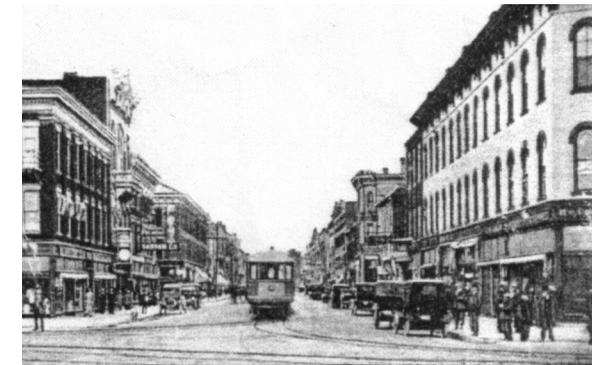


# Historic Downtown Fremont Walking Tour

## Points of Interest



Downtown Fremont, Ohio is rich in history and home to many historic buildings. A walking tour was designed so you could revisit what Downtown Fremont once was and learn about the history that still exists within the Fremont Historic District.

Please use this map as a guide to take you to the points of interest that have been selected for this walking tour. Using the directions on the map, you will be able to stand and view where the historic buildings are located and see what is there today.

Revised 2014

### 5. Front Street looking North From Birchard Avenue, about 1905.



Front Street now has brick paving and trolley tracks. Formerly the Ball House, built about 1874, became the Jackson Hotel in 1901. Where the old house stood at the far right,

later was a Sohio Station and is now Grund Drug.

### 6. Paramount Theater, southeast corner of Front Street and Birchard Avenue, early 1960s.



Built in the early 1930s, the Paramount still anchors this corner. Farther north to the left is the Sohio Station (now Grund), the Lion Store, and Montgomery Ward on the east side of Front Street.

### 7. 1913 Flood Scene, Looking East on Birchard Avenue Across Arch Street.



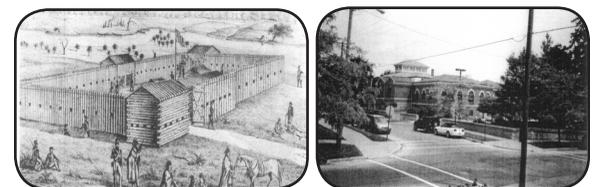
Waters have risen beyond Arch Street during Fremont's worst flood in 1913. The Jackson Annex at the left was built in 1902. The house to the right is still standing.

### 8. Anderson Block, Southeast Corner of Garrison Street and Arch Street, 1890s.



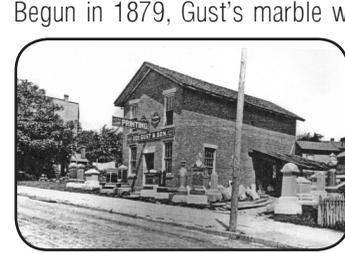
The building, now the home of Dr. Mark Mathews, Optometrist, looks the same as it did over a century before. Carl Anderson later became Mayor of Fostoria and in 1908 the youngest member on the floor of Congress.

### 9. Drawing of Fort Stephenson in 1813 and view of Birchard Library in 2008.



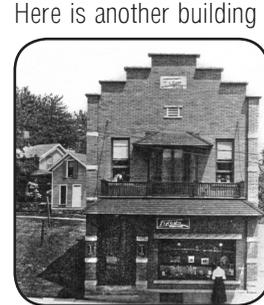
These two pictures nearly two centuries apart are from the same vantage point, looking Northeast from the corner of High and Garrison.

### 10. George Gust & Son, 416 Croghan Street, 1895.



Begun in 1879, Gust's marble works was carried on by his son and moved to Justice Street in 1905. The older part of the building, now with later additions, still looks much the same.

### 11. Finch Photo, 420 Croghan Street, about 1915.



Here is another building on Croghan Street, now Shetzer Insurance, that also looks almost the same as a century before. Notice the old houses that once stood on the hill to the left behind the building.

### 12. Fremont City Hall, Southwest Corner of Arch Street and Croghan Street, 1978.



Built in 1877, the old Municipal Building appears here shortly before it was torn down. At the right is part of the former News-Messenger building that was

replaced in the early 1980s by the addition to Croghan Colonial Bank.

### 13. Dr. Daniel Brainard House, Southeast Corner of Croghan Street and Arch Street, 1800s.

Finished in 1840, this was one of the earliest brick houses in Fremont built in Federal style. The attractive Croghan Colonial Bank building, built in 1908, now stands on the site.

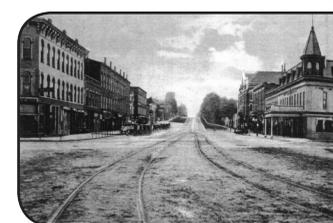


### 14. Opera House, Northwest Corner of West State Street and Arch Street, 1898.



Buffalo Bill and Harry Houdini were among the attractions that appeared at the Opera House, a Fremont landmark from 1891 to 1958. US Bank occupies the same corner today.

### 15. West State Street From the Bridge, about 1900.



Trolley tracks and buggies appear in this old postcard view up State Street Hill. The Hotel Fremont, which burned in 1981, and the Opera House are to the right and to the left the Buckland Block, that has been razed, although the building next to it is still standing.

