

AVON

Mile Point 2.9

Village of Sheffield—City of Avon Border



These Welcome Signs greet travelers entering and exiting these North Ridge communities.



Former Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad tracks, built circa 1890, form the boundary between Sheffield and Avon (photograph by Thomas Hoerrle).

Mile Point 2.9***Schmetzer House—39645 Detroit Road (Map No. 15)***

This Vernacular/Italianate-style farmhouse, built in the 1880s, adopts the basic “T” design of earlier Greek Revival-style farmhouses, with a two-story main section and one-story wing set at right angle to the gables, but not other elements. The original farm had orchards and vineyards.



Schmetzer House built in the 1880s—39645 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 3.0***Malone House—39555 Detroit Road (Map No. 16)***

This Italianate-style farmhouse, with decorative elements of Eastlake-style on the porch supports and at the peak of the front gable, was built in the 1880s.



Malone House built in the 1880s—39424 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 3.1

Pinehaven Garden Center and Greenhouse—39424 Detroit Road

The Jensen family converted this former 1-acre tomato-industry greenhouse, on a 10-acre parcel of land on the north slope of North Ridge, to an attractive garden center in 1985. In the following decades they have added several new greenhouses. Annually, Pinehaven grows 65,000 flats of flowers and other plants [2.7 million seedlings], 30,000 garden mums, and 50,000 Christmas poinsettias.



Pinehaven Garden Center—39424 Detroit Road.



Pinehaven greenhouses grow 65,000 flats of plants each year.

Mile Point 3.2

Baeder House—39385 Detroit Road (Map No. 17)

This Craftsman Bungalow-style Sears, Roebuck, & Company kit house, *The Westly*, was built circa 1920. This example is unusual in that the exterior is virtually unchanged since its construction nearly a century ago.



Baeder House, a Sears catalog house built circa 1920—39385 Detroit Road.



The Westly as advertised in the 1928 Sears, Roebuck & Company catalog.

Mile Point 3.2

Ezra Jackson House—39351 Detroit Road (Map No. 18)

This elegant Greek Revival-style house was built by Ezra Jackson in 1846 is located at the intersection of Detroit and Case Roads. Although smaller than most Greek Revival-style houses, the attention to detail is exemplary. A full porch fronts the single-story wing of this two-story, gable-fronted house. The two-story section has substantial corner pilasters supporting an entablature consisting of a plain frieze and a cornice. The cornice in turn is supported by conical members [guttae—droplike members that resemble Italianate brackets] interspersed with small cubical members [dentil—rectangular blocks resembling teeth] at the base. The frieze band is discontinuous across the gable front, but under the north eave the entablature contains two frieze-band windows [sometimes called eyebrow windows].

Ezra Jackson settled in Avon in 1837, coming from Herkimer County, New York. He and his brother Roswell were accomplished carpenters and homebuilders in the Avon and Sheffield area. In addition to this house, two of the best examples of their work include the Milton Garfield House in Sheffield (Map No. 10) and the Dewit C. Moon House in Avon (Map No. 24).



Ezra Jackson House, Greek Revival-style home built by the owner in 1846—39351 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 3.2

Residence—39350 Detroit Road (Map No. 19)



This Craftsman Bungalow-style house was built circa 1920. Its construction on the steep north slope of North Ridge permits entrance at the lower level, much like many “bank barns” built on the Ridge.

Craftsman Bungalow-style residence built circa 1920—393250 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 3.3

Elbridge G. Moon House—39200 Detroit Road (Map No. 20)

This eight-room Italianate-style home was built for Elbridge G. Moon in 1857 on the site of the original cabin of his father, Colonel Abraham Moon. The corner porch is characteristic of the Italianate-style that was coming into vogue in the mid-1800s. The interior features ornate grained woodwork, grained pocket doors, and 10-foot ceilings, but had no fireplaces. Heat was furnished by wood stoves, not fireplaces.

Elbridge Moon and his wife Ann Eliza [née Wilder] Moon raised their three children, Russell, Durant and C. Bell on the farm. As a child, Durant carved his name into the sandstone foundation. According to *The History of Lorain County* (Wright 1916), Elbridge G. Moon excelled as a horticulturist and raised Jersey cows. Ann Eliza moved out of the house in 1899, twelve years after her husband died of typhoid fever.



