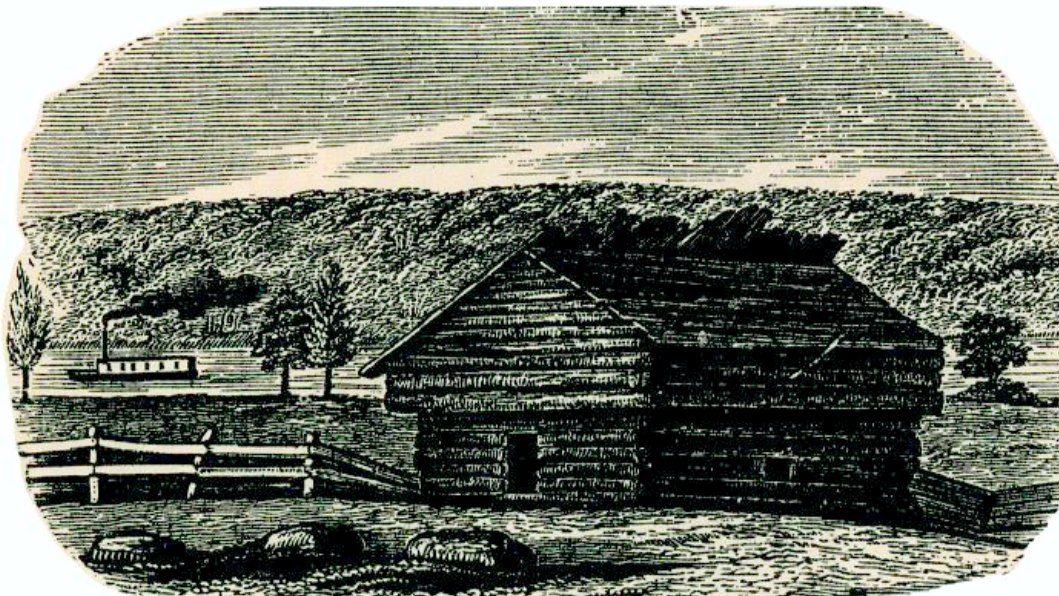
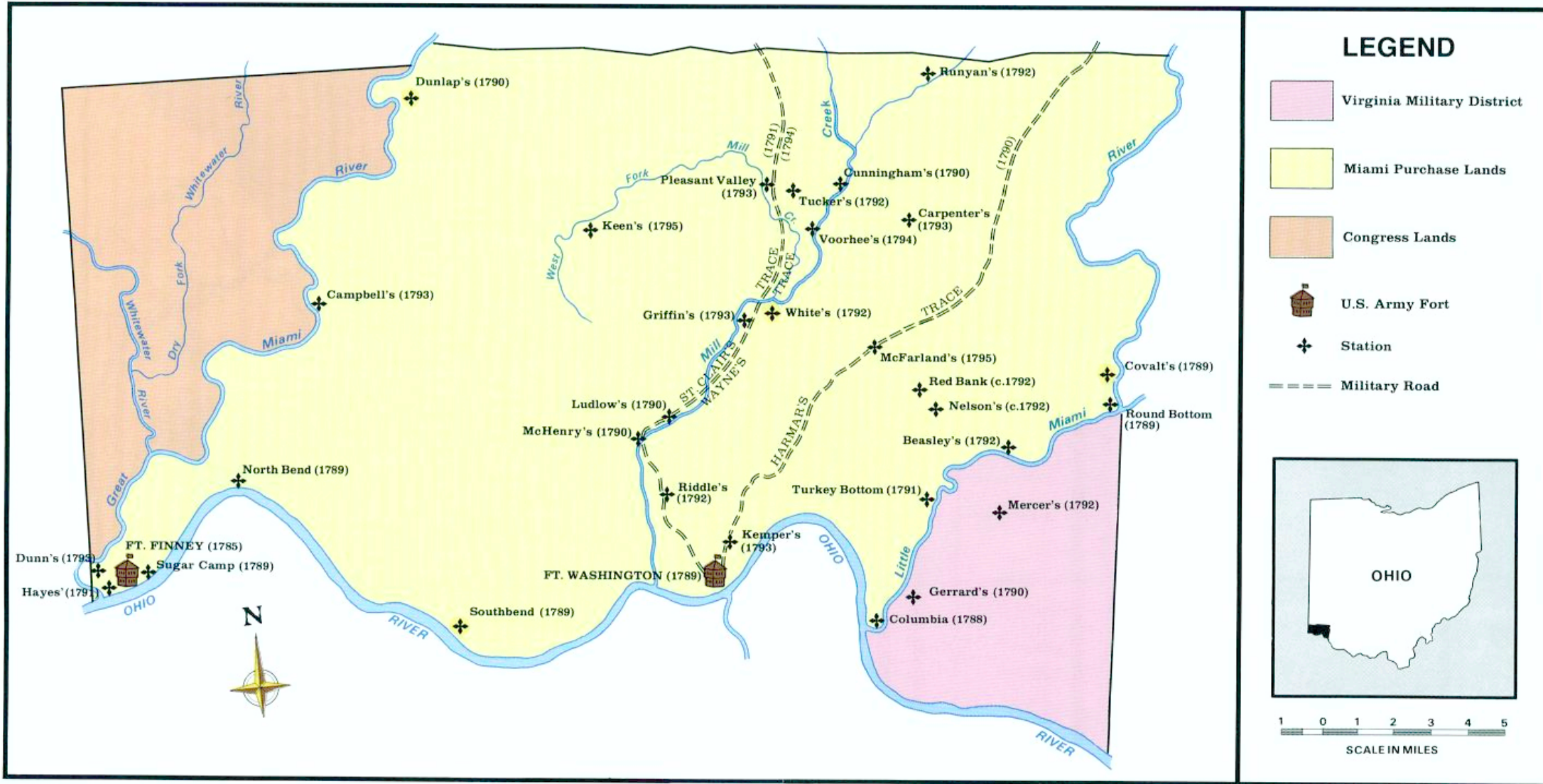
The first pioneers at Cincinnati, led by Mathias Denman, landed on December 28, 1788 where Yeatman's Cove Park is today. A vast untamed wilderness confronted the early settlers of Hamilton County. Physical hardships and the threat of Indian attacks posed constant dangers.



