

## Historical Fun-Facts

Second Street was named such because it was the “second” street from the Scioto River, a channel of which originally ran along Water St., a block north of Second.

In the city’s earliest days Second St. between Mulberry and Walnut was mainly a residential area. As the city grew businesses sprang up and replaced or occupied most of those homes.

Most of the buildings on Second St. were built after 1852. A fire in 1845 destroyed many of the buildings on the south side of East Second, while the Great Fire of 1852 destroyed many of those on the north side of the street, from Mulberry to Walnut.

As you pass 68 E. Second note the iron fence. It was originally part of the First Presbyterian Church, which was once farther east on Second, past Mulberry.

In 1804 Chillicothe’s founder, Nathaniel Massie, sold a lot at 45-47 W. Second to a Methodist Congregation for \$45. There they built the first permanent Methodist church in the city. In March of 1852 it was sold for use as the site of St. Mary’s Catholic Church. They used it until 1866. It then became a livery, housing as many as 150 horses. In 1908 it became an automobile dealership, selling Chalmers-Detroit cars, and remained a dealership until 1971. The historic building was torn down in the 1990s.

In 1939 the YMCA was located in the structure at 133 W. Second St., now part of Ware’s Funeral Home. It remained there until the 1960s.

# Walking Map and Guide To Chillicothe’s Old Second Street



*Compiled and Designed by the*

Ross County  
  
**Health  
DISTRICT**

475 Western Ave., Suite A  
Chillicothe, OH. 45601  
740.779.9652

[www.rosscountyhealth.com](http://www.rosscountyhealth.com)  
[info@rosscountyhealth.com](mailto:info@rosscountyhealth.com)

## Ross County Health District

This brochure is a publication of the Ross County Health District and its Ross County Heart Health Program.

The Chillicothe City Health Department was formed in 1882, and the Ross County General Health Department in 1920. In 1979 the two merged.

Our goal is to protect and improve the health of the citizens of Chillicothe and Ross County. One of the best ways to do this is to promote a healthier lifestyle for all.

Walking is an easy and enjoyable way to improve your health. It burns calories and builds a strong heart.

Unlike jogging, walking is something almost anyone can do and benefit from. Before you begin your walk make sure that you are wearing comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Also, extreme care should be taken when crossing streets.

We hope that this brochure will be used by our local residents and by visitors alike. Not only can it be used as a method for improving health, but also as a way to expand knowledge and interest in Chillicothe and its significant history.

Be sure to look for our other brochures: Main Street Church Walk and Historic Paint Street Walk, and please enjoy your stroll around Chillicothe’s First Capital District.

*\*Much of the information included in this brochure is drawn from information found in the book “Second Street, Chillicothe Ohio, Its Buildings and Its People” by Patricia Fife Medert.*

## 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, relieve stress, 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.

**Healthy Ohio**  
The State of Living Well.

Funded in part by Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and administered by the Ohio Dept. of Health, Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, Cardiovascular Health Program. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.

- 70 E. Second: Built in 1910 by the city as Fire Station No. 1, it is now home to a firefighting museum. The garage to the west is not original to the building.
- 77-79 E. Second: The Phoenix House was built in 1853 as a hotel. By 1881 it had 30 rooms. The hotel closed in 1907. Today businesses occupy the first floor and apartments the others.
- 84 E. Second: One of the oldest remaining buildings in the city, it was a private residence in 1809. It has also been a meat market, barber shop and a doctor's office.
- 52 E. Second: Built circa 1817, this structure was

nearly lost to arson in 2006. Originally a private residence, it once housed a Chinese laundry, and for years was the Sherman Haus Beer Garden.

