

Welcome to your self-guided tour of the West Third Street Historic District.

This walking tour will highlight some of the architectural and historical features of the commercial area of West Third Street between North Broadway and Shannon Streets. The tour takes approximately one hour.

There are several other fascinating historic sites that we hope you will include in this or future visits. These include the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center at 16 South Williams Street and the Paul Laurence Dunbar Historic District and house museum a few blocks to the west at 219 North Paul Laurence Dunbar Street. These sites are part of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

And you don't want to miss the walking tour of Wright-Dunbar Village, the residential area adjacent to West Third Street. This fascinating neighborhood was the home of the Wright family at the turn of the century and the center of Dayton's African American community from the 1920s to the early 1960s. On your walk, you can also experience the Dayton Walk of Fame. Sidewalk plaques recognize more than 150 outstanding individuals and groups for their contributions to our region and the world.

Please begin your tour at the corner of West Third and Williams Streets. Please walk carefully and be aware of any unevenness in the terrain as you appreciate the area. If you have any questions about this National Register District, please contact Wright Dunbar Incorporated at www.wright-dunbar.org

The West Third Street Historic District is significant for its association with three internationally acclaimed Daytonians, Orville and Wilbur Wright and Paul Laurence Dunbar. The area was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a local historic district by the City of Dayton in 2002. The business corridor was selected for the "Main Street Program," a National Trust for Historic Preservation initiative that revitalizes historically significant commercial areas throughout the United States.

The Wright brothers lived nearby at 7 Hawthorne Street where Orville set up the brothers' first printing shop. And they had a presence in the business district from 1889 to 1918 where they developed their printing, bicycle, and aviation innovations—including the world's first airplane.

West Third Street also played an important role in the life of Paul Laurence Dunbar, the renowned African American poet. Dunbar's parents were born into slavery. However, his mother learned to read and worked hard to ensure her son received an education. Dunbar was the president of the literary society and editor of the school paper at Dayton's Central High School. After graduation, he collaborated with his friend Orville Wright on the *Dayton Tattler*, a black neighborhood newspaper printed by the Wright brothers on their presses in the Hoover Block. Over his short lifetime, Dunbar produced an internationally acclaimed body of literature that contributed to the nation's social consciousness and the cultural identity of African-Americans. He is associated with prominent civil rights leaders of his time and continues to influence acclaimed writers today.

Before the 1840s most of the land in this area of Dayton was used for scattered farmsteads surrounding “Mexico,” a tiny commercial district along West Third Street. The area was largely undeveloped until after the Civil War. In 1869, W.P. Huffman and H.S. Williams built the Dayton Street Railway across the Great Miami River. Commercial ventures sprang up along the rail line and residential neighborhoods followed. Initially, black homes and businesses were located near West Fifth Street while Hungarian families and businesses were found on West Third.

The area saw a shift in population around World War I. African Americans moved from the south to the industrial north for jobs and opportunities. This movement coupled with housing segregation brought many black residents to West Dayton. As the African-American population grew, West Fifth and West Third Streets became the heart of black life in Dayton between the 1920s and early 1960s

In the mid-to-late 1960s, highway construction had a damaging effect on West Dayton. Residences and businesses were destroyed to make way for new roads which encouraged suburban flight. Decades of redlining by lenders and insurance companies prevented investment in the area. In 1966, protests damaged properties in the commercial district, contributing to further disinvestment.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the City of Dayton began to demolish blighted properties along West Third Street, especially west of North Broadway. Many other properties were also demolished including those north of West Third to Wolf Creek, almost all of West Fifth Street, and many residential homes in Wright-Dunbar Village.

According to, Consensus Organizing, a Community Development Workbook authored by Mary L. Ohmer and Karen DeMasi, “The operating urban renewal philosophy as late as 1988 favored demolition and clearance over historic preservation.” For several years, life-long residents advocated for resources to preserve and revitalize their neighborhood. At the same time, there was also growing interest in preserving Dayton’s aviation history.

These two groups began to see the value of working together. They organized vocal protests to prevent the city from implementing plans to tear down more of the commercial and residential areas. Their efforts along with the support of City Commissioner Dean Lovelace, convinced the city to change course. The turning point came in 1993 when a historic architecture study of the area demonstrated the potential of the neighborhood. City staff and community stakeholders created the Wright-Dunbar Village Urban Renewal Plan which focused on historic preservation as a pillar of economic and neighborhood revitalization.

