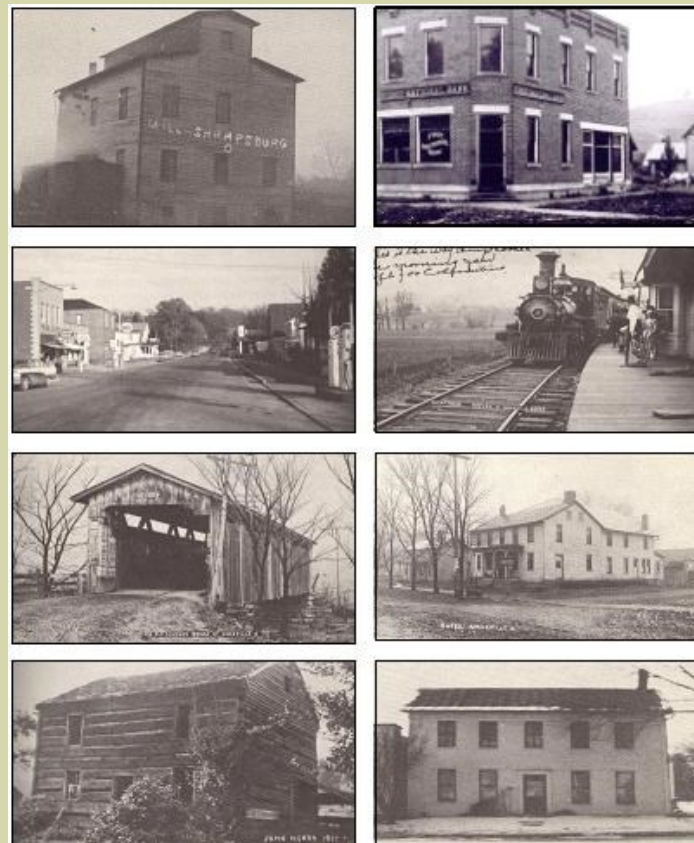


Amesville is located in the unglaciated Allegheny Plateau. Athens County extends west from the Ohio River, mostly centering around the lower Hocking River watershed. The underlying geology is mostly sandstone and shale, including "redbed" shale that presents a severe slip hazard when structures are built over it on hillsides. Most hillsides, though, are solid sandstone and present very little slip potential.

The plant habitat around Amesville is that of mixed hardwood forests. The dominant species are oak, hickory, maple, beech, poplar and various [nut trees](#) (walnut, butternut and others). The under story plants include dogwood, redbud, spice bush, paw paw, viburnums, mountain laurel and other small shrubs. The floor species contains hundreds of herbs and wild flowers: wild ginger, ferns, various mints, jack in the pulpit, trilliums, mayapple, trout lily and hundreds of other varieties. Numerous other flora include lichens, club mosses, liver worts and dozens of mushrooms prevalent in the fall each year.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT [WWW.AMESVILLEOHIO.ORG](http://WWW.AMESVILLEOHIO.ORG)**

## HISTORIC AMESVILLE GUIDE



## WELCOME TO HISTORIC AMESVILLE

Amesville long has been a village of distinction, having been settled by prominent families of New England. It is the seat of Ames Township, which originally encompassed 360 square miles. It is the only township in Ohio which was named by an act of Congress, named for Fisher Ames, a famous orator, statesman and writer. The first settlement, known as Mud Sock, was located along SR 550, near the present Amesville Cemetery, on the original Silas Dean Farm (established prior to 1796). There stood a log school built in 1804; the headmaster was Harvard graduate Moses Everett. By 1814, there also stood 4 or 5 homes, a tannery, a store, a blacksmith shop by 1828, and in 1832, a brick church. The first permanent residents, Ephraim Cutler (1797), George Ewing (1798), Benjamin Brown and Isaac Linscott (1799), Silvanus Ames and Job Phillips (1800) settled in the Federal Creek Valley near Linscott Run, earlier known as Brown's Branch. The area surrounding Dutch Creek was settled by Baron Rudolph de Steiguer and citizens of Bern, Switzerland following the War of 1812. A mail route was established in 1800 from Zanesville to Cincinnati, by way of Marietta, Amesville, Athens and Chillicothe. James Dickey was a notable Postal Carrier from 1806 to 1814 risking his life repeatedly to deliver mail, news and government dispatches. The Athens Post Office was established in 1804 followed by the Amesville Office in 1821.

