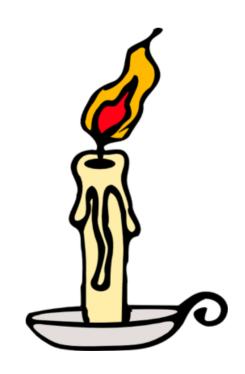


2018 Gandlelight Tour of Homes Sponsored by:











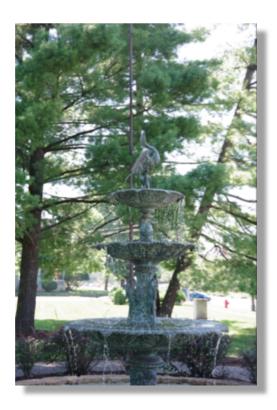
Thank you for attending the 2018 Candle Light Tour of Victorian Homes! The tour has been a bi-annual tradition since 1982. The South Main Historic District is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Middletown.

For your safety and the protection and privacy of our homes and families, please adhere to the following:

- 1. Food, drinks, strollers and umbrellas are not permitted inside any of the homes
- 2. No photography please as these homes are our private residences
- 3. Please stay in designated tour areas within the homes and respect rooms and doors that are closed
- 4. Children must stay with their parent/guardian at all times while in the homes
- 5. Bathrooms inside the homes are not for public use

The South Main Council's original mission statement: Preservation, Restoration & Improvement of South Main (PRISM) will be on display as you tour our wonderful neighborhood of historic victorian homes. This evening you will get to see homes that were built and owned by Middletown's most prestigious families. These are homes that have stood the test of time some of them dating back to 1827. Most homes were built in the 1860-1870's., and a few in the early 1900's.

Our district has seen a lot of change over the years, a lot of the homes were turned into apartments and rooming houses. Our neighbors through years of hard work have lovingly returned South Main back to a place of prestige, where almost all the homes are now single family residence once again.





2 South Main - Oglesby & Barnitz Bank The Windamere Event Genter

Stephen Vail, one of Middletown's founding fathers had his log home on this site in the early 1800's. In 1847 Oglesby and Barnitz operated a general store in this same location, which evolved to become one of the first banks in Middletown and Butler County. The building operated as a bank until 2001, and in 2015 the building was renovated into the The Windamere, Southwest Ohio's premier event center.



56 South Main - The Lickwick Building Lohr Family

Starting out as a residence in 1836, this home has spent most of its life as a commercial space. It's past includes a stage coach stop, tavern, doctor's office, museum, law offices, and now a home and art studio for Christine Lohr. The home was lovingly restored by Christine herself, utilizing local labor when necessary.



# 63 South Main - Sorg Opera House

Built In 1891, in the Romanesque style by Paul J. Sorg and designed by Samual Hannaford. The opera house once a thriving venue slipped into decay. Through the countless hours of volunteer work from the Sorg Opera Revitalization Group and community, the Sorg Opera House is alive again. Its held quite a few wonderful shows this past season, and the future is very bright, as its one of Ohio's great historic assets!



68 South Main - George Barnitz Kouse Cornerstone Manor

In 1812, the property known as 68 South Main Street was sold by Hugh and Shobal Vail to Archibald Campbell for \$20. It changed hands several times before being purchased by William Oglesby in 1854. Oglesby left Pennsylvania in the early 1800s to come to Middletown. Later, he brought his new bride, Rebecca Barnitz, to Middletown. Her brother, George Barnitz, joined Oglesby in the operation of a hardware and supplies business, and later the Oglesby-Barnitz Bank. Barnitz purchased the lot at 68 South Main from Oglesby in 1854, and built the home seen here in the popular Italianate style in 1861. The dwelling is known as the Barnitz home.



121 South Main - Goldman House Schoenlein Family

Built in 1891 by Simon Goldman, Middletown's first dry goods merchant. The Goldman family loved to entertain in their 15 room mansion. Sadly, Simon's son Joseph fell deaf at the age of 3 from scarlet fever. Fortunately, he thrived in painting and woodcarving at a school for the deaf in New York. Much of the interior carvings were done by Joseph, who also worked on the John Astor home (a business mogul, and the richest man to die on the sinking of the RMS Titanic) in New York City. The two faces on the porch represent joy and sorrow.



206 South Main -Sorg Mansion Barnett Family

Built in 1887 by Paul J. Sorg, Middletown's first millionaire. Paul served twice as a member of congress and led 12 major enterprises at his time of death. The Romanesque mansion is a Samuel Hannaford design, redesigned in 1902 by Albert Pretzinger to include the new tower additions. Paul had two children Paul Jr. and Ada. Both moved to New York in 1902 after each receiving their 10 million inheritance (\$289,000,000.00 today). Paul Jr. was a highly accomplished equestrian, who used his wealth to compete against Alfred G. Vanderbilt, a very accomplished four-in-hand racer.



214 South Main - Theodore Marston House Loukinas Family

Built in 1879 by Theodore Marston a farmer, horse breeder, banker, and community leader from Madison Twp. The house was later purchased by Jennie Sorg and given as a wedding gift to her niece, Melva Walburg-Rinearson. Around 1917 the home was converted into an apartment building, until sometime in the 1920's where it gave hope to children with rare diseases by being converted into a doctors office for those in need. In 2015 the home was purchased and converted back to a single family dwelling.



