



## *Phyllis Hamner Room*

321 South 4th Street  
Ironton, Ohio 45638  
740-532-1124  
[www.briggslibrary.com](http://www.briggslibrary.com)

### **Hours**

Monday through  
Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday  
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Closed Sunday

## *Researching House Histories*

Step 1: Write down what you know.

- Address of the house
- Current Owner (if you are not the current owner)
- Previous Owners and years owned
- Year built
- Description of the house and surrounding outbuildings

Step 2: Discover previous owners. You can do this two ways:

1. Search Ironton City Directories located in the Phyllis Hamner Room. The directories will not only tell you who owned the property, but it will also list adult children (as boarders if still living with parents), occupation of home owner, and address or name of owners employer.
2. Perform a deed search.

2. Perform a deed search. Early deed records from 1816 to 1874 can be found in the Hamner Room. However, you can find other deed records at the Lawrence County Courthouse in the Records office. These records can be accessed from anyone. The Records has some of the more recent records indexed online at [http://www.lawrencecountyohiorecorder.org/record\\_search.htm](http://www.lawrencecountyohiorecorder.org/record_search.htm).

As you find your information, enter it into the forms on the opposite page and back of the booklet. Remember, always write in pencil until you have verified all of your information.

## *Other sources to search:*

- The Vertical Files located in the Phyllis Hamner Room have files on buildings in Lawrence County and Ironton. These files may contain copies of newspaper articles, information found by other researchers, and other varied sources. Since the file is on buildings, not many houses are covered in the file.
- Pictorial History of Lawrence County, Ohio 1998—The Pictorial History was published by the Lawrence County Historical Society and the Ironton Tribune. The book features numerous houses in Ironton with a small description. Although you may not find a wealth of information from this source, it is a good starting point. This source is not indexed. A copy of this book is available in the Phyllis Hamner Room.
- History of Lawrence County, 1990 and Second Edition—These two history books were published by the Lawrence County Genealogical Society and contain information on a variety of subjects. Articles were submitted by local historians and genealogists. Whether a house is included depends on the information being submitted. The book is indexed. A copy of this book is available in the Phyllis Hamner Room.
- Historical and Architectural Value : a survey of Ironton —This book can be found in the Hamner Room in the Lawrence County section. Focusing on the oldest houses in Ironton, the book includes information on the architect, size of house, style of architecture, and original owners.
- Historical Preservation Survey of Lawrence County, Ohio—These two binders have historical homes and businesses included in the Ohio Historical Inventory produced by the Ohio Preservation Office, a division of the Ohio Historical Society. Ironton and Upper Township homes can be found in the black binder. The rest of Lawrence County is covered in the forms located in the red binder. Both of these binders are located in the Hamner Room.

# House Styles

## American Colonial House Styles

American Colonial house styles were popular from 1600's to 1800. Some specific house styles which fall under this heading include:

- New England Colonial
- Colonial Cape Cod
- Spanish Colonial
- German Colonial
- Dutch Colonial
- Georgian Colonial
- French Colonial

## Classical House Styles

Classical House Styles became popular in this country from 1780-1860. This style was based on ancient Greece, which people felt represented democracy. Some specific house styles which fall under this heading include:

- **Federal and Adam**
- **Greek Revival**
- **Colonial Revival**
- Antebellum Architecture

## Victorian House Styles

Victorian House Style became popular from 1840-1900 when mass-production and factory made building parts made elaborate houses more affordable. Each Victorian Style had its own distinctive features, and those styles include:

- Gothic Revival
- **Italianate**
- **Second Empire or Mansard**
- Victorian Stick
- Folk Victorian
- Shingle House
- **Richardson Romanesque**
- **Queen Anne**
- **Eastlake**

## Gilded Age House Style

The Gilded Age House Styles was brought about by the rise of industrialism and was often built from 1880-1929. Some specific house styles which fall under this heading include:

- Beaux Arts
- Renaissance Revival
- **Richardson Romanesque**
- **Queen Anne**
- **Tudor**

*\*\*House styles in **Bold** has more indepth descriptions on the following pages.*

Other House Styles and their time period.

