

Fairfield County Heritage Association presents

The Twin Cities Tour of Homes

June 29 & 30 * Baltimore, Ohio

Fourteen sites – including seven homes – will be open for touring from the former rival towns of Basil and Baltimore, which consolidated in 1947. The tour runs from 11-5 both days, rain or shine. Tours are self-guided. Visit any and all at your own pace, in any order you wish.

The buildings date from the 1820s to the 1920s, including Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, Victorian, and Arts and Craft styles.

Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 tour weekend; and \$6 for students 5-18. Advance tickets are on sale at www.fairfieldheritage.com, the Sherman House and Georgian Museums; at Fairfield National Bank Downtown and at FNB branches in Baltimore and at Meijer. Ticket sites tour weekend are indicated on these pages with a star. ★

The opera houses of Baltimore and Basil



The Victoria Opera House in Baltimore, 101 S. Main St., was built in 1905-6 and is the last historic opera house in Fairfield County. The theater portion of the building was abandoned for years, but it has been undergoing restoration since 2011 and is hosting special events once more. Basil's former opera house, 1126 Market St., built by the Knights of Pythias in 1902, was by turns the Aurora movie theater, a church, a VFW Post, and an auction house. Today, it is the spectacular home of Bill & Marilyn Morgan, featured twice on HGTV.

The first homes wired for electricity in Baltimore and Basil



The building on the left, the 501 Event Center, stands at 501 Market St. It belongs to Rick and Robin Foreman. It was built for C.M. Sands and was wired for electricity even though it wasn't yet available in Baltimore. Longtime residents of Baltimore probably remember the building best as the place where Dr. Sneeringer had his office for many years. The building on the right was originally a Victorian-style home built by David L. Cook. David & Barbara DeLong are the second family to own it, buying it in 1972. The house has 15 rooms, including seven bedrooms and two dining rooms. The DeLongs are marvelous china painters and visitors will see their fine work throughout the house.

The oldest homes on tour, including the one that changed addresses



These homes were built well before 1850, and both wear their years well. The building on the left belongs to Jeff and Sandy Nielsen and stands at 3316 Leonard Road, just outside Baltimore. In 2003 the building was moved in three parts across three acres of farmland and a creek bed from its original home on the Bright family farm. It has built-in cabinets and hand-sawn floors as well as modern updates in the kitchen and bathrooms. Tour tickets will be on sale here. The house on the right, 106 N. Basil St., was built in 1827 for Sebastian & Barbara Leonard. Barbara was the daughter of Jacob Goss, the founder of Basil. It now belongs to Marc Taylor & Patrick Kop, who have a marvelous collection of Fairfield County furniture from 1820-1850 as well as original artwork by Dr. Gabriel Miesse and C.P. Ream.

These handsome homes from the 1920s



The house on the left at 119 S. Walnut St. belongs to Ralph & Sherry Talbert. The three-story Colonial Revival home was built in 1920 for C.W. Unkle, vice president of the local paper mill. The architect was Jones & Abernathy of Columbus. The home contains its original woodwork, stairway and mantles, as well as a new kitchen and flooring. The Talberts have an eclectic collection of antiques and collectibles including an early printing press, a boot button machine and an early wagon seat. Only a few blocks away, at 421 S. Main St., stands the home of Ed & Michelle Veeley. It is a Sears Craftsman catalog home – Fullerton model – that was put up in 1924 by the Roley family. Catalog homes were shipped by rail, with complete instructions, hardware and all the pieces marked. This home has gorgeous original oak woodwork throughout and has maintained the Craftsman feel. Adding to the atmosphere, the Veeleys have wonderful antiques in every room.

The Griley House & the Baltimore Community Museum



Central Ohio
China Painters Guild

**Basil
Garden
Club**



The building now known as the Griley House was built in the 1920s for T.D. & Emma Griley, when T.D. was president of the Baltimore paper mill. After his death, Emma Griley donated the building, and it became the Griley Memorial Library. Howard and Elsie Wooden approached the library in 1976 about creating a community museum, and so the museum began in the library basement. When the collection outgrew the basement, a museum building was erected in 1984 and expanded in 1993. Both buildings will be open for the tour. Museum Director Jessica Kunkler Shaw will have exhibits highlighting the history of the Twin Cities. At the Griley House, there will be demonstrations and exhibits by the Central Ohio China Painters Guild and the Basil Garden Club, the oldest garden club in the state. Tickets will be on sale here.

The old Basil Bandstand/Council Room/Jail/Firehouse



Our tour offers a rare look inside the former Basil Fire House, which stands at the corner of Market & High Street. The original building was a bandstand built in the 1890s. In the early 1900s, the village erected a building for its council to meet and added a jail cell. The village then added a two-story front, with the fire department house below. Upstairs, the band had a place to practice. Part of the old bandstand was incorporated into the design. In recent years, the building has been used for storage. On tour weekend, it will be open once more. We'll have old and new fire equipment on display as well as a band uniform and the old council meeting table. The firehouse will also offer tour tickets for sale.

Poplar Creek School & Cemetery as well as Bibler's Lock



Poplar Creek Schoolhouse & Cemetery are northwest of Baltimore and can be found at the intersection of Route 256 and Heimberger Road NW. The plot was donated in 1826 by the Brumbach family on the east and the Zerkle family on the west. The oldest gravestones in the cemetery date to 1812. The schoolhouse is the third to stand in the area and was built in 1884, supposedly using materials from the second school house. The Twin Cities' rich history from the canal era is represented by Bibler's Lock, officially know as Ohio & Erie Canal Lock South 8. You can find it behind the Baltimore Wastewater Treatment Plant (2005 Basil Western Road). This section of the canal was opened in 1831. Now in the care of the Fairfield County Parks, it has been nominated with 8 other locks for the National Register of Historic Places.

Baltimore United Methodist Church



The Baltimore United Methodist Church has stood at 200 W. Market St. since 1911, when it was built as a church of the United Brethren in Christ. After a merger with the Evangelical Church, it became the Evangelical United Brethren Church. A merger with the Methodist Church created the United Methodist Church. Finally, a merger of the Market Street and Beulah congregations resulted in the Baltimore United Methodist Church. Architects Stribling and Lum from Columbus designed the building. Contractors Van Gundy and Snoke were awarded the general contract. Volunteers from the community donated a great deal of labor and funding to the project. The debt was paid off in 18 months. Not only will the church be open for tours, volunteers are also hosting a café with sandwiches, drinks and desserts.