Mayor Mike Turner and Commissioner Idotha ‘Boostie’ Neal collaborated and led the City’s efforts to revitalize the area. Neal later served as President of Wright-Dunbar, Incorporated from 2005 to 2014. Neal’s leadership, along with support from the Mathile Family Foundation, were key factors in stabilizing and revitalizing the commercial area. Today thriving businesses, renovated apartments, and the National Park Service make the area one of the most desirable and walkable districts in the city.

Your first stop on the tour is 22 South Williams Street, The Wright Cycle Company Building.



This Victorian commercial shop was built in 1886 and is part of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. This site is where Orville and Wilbur Wright began to consider the problems of powered flight. The brothers operated their printing and bicycle sales, repair, and manufacturing businesses here from 1895 to 1897. This larger location enabled them to move their printing business from the Hoover block and combine it with their growing bicycle business. In

this larger space, they begin to manufacture bicycles. These skills enabled them to gain insights that were critical to their aviation experiments. This location and the Gem City Ice Cream Building at 1005 West Third Street are the last two remaining Dayton locations related to the brothers' bicycle business.

The world owes the preservation of this historic site and the creation of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park primarily to the vision of Gerald Shea "Jerry" Sharkey, a life-long Daytonian. According to his 2014 obituary and Wikipedia entry, Sharkey's vision was inspired by a visit to Boston's Freedom Trail in 1980. Sharkey conceived the idea of a national park to protect and preserve what remained of the Dayton landmarks associated with the Wright brothers. However, Sharkey needed to overcome decades of local disinterest and opposition to the preservation of the buildings.

Sharkey's first priority was the Wrights brothers' bicycle shop which stands before you. The shop was slated for demolition as part of the urban renewal campaign to level the surrounding neighborhood. Sharkey pleaded with the city to save the bicycle shop and other surrounding buildings, going as far as to stand in front of a bulldozer to stop the work. He managed to purchase the Wrights' last bicycle shop for \$10,000. Dayton officials later became allies, and so did the neighbors who stood guard against vandalism as Sharkey and his band of volunteers painstakingly restored the dilapidated structure with their own hands. He later reluctantly donated the bicycle shop to the National Park Service as a precondition for the creation of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

Sharkey initially founded Aviation Trail, Incorporated, a non-profit group dedicated to the creation of a national park in the Dayton region. Sharkey recruited a group of prominent figures to lobby government leaders and the National Park Service. These included family members of Lorin Wright, Orville and Wilbur's brother. Lorin's daughter Ivonette Wright Miller and her husband Harold, and Lorin's grandson, Wilkinson (Wick) Wright became dedicated advocates. Other prominent supporters included Brad Tillson, the publisher of the *Dayton Daily News*, U.S. Representative Dave Hobson, Michael Gessel, then an aide to U.S. Representative Tony P. Hall, and U.S. District Judge, Walter H. Rice. Sharkey also persuaded Tom D. Crouch, Senior Curator of the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution to join the movement to create the park.

In Sharkey's obituary, Crouch said: "Without Jerry, Wick Wright and Michael Gessel there would not be a Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. Wick provided the gravitas, the living presence of the Wright family and tradition. Gessel provided a mastery of the Hill and the government. Jerry supplied the passion... He worked tirelessly to build and maintain local support for the effort, and to coordinate everything from Congressional testimony to presentations to the Department of the Interior. He was such a key factor that I can't imagine how the project could have succeeded without his energy and enthusiasm."

President George H.W. Bush signed the bill which established the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in 1992. Sharkey continued to be a tireless supporter of the area. He served on the board of the Friends of the Wright Brothers and Paul Laurence Dunbar and helped to raise money for the 2003 Centennial of Powered Flight which further galvanized recognition of the area. Sharkey's accomplishments are truly remarkable. He was a passionate but unlikely aviation enthusiast who feared flying.

The headquarters for the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park are located next door at 30 South Williams Street. This residential property was built around 1869 in the Victorian Vernacular style. Victorian Vernacular or Folk Victorian are terms used to describe structures which have some detailing typical of high style architecture but do not follow all of the "rules" for a particular style. The buildings are frequently quite simple in plan with a single elaborated architectural feature such as a porch cornice.