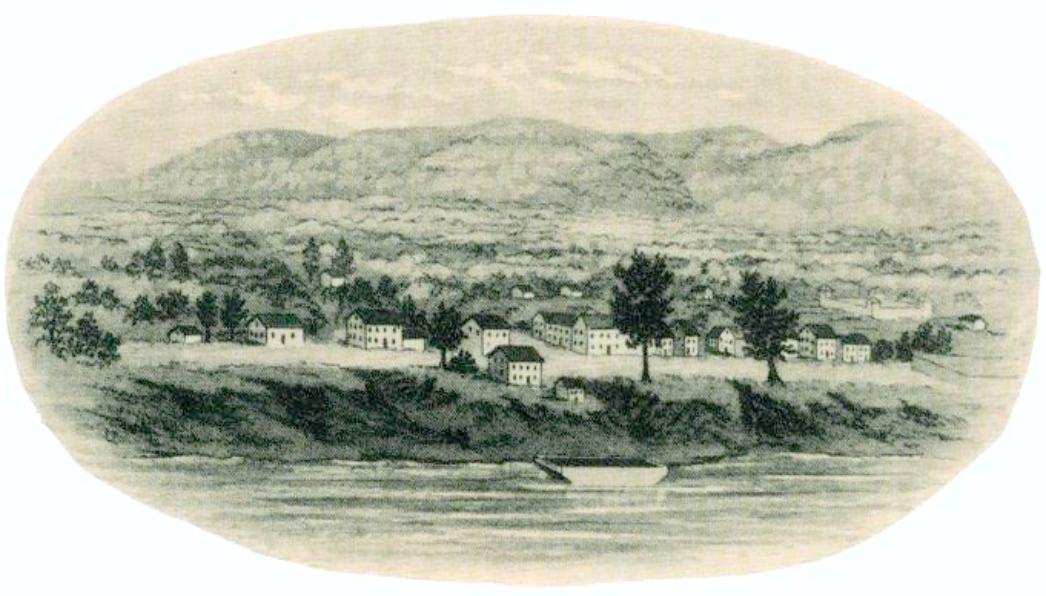
Ft. Washington, built in 1789 at Losantiville, was "the most important military work in the West." It offered greater protection to local settlers and served as U.S. Army headquarters during the Indian Wars in northwest Ohio (1790-1794). A plaque at Third and Broadway marks the fort site.

Territorial History

Settlements in Hamilton County were among the first in the Northwest Territory. The Ordinance of 1787 opened the extensive wilderness region to settlers and established a territorial government. To expedite the sale of public lands Congress began a series of surveys in Ohio. Three different methods were employed in Hamilton County. Anderson Township was part of the



