

**9. The Stonehenge Company, 147 N. High St.**

The fully restored corporate office of The Stonehenge Company was previously a church built in 1875 by the Evangelical Association of North America.



**Ohio Herb Center and the Herb Center Drying Shed**

**10. Ohio Herb Center, 110 Mill St.**

The Ohio Herb Center is located in the historic Nafzger-Miller house, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and dates back to 1855. The Ohio Herb Center showcases the city's history and status as the Herb Capital of Ohio, celebrating all-things-herbal year-round through gardens, classes, hands-on workshops, and a gift shop filled with herb-inspired treasures. Its mission is to help people to incorporate and enjoy herbs in their daily lives. **Learn more at: [OhioHerbCenter.org](http://OhioHerbCenter.org)**

**11. The Mifflin Inn, 74 Mill St.**

The former Mifflin Inn, now filled with various offices, was built in 1853 as a tavern. It was used primarily as a stagecoach stop. The oldest stone step in Gahanna is here.

**12. The Gahanna Bank, 66 Mill St.**

The Gahanna Bank, founded in the early 1900s, failed during the depression, never again to be a bank. It served as a print shop, then as Town Hall and it now houses offices.

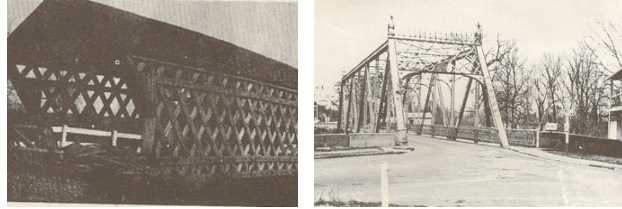


**The Gahanna Bank/Municipal Building**

**13. The building on the corner of Mill St. and Granville St, 57 Mill St,** is a rebuild of the historic structure that was built over 100 years ago. The downstairs was a saloon and the upstairs served as a living quarters. A livery stable and a blacksmith shop were next door.

**14. Creekside Park, 117 Mill St.**

The Big Walnut Creek was important to the development of Gahanna. From this creek, settlers received water, food and power. The current from the millrace channel powered a mill that was once used to grind flour and cut logs and timber.



**Mill Street Bridge, 1823-1900 and 1900-1965**

**15. Veterans Memorial Park & Bridge Pergola, 73 W. Johnstown Rd.**

• **(15a) Mill Street Bridge Pergola**

Mill Street that runs over Big Walnut Creek used to be a covered bridge from 1823-1900. It was rebuilt as an Iron Bridge from 1900-1965. The pergola, the top part of the iron bridge, is on display at the entrance of Veterans Memorial Park parallel to Granville Street.

• **(15b) Gahanna Veterans Memorial**

This black granite monolith, topped by an eternal flame, is surrounded by inscribed bricks, which honor loved ones who have faithfully served in the armed forces.

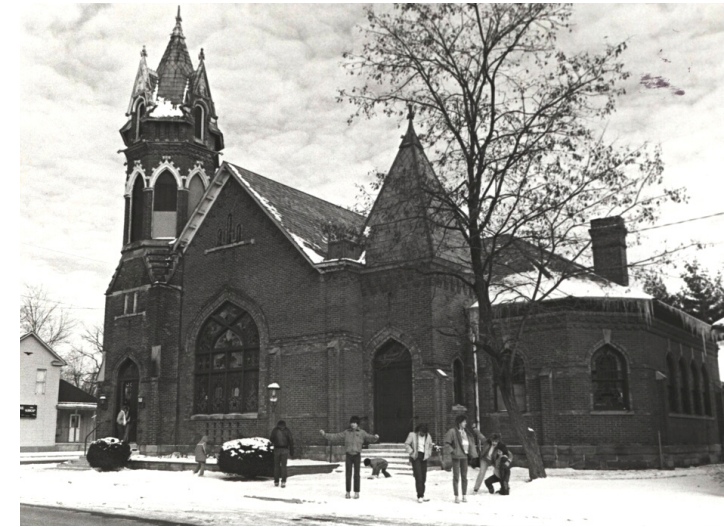
**16. The Ridenour House, 109 W. Johnstown Rd.**

The Ridenour House, one of the oldest brick homes in the area is located at the corner of West Johnstown Rd and James Rd and was built in 1828.

**This concludes your walking tour, but a short ride will take you to other historically significant sites, such as the Geroux Herb Garden (206 S. Hamilton Rd).**

# Historical Walking Tour of Gahanna

*Step back in time and explore Gahanna's rich history on foot*



**The Gahanna Sanctuary**

**visitgahanna**

110 Mill St, Gahanna

(614) 418-9114

[www.VisitGahanna.com](http://www.VisitGahanna.com)

07/23

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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF GAHANNA

In the early 1900s, Gahanna was a lively mill town. The original millrace, the channel in which the current of water churning a mill wheel flows, can still be seen along the Big Walnut Creek. As you follow the walking tour, explore the historic sites of Gahanna and enjoy the scenic Big Walnut Creek, the parks along the waterway, and the shops and restaurants of Creekside Plaza.

Early settlement in the area began in 1803, following the U.S. Military Land Act of 1796 which designated public lands for Revolutionary War veterans. Gahanna was founded in 1849 by John Clark of Ross County. The name Gahanna is derived from a Native American word for three creeks joining into one and is the former name of the Big Walnut Creek.



**John Clark,  
Founder**

This area, south of Granville Street, merged in the early 1870s with the town of Bridgeport, founded by Jesse Baughman, and located on the north side of Granville Street. In 1881, the Village of Gahanna was incorporated.