The homes on this block of Williams Street provide a historically appropriate residential setting for the Wright Cycle Company building.

Please walk north toward West Third Street. The Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center



which is on your right opened in 2003. You will want to explore the center and all the sites that comprise the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. In addition to the Wright Cycle Company building and the Hoover Block here in Wright-Dunbar, other sites include the Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial, the Huffman Prairie Flying Field and Interpretative Center, the 1905 Wright Flyer III located at Carillon Park, and Hawthorn Hill in Oakwood.

Please turn left on West Third Street. Our tour focuses on buildings on the south side of the street. However, you may want to walk on the opposite side of the street so that you can see the upper stories and more fully enjoy the architectural details of these remarkable buildings.

The West Third Street Historic District is largely a commercial quarter made up of two and three story brick buildings built between 1885 and 1924. As is typical of turn-of-the-century commercial districts, most of the buildings originally had stores on the ground level with offices

and residences above and meeting halls on the third floors. The style of the buildings is predominantly Romanesque Revival, with several examples of Victorian Italianate and Neoclassical buildings enlivening the mix.

Our first stop is 1112-1130 West Third Street, the Walter's Block. This High Victorian Italianate structure was built in three sections. Jefferson Walters built the first phase in 1885 and his son James B. Walters finished the final phase in 1893. Today it is home of Ziks Family Pharmacy and Home Medical Supply.



It's hard to believe the building was completed in phases because of the unifying features across all three sections. The Walters were obviously very intentional as they completed all three parts of the building. Seventeen bays with one-over-windows create rhythm and grace across the facades. Pedimented metal hoods on the second story and flat decorated hoods over the third story windows also unify the structures. A continuous stone band runs across the top of the first story. Notice the sheet metal cornice with brackets across the first story. It has a few subtle variations, but it also unifies the facade. The two identical metal fire escapes add additional interest to the building.



The Mariette Flats at 1146-1148 West Third is our next focus. This Georgian Revival style was built in 1913. Characteristics of a Georgian Revival style include symmetrical façades, entrances elaborated with references to classical architecture, and an interest in cornice treatments and double-hung windows.

The edges the Mariette Flats are offset with rusticated brick quoins. The center entrance is decorated with Doric pilasters, a cornice with its name, and a segmented pediment with a foliate design. Also notice the large transom over the door with a divided light. A blank bulls-eye window with brackets and a swagged garland adorn the second level. The third story features recessed mullion windows with curved hoods and paneled spandrels. A large, elaborate cornice emphasizes the third floor and a secondary cornice sits above the attic level. The attic level is offset with three-over-three windows and banded brickwork.

The last building on this block is 1158 West Third Street at the intersection of Broadway Street. This building was once the site of the West Side Building and Loan Company and is now a Chase Bank branch. The building was built in 1922 in the Neoclassical Revival style. The Neoclassical style is often selected for financial institutions because of its formality, expensive materials, and strong



historical references. These features are associated with stability, investment in quality, permanence and authority—all great characteristics for a bank.

Here we see engaged and colossal columns sitting on high bases. The square columns projecting from the walls are also known as pilasters. These are decorated with palm leaves and other decoration on the capitals. The entablature includes medallions carved with figures and animals. The pediment caps the building with an engraving of an eagle. This is the district's only stone façade.

Now we'll focus on the buildings on the north side of the street. Again you may want to walk on the opposite side to be able view all the features of these multi-story commercial structures.

Sadly, our first stop is 1175 West Third Street, the empty lot at the corner of North Broadway and West Third Streets. The building that stood here was known as the Olney Flats. It was built in 1913 in the Romanesque Revival style and was originally a grocery store. It was renovated into a restaurant in the 1940s.