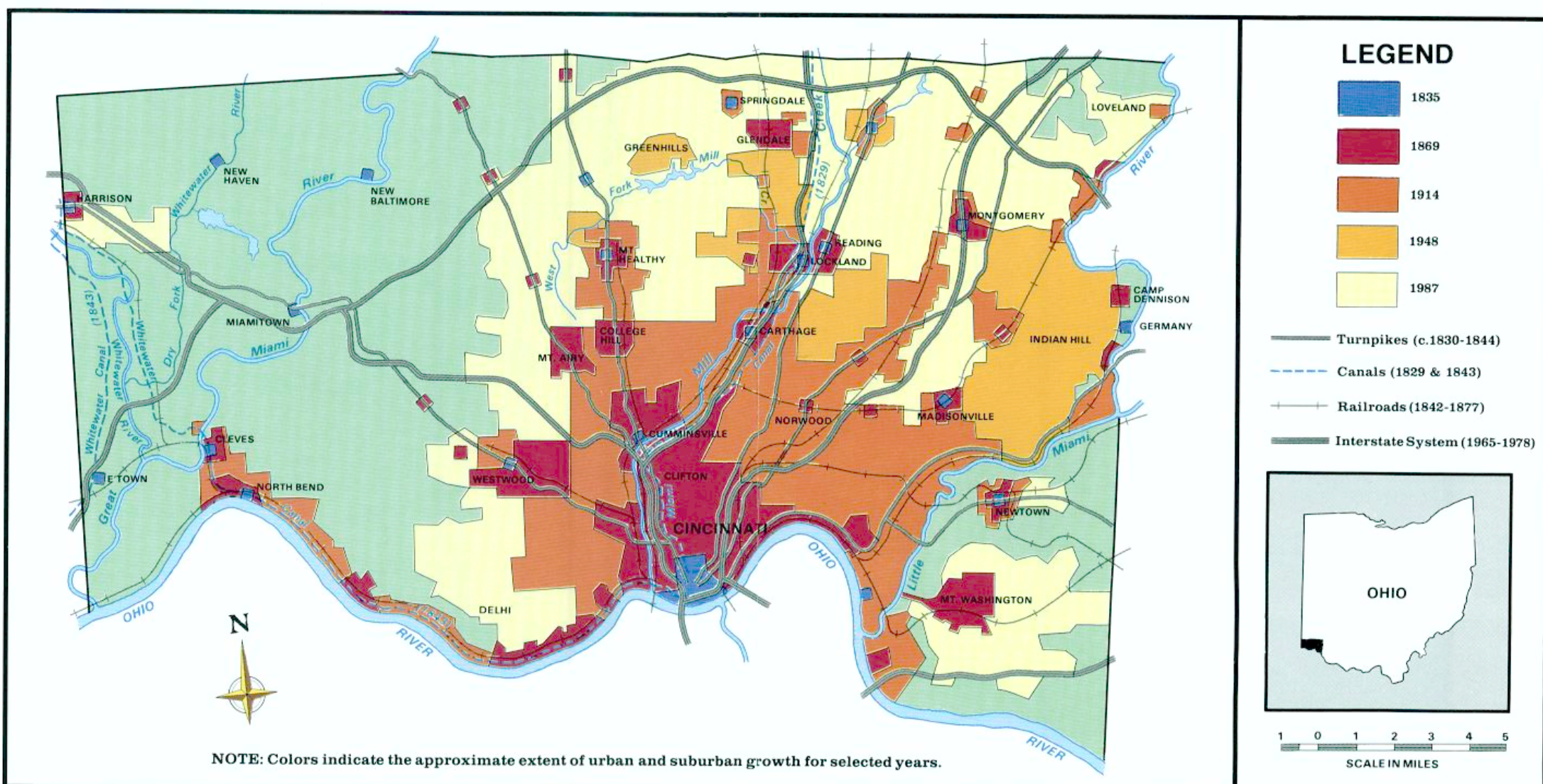
The Sugar Camp blockhouse, above, was one of many stations built in Hamilton County between 1788-1795. Stations generally included a cluster of fortified cabins with a connecting palisade. These outposts, built and maintained by settlers, were an integral part of the frontier defenses.



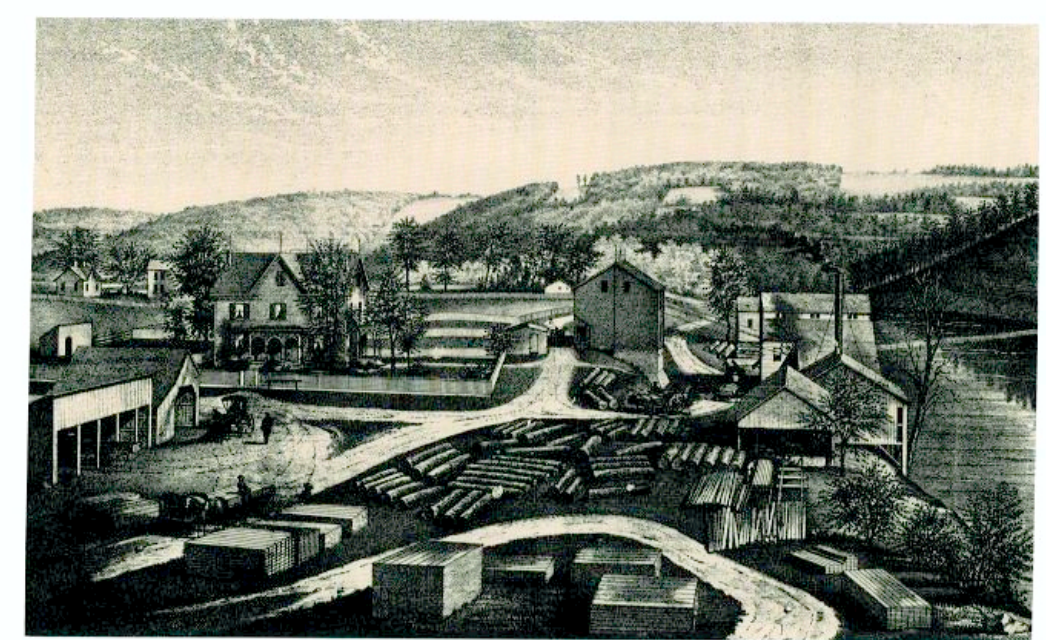
A view of Cincinnati circa 1800. The building of Ft. Washington combined with a more favorable site on the Ohio River assured Cincinnati of primacy over Columbia and North Bend, the other early settlements. Notice Ft. Washington at the upper right and beyond it "the seven hills."