## 1. Gahanna Historical Settlement, 101 S. High St.

Begin your tour, as you step back in time at the Gahanna Historical Society Settlement and visit the 1860s Log House, 1840s John Clark House, and 1900s Lily Stone Bed & Breakfast. The settlement is open the first Saturday of the month from March-December from 10am-12pm. To schedule a tour email: [gahannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:gahannahistory@gmail.com).

## 2. Lily Stone Bed & Breakfast, 106 S. High St.

The Stone Family House, circa 1900 has been restored to represent the Victorian Era in which it was built. This house was home to Mrs. Lillie Stone, daughter of a pioneering family in Gahanna. The home now operates as the Lily Stone Bed & Breakfast. For a unique stay or tour email [gahannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:gahannahistory@gmail.com) or call (614) 440-2715.

3. Across the street, you'll see the John Clark House, originally built in 1840 as a home for the minister of the Mifflin Presbyterian Church. John Clark, the founding father of Gahanna, provided the land for the Church. The house was moved to the Historical Society in 1973 and

displays many artifacts and family furniture donated by the direct descendants of the Clark family.

4. Next to the John Clark House is the Log House. The Log House was built in the 1860s on Cherry Bottom Road by David Shull, one of Gahanna's early settlers. The Historical Society relocated the house in 1968. Notice the architectural detail of the Log House. The builders added a drip ledge to keep water out. This Log House, (not to be confused with a log cabin), was built using dove tail construction, a specific type of joining. This home is a Log House and not a Log Cabin because it is two stories, and the logs are hewn.

## 5. Big Walnut Country Club Historical Marker, Friendship Park, 150 Oklahoma Ave.

Visit the site of the Big Walnut Country Club, one of the first Black country clubs in the nation. It was founded in the 1920s by a number of civic leaders and served as a rural retreat for the Black community to socialize, hold conferences, and have recreational opportunities during the time of segregation. Members enjoyed golf, swimming, archery, tennis, badminton, boating, dining, and dancing. The Big Walnut Country Club included an 18-hole golf course and a clubhouse, where it hosted beauty pageants. In 2022, the site was recognized with Gahanna's first Ohio Historical Marker highlighting the history of the Big Walnut Country Club and its founders. The club was on land that is now Friendship Park.

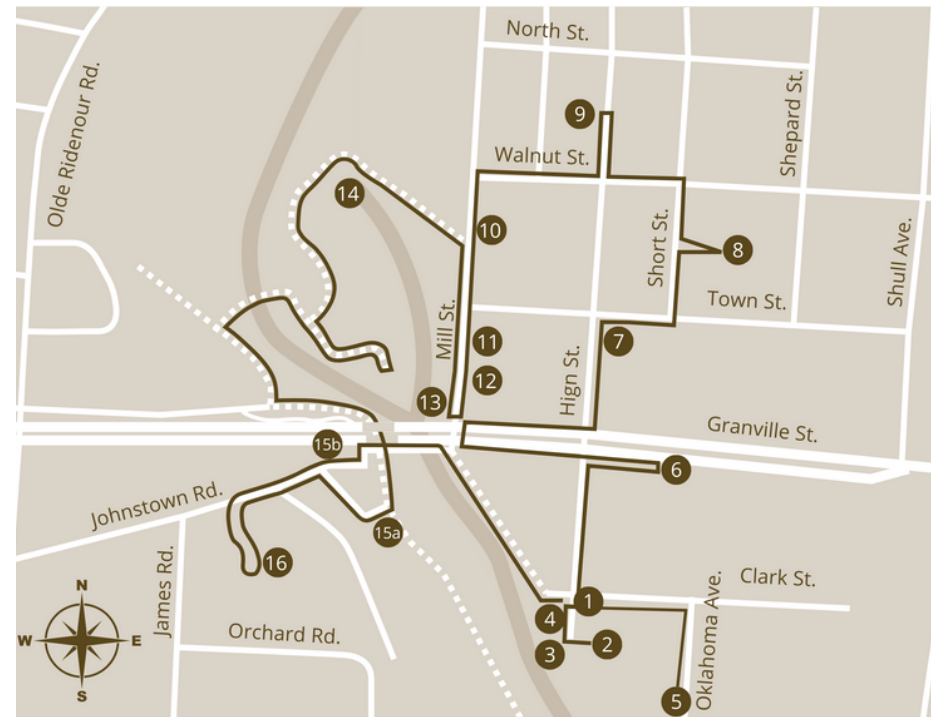
## 6. Mifflin Presbyterian Church, 123 Granville St.

On the land donated by John Clark, the Mifflin Presbyterian Church was built in 1840. Part of the original structure was built with logs and has been through many architectural changes as it expanded to fit the needs of its congregation. The stain glass windows in the front, made by Nathaniel Harris during the mid-1800s, are from the original structure.

## 7. The Gahanna Sanctuary, 82 N. High St.

On North High Street, you'll find the Gahanna Sanctuary, an example of the Germanic influence in Gahanna. The Olde Gahanna Sanctuary was built in 1895 by Peace Lutheran Church. Services were held in this church from 1895 to 1963. The Sanctuary is now used as an event center.

You can learn more at: [gahannasanctuary.org](http://gahannasanctuary.org)



## 8. The Shepard Street School, 106 Short St.

Designed by local prolific architect, Frank Lucius Packard, in 1889, the Shepherd Street School served as a school for 55 years, then as a nursing home for 20 years, and finally converted to an office space in 1978. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Packard's architecture firm designed over 3,400 buildings, including 200 in the Columbus area. Columbus landmarks Packard designed include the U.S. Courthouse on Marconi Blvd, the Columbus Museum of Art, the Ohio National Bank Building, the Columbus Athletic Club, and several buildings on The Ohio State University Main Campus.