Elbridge G. Moon House, Italianate-style home built in 1857—39200 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 3.4

Farmhouse—39114 Detroit Road (Map No. 21)

This Italianate-style farmhouse was built circa 1880. The adjacent one-story barn also features Italianate-style roof brackets. The barn appears to have received additions to the left and right sides, sometime in the past.



Italianate-style farmhouse built circa 1880-39114 Detroit Road.



Italianate-style barn—39114 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 3.6

Dewit C. Moon House—39016 Detroit Road (Map No. 24)

This beautiful brick farmhouse was built in 1845 at the northwest corner of Detroit and Moon Roads. Constructed in the Greek Revival architectural style, it features large windows capped by stone lintels and a central doorway with side and top windows. The foundation is native sandstone. Dewit C. Moon was the son of Colonel Abraham Moon, who came to Avon about 1817, settling on a 300-acre tract of land. Dewit was born in Avon in the 1820s. His brother-in-law, Ezra Jackson, was the builder of this house and several others in the Avon and Sheffield areas. The Dewit C. Moon House is listed on the Ohio Inventory of Historic Structures (LOR-98-3).



Dewit C. Moon House, Greek-Revival-style farmhouse built in 1845—39106 Detroit Road.

This side view illustrates the noteworthy detail of the brick trim below the east gable of the Dewit C. Moon House. The front and side windows most likely had shutters when the house was originally constructed (courtesy of Avon Historical Society).



Mile Point 3.6

Bungart House—38960 Detroit Road (Map No. 25)

This large Colonial Revival-style farmhouse was built circa 1900. It features a full porch across the front and a half porch on the east side. The hip roof exhibits a small front dormer at the attic level, with diagonal lattice muntins. Cobblestone pillars, constructed by noted paleontologist Peter Bungart, mark the front corners of the property.



Colonial-Revival-style farmhouse built circa 1900—38960 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 3.7

Middlestead House—38901 Detroit Road (Map No. 26)

This Italianate-style farmhouse was built circa 1880. The elaborate front porch and prominent roof brackets on the gables are the outstanding exterior features of this house. The bisection of two segments of this house with matching gable heights is unusual in this area.



Middlestead House built circa 1880—38901 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 3.7

Veterans Memorial Park—Detroit Road

Avon's Veterans Memorial Park is located on the south side of the Ridge just east of Moon Road. Agricultural lands, including the landscape gardens of *Willoway Nurseries*, flank a parkway that leads to athletic fields and a playground. Avon boasts two golf courses along the *Scenic Byway* that are located on the Ridge—*Avondale Golf Course* (Mile Point 4.0) on the west side of the community and *Avon Oaks County Club* (Mile Point 8.7) on the east side.



Veterans Memorial Park—38801 Detroit Road.



Veterans Memorial Park playground.

Mile Point 4.2

William Rink House—38181 Detroit Road (Map No. 31)

This 1840 Greek Revival-style, brick farmhouse is located at the southeast corner of Detroit and Long Roads. The house features quarter circle windows in the gables. Window openings have plain sandstone lintels. The chimney on the west gable most likely had a matching symmetrical chimney on the east gable at one time. The interior of the house features a brick, vaulted wine cellar. William Rink is known to have owned the house in 1874, and at one time Long Road was known as Rink Road.



William Rink House, Greek Revival-style farmhouse built in 1840—38181 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 4.6

Ora Butler Cahoon House—37821 Detroit Road (Map No. 32)

This large, yet fairly simple, rural dwelling is located just west of the Avon United Methodist Church. The construction is wood frame with a native sandstone foundation. Built in 1845, the architectural style is Greek Revival with bold, simple cornices and corner pilasters. The windows are somewhat small for the size of the house, and the front entrance is plain. The pair of square windows in the attic gable indicate there was probably a chimney at each end of the gable. A large sandstone cellar beneath the dwelling features hand-hewn beams, a well to provide fresh water, and ample storage for food. Electricity was installed in 1927; gaslights and kerosene lamps were used prior to that time.