Historical Growth

Transportation routes have strongly influenced the pattern of urban and economic growth in Hamilton County. The first settlements were located along rivers and creeks because pioneers traveled primarily by boat. Waterways also provided hydropower for early industries. Later the villages were platted along the turnpikes, generally built between 1830-1844. The Miami and

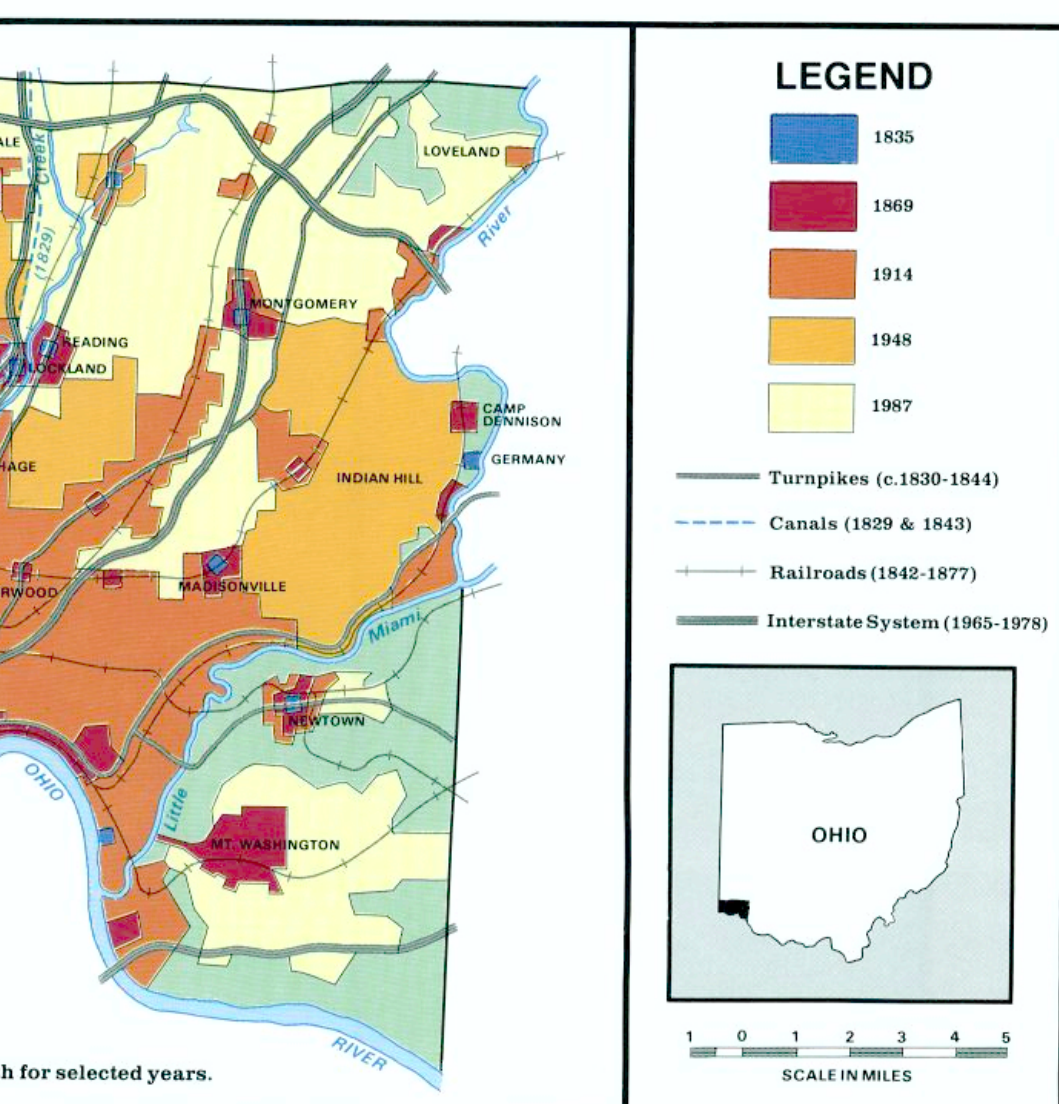


NOTE: Colors indicate the approximate extent of urban and suburban growth for selected years.