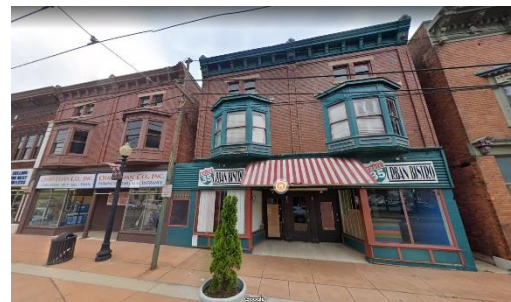
The Third Street façade had three recessed bays with corbelled tops. A limestone foundation and limestone banding between the first and second story emphasized the horizontal lines of the structure. The façade featured a center bay with a stairway window and a blind arch with three windows. Brick panels over the third story windows, a metal cornice with brackets, and attic windows with vents emphasized the upper levels. The side elevation had storefronts below with seven bays of apartments above. The northwest corner featured a round-arched recessed porch.



Now please focus on 1171 West Third Street, the Sapp Building. This structure was built in 1912 and exhibits Prairie-style influences. The Prairie style was primarily the creation of Midwestern architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Prairie structures seem low, as though they are hugging the earth, due to their pronounced horizontal emphasis and overhanging roof line. Light colored detailing against darker walls is common, and there is a distinct lack of ornamentation. The Prairie style was particularly popular from 1900 to 1920.

Here we see a symmetrical façade with three bays and a stairway entrance in the narrow, center bay. Notice the white brick detailing. The first floor features pillars with brick detailing and stone caps. The second level includes brick pilasters and a continuous brick cornice. The third story is inset with white brick decorative panels. The large tin cornice features brackets with an acanthus leaf decorative panel.

The next two structures are twin buildings—the William Webbert Building at 1167 West Third and the Groneweg Building at 1155-1153 West Third. They were built between 1912 and 1914 and are excellent examples of the Early 20th Century commercial style. Both buildings exhibit two bay



windows and two storefronts with a recessed entry. Notice the brick detailing and metal cornices with brackets and rosettes.



Our next stop is 1139-1137 West Third Street, the Hoersting-Holtman Building. This structure was built sometime after 1913 and features Eastlake influences. All of the buildings on this end of the block suffered damage during the fire that followed the 1913 flood. This building was rebuilt after the fire.

The Eastlake style was known for its elaborate architectural ornament, often called gingerbread. The style is named after Charles Locke Eastlake, an English furniture designer who popularized an intricate, detailed style of wooden ornament. This approach to furniture design was then widely adapted to architecture to embellish otherwise plain buildings. The height of popularity for the Eastlake style was 1870 to 1890.

Here we see four storefront bays with scroll-sawed detailing. The two stairway entrances include glass transoms. The glass panels in the transoms are decorated with pressed designs. Also notice the cornice. This is by far the most elaborate cornice in the district with its tin panels, pendants, rosettes, dentils, and very ornate brackets known as modillions.

The Hale Building at 1133-1135 West Third Street was built in 1923. This early 20th Century commercial style building was built by Frank and Laura Hale on the site of their double house next to The Wright Cycle Company. Now, the Hale Building is the site of the Bing Davis Studio and Ebonia Gallery. Willis “Bing” Davis is an internationally renowned visual artist.



Unfortunately, 1129 West Third Street where the airplane was invented is now an empty lot. The Wright brothers last bicycle shop was moved to Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan by Henry Ford in 1936. Please pause to read the plaque courtesy of the National Park Service and learn more about the Wright brothers’ work here.

The Webbert Flats are located adjacent to the empty lot at 1117-1119 West Third Street.

Charles Webbert, an owner of a well drilling business and plumbing business, built this structure in 1908. He was the Wright brothers' landlord while they invented the airplane and witnessed some of the early powered flight experiments at Huffman Prairie.

The building reflects the Romanesque Revival Style. Wide horizontal bands of windows counter-balance the vertical stacking of design elements and lend a heavy appearance to the façade. These are typical characteristic of the Romanesque Revival style. The windows feature raised brick surrounds with ornamentation at the center top. A blind arch and the pilaster tops break the roof line. Also notice the transoms over doors and the egg and dart motif on the tin cornice.



The Gunkel Block at 1109-1111 West Third Street is our next stop. This 1891 building was built in the Romanesque Revival style with storefronts on the first floor and apartments in the upper stories. Here we see the solid massing characteristic of typical Romanesque Revival commercial architecture. The visual “weight” of the upper, brick stories appears to press down on the storefronts.

Notice the bay windows with decorative wood trim. The windows were originally decorated with tin trim. The original cornice and ornamental parapet are also missing. The top center window features an arched panel which is inset with decorative brickwork. The contrasting colors of the stone lintels and the trim add to the massing of the structure.