Ora Cahoon was a descendant of the pioneer Wilber Cahoon, whose house still stands on Stoney Ridge Road a short distance south of Detroit Road and serves as the residence of Jean Fischer. Ora Cahoon died in 1881, and his grandson Roy, with his wife Grace [née Peak] Cahoon, lived in the house until they both passed away in 1986. Roy truck farmed the 71-acre homestead, taking his produce in his trucks to Cleveland markets. Roy, a World War I veteran, was 93 when he died and this was the only home in which he had ever lived. Roy Cahoon was the last descendent of Wilbur Cahoon [Avon's first settler] to live in Avon. The Ora Butler Cahoon House is listed on the Ohio Inventory of Historic Structures (LOR-421-3).



Ora Butler Cahoon House, Greek Revival-style home built in 1845—37821 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 4.6

Avon United Methodist Church—37711 Detroit Road (Map No. 33)

Avon United Methodist Church was organized in 1820. Served by circuit-riding preachers, the congregation met in a log schoolhouse until 1826. They then built their own meeting house, which was used until 1834 when the first wood-frame Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1855 at a cost of \$500. This church burned down in 1910. The following year they built a new building [now the Avon Church of God at 37445 Detroit Road], which served the congregation until 1960 when their current Neoclassical-style brick church was completed. This new church sits on an 11-acre parcel just west of the new Avon High School. A classroom and fellowship hall were added the flanks of the main sanctuary in 2000. A barn and pavilion on the property are used for retreats and meetings by many community organizations.



Avon United Methodist Church, built 1960 in Neoclassical style—37711 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 4.7

Rak House—37546 Detroit Road (Map No. 34)

This Greek Revival-style home was built close to the roadway in 1850. Unique features of this white-painted brick house are the semi-circular roof windows on both the one- and two-story portions of the house. These dormer-like windows, of Georgian style, were probably later additions.



Rak House, Greek Revival-style home was built in 1850—37546 Detroit Road. The original construction was exposed brick that was later covered with stucco.

Mile Point 4.8

Joseph P. Forthofer House—37511 Detroit Road (Map No. 35)

This Italianate-style house was built circa 1880. Noteworthy features of this two-story house include window trim and circular windows in the front and side gables. The porches were probably later additions and not enclosed.



Joseph P. Forthofer House, Italianate-style home built circa 1880—37511 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 4.8

Barrett House—37485 Detroit Road (Map No. 36)

This Vernacular-style house on the corner of Hayes Street was built during the 100th anniversary of the American Revolution in 1876. The one-story wing contained the kitchen and storage areas, the two-story portion held the parlors and bedrooms.

Richard Barrett owned a carriage factory just east of French Creek Bridge. There he manufactured buggies, sleighs, and cutters (light horse-drawn sleighs). In 1922 he was killed when a load of hay fell on him.



Barrett House built in 1876—37485 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 4.8

Charles Warden House—37250 Centennial Avenue

By turning south on Hayes Street for 0.1 mile, then turning east on Centennial Avenue for another 0.1 mile, the traveler has an opportunity to view Avon's earliest subdivision, built more than 130 years ago. The land was originally part of a tract owned by Avon founder, Wilbur Cahoon and later developed as the John Benham Allotment, which encompasses Hayes Street and Centennial Avenue. Several century homes are located in this, the first of Avon's allotments. As the street name implies, the allotment was begun in 1876, the centennial year of of the American Revolution.

Of particular interest is the classic Italianate-style house of Charles Warden, built in 1880. The main section of the house has a low-pitched hip roof, unusual in this area. The projected eaves, wide frieze, wood double brackets, diamond-patterned trim, and delicate corner boards make this house an excellent example of the Italianate-Villa style. Another feature of note is the division of glass in the window panes—two-over-two, which serves to exaggerate the verticality of the windows.

The downstairs rooms have high ceilings and very ornate woodwork. The basement walls are constructed of large sandstone blocks, quarried locally.

This house was built for Mrs. Charles Warden, the daughter of Leonard Cahoon, son of Avon's original settler Wilbur Cahoon. Leonard has the distinction of being the only one of Wilbur's eight children to be born after the family settled in Ohio, as such he is the first white child to be born in Avon.



Charles Warden House, Italianate-style home built in 1880—37250 Centennial Avenue.

Mile Point 4.9

Avon Church of God—37445 Detroit Road (Map No. 38)

This Gothic Revival-style building was built in 1911 as the Avon Methodist Church, to replace the original 1855 wood-frame church that had been destroyed by fire. The projecting corner steeple tower, with pointed window openings, highlights this wood-frame church. A large lancet window is centered in the front façade, while smaller window openings are along the sides.