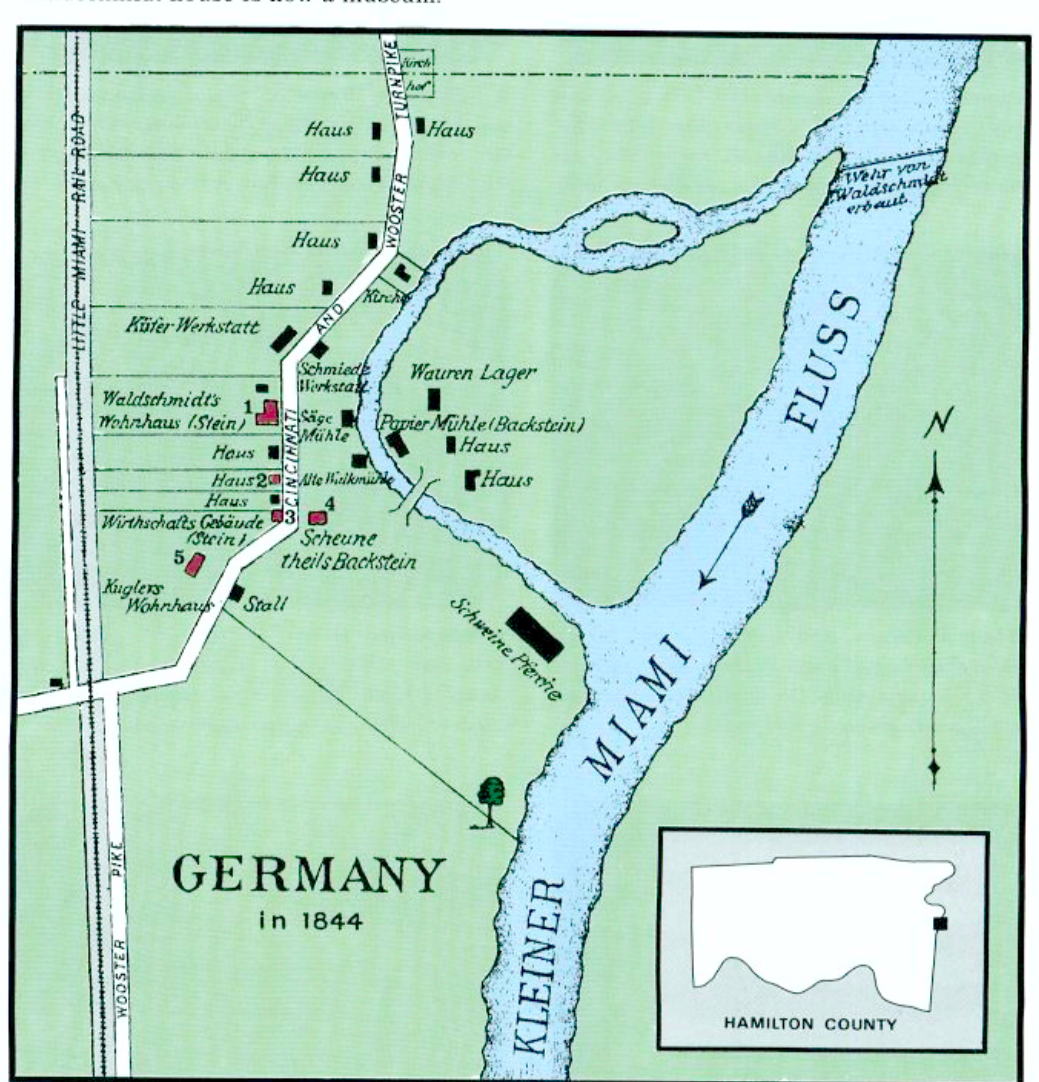
Residence and saw mill operation of George Wabnitz, situated along the Great Miami River in New Baltimore, circa 1880. The farmhouse at left is now a country style restaurant.

Whitewater Canals also became important avenues for development. Railroads brought further economic growth and the first suburbs. Suburban expansion continued, especially after World War II, and with the building of the interstate system begun in the 1960's. Notice the historical growth up the Mill Creek valley, an important transportation corridor for 200 years.



Germany

In 1796 Christian Walschmidt, of Norristown, Pennsylvania, founded a small milling operation near the Little Miami River. In time the village of Germany prospered. This 1844 map, written in German, shows a grist mill, paper mill, saw mill, warehouse, distillery, coopers, blacksmith shop, church and several houses. Today five buildings still remain. The Walschmidt house is now a museum.