Now we come to the Gunkel Building, the former site of the Hamburger Hardware store at 1107-1101 West Third Street. The hardware store supplied parts for the Wright brothers experiments. This building was also the site of Dayton's first branch post office. It's now the home of the Texas Beef and Cattle Company, barbeque restaurant.



The Third Street façade is a fine example of the Victorian Italianate commercial style. Italianate buildings are characterized by large cornices, often with brackets, which cap the façade. The buildings are often square, and there is an interest in decorative detailing of a Classical type.

Windows usually have both lintels and hoods. This style was very popular for commercial buildings, especially between 1865 and 1895.

Notice the decorative detailing on the knee walls and on the transom windows over the doors. The left stone cornice above the store window is elaborately decorated while the other parts of the cornice are plain. The arched windows with stone moldings are flanked by Chicago-style windows with decorated lintels. Notice the elaborate metal cornice, complete with brackets, dentils, and other detailing. There is one finial left above the cornice on the left side of roof line.

The Williams Street façade features elements of the Mediterranean style of architecture. This side faces the street in a series of stepped angles. The windows feature lintels with rosettes and dentils, and brick window sills. Notice the corbelled brick brackets. The molded cornice is decorated with a vine pattern. The limestone foundation and the section of tile roofing over the first level are other notable features.



Please cross Williams Street and pause to look at the J.A. Pryor Building at 1035-45 West Third Street. The Pryor Building was built around 1924 and is a good example of an early 20th century commercial space. The street level consists of storefronts, each with a large display window above a knee wall. The windows are separated by pilasters. The pilasters with the cornice above and knee wall below, provided a frame for the merchandise the business owners displayed in their windows. The upper levels of the building were used for office or residential space. Notice the corner entrance marked by a pillar and the Chicago-style windows. The

stone panel contains the building's name. The original windows are partially filled in. The raised brick detailing adds additional interest.

Mory's Block at 1031-33 West Third Street is our next stop. This 1884 building is an example of the Romanesque Revival style. This style was popular between 1840 and 1900. It is known for a rather heavy appearance with a restrained use of detailing. Contrasting colors of stone are common. Facades are carefully balanced, though perhaps not symmetrical. Arches are popular.

Mory's Block retains its original iron columns and metal store cornice. Notice the blind arcade just below the top cornice and the continuous stone lintels above the windows. Recessed panels with corbelled tops march across the upper level, below the roof cornice. Even though the store windows are filled in, the building retains its original design.





Next please view the Midget Theatre 1021-1025 West Third Street. A November 18, 2020 article by Tom Gilliam for Dayton.com and the *Dayton Daily News* recounts the history of this fascinating site as follows:

William J. Osterday, a Civil War veteran built a residence for his family and a saddle business in 1870 on this site. The Osterday Harness Shop manufactured and sold collars, whips, and sweat-pads. Osterday passed away in 1909. His widow Caroline sold a portion of the property to Harry C. Mory in 1912. That same year, Mory modified the facade of the harness shop and built the present theater in the Neoclassical Revival Style.

Mory leased the theater to Sherman W. and Benjamin F. Potterf. The brothers were natives of Eaton, Ohio and had lived in West Dayton for 22 years. Sherman catered and served lunches to the students at Steele High School in downtown Dayton for 11 years before the school got a cafeteria. Ben was a foreman at the Dayton Lumber Company in their stair building department for 20 years and was considered the best in his line of work. When you tour the residential neighborhood of Wright-Dunbar Village, you will see where Sherman lived at 129-131 Shannon Street.

The Midget Theatre was named after Sherman, who was of short stature. At one time he was a touring performer with the Kohl & Middleton's Dime Museum. Though the term "midget" is a derogatory slur today, it was commonly used to identify public performers of short stature in that era. Sherman became the theatre's manager at its grand opening on September 6, 1913. His height was even used to advertise the theater with the slogan "nothing small about the Midget — only the manager."

The 300-seat theater was built for \$33,000 and was billed as "The Home of Quality Photo Plays." Amenities included comfortable opera chairs, toilets and a ladies' lounge, velvet drapes, a drop curtain that featured a painting of the original Third Street bridge, and a Wurlitzer orchestra piano for silent movies.