- Frank Lloyd Wright House Styles (1901-1955) - These houses feature low horizontal lines and open interior spaces.
- Early 20th Century Styles (1905-1945) - These houses were compact, economical and informal.
- Post-War House Styles (1945-1980) - Returning World War II soldiers built and bought these houses of simplicity and affordability.
- Modern House Styles (1930-present) - Modernist houses broke away from more conventional forms of houses while postmodern houses combined the traditional forms in non-traditional ways.
- “Neo” House Styles (1965-present) - These houses borrow from historical styles and place a modern twist on them.
- Spanish and Mediterranean House Styles (1600’s –present) - These houses borrow architectural features from the Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, African, and Greek cultures.

For more information on these styles, go to <http://architecture.about.com/od/housestyles/tp/housestylesindex.htm>.

## *House Styles in Lawrence County*

These house styles are often visible in Lawrence County.

### **Federal or Adams Style—1780-1840**

- 2 story and 1 room deep
- Rectangular shape
- Long side facing the street
- Low gabled roof or flat roof
- Semi-circular fanlight over the front door
- Central hallway
- Circular or elliptical windows with shutters

### **Greek Revival Style –1825-1860**

- Symmetrical Shape
- Short side facing the street
- Pedimented gabled roof
- Made of wood or stone; rarely in stone
- All openings are rectangular
- Bold, simple moldings
- Entry porch with columns
- Narrow windows around the front door

### **Colonial Revival –1876-1955**

- Symmetrical façade
- 2 to 3 stories
- Brick or wood siding
- Simple, classical detailing
- Gabled roof
- Pillars and columns
- Multi-pane, double-hung windows with shutters
- Center entry-hall floor plan

### **Romanesque –1880-1900**

- Constructed from rough faced stone
- Patterned masonry arches over windows
- Round towers with cone-shaped roofs

### Italianate—1840-1885

- Low-pitched or flat roof
- Tall appearance with 2 to 4 stories
- Wide overhanging eaves with brackets and cornices
- Side bay windows
- Roman arches above windows or doors
- Porch topped with balustraded balconies

### Tudor—1890-present

- Decorative half timbering
- Steep pitched roof
- Tall, narrow windows
- Massive chimneys

### Second Empire or Mansard Style—1855-1885

- Mansard Roof
- Dormer windows projected like eyebrows from roof
- Brackets beneath eaves, balconies, and bay windows
- Wrought iron cresting above upper cornice
- Paired columns
- Small entry porch
- Tall windows on the first story

### Queen Anne—1840-1885

- Steep roof
- Complicated, asymmetrical shape
- One-story porch that extends across one or two sides of the house
- Round or square towers
- Bay windows
- Ornamental spindles and brackets

Step 1: Basic Information:

What is the property's address?

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

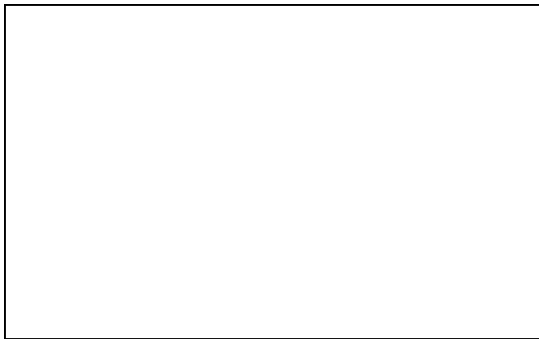
Step 2: Basic Structural Information

How many structures are on the property? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe the structure(s). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Draw the floor plan.



First Floor



Second Floor

Step 3: House History

Who built the property? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the original function of the building? \_\_\_\_\_

Is it on its original site? \_\_\_\_\_

What major historical materials does the property retain (i.e. wood siding, slate shingles, decorative trim, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have any major historical materials been removed or replaced? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, when and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does the property still have its original shape, room arrangement, and window and door openings? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Step 3: Cont.

What is the architectural style? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the building type? \_\_\_\_\_

What changes have been made to the property and when  
(additions, new windows, new siding, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Step 4: Ownership

What was the name of the original owner? \_\_\_\_\_

How long did he/she own the property? \_\_\_\_\_

Who else has owned the property? And when?

Name:	Occupation	Bought	Sold
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Step 5: Historical Significance

Is the property associated with a major historical  
development within the community? \_\_\_\_\_ Which one?

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there an important person associated with the property?

Yes          No

If so, who were they? \_\_\_\_\_

When did they gain importance? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the person important locally, on the state level, or  
nationally? \_\_\_\_\_

What made the person important? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does the property represent the work of an architect, builder  
or artist? Yes      No

Whose work is it? \_\_\_\_\_