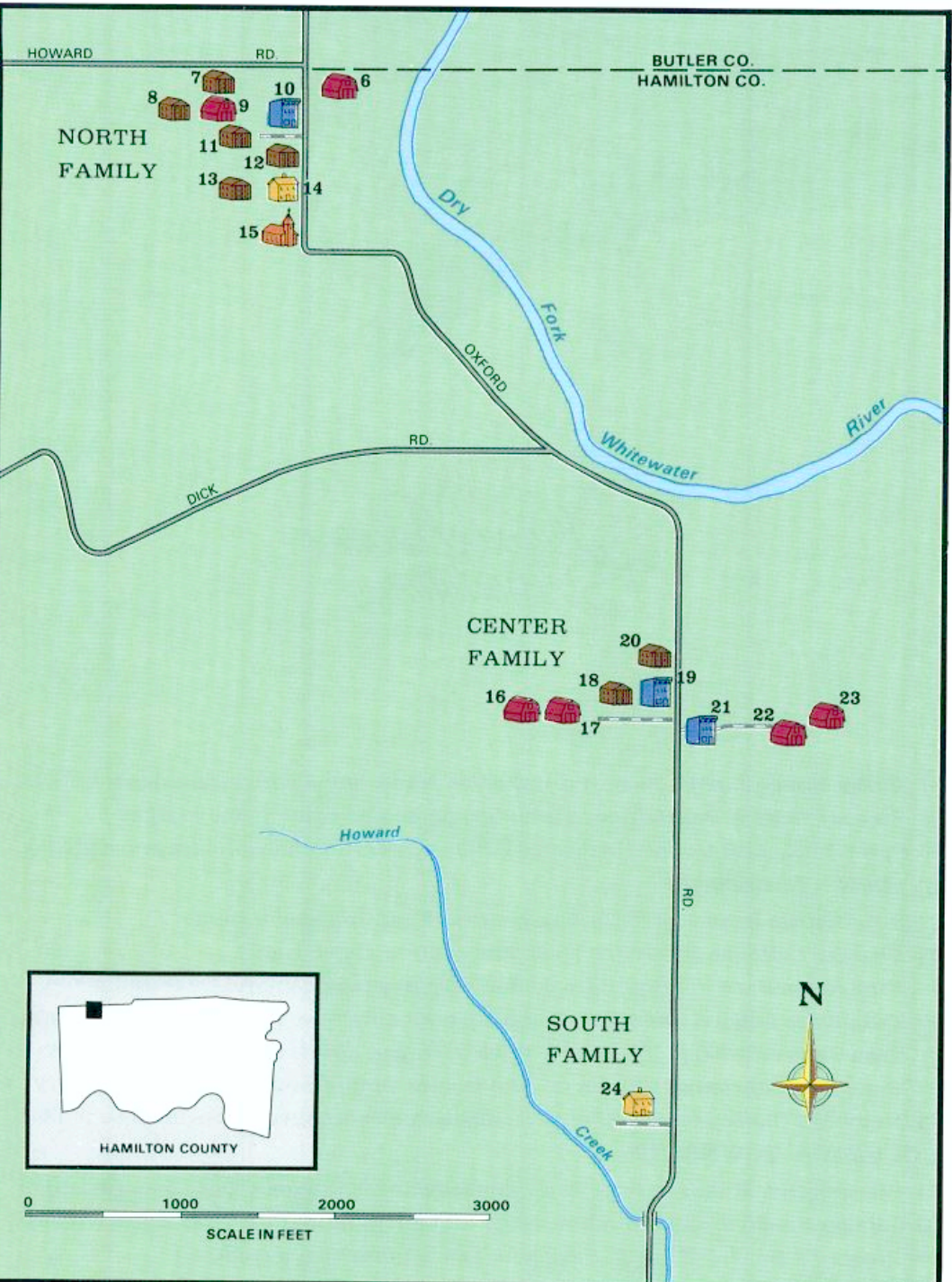
1 Walschmidt House (1804) - ★ - Handsome Pennsylvania German style stone house built by Christian Walschmidt. The first floor included a large general store. Beautifully restored.
2 Workers' House (c.1804) - ★ - Small stone house built by Walschmidt for his daughter and her husband, Mathias Kugler. Kugler expanded the mill operation after Walschmidt's death in 1814.

- Walschmidt House 804) - ★ - See photo and caption above left.
- Workers' House (c.1804) Last of several small houses built for the mill workers.
- Kugler House (c.1804) - ★ - See photo and caption above right.
- Whiskey Distillery (c.1814) Originally a two story brick building, now stuccoed.
- Kugler House (c.1830) Later frame home of Mathias Kugler. Includes a stone shed.

Whitewater Shaker Village

The Whitewater Shaker Village features the finest collection of Shaker architecture in Ohio. In 1770 Mother Ann Lee, of Manchester, England, became the spiritual leader of the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Coming, commonly known as the Shakers. They were called "Shakers" because of a rhythmic, shuffling dance they performed during religious ceremonies. At such times they often became "affected under the power of God with a mighty shaking ... singing, shouting and walking the floor under the influence of spiritual signs." In 1771 Mother Ann Lee and her followers fled persecution in England, arriving at Watervliet, New York to establish the first Shaker settlement in America. The Shakers lived in communal societies, supporting themselves through farming, furniture making, light manufacturing and seed production. They practiced strict celibacy; marriage was prohibited and men and women lived in separate dwelling houses. The Shakers attracted new members through conversions and by adopting orphans, who could accept or deny the Church at maturity. The religious order eventually founded 19 villages from Maine to Indiana, and by the 1850's numbered over 6,000 adherents. Each village received a spiritual name. Whitewater was called "The Lonely Plain of Tribulation." Founded in 1824 by leaders from the Union Village Shaker colony in Lebanon, Ohio, the Whitewater Village began with 18 members, several cabins and 40 acres of land. The village grew through the years to include 200 members and over 1,400 acres of farmland. At its peak the village consisted of three "families", North, Center and South (refer to map at right). By 1870 the Shaker movement began to decline, both locally and nationally. Membership at the Whitewater Village waned and the land was gradually sold off. The last Shakers left Whitewater in 1916. Many buildings, including a large dwelling house for the Center family, a school, a nurse's house, several shops and numerous barns and outbuildings are now gone. All of the structures that remain today are on the National Register of Historic Places. Please respect the owners' privacy and do not trespass when visiting the Whitewater Shaker Village.

- Barn (1875) Handsome bank grain barn with roof ventilators, now in disrepair.
- Corn Crib (c.1830) Features a mortise and tenon frame and steep half gable roof.
- Shed (c.1830) Early frame outbuilding with windows, located behind horse barn.
- Horse Barn/Wagon Shed (1848) Large barn with adjoining open front wagon shed.
- Fruit Drying House (1852) One story frame shop later used as the seed office.
- Milkhouse (1849) Frame building with deep brick cellar for keeping milk cool.
- Woodshed (c.1832) Large shed has a central passage and mortise and tenon bent.
- Smokehouse (c.1832) Features unusual half stone/half brick construction.
- Dwelling House (1832) See photo and caption below left.
- Meeting House (1827) See photo and caption below center.
- Corn Crib/Wagon Shed (1898) Last building erected by the Shakers at Whitewater.
- Cow Barn (c.1884) Mortise and tenon bent, originally roofed with oak shingles.
- Smokehouse (c.1855) Small brick outbuilding with a handsome arched doorway.
- Office (1855) See photo and caption below center.
- Laundry House (1853) Two story brick shop where Center family members did wash.
- Broom Shop (1876) See photo and caption below right.
- Cow Barn (1834) Early barn with wooden peg construction, shed additions are later.
- Barn (c.1884) Large livestock barn possibly used as a horse stable or for sheep.
- Children's Dwelling House (c.1830) Fine brick home bought for South family in 1850.



