

**Welcome to our Historic Barnesville Tour.
Just sit back and let yourself be carried
back in time to early Barnesville.**

#1 OLD CITY JAIL

Main Avenue West

The Old City Jail was built in the early 1900's and was last used as a jail in the late 1970s.

In 1980 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

#2 OLD CITY HALL

101 Front Street

Old City Hall was built in 1899 and is also on the National Register of Historic Places. It had an electric plant in the basement and an opera house on the second floor. Later the electric plant was moved because it made too much noise for the opera goers.

#3 AMERICAN LEGION

101 2nd Street SE

Where the American Legion now stands was the site of the first jail, or "calaboose" as it was called. It was a little wood building about 12 x 20 in size. As far as is known, there is no picture of it, and it disappeared about the time the brick jail was built.

#4 CREAMERY

119 Main Avenue NE

The Creamery building was built in 1920 on the spot where D.W. Tully had his carpenter shop. The Co-op had been formed many years before and had operated a creamery where the Ambulance building is now at 101 2nd Ave NW.

#5 ST JAMES CHURCH

200 3rd Street SE

In 1948 the First Congregational Church merged with the St. Paul Evangelical & Reformed Church and formed a new congregation. It was renamed St. James United Church of Christ. The St. James building was built to accommodate the combined congregation.

#6 PATTERSON-OLSON HOUSE

202 3rd Street SE

The Patterson-Olson House was built for Dr. Charles H. Patterson in 1922. The house is a good example of the Colonial Revival style which was popular between the two World Wars. This style is known for its Dutch gambrel roof and symmetrical arrangement of details on the front, its prominent dormer and front door flanked by sidelights and topped with a transom.

#7 PAUL McGRATH HOUSE

115 4th Street SE

The Paul McGrath House was probably built in 1913, because there is a support post in the basement with the year 1913 on it. It's a classic example of the Bungalow. This style is known for its three-season porches, dormers and shingle work in the gables. Note the "rusticated" concrete block used for the foundation.

#8 AMOS C. HUXLEY HOUSE

202 4th Street SE

This house was built for Amos C. Huxley in 1914. It is also a good example of the Craftsman style. It has the open front porch with sweeping catslide roof and dormer. The

massive brick piers supporting the porch are also a Craftsman detail as well as the rafter tails.

#9 CLAY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

102-124 6th Street SE

Looking to the East as we cross Main Avenue, you will see the entrance to the Clay County Fairgrounds. The first Fair was held in Barnesville in November 1914, and for the first four years was held downtown. The livestock exhibits were in Trovaten's Garage and the ladies exhibits (needlework, baking, canning, etc.) were shown in what was the Knights of Pythias Hall above the old First National Bank building which is now called the Farrel Building.

#10 SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

501 2nd Avenue NE

Barnesville has an excellent Senior Citizen Center Housing Development which is the group of brick buildings, with rent based on income. Fairview Apartments was developed by the Housing Authority formed in 1967. They were finished in 1970 and were 100% Federally financed through HUD. The Senior Citizens Center on the corner was built in 1973 with the money left over from the housing project. The buildings have undergone remodeling in recent years.

#11 LEONHARDT MANOR

203 5th Street NE

This apartment building was developed by a private development corporation and is subsidized by the Federal Government.

#12 BLUE EAGLE LAKE

5th Avenue NE

Blue Eagle Lake is a man made lake created in the 1930s by damming Whiskey Creek and flooding the area. The land was formerly the Olson Dairy Farm. In the 1930's the country was in the throes of the depression. Many factories and banks closed up and millions of workers were unemployed and standing in breadlines. The name "Blue Eagle" came about as a result of a contest and is a reflection of the times. The Blue Eagle was the logo of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. The lake was made by the WPA workers (Works Progress Administration) which was one of the New Deal Programs created to give work to the unemployed.