In 1960 the Methodist congregation moved to a new church about a half mile to the west and the Avon Church of God acquired this sanctuary. This nearly 100-year-old church building is listed on the Ohio Inventory of Historic Structures (LOR-102-3).

Avon Church of God, Gothic Revival-style building built in 1911—37445 Detroit Road.



North Ridge in 1910 showing old Methodist Church on the south side of the roadway. This church shows a strong English influence in the Georgian detailing of the steeple. As was often the case, settlers brought their culture with them from New England to the Western Reserve. This church burned the following year and was replaced with the building that is now the Avon Church of God. The sandy nature of North Ridge is evident in the horse and buggy tracks (courtesy of Avon Historical Society).

Mile Point 4.9***Truman B. Daily House—37416 Detroit Road (Map No. 39)***

This brick Italianate-style residence was built in 1870 for Dr. Truman B. Daily, a prominent early physician in Avon. Ornate brick moldings over the window and door openings are noticeable features of this house.

Eight columns support the roof over an elaborate front porch. This building is located on a sizable lot with abundant shade trees and shrubbery to the rear of the house, which stands close to the highway. The Truman B. Daily House is listed on the Ohio Inventory of Historic Structures (LOR-95-3).



Truman B. Daily House, Italianate-style residence built in 1870—37416 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 5.0

Dr. Pipes House—37399 Detroit Road (Map No. 40)

This large Colonial Revival-style home is located on the south side of Detroit Road just west of the French Creek Road intersection. The house was built for Dr. Pipes circa 1900 as a home and office. Dr. Pipes was one of the last horse-and-buggy physicians in the area.



Dr. Pipes House, a Colonial Revival-style house built circa 1900—37399 Detroit Road.

Benham House—37388 Detroit Road (Map No. 41)

This Italianate-style house was built circa 1880. An unusual feature is the narrow curved roof and arched brackets protecting a large front window, probably a later modification during the Arts & Crafts Movement (1900-1940).

Benham House built circa 1880—37388 Detroit Road.



Mile Point 5.0

Residence—37384 Detroit Road

This Vernacular-style home was formerly a barn built in the 1830s. This building exhibits an excellent multi-colored slate roof.



Converted barn built circa 1830s—37384 Detroit Road.

William H. Bommer House—37375 Detroit Road (Map No. 43)

This Italianate-style house was built circa 1880. The scalloped shingles on the front gable and the finely detailed porches are prominent features of this building. Bill Bommer was born in Avon, served in the U.S. Army during World War II., and operated an insurance agency.



William H. Bommer House—37375 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 5.0

Milo Williams House—37371 Detroit Road (Map No. 44)

This Italianate-style house is one of several homes of this style built in the French Creek District of Avon in the 1880s.



Milo Williams House built circa 1880—37371 Detroit Road.

Milo Williams in the late 1800s (courtesy of the Garfield family). His uncle, Henry Harrison Williams, operated a mercantile business across the street. The porches seen above are later additions and the original porch (right) extended back along the west side of the house.





Higgins Barn adjacent to the Milo Williams House, built 2000—37371 Detroit Road.

Residence—37350 Detroit Road (Map No. 45)

This Italianate-style house was built circa 1880. In recent years the interior of this house was severely damaged by fire and has since been renovated. A country doctor's office was once in the room off the front porch.



Italianate-style house, built circa 1880s—37350 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 5.0

Henry Harrison Williams House—37300 Detroit Road (Map No. 47)

The Williams House is an outstanding Avon century home and it is one of three in the community on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in the Greek Revival style, the first owner of record was Calvin Bronson who acquired the property in 1836. Henry Harrison Williams bought the property in 1844 and operated a mercantile business in the house. The house is built of native wood cut at the *H. H. Williams Sawmill and Lumber Yard* in Avon. The front portion is the original part of the house and has fine proportions and cornice, the rear wing being a later extension. In the mid-1880s Mr. Williams was engaged in the mercantile business with his nephew, Halsey Garfield of Sheffield, whose Greek Revival-style home is located at 4789 Detroit Road. Henry Harrison's sister, Tempe, was the wife of Milton Garfield and the Garfield's first son, Henry, was named after Mr. Williams. In recent years the building has been used as an antique/curio store and renovated for commercial offices.



