



Hunting for History Tour #2

This tour is approximately .6 miles in length. It leaves from the Marion's Piazza parking lot and ends at the Sew-a-Lot across the street.

- **Begin your tour in front of Marion's Piazza.**



235-241 North Main Street In the 1960s, the IGA grocery store in this strip center allowed residents a convenient shopping experience for food and other items. Also located in this shopping center was a restaurant, Taco Tio, which served food described as "straight from California, the finest in Mexican food." Later, Marion Glass opened his thin crust pizza establishment to Centerville. Marion's Piazza is famous for its

Italian courtyard atmosphere and its appeal to visiting Hollywood stars.

♥ Young at Heart Challenge-Take a selfie. Send it and a favorite Centerville-Washington Township memory to us at cwths@sbcglobal.net

- **Continue to walk north on North Main Street.**



Church of the Incarnation In 1950, construction began on the original church with mission style architecture. This same year, the first Mass was celebrated on Christmas Day. The parish outgrew its first building by the late 1960s. This modern-day structure was built using poured concrete and rough glass styled after the work of the great architect Le Corbusier. The bell tower is comprised of four bells from Holland. This church can seat about 1, 100 worshippers.

♥ Young at Heart Challenge-Share an act of kindness with someone today.

- **Continue walking north toward Williamsburg Lane. Cross the street at the light to the other side of North Main Street. Turn right to walk south on North Main Street. Look for two pillars marking the entrance to Sugarcreek Baptist Church Cemetery.**



330 North Main Street In 1802, Sugarcreek Baptist Church bought this land from city co-founder Aaron Nutt. A year later, he was commissioned to build a log cabin church on the land. Burial services were held at this site from 1802-1979. Since the late 1800s, Sugarcreek Baptist Church Cemetery became an important location for the observation of Memorial Day. Early traditions would begin with a march from the first Township

Hall to the cemetery. Later, descendants of Union Army veterans visited this cemetery placing flags and flowers on the graves. Records from the 1960s refer to a firing squad salute, a band playing "The Star Spangled Banner" and a reading of the Gettysburg Address to remind citizens about the sacrifices made for our freedom.

♥ Young at Heart Challenge-Read the plaque on the pillar at the cemetery entrance to learn more about this landmark. Walk around the cemetery and pay tribute to the early families and veterans of Centerville-Washington Township.

- **Exiting the cemetery, turn left (south) to neighboring lot.**



298 North Main Street Through the years, restaurants including Chiapas Mexican Grill, Kabob, Wrapsody, Johnny's Pizza, and the Hungry Elk have used this building to serve up culinary delights to our residents. Poor Richard's was a popular diner circa 1960s-1970s when families could stop by and order a hamburger and banana split.

♥ Young at Heart Challenge- Pretend you are opening a new, local restaurant. What is the name and the items on the menu?

- **Continue walking south (toward Bradstreet Road) on North Main Street.**



268 North Main Street Johnnie's Sohio Service operated on the corner of Main Street and Bradstreet Road circa 1960s. Bill's Donuts was previously located near the intersection of Franklin and Main streets. At that location, requests from third-shift NCR employees looking for a treat on the way home, led Bill's Donuts to remain open 24 hours a day. The shop moved to its current location in 1979. Their delicious pastries combined with the hometown family atmosphere

has Bill's Donuts consistently winning awards for one of the best donut shops in the country.

♥ Young at Heart Challenge-Describe your perfect donut.

- **Continue walking south on North Main Street.**



232 North Main Street. Before 1813, a log schoolhouse was built on this lot to educate area children. The current brick building was erected in 1874. Students in grades 1-12 attended Schoolhouse No. 5 (also called Centerville Village School). This building was sold after classes from all nine local one-room schoolhouses and the first high school were consolidated into Washington Township School (currently Magsig Middle School) in 1924. The building has been remodeled for use as a restaurant, bank, and retail store. In 1968, Maurice Desjardins robbed the then First National Bank three times before being caught by authorities. You can read this story on our website under the Local History Events tab.

<https://www.centervillewashingtonhistory.org/historical-events/bank-robbery>

♥ Young at Heart Challenge- Find the 1874 cornerstone at the base of the building.