#13 TROVATEN HOUSE

423 4th Street NE

The Trovaten house was built by the J.H. Fisch Company. The Fisch Family lived in it first before deciding it was too big for them and sold it to the Trovatens. At one time this house had the upstairs made into a separate apartment. Barnesville had no apartment buildings at this time and many homeowners with big houses did this.

#14 GRISWOLD HOUSE

414 4th Street NE

The Griswold house was built in 1880 and is one of the oldest houses in Barnesville. In 1886, Norris Griswold came to Barnesville and was an engineer on the Great Northern Railroad until he retired because of injuries from an accident.

#15 FANKHANEL HOUSE

419 4th Avenue NE

The Fankhanel House was built in 1907 for Syver O. Solum. The home has a Neo-classic style, with details associated with the Craftsman style. They include the fine stonework on the porches and lack of brackets and spindle work. This house was beautifully restored by previous owners.

#16 OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

302 3rd St NE

The beautiful stone building which is home to Our Savior's Lutheran Church was built in 1938 replacing their older 1898 building. Services were in Norwegian and English. Several additions have been added continuing with the same stone exterior.

#17 HOSANNA FELLOWSHIP

213 3rd Street NE

This building was built in 1887 by the German Evangelical Congregations. Services were bilingual in German and English.

#18 THOMPSON HOUSE

361 2nd Street N

This elegant house was built in 1903. It is an example of what is called Neo-classical style, which was popular up until World War I. It has classical, Doric columns on the porch and urn-shaped "balustrades", which is the architectural name for the posts that support the porch railings. The roof lines are embellished with modillions, the brackets under the eaves. Also note the hip-roofed dormers.

#19 ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

307 Front Street N

The Assumption Catholic Congregation was started in 1883. In 1901 this Church was built to accommodate the growing congregation. The building was done in Roman style which uses buttresses and arches to support the roof. The roof design was very unique at that time. It consists of truss rafters made in New Ulm, Minnesota, held together by cables. There is no supporting pillars down each side of the main seating area, as seen in many churches. The foundation is of stone and the outside brick walls are several layers thick. In 1997 the front addition was carefully added in the same architectural style.

Wagon Tour Concludes

By now, you've heard enough history to recognize some of the names on the Front Street buildings. Next time you walk or drive down the street, notice the names and be reminded that those buildings stand as evidence of Barnesville's rich heritage.

Other Historic Sites in Barnesville

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING & FRONT STREET BUSINESS DISTRICT

123 Front Street S

In 1894 there were no buildings at all on the west side of Front Street. Barnesville's first cemetery was where this old First National Bank building (Farrell Building) stands. There was only one brick building on the east side of the street for the entire two blocks south of City Hall.

OLD POST OFFICE

55 2nd Avenue SW

The first Post Office was north of town in Peter Thompson's first store. That was 1887 and Thompson was the Postmaster. Later the Post Office was in the rear of Catlin's Drug Store, which is where Appearances 203 is located today. In 1905 with Dennis McGrath as Postmaster it was moved to this location. In 1996 the Post Office moved to a larger building at 212 Front St S.

DOWNTOWN ALLEYWAY

2nd Avenue SW

Barnesville came into being as a railroad town. It was a big division point and had huge repair shops. In 1898, up to 150 men worked on its payroll. The roundhouse and machine shops were about where the Layton Potato Wash Plant previously stood. There were two beer warehouses in the parking lot. Each building had an ice house to keep the beer cold because there was no refrigeration. No doubt, many of the saloons got their beer supply there.

THE STONE CASTLE

Main Avenue & 4th Street NW

This is a unique house built in 1898 for Dr. Patterson. It combines design treatments from the Queen Anne and Shingle styles with exquisite stone craftsmanship on the outside. The stones, it is said, were accepted by Dr. Patterson from his patients in lieu of payment for his services.



HISTORIC WAGON TOURS

Age 12-adult: \$3.00

Age 6-11: \$2.00 Age 5 and under: free