Henry Harrison Williams House, built 1836—37300 Detroit Road.



Henry Harrison Williams House as it appeared in 2005.



Henry Harrison Williams (born 1812). Photograph courtesy of the Garfield family).

Mile Point 5.0

Cabinet Company Building—37298 Detroit Road (Map No. 48)

This delightful small Greek Revival-style residence, located at the intersection of French Creek Road, was built circa 1850 in the community that was growing around the district where French Creek passes through North Ridge. Note the original “six-over-six” windows. In recent years it has been renovated and now houses the *French Creek Cabinet Company*.



Greek Revival-style former residence built circa 1850—37298 Detroit Road.



French Creek District in 1890s. View down French Creek Road (courtesy of Avon Historical Society). The building above is at the far right side of this photograph.

Mile Point 5.0

Site of Wilford Hotel—Detroit Road at French Creek Bridge

This expansive Italianate-style house with Folk Victorian-style trimwork was built in 1842 on west bank of French Creek just south of the bridge. Soon after, circa 1850, Reuben Wilford purchased the property and the converted house to a hotel that prospered for nearly 100 years. This building was demolished in the 1970s and the property now houses a series of apartment buildings.



Wilford Hotel, Italianate-style house with Folk Victorian-style trimwork was built in 1842 and torn down in the 1950s—Detroit Road at French Creek Bridge (courtesy of Avon Historical Society).

Across the highway, near the French Creek Bridge, John Wagner operated a blacksmith shop over a century ago. His granddaughter, Alma Sturznickel, recalls that another blacksmith faced him across the road. When John Wagner would get too busy, he would ring a bell to summon the other blacksmith for help. John's son, Charles Wagner, converted the smithy into an automobile repair shop and gasoline station. Another one of John's descendants, Barbara [née Wagner] Sheets resides in Sheffield on East River Road.



French Creek Bridge in summer—Detroit Road.



Exterior of John Wagner's blacksmith shop (left), note signal bell on roof, and George Wagner's furniture shop/undertaker business (right). Photograph courtesy of Avon Historical Society.



Interior of John Wagner's blacksmith shop—Detroit Road at French Creek Bridge (courtesy of Avon Historical Society).

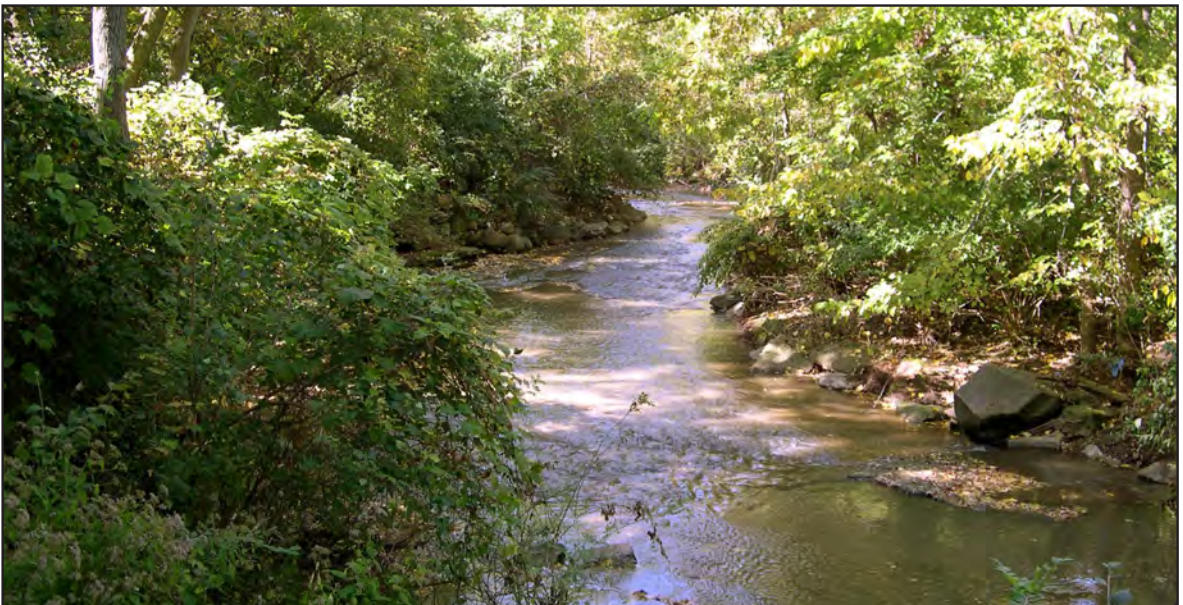
Mile Point 5.1

Avon Isle Park Pavilion—37080 Detroit Road (Map No. 49)