### 16. Interurban Station, early 1900s.



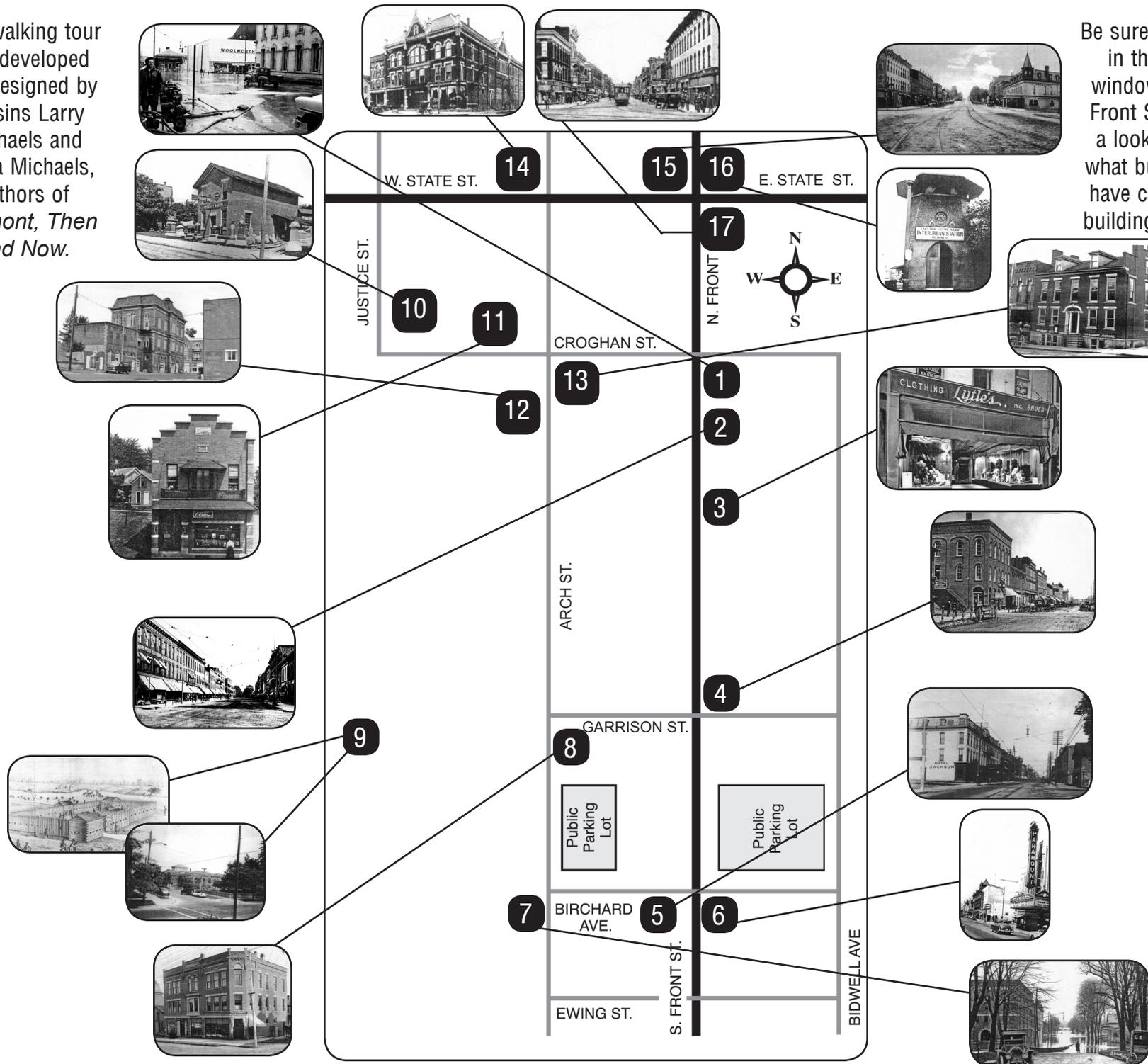
This interesting, almost Oriental-looking old interurban station stood on the northeast corner of Front and State from about 1900 to 1938, now the site of Tschumy Park.

### 17. Looking South on Front Street From State Street, 1920s.



The corner Buckland Block again appears at the right, with the distinctive First National Bank building behind it at the corner of Croghan Street. Unfortunately, the block to the left was razed a few years ago, but most of the other buildings are still standing along Front Street. The building that now houses the Chamber of Commerce before the fire took the top floor can be seen again to the left of the trolley at the southeast corner of Croghan Street.

This walking tour was developed and designed by cousins Larry Michaels and Krista Michaels, authors of *Fremont, Then and Now*.



Be sure to glance in the store windows along Front Street for a look back at what businesses have called that building "home".

**1. Croghan Street, looking East Toward Front Street, February 1959.** The Woolworth building is now the Chamber of Commerce. The once-familiar Comfort Station at the left stood between lanes of traffic on Croghan from the early 1930s until the late 1960s. The First National Bank building at the right, dating from the 1880s, was torn down for a parking lot in the mid 1960s.

**2. Front Street Looking South From Croghan Street, 1895.** The building at the far left, minus the top floor destroyed in a fire, is now the Chamber of Commerce. Notice the awnings on all the buildings on the east side of Front, the overhead trolley lines, and all the horse and buggies along the street.

**3. Lytle's Clothing Store, 107 South Front Street, 1936.** Begun in 1885 by Isaac Lytle, this men's store was a downtown fixture for over a hundred years. Lytle's occupied this location, now the Village Toggery, for about 75 years beginning in 1905.

**4. Looking North on Front Street From Garrison Street, 1870s.** Most of these buildings on the west side of Fremont are still standing and house businesses such as Coco Beans and The Open Book. Harvey Oaks Jeweler is in the corner building. In 1889, the Tschumy Block replaced the older building where the Millinery Shop was located on the southwest corner at the far left.