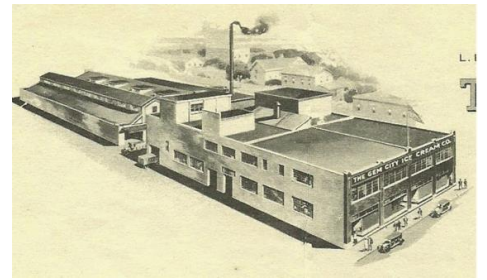
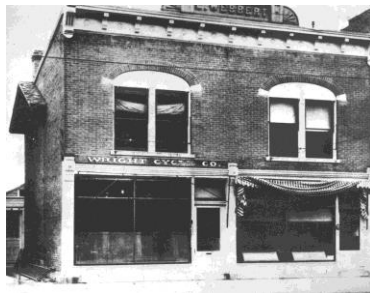
In 1917, the Potterf brothers sold their theater business to William E. Riceanson, who quickly sold it to Julius Leopold, owner of the Mecca Theater. Leopold sold his interests in both the Midget and Mecca theaters to John Lahm in 1927. The night of September 21, 1927, the theater narrowly escaped a massive fire after a short circuit ignited a film that was in progress. The blaze was quickly extinguished causing minimal damage. The Midget Theatre closed its doors in 1928, mainly because the Classic and Palace theaters had opened in the neighborhood the year before making the competition tougher.

Abandoned for many years, the building currently is the only property left for sale that is owned by Wright Dunbar, Incorporated, the nonprofit organization dedicated to the management and development of the historic Wright Dunbar Business District.

The Neoclassical exterior is remarkably intact. The Neoclassical style looks back to the proportions and detailing of ancient Greek and Roman architecture. Facades are often square and symmetrical, with regular, repeated door and window openings. Architects pay close attention to proportional relationships among the parts of the buildings. Cornices are usually wide, deep and elaborate. This formal style was popular from 1900 to 1920.

Here the first and second levels are the same height, giving the structure a square appearance. The elaborate stone cornice features Classical detailing. The detailing consists of triglyphs, the patterns of three vertical grooves, and blank metopes, the square panels between the triglyphs. The upper story includes pairs of three windows each with transoms. The raised brick detailing adds additional interest to the façade.

Our next stop is 1005 West Third Street, the Gem City Ice Cream Building.