A historic 50-by-70-foot dance pavilion highlights this city park. The pavilion is a charming blend of Neoclassical and Italian Revival styles. The low hip roof also suggests the influence of the Prairie architectural style. With few exceptions, the exterior and interior of the building are remarkably unchanged from their original construction. A cupola is centrally located on the roof that possesses operable windows for ventilation and natural lighting. A porch extends across the entire length of the façade, about five feet above ground level, and features Doric columns that support the hip roof. The pavilion was constructed in the mid-1920s by F. J. Roth in conjunction with the Knights of St. John. French Creek meanders through, and nearly encircles, the wooded park as it flows over gentle riffles created by the Berea Sandstone bedrock. These rocks were deposited as sand beds in an ancient Paleozoic sea some 350 million years ago.



Avon Isle Dance Pavilion, built in 1926.



French Creek at Avon Isle Park in summer.

Avon Isle was a popular dance pavilion from the 1920s to the 1970s where a wide variety of civic and social events were held. Residents of Avon and Sheffield who attended dances and other events there over 50 years ago recall a colorful history and unique meeting place for men and woman of diverse cultural backgrounds. Local groups used Avon Isle for quilting bees, dances, picnics, clambakes, and volunteer activities for the war effort. Since the cities of Lorain and Elyria had banned dancing on Sundays, frustrated residents flocked to the Avon Isle to dance to the sounds of the big bands, including Guy Lombardo. In later years, amateur and professional boxing matches, such as the Golden Gloves, were held at Avon Isle. The City of Avon has recently received a grant to rebuild the bridge over French Creek that connects



French Creek at Avon Isle Park in winter, note fossilized ripple marks in sandstone outcrop.

Detroit Road to the park and the pavilion. The City also plans to restore the dance pavilion as a civic center for the enjoyment of area residents.



Avon Isle Park—37080 Detroit Road.



French Creek Bridge in winter—Detroit Road.

Mile Point 5.1

Buck Hardware Building—37079 Detroit Road (Map No. 50)

This fine example of an Italianate-style commercial building was erected in 1879 and operated for many years as *Weiler's Department Store* by Joseph J. Weiler and his wife. A period advertisement indicated that the store carried hardware, agricultural implements, glass, paint, kitchen appliances, crockery, groceries, meats, clothing, footwear, jewelry, books, and religious articles among other items. In 1948 the building became the home of *Buck Hardware & Supply Company*.

An elaborate wood cornice, with a series of double brackets, rises up to conceal the slightly pitched roof behind and forms the focal point for the long unified façade. The central portion is the original building with two side wings added later in the same style. At one time a portion of the second floor was used as classrooms—chalkboards are still in place. The 130-year-old building is listed on the Ohio Inventory of Historic Structures (LOR-93-3).



Buck Hardware now occupies the old Weiler's Department Store building.



Weiler's Department Store, Italianate-style building built in 1879—37079 Detroit Road (courtesy of Avon Historical Society).

Mile Point 5.1

Heritage Square Park—37001 Detroit Road (Map No. 51)

This cozy downtown park lies at the intersection of Detroit and Stoney Ridge Roads in Avon and was dedicated in 1999. The park features an elaborate Folk Victorian/Queen Anne-style octagonal gazebo.

The park also proudly exhibits an Ohio Bicentennial Historic Marker dedicated to the accomplishments of Dr. Norton S. Townshend, a leader in progressive agriculture. The Avon Old Town Hall of 1871, now the home of the Avon Historical Society, is also located at this intersection. A vacant bar that once was a general store stood on at this location before the property was acquired for the park.



Heritage Square Park gazebo—37001 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 5.1

Dr. Townshend Historic Marker—37001 Detroit Road (Map No. 51)

A bronze historic marker commemorating the life of Dr. Norton S. Townshend (1815-1895) is located at the corner of Detroit and Stoney Ridge Roads. Dr. Townshend was instrumental in founding the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Columbus, Ohio in 1870, serving as its first professor of agriculture. Eight years later this land-grant institution became known as The Ohio State University, where Townshend Hall stands in honor of his founding role.