231 South Main - Wampler Denny House Miller Family

Built in 1890, this Queen Anne Style was built by Mrs. Denny, a long time member and host of the Middletown Garden Club. Mr. Wampler Denny was a businessman who served on the Board of Governors for the Middletown Civic Association.



603 South Main - Dr. WM Warner House Fout and Sullender Family

Built in 1919 in the craftsman style, once the home of general practitioner W.M. Warner who spared no expense when it came to constructing his home. Warner was a prominent physician and city commissioner in Middletown. estimated to have delivered nearly 1,800 babies.



6Q9 South Main - WT Karrison House Anglin Family

Built in 1902 for a "Top Dollar" price of \$2485.00. All masonry materials were made from the cellar excavation. W.T Harrison was a local businessman dealing in Insurance.



604 South Main - DE Harlan House Romero Family

Built around 1890, D.E Harlan was responsible for the modernization of Crystal Tissue Co and was active in civic affairs. DE Harlan served on the board of directors for Oglesby-Barnitz Bank & Trust. The home has been converted from an apartment building to a single family home by Matt and Nancy Romero. This is Nancy's 4th complete historic renovation on South Main St.

THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS RECEIVED IN REPLY TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN CONCERNING THE DEDICATION OF THIS VOLUME OF THE OPTIMIST.

Middletown, Ohio, February 3, 1923.

To the Youth of Middletown:-

It has been our earnest desire to provide adequate schooling facilities for every girl and boy in our city. The new school buildings soon to be dedicated are a partial realization of our ambitions. We trust that these new opportunities will result in such an appreciation on your part that both you and the community at large will be greatly benefited. We agree with Emerson, that "The true test of civilization is not in the census, nor in the size of the cities, nor in the crops, but in the kind of men that the country turns out."

Sincerely yours, (Signed)

M. E. Danford, Pres. A. K. Lewis, Vice Pres. P. G. Banker, Clerk D. E. Harlan

H. R. Betts

Board of Education.



712 South Main - Behrens House Kanavan Family

Built Circa 1908, Henry Behrens was a local florist that immigrated from Germany in 1854. Henry Behrens Jr, a second generation florist served as a Corporal for the First Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. This home was restored in 2015 by the Hanavan family.



800 South Main - Renick/Hallowell House Hanavan Family

Built in 1918 by Robert Renick and Marian Hooven. Home was built with an inheritance gifted by a family member After the Robert Renick's death, Marian remarried Joesph Hallowell The Hanavan family purchased the home in 2011. After extensive renovations, they moved into the home in 2012, and continue renovating to this day.



114 S. Broad Street St. Lauls United Church of Christ

St. Paul's German Evangelical Protestant Church was organized in 1876, and construction was started on the building in 1877. The exterior of the old section of St. Paul's was completed in 1877. The interior of the church was not fully completed until 1891. Ten art glass windows were installed in 1920, and a large stained glass window depicting "The Lord's Supper" was added in 1939. The large, well-crafted windows are one of the most striking features of the church. Another unique feature is the second floor sanctuary



120 South Broad Street First United Methodist Church

The cornerstone of the church was laid on May 3, 1890. The stone came from a small quarry near Rockdale and the sandstone trim from a quarry near Cleveland. Samuel Hannaford & Sons, famous for the design of Music Hall in Cincinnati, were the architects. The windows, designed by George A. Misch, memorialize many of the pioneer members, pastors and elders of the church. One window in the southeast corner of the sanctuary is in memory of James Grimes, the founder of Middletown Methodism.



212 South Broad Street Bethlehem Lutheran Church

This church was originally dedicated in 1859, but the ministry was begun over 150 years ago in 1854. A harness maker, Frederick Siebert, organized many of his fellow, local German immigrants to form a Lutheran congregation and was one of the founding signers of the 1854 constitution that created The Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Middletown. The church's exterior has seven Lutheran symbols carved over the tower entrance. In the sanctuary, the seven beautiful stained glass windows are in the form of a cross.



In 1894 civic-minded group of Middletown men met under the guidance of Paul J. Sorg. This may be a group of men known as the Middletown Businessmen's Club. Standing left to right: William L. Dechant, Ed Sebald(?), John Boyd (cashier, later vice-president, Merchants' National Bank), John Oglesby, George Phipps (became vice-president of the Merchants' National Bank), Wm. K. Rhonemus (attorney), Gus Weisbrodt (druggist, whose store became Rathman Drugs and later Lewis Drugs), Dan Bonnell (note his missing arm). Seated from left to right are: William Crane, Paul J. Sorg (Middletown industrist), A. H. Walburg(secretary and treasurer, Miami Cycle & Manufacturing Co. and manager of the Sorg Opera House), and George Shafor (manager of tobacco operations for Sorg and later the American Tobacco Company). In the 1890's, Paul J. Sorg was Middletown's leading industrialist. He had interests in many undertakings including tobacco, paper, bicycles, banking, railroads, etc.

# Floor Protection provided by:



Thank you for joining us this season. We look forward to seeing you in 2020!

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