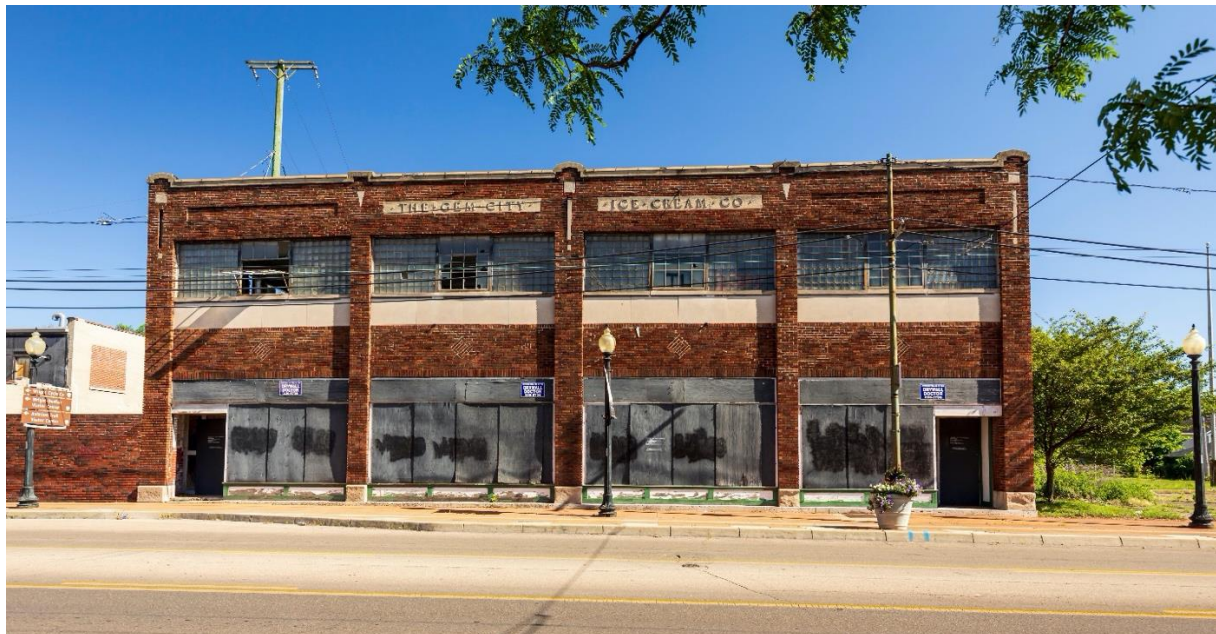


The was also the site of the first Wright cycle shop in 1892. The shop was located in the right bay and its three interior walls remain. The Wrights soon moved the cycle shop to 1034 West Third street before bringing their printing and bicycle businesses together at 22 South Williams Street in 1895.

The original commercial building was built in 1886. A series of additions have since been wrapped around the building. The present façade was added in 1928. The building is also historically significant as the site of the Gem City Ice Cream company. The company created the first manufactured ice cream in Dayton and perhaps was the first large-scale ice cream manufacturer in Ohio.

The City of Dayton has owned the building for several years. In 2012, Preservation Dayton in partnership with the British Transportation Museum prepared a multi-phase redevelopment plan for the building in response to a Request for Proposals from the City. This plan called for initial stabilization of the exterior of the building with funding from the two organizations, and re-allocated demolition funds from the City of Dayton. Subsequent leasing of storage space for classic cars and “white box offices,” with the addition of historic tax credits, could have generated income for further renovation of the interior and historic sections of the Wright Cycle Shop. The city chose not to proceed with the competitive process. The British Transportation Museum chose another site. You can visit the museum at 321 Hopeland and online at www.britishtransportationmuseum.org

As of 2020, the city of Dayton plans to demolish the building. The building has been named to Preservation Ohio’s Most Endangered Historic Properties statewide list. Preservation Dayton believes renovation of this National Register listed property is still viable.



Now return west back down West Third Street. We will focus on the historic properties on the south side of the street.



The Allaman Building located at 1000-1004 West Third

Street was built in 1914 and features Mediterranean influences. Dr. Allaman who built the building had his offices on the second floor. Store fronts were on the street level and apartments were on the third floor. This delightfully eclectic building does not follow the rules for any one historical style. The style of this building is described as Mediterranean because elements from various southern European cultures are found here.

Examples of these Mediterranean details include the colossal pilasters, the deep cornice, and the tile roof. The building features a symmetrical façade with two storefronts divided by a recessed entrance. The structure was built with a mixture of

materials including brick, stucco, and tile. The colossal pilasters give the building a vertical appearance. Chicago style windows, with a central plate glass area, are flanked by smaller side lights with opening sashes. The decorative blind panels of different sizes and the deep roof overhang draw your attention to the second and third levels. The terra cotta ornament above roof line and the tile roof over the façade are also common in Mediterranean architecture.

Our next stop is 1010-1012 West Third Street, the Needham Building. This Romanesque Revival style building was built in 1897. Notice the narrow decorative cornice between the first and second story. The upper story bays feature decorative brick panels. The cornice with dentils and brackets creates a varied roofline. Perhaps urns originally adorned the top of the brackets.



The Booth Building at 1024-1028 West Third

Street was built in 1890 in the Romanesque Revival style with Eastlake influences. The City of Dayton originally rehabilitated the building and used it as the site office for the Inner West Priority Board for several years. Recently Shannon Jackson of HER Realty renovated the building and is a recipient of a PDI Excellence in Preservation Award.

The two storefronts on the ground level are separated by a center stairwell opening. The first story exhibits pilasters with Eastlake ornamentation. Notice the incised decoration on the pilasters and how their tops break the line of the cornice. The upper story brick façade balances two types of window treatment. Notice the three arch-topped windows with stone lintels on the left. This is a good example of the Romanesque Revival design which relies on a balance of equal architectural weights rather than strict symmetry. The lower cornice is constructed of brick. A raised and curved center element emphasizes the parapet.

Our next stop is 1036-1038 West Third Street, the Enterprise Building.