14 Dwelling House (1832) - ★ - Outstanding residence of the North family. Notice the cupola and frame addition with small covered entrance. The bricks for the house were made on site.



15 Meeting House (1827) - ★ - Very rare Shaker "church." Religious ceremonies were held on the large, open first floor. Note the separate doors for the men and women to enter through.



19 Office (1855) - ★ - Large three-story brick building served as Whitewater's central office. Visitors met with Shakers here to transact business, and could stay in rooms upstairs.



21 Broom Shop (1876) - ★ - Rare frame carpentry shop now in disrepair. Shaker products, such as brooms, furniture and seeds, were always of the highest quality and sold well in the marketplace.



32 Wambaganz House (c.1860) Charming farmhouse distinguished by small attic windows, low pitch roof, 1½ story plan and rugged stone construction. Still family owned.



33 Hussel House (1862) Handsome stone house with massive lintels, small attic windows and a vaulted wine cellar. The farm, still family owned, also includes a small stone stable.



38 Horning Barn (c.1855) Very well preserved two-story stone bank barn with later frame addition. Features hand-hewn interior beams and a large arched stone doorway around back.

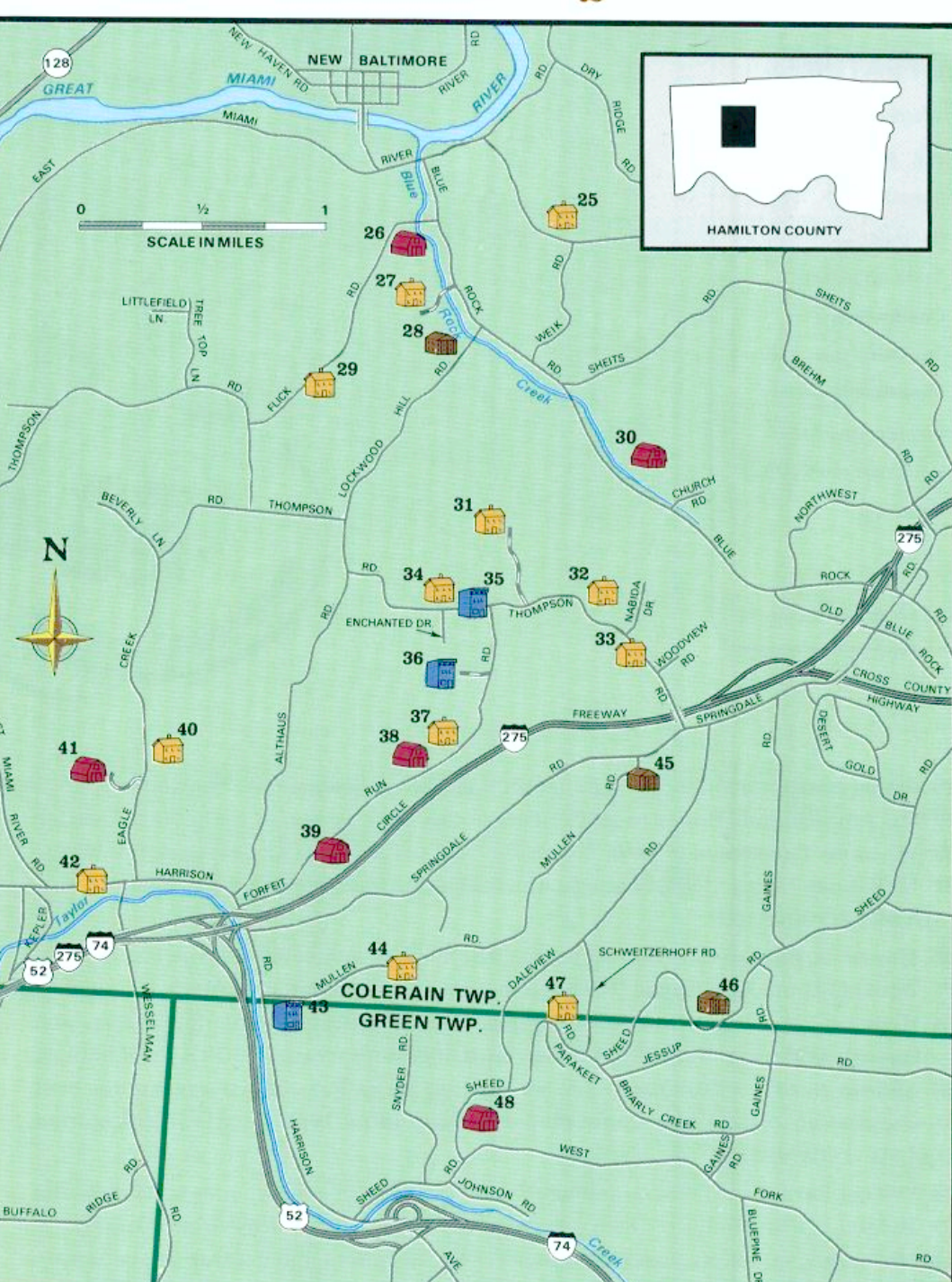


41 Kleinfelter Barn (1861) Magnificent three-story stone bank barn. Upper floors were used as a hay mow and for grain storage with livestock pens below. The porch addition is recent.

