

Fun-Facts

Many of the buildings you will pass by are post-1852. On April 1 of that year the Great Fire burned much of this block. The fire began near the alley on the west side of Walnut Street in the cabinet shop of a Mr. John Watt, and was spread east by a brisk west wind. Because at the time the canal was dry, and firefighting equipment was in short supply, residents and firefighters had to use water from private wells in their firefighting efforts.

Water Street was once much narrower, sharing space with the Ohio-Erie Canal, which was used from 1831 through 1907. From Water St. the canal followed Mulberry Street south before crossing Main St. and veering off to the southeast.

As you walk east on Water St. you may notice the “park lake” to the north (left). Before its flow changed following a flood in 1817 that was a channel of the Scioto River. It was cut off completely in 1851 by the laying of railroad tracks. So, Yoctangee Park is actually located on land that was once an island of the Scioto River.

Chillicothe was laid out and named in 1796 by Nathaniel Massie. It is a Shawnee word given to their principal village, sometimes spelled *Chalahgawtha* - of which one was located just north of town near Hopeton. Massie laid out 287 in-lots and 169 out-lots and offered one free to the first 100 settlers.

Northwest Territory Governor Arthur St. Clair named Ross County for his friend, Senator James Ross of Pennsylvania.

Walking Map and Guide To Chillicothe's First Capital District



The City Bakery on West Water St. Can you guess which building it once occupied?



This view of the canal, a canal boat, and tow path was taken at the intersection of Water and Paint streets. The canal once occupied the northern half of Water St. Note the foot bridge in the background. Railroads eventually made the canals obsolete. In Chillicothe parts of the canal began to be filled in around the turn of the century. A number of structures were built on old canal land, including the Sherman Theater, Wintergarden, and a gas station near the intersection of Water and Mulberry.



Looking west on Water St. at the intersection of Paint, probably the late 40s or early 50s. The Sherman Theater (demolished late 50s) makes the street very narrow. The entrance to Yoctangee Park is at the right side of the photograph. After the Sherman and a couple of other buildings were torn down, the state - which owned the old canal land - gave it to the city. The condition of the deal was that nothing be built, and that Water Street be widened.

Health Facts - Walking

Walking regularly can offer many benefits to your body... and your mind.

Consider these facts:

- ⇒ Walking for 20 minutes a day can burn off around seven pounds of body fat per year.
- ⇒ Walking can extend your life: For every minute you walk you add 1-2 minutes of life.
- ⇒ Shorter, faster walks are best for conditioning your heart and lungs, while longer, slower walks work best when trying to lose weight.

Here are some benefits of walking:

- ⇒ Builds healthier heart and lungs
- ⇒ Burns body fat
- ⇒ Increases metabolism
- ⇒ Reduces cholesterol
- ⇒ Lowers high blood pressure
- ⇒ Can help control and prevent diabetes
- ⇒ Helps you sleep
- ⇒ It may also help control your appetite, increase your physical energy, slow aging, reduce the risks of some kinds of cancer, help you recover from a heart attack or stroke, promote intestinal regularity, and reduce stiffness from arthritis.
- ⇒ Relieve stress: Walking alone or with a friend can also help relieve stress.

10 Sites of Interest:

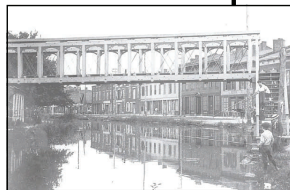
1. As you walk east on Water St. you'll notice two cabooses on your left. These represent the importance of the railroad to Chillicothe's past.
2. From 1831 to 1907 the Ohio and Erie Canal ran alongside Water St. Many of the buildings that can still be seen today were served by the canal boats and frequented by their operators.
3. This mural at Second and Mulberry pays homage to the city's canal past. The canal came into town from the north (Ohio 104), turned and ran east beside Water St., then turned south with Mulberry St. After crossing Main St. it veered off to the southeast.
4. This canal warehouse dates from the 1850s.
5. Built in 1904, the Masonic Temple is a Second Renaissance Revival style building. The group first organized in Chillicothe in 1805.
6. Once a private home, this Queen Anne (w/Chateausque) style building, built in 1879, is home to Horizon Telcom.
7. The Ross County Courthouse, on the Public Square, was completed in 1858 on the site of Ohio's first statehouse and the county's first jail.
8. This High Victorian Italianate structure was built in 1877 as a jail, and now serves as Probate Court Archives. Originally, the sheriff lived upstairs.
9. Built as the Third Presbyterian Church in 1858, this building now serves as the Eastern Star Temple.
10. The Chillicothe Gazette building, built in 1940, is a replica of Ohio's first statehouse.



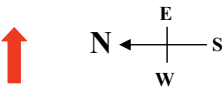
This is a late 19th century photo looking west on Water St. from near its intersection with Mulberry.



The Sherman Theater once stood at this spot, on the north side of Water St.



This is a late 1800s view of a pedestrian bridge crossing the canal at this very spot on Water St.



To City Park



Water St.



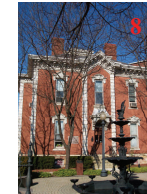
Abram's Big House once stood at this site, the northwest corner of Walnut and Second streets. It was used by the Northwest Territory legislators, and as a barracks during the War of 1812.

Mulberry St.

Paint St.

Second St.

Walnut St.



Main St.

Length of Walk: 1.08 miles