Dr. Townshend was a progressive farmer, physician, and legislator, residing in Avon from 1830 until his death. His introduction of terra cotta field drainage tile significantly increased the productivity of Avon and Sheffield farming. A well-educated country doctor, he served as U.S. congressman from 1851 to 1853, and later as an Ohio state senator. Dr. Townshend is buried in Avon's Mound Cemetery (Map No. 68) at the corner of Detroit and Center Roads.



Dr. Norton S. Townshend historical marker at Heritage Square Park.

Mile Point 5.1

French Creek Tavern Building—37000 Detroit Road (Map No. 52)

This commercial building of Colonial Revival style was built circa 1900. Located on the east bank of French Creek, the building houses several businesses, including the *Creekside Brewhouse and Tavern* and the *Blue-Chip Beverage*. In the 1950s and 1960s the *French Creek Tavern*, once located here, enjoyed a reputation as an excellent place to have a Lake Erie yellow perch dinner at a reasonable price.



Old French Creek Tavern—37000 Detroit Road.



French Creek flowing over outcrop of Berea Sandstone along the west side of the Tavern.

Mile Point 5.2

A Short Side Trip on Stoney Ridge Road



After visiting the historic marker for Dr. Townshend and the gazebo at Heritage Square, a short side trip south on Stoney Ridge Road is well worth the taking. The traveler will be rewarded with views of several historic churches and residences along French Creek as the stream meanders toward Detroit Road. Stoney Ridge Road receives its name from the resistant sandstone bedrock that crops out here and forms the Ridge. Small quarries were once located on the Ridge that supplied building stone for the foundations of the early settlers' homes. This part of Avon is where the *French Creek District* had its origin.

County Store—2536 Stoney Ridge Road. This antique and curio shop is located adjacent to Heritage Square and offers an ample parking lot for visitors to the downtown shops. Built in 1890, this Italianate-style shop was originally known as *The Millinery Shop*, owned by May Weber. In 1978, storeowner Lois Shinko spearheaded the formation of the French Creek Antique Association with nine other antique storeowners to promote and restore the village atmosphere of Avon in the 19th century. Now known simply as the French Creek Merchants Association, 20 members participate in projects to enhance the shopping experience in what has come to be called the *French Creek District*.



Country Store, Italianate-style shop built in 1890—2536 Stoney Ridge Road.

Avon Baptist Church—2575 Stoney Ridge Road. Shortly after turning south on Stoney Ridge Road the impressive high spire and striking white exterior of the of the Avon Baptist Church can be seen on the east side of the road. Built circa 1839, this is the oldest church in Avon and has been in continuous service for some 170 years. The congregation was founded in 1817 by a small group of worshipers meeting at the home of Wilbur Cahoon and various other places in Avon until the land for the present church was purchased for \$40 in 1839 and the sanctuary that still stands was constructed.



Avon Baptist Church as it appeared in 1910, note horse barns at rear and side of the church (courtesy of Avon Historical Society).



Avon Baptist Church, built 1839—2575 Stoney Ridge Road.

Szippl House—2623 Stoney Ridge Road. On the east side of the road, this nicely decorated Italianate/Vernacular-style home was built circa 1900. The triangular gable over the corner porch is an outstanding feature of this house.



Italianate/Vernacular-style residence built circa 1900—2623 Stoney Ridge Road.

St. Mary Catholic Church and School—2640 & 2680 Stoney Ridge Road. A little farther along, the red brick Gothic Revival-style St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and the Richardsonian Romanesque-style St. Mary School dominates the western side of the road. Constructed in 1893-1895



St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, built 1895—2640 Stoney Ridge Road.

to replace a small wood-frame Greek Revival-style church built in 1841, the brick church was considered to be one of the best-appointed country churches in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese. The church is 121 feet in length, 51 feet in width, and 29 feet in height for the vertical walls. The towering spire of the church, 150 feet high, can be seen for many miles distant. The foundation is constructed of Berea and Amherst sandstone, as well as the trimwork. The interior has a Gothic-groined ceiling and is richly decorated with stuccowork. The architect and contractor was John Burkhart of Kenton, Ohio. Without incurring any debt, the parishioners paid the entire \$25,000 cost before the first mass was celebrated.