German Fieldstone Buildings

A collection of stone structures in Colerain and Green Townships, built by German immigrants from Bavaria, forms a rare ethnic settlement that is perhaps unique in Ohio. When large numbers of Germans began arriving in Cincinnati during the 1830's, most settled in the downtown area or bought land near the city's periphery. Later immigrants wanting land had to go farther out in the county. During the 1850's and 1860's a group of Germans from Bavaria bought small farms on adjacent tracts in Colerain and Green Townships. Rather than building with wood they used rough-cut stone taken from the fields and nearby stream beds. They brought their Old World building traditions to Hamilton County. The houses are typically one and a half stories high, one room deep, with small attic windows and a low pitched gable roof. Several have large vaulted wine cellars. They also built stone barns, frame houses and barns with stone lower levels, many stone outbuildings and a massive stone distillery. Two stone churches and several houses and barns are now gone. The building tradition of these Bavarian Germans is quite different from both the earlier English and the Pennsylvania Germans, such as Christian Walschmidt's 1796 mill town (see "Germany" above). Most stone buildings in Ohio are two story and date from before 1840. The German fieldstone buildings were discovered during the 1985 Hamilton County survey by the Miami Purchase Association for Historic Preservation.

- Todd Farmstead (c.1860) Frame two story home and stone springhouse.
- Raisch Barn (c.1865) Large transverse frame bank barn with stone lower level.
- Bramlage House (c.1865) Handsome two story stone house with walk-in basement.
- Sperber Outbuilding (c.1865) Small rectangular stone shed, remnant of early farm.
- Bramlage Farmstead (c.1860) Stone faced house, frame barn and stone springhouse.
- Berman Farmstead (c.1865) Large stone shed and frame barn with stone lower level.
- Greib House (c.1860) Slaty stone house with transom window over the door.
- Wambaganz House (c.1860) See photo and caption below left.
- Hussel House (1862) See photo and caption below center.
- Feinktael House (c.1860) Small stone house with attic windows and a stone shed.
- Faehr House & Saloon (c.1847) Stone house with two front doors and a wine cellar.
- Eger Distillery (c.1855) Large rectangular two story stone building, now a home.
- Kornman House (c.1855) Small log house with stone addition along the back wall.
- Horning Barn (c.1855) See photo and caption below center.
- Lough Barn (c.1860) Frame barn has stone lower level, stone wall from earlier barn.
- Weber House (c.1860) Abandoned Greek Revival house built with stone and brick.
- Kleinfelter Barn (1861) See photo and caption below right.
- Fowler House (c.1860) Small stone house with later frame additions, now painted.
- Zimmerman Butcher Shop (c.1860) Rare stone slaughterhouse of German farmer.
- Young House (c.1865) Small stone house with unusual arched lintels, now painted.
- Wessel Smokehouse (c.1865) Features gable vents and several small windows.
- Utry Outbuilding (c.1865) Small stone shed with large windows and a chimney.
- Kaetzl House (c.1867) Stone house of Alsatian immigrant, covered with siding.
- Haas Barn (c.1860) Unusual stone bank barn, now dilapidated and shrouded by trees.



The purpose of this map is to encourage greater awareness and appreciation of Hamilton County's rich historical and architectural heritage. The 158 historic buildings featured on the map were chosen from over 1,500 properties surveyed by the Miami Purchase Association for Historic Preservation. The Miami Purchase Association is a non-profit organization providing advocacy, research, service and educational programs to promote historic preservation throughout the Greater Cincinnati area.

The Historic Building Inventory, directed by Mary Ann Brown and completed in 1986, focuses on the unincorporated townships in Hamilton County. The survey does not include Cincinnati and the other incorporated cities and villages in the county. Funding for both the survey and this map was provided by the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County. The design, construction, photography and text of the map are by cartographer Adam Watts.

Copies of the complete survey reports are available at the Hamilton County Department of Community Development, and the Miami Purchase Association. If you would like additional information regarding any of the 1,500 surveyed properties, please contact the:



Miami Purchase Association
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

812 Dayton Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214
Telephone (513) 721-4506

Proceeds from the sale of this map will benefit the preservation efforts of the Miami Purchase Association.

This project was made possible by the generous assistance of the following:

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Miami University Cartographic Service

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THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HISTORIC HAMILTON COUNTY OHIO

A guide to over 150 historic buildings in Hamilton County. Includes 50 photographs, maps and illustrated accounts of:

- Whitewater Shaker Village.
- Territorial History of Hamilton County.
- Walschmidt-Kugler Mill Community.
- Rare German Fieldstone Buildings.
- Historical Growth of Hamilton County.

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