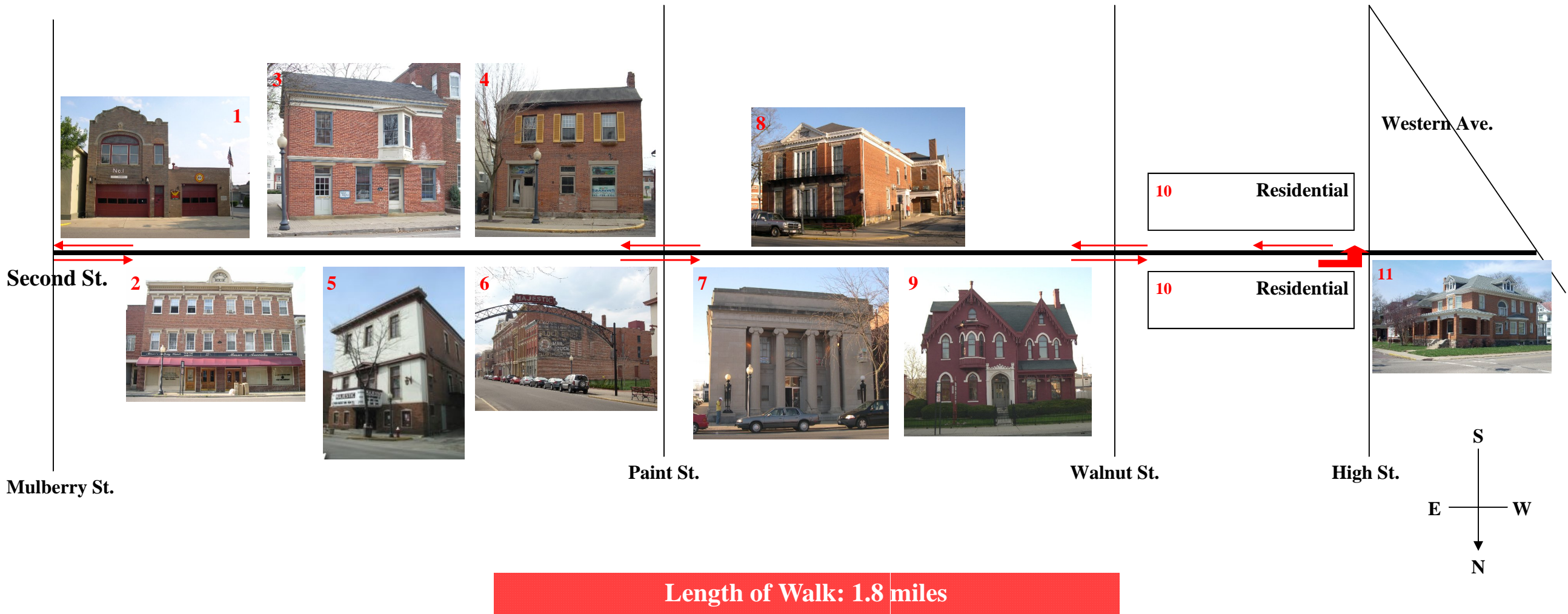
- 45 E. Second: The Majestic Theatre is the longest continually operating theater west of the Allegheny Mountains. It was constructed in 1854 as the Masonic Lodge, which used the third floor. The second floor was used as a theater. Beginning in 1876 it underwent a number of interior renovations to look much as it does today. The exterior has also experienced its fair share of renovations. Note the alley on the building's east side. It is infamously known as Blood Alley, due

to the fact that the Majestic was used as a morgue for soldiers who died during the 1918 Spanish flu outbreak at Camp Sherman.

- This lot, now used as a courtyard by the Majestic, once housed a hotel (torn down in the 1990s) and two buildings that burned in a fire in 2006. The demolition of those buildings exposed the 19th century painted advertisement.
- 27 W. Second: Now a pizza place, this structure was once the First National Bank. Notice the wall and windows behind the Ionic style pillars:

ment and decided to expand, a new shell was simply built around the original building.

- 42 W. Second: Built as the Bank of Chillicothe, circa 1827, this has also been a private residence and is now the Elk's Hall.
- 69 W. Second: Known as the Poland House, this Gothic revival structure was built in about 1855.
- West Second Residential: The homes from Walnut to High include a wide variety of architectural styles. Some homes date to the early 1800s.
- 215 W. Second: This Foursquare structure, circa 1910, was once home to the Chillicothe Health Center and the City Health Department.



**Length of Walk: 1.8 miles**