St. Mary Catholic School, begun in 1845, was the first multi-room school in Avon. The current red brick three-story school building was built in 1885 and has been in continuous service for 125 years. The old school has modern technology, including building-wide wireless Internet capability.



St. Mary School, built 1885—2680 Stoney Ridge Road.



St. Mary Church of 1841 (courtesy of Avon Historical Society).

Wilbur Cahoon House—2940 Stoney Ridge Road. After the quarter-of-a-mile diversion south of Detroit Road the traveler is treated to a view of Wilbur Cahoon’s elegant Greek Revival-style homestead overlooking French Creek. Built in 1825, this is one of the oldest wood-frame houses in Lorain County. The house has classic line, being 80 feet long and has 12 rooms. Wilbur Cahoon was Avon’s first settler, arriving in 1814. He was born in Berkshire County, Massachusetts and lived for a number of years in Herkimer County, New York with his wife, Priscilla [née Sweet], and their family before coming to Ohio. He traded his 100 acres of land in New York for a tract of 800 acres in Avon, all covered with heavy forest. He established the first sawmill and gristmill in the area and was elected the first Justice of the Peace for the Townships of Avon, Sheffield, and Dover [now Westlake]. He died in 1826 and Priscilla in 1855; both are buried in Avon’s Mound Cemetery (Map No. 68). Dr. Delbert and Jean Fischer restored the house and made it their home for many years. The Wilbur Cahoon House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Wilbur Cahoon House, Greek Revival-style farmhouse built 1825—2940 Stoney Ridge Road. The house has one of the most dramatically proportioned entablatures in the region, that unifies the gable front with the long north wing. Eyebrow windows in the frieze open to ventilate second floor bedrooms. The white rail fence along the roadside was typical of large farms in the Western Reserve in the 19th century.

Mile Point 5.2

Avon Old Town Hall of 1871—36995 Detroit Road (Map No. 53)

Known as the Avon Old Town Hall of 1871, this building is a small, simple town hall that resembles a typical one-room schoolhouse of the late 19th century. The building rests on a foundation of locally quarried sandstone and the orange-red brick was made locally. Little ornamentation exists on the exterior. A circular stone medallion, set into the front façade proclaims the building's original purpose and date of construction. Eight 'six-oversix" windows and the central front door are framed with arched brick lintels.

The Township Trustees purchased the land for the Avon Town Hall from Clemens Alten in 1871 for \$400. Bates and Dunning built the town hall in the Italianate style the same year for \$800. In the early years, a water well and pump were located in front of the Old Town Hall that local people used for their water supply. The building was next owned by the Village of Avon (incorporated in 1917), and now by the City of Avon (1961). It housed the Avon Public Library starting in 1958 until it became the home of the Avon Historical Society in 1977. The Avon Old Town Hall of 1871 is listed on the Ohio Inventory of Historic Structures (LOR-103-3) and has been designated as a Lorain County Historic Landmark.



Avon Old Town Hall, built in 1871 in Greek Revival style—36995 Detroit Road.

Mile Point 5.2

Clemens Alten House—36976 Detroit Road (Map No. 52)

This 1830s Greek Revival-style house, which stands on the northeast corner of Detroit and Colorado Roads, is believed to have been built by the Alten family. Records show that Clemens Alten owned the house in 1874. This is an early Greek Revival-style structure, as indicated by a highly detailed Federal-style fanlight in its front gable. A massive wrap-around stone porch was added circa 1905, as well as a large wing to the east. Hardwood floors are used throughout the house, and all main interior walls are solid brick. The floor joists between the first floor and the basement are huge 12- to 14-inch logs. The roof rafters are supported by solid wood trusses about six inches square. The building is now the home of the *Nemo Grille*, an upscale Italian/American restaurant. The Clemens Alten House is listed on the Ohio Inventory of Historic Structures (LOR-41-3).



Front view of Clemens Alten House—36976 Detroit Road (courtesy of Ralph D. White). The Craftsman-style stone porch was added in the early 20th century. The material used to construct the porch is field stone composed of “glacial erratic” boulders.



Clemens Alten House, Greek Revival-style home built circa 1830—36976 Detroit Road.