This Romanesque Revival style building was built in 1890 with the typical storefront below and commercial space in the upper stories. This structure also has a hall on the third floor. Notice the symmetrical window arrangement with three rectangular windows below and three arched windows above on each side. The upper façade shows a fine balance of horizontal and vertical elements. It utilizes raised areas between windows to unite the second and third stories while off-setting the horizontal rows of windows. The inset and advancement of the brick detailing adds additional symmetry to the façade. The cornice with brackets is original.

A matchbook purchased on Etsy from England indicates that Alice Woodward, operated her bakery at this location. Woodward was one of Dayton's most dedicated preservationists and an early inductee in the Walk of Fame. Her Walk of Fame honor reads:

Alice G. Woodward, 1915-2000 As Dayton's most enthusiastic and successful historic preservationist, she saved over 40 buildings and advised and aided other preservationists. She received many awards for her successes and helped revitalize and revive many of Dayton's historic neighborhoods. In an article that appeared in 1998 in the *Dayton Daily News*, she said, "I just like old houses and I like to be busy. And it keeps me out of the bars."



After ending her marriage, banks wouldn't loan Woodward money as a single mother and divorced woman. She continued to operate the bakery and also sold wholesale flour to other bakeries. She later received her nursing degree, ran an antique store, and began investing in the renovation of historic properties. Two of her most remarkable accomplishments were the grass roots efforts to preserve the Dayton Mental Health Hospital which is now 10 Wilmington Place, and her renovation of the Steamboat House as her residence in the St. Anne's Hill Historic District.

The next two buildings are the Wright-Dunbar Interpretative Center for the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. Please make sure to visit this fascinating center.

The Setzer Building at 1134-1140 West Third Street is a Romanesque Revival style structure built in 1906. The building collapsed in 1993, leaving the façade. A new section of the building was then constructed behind the façade. Notice the tin pilasters on the façade. The varied window openings are placed in a regular rhythm. The attic story is emphasized with square windows and brick panels. A decorative cornice separates the second story and the attic level.



The Hoover Block at 1042-1046 West Third Street was built in 1890 in the Romanesque Revival style by Zachary T. Hoover. Hoover owned a drug store across the street. His son-in-law, Frank Hale, ran a grocery store in this building from 1896 to 1916 and was mayor of Dayton from 1922 to 1926. The Hoovers and Hales shared a double house across the street at 1131-1133 West Third Street. Their double was next door to the Wright brothers cycle shop where the airplane was invented.

You can step back in time to the Frank B. Hale grocery store when you visit the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center. The store, located in its original spot, has been carefully recreated to resemble the store in the early 1900's when the Wright Brothers and Paul Laurence Dunbar shopped there. This building was also the location of the Wright brothers printing business from 1890 to 1895. This is where they printed the *Dayton Tattler*, a newspaper begun by Paul Laurence Dunbar.

The three story commercial building had shops on the first floor, office suites or apartments on second floor, and a large meeting space on the third floor. The typical Romanesque features include heavy masses and brick detailing. The Third Street façade displays arched windows with keystones. The Williams Street façade has rectangular windows with stone sills and corbelled decoration. An elaborate cornice sets off the top of the building.

This concludes your walking tour of the West Third Street Historic District. If you would like additional information about the area, please contact Wright Dunbar, Incorporated online at www.wright-dunbar.org

Please set aside time to take the walking tours of Wright-Dunbar Village and the Paul Laurence Dunbar Historic District. And be sure and visit all the sites of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

This walking tour is a project of Preservation Dayton, Inc. PDI is a grassroots alliance of neighborhoods and individuals who actively promote historic preservation and historically sympathetic revitalization of the Dayton region. For more information, visit www.preservationdayton.com We hope you'll join Preservation Dayton and explore Dayton's other exciting National Register neighborhoods.

Preservation Dayton gratefully acknowledges the initial support received for the creation of this tour from the Montgomery County Regional Arts and Cultural District, and recent funding from a City of Dayton Mini-Grant.

Content for the history of the West Third Street Historic District tour was taken from the following resources:

- Consensus Organizing, A Community Development Workbook, by Mary L. Ohmer and Karen DeMasi, Sage Publishing, 2009, Case Study C: Revitalization without Gentrification: Wright-Dunbar Village, Dayton, Ohio
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