

## Westerville Historical Tidbits

1806 Revolutionary War veteran Edward Phelps and Issac Griswold settle along Alum Creek at Blendon Corners (*today, in Blendon Township at Westerville Road and SR 161*) from Windsor, Connecticut. Ohio had been recognized as a state for three years. The trip would last for nine weeks, one week shorter than the trip Phelps' ancestors made while crossing the Atlantic in 1630.

1809 The Sharp family establishes a residence in what is now considered Westerville city limits.

1811 First structure built in what is now called the Uptown District.

1817 Matthew and Peter Westervelt leave New York and purchase land by Alum Creek near what is now Main Street in Westerville. By 1818, four Westervelt siblings had migrated with their families to the area.

1820 Gideon Hart builds a home on his farm along Hempstead Road. This home is believed to be the oldest home still standing in Westerville, and is one of a dozen Westerville sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

1830 Approximately 700 people live in the Westerville area.

1837 Matthew Westervelt donates land to build a Methodist Church on State Street (*where the Church of the Messiah is now located*).

1838 The Westervelts donate land to establish the Blendon Young Men's Seminary

1840 More than 900 people live in the Westerville area.

1840 The community is officially named Westerville; U.S. President Martin Van Buren names James B. Connelly the first postmaster of the settlement.

1847 The United Brethren Church opens Otterbein University. Otterbein would become the first institution of higher learning in the United States to admit women without restrictions, the first to include women on its faculty, and one of the first to admit students of color.

1850 George Stoner builds several houses on State and Plum Streets. One is an inn and health spa used as part of the Underground Railroad to transport slaves north to freedom.

1855 The Westerville School District is established. Its first official schoolhouse is built on West Home Street in 1856.

1858 Westerville incorporated as a village; John Haywood elected as first mayor.

1860 Westerville's first Fire Division is established. It would be a volunteer fire division for the next 100+ years.

1872 John W. Everal builds Everal Homestead

1873 The railroad is built through Westerville.

1896 Emerson School on Vine Street is built to teach first grade through high school. Today, Emerson is an elementary school.

1889 John W. Everal builds Everal Barn

1898 Westerville electric service begins via a 150-kilowatt generator.

1900 Westerville's population is 1,462.

1901 Westerville builds its first water plant, located in Uptown.

1904 Main Street and College Avenue are paved for the first time with bricks from Westerville's Everal Tile Co.

1909 The Anti-Saloon League moves its headquarters from Chicago to Westerville, making Westerville the epicenter of a national debate about the legality of alcohol for the following two decades.

1910 Westerville's population is 1,903.

1915 Westerville hires paid police officers.

1916 Westerville becomes the third municipality in the United States and first village in Ohio to adopt a Council/Manager style of government.

1920 Westerville's population is 2,500.

1920s President Calvin Coolidge visits Otterbein College and places a wreath on *Soldier's Monument*, dedicated to Otterbein College students who participated in the Civil War. The monument remains on the Otterbein campus, in front of Towers Hall.

1923 Due to population burst, Westerville builds first high school in the Uptown area on State Street. The school, known as Hanby, served as Westerville's High School until 1960. Today, Hanby is a magnet arts school.

1925 Westerville builds a new water plant on Main Street.

1930 Westerville's population is 2,879.

1930 The Westerville Library opens in the former home of Purley Baker, then owned by the Anti-Saloon League.

1933 Westerville city government offices moved to 21 S. State Street, where they remain today. The move, which remodeled a home owned by B.T. Davis, was part of a government relief project during the Depression.

1934 Construction begins on Westerville's Alum Creek Park, the first city park.

1940 Westerville's population is 3,146.

1950 Westerville's population is 4,102.

1955 The Westerville Public Library moves to 126 S. State Street as a stand-alone building.

1960 Westerville's first shopping center is constructed at the northwest corner of Schrock Road and State Street.

1960 Westerville South High School is dedicated.

1961 Westerville becomes a city with a population of 7,011.

1964 Westerville establishes its own charter as a city.

1966 Westerville hires its first full-time Fire Chief.

1966 Westerville establishes the Parks & Recreation Department.

1969 A new water plant is built with a water treatment capacity of three millions gallons per day.

1970 Westerville's population is 12,530.

1970s Housing subdivisions are built at a brisk pace, and Westerville sees massive residential growth from 1970-1990.

1973 Westerville hires its first five full-time firefighters.

1975 Westerville North High School is dedicated and becomes the community's second high school.

1979 Fire Station 112 opens to serve Westerville and Blendon Township.

1980 Westerville's population is 23,414.

1980 The Westerville Water Plant is expanded to treat up to six million gallons of water per day.

1980s Westerville officials begin to focus on economic and business development to ease the tax burden on residents for city services. At this time, Westerville land use is more than 90% residential.

1980s The Brooksedge and Eastwind business areas begin development.

1982 City officials convert the old water treatment plant to a Senior Center.

1984 (Mount Carmel) St. Ann's Hospital opens as central Ohio's first planned suburban hospital.

1985 Schrock Road is built to facilitate business development and provide a major eastwest transportation artery to alleviate increasing traffic congestion.

1986 The Municipal Building expansion and renovation is completed, moving Fire Station 111 from the Municipal Building to Main Street.

1990 Westerville's population is 32,269.

1990s The *Westerville Commerce Center* business development area in northern Westerville begins; today, this area is nearly 100% developed.

1995 Westerville annexes 941 acres, today known as the *Westar Center of Business*, from Delaware County.

1998 The Westerville Public Library expansion is completed.

1998 Fire Station 113 opens, becoming the Westerville Fire Division's third fire station.

1999 Cleveland Avenue and Polaris Parkway extensions are opened to traffic, providing direct east-west access to I-71 from northern Westerville.

1999 The Westerville Water Plant is expanded to treat up to 7.5 million gallons of water per day.

2000 Texas Governor and U.S. President nominee George W. Bush visits Westerville twice during his campaign drive; he would be elected President by the narrowest of margins later that year.

2000 Westerville's population is 36,000 making it central Ohio's largest suburb.  
2000 Westerville is recognized by *Columbus Parent* as the best place to raise a family in central Ohio.

2000 Westerville city government receives award for best service delivery program in the United States for their Customer Service Satisfaction Surveys.

2000 Westerville's Everal Barn and Homestead are renovated and featured as the centerpiece of Heritage Park.

2000 Westerville land use is approximately 65% residential, 35% commercial.

2001 The Westerville Community Center opens to the public.

2001 The Westerville Parks & Recreation Department receives a national gold medal for its service excellence.

2003 Westerville Central High School opens, becoming the community's third high school and one of 23 total schools in the Westerville School District.

2005 Westerville provides more city services than any other central Ohio suburb with a safety services staff of more than 150 full-time police officers and fire fighters, an electric division dedicated to serve the entire community, a water division recognized as one of the best in the state, a state-of-the-art community recreation center, and countless other important city services.

2006 Westerville Central High School celebrates its first graduating class.