Excerpts taken from the writings of C.H. Harris and Nellie Wooley



## POINTS OF INTEREST, AMESVILLE WALKINGTOUR

Refer to Amesville Walking Tour Map for items

- 23) Thomas House. 1930's Bank president lived here and was involved in Amesville bank holdup. The bullet ricocheted off his underwear button, saving his life. The foundation of a townhouse and jail remains behind the building.
- 24) Gardener House established before 1875. Interior beams display evidence of an old house fire.
- 25) Crawford House. The former owner, Fannie Crawford, always wanted to be the first to hang laundry out to dry. So, she would hang a few wet, unwashed sheets first thing on Wash day.
- 26) Site of the former Blacksmith and Harness Shop.
- 27) Beasley House Established 1905. Former Mayor's office (Tom Clark) Town Doctor was next door.
- 28) Tom Clark's House (former Mayor)
- 29) Kalerfield's Nursery. House built in 1874 by the same builder as #33.
- 30) Methodist Church, built for \$3,260 in 1892. Brick was fired on the property from clay also dug on this site. First Methodist Society was organized in 1824 with 8 in the congregation.
- 31) Fleming Farm established in 1896. The summer kitchen is still intact along with the 19<sup>th</sup> Century iron fence. John Fleming was a wealthy farmer that specialized in raising draft horses.
- 32) Henry Cemetery.
- 33) Former Town Doctor and Surgeon's House.
- 34) Another home built by company that built #33 and #29.
- 35) Gifford Park.
- 36) Hixson House. Former home of the Director of the Bank and Livery Company established before 1879.
- 37) Masonic Hall established 1900. Was the former Ford Dealership for Fred Beasley that started as a Carriage Dealership.
- 38) Glazier Beasley House established 1903. Home of the owner of the First Ford Dealership in Southeast Ohio. Also, home of former lover of Jesse Owens. During the flood of 1968 the house was a Nursing Home and residents were evacuated from the second story windows.
- 39) Village Green with the bell that first hung at the Amesville Academy. It came off a steamboat on the Ohio River and was brought to Amesville in a horse drawn cart by Mr. Cutler.
- 40) Glouster Community bank which was originally the Amesville Telephone Company in 1907.
- 41) Coonskin Library Historic marker
- 42) Grosvenor House established about 1890.
- 43) Former surgery office of Dr. Howard 1920 to 1940.
- 44) Dr. Howard's House. Garage was the former Red and White Grocery and Bus Station.



## POINTS OF INTEREST, AMESVILLE WALKINGTOUR

Refer to Amesville Walking Tour Map for items

### THE COONSKIN LIBRARY

It was in 1801 at a meeting to face the problems of road maintenance that the great longing for books surfaced and the Western Library Association of Ames was born. This became the first *unincorporated library in the Northwest Territory (#41)*. Money was extremely scarce but the natural resource of animal pelts found a ready market in the East. Many kinds of animals, including bears and raccoons, were harvested. The proceeds, \$73.50 financed the purchase of 51 books.

Word quickly spread that the books had arrived from Boston and a large gathering oohed and aahed as they were uncrated. The rules were strict - loaning books to neighbors who were not shareholders in the library would bring severe penalties - pages were not to be folded or grease spattered. As the years passed, the growing library moved from one home to another in the community. It finally numbered over 250 books and served the area for 50 years before being split up, badly stored and lost. Some of the original books are now in the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus.



- 1) Painter Brothers General Store, est. pre 1875. Doc Dean's Filling Station & Restaurant. The Manna House. Site of the Dunbar House (Hotel), est. 1860.
- 2) Kasler's Restaurant. Site of Patterson & Curfman Dry Goods, originally wood, est. pre 1875. Gardener's, Morehead and Kasler's General Store.
- 3) Smith/Blair House. Foothills School of American Crafts.
- 4) Formerly Patterson House, est. 1870.
- 5) The Grange Hall, organized in 1874. Shoop, manufacturer of furniture & undertaker, est. 1875.
- 6) Old American House, est. pre 1875. Gibson Drug Store and Confectionary, est. 1878. Coonskin Tavern, liquor less restaurant. Confectionary.
- 7) The Fellowship Church. Formerly a farm machine shop, lumber yard, filling station, furniture and hardware store.
- 8) Amesville Post Office.
- 9) What Comes Around Goes Around - Antiques-Uniques-Reliques. Formerly Kasler's General Store, Post Office, photography shop, ice house and filling station, est. 1885.
- 10) Former Telephone Office.
- 11) Ed Moore lived here and owned several school buses. He serviced them in the row of garages behind the house, late 30's, early 40's.
- 12) The school buses were kept in this row of garages, before the school bus service had become State owned.
- 13) Wethee House, 1 St Superintendent of the Amesville Academy, 1854 - 1856, Lee Marquis rode his horse from Sand Rock Rd. to here, where he kept his horse. Then he walked to the Academy (#20) for a day of school. Formerly home of Jessie Owens, "a spinster lady with a lover, who came at night and left in the morning. Unbeknownst to her, all the neighbors knew."
- 14) Patterson House, est. 1912.
- 15) A. W. Glazier House, est. pre 1875. In 1946, the owner, Mr. Smith possessed the only gold piece in town.
- 16) W. H. Curfman House, oldest standing home in Amesville, est. pre 1875.
- 17) Shoop House, est. pre 1875.
- 18) Coonskin Library Museum and Ames - Bern Alumni Center, former one room schoolhouse at Broadwell.
- 19) Typical 1900 architecture.
- 20) Site of the Amesville Academy established in 1854. Tuition was \$1.50 a month in 1906.
- 21) Former Presbyterian Manse established 1890.
- 22) Presbyterian Church built for less than \$4,000 in 1867.



