
Has the President of the United States ever given a speech at your house? The H.B. Wilson House at 518 S. 6th St., now known as the Tracy Brammer Funeral Home, can honestly say yes. President William McKinley once gave a speech at the home, which dates back to the 1870s. H.B. Wilson, the first captain of the Ohio National Guard who also owned a lumberyard, was the architect who designed this sprawling Italian villa. The roof is made from gable or slate, which is offset by a boxy cornice with a decorated frieze, brackets, and pillars. The home was used as a residence until Tracy Brammer bought it in 1938 and turned it into a funeral home. Brammer’s son took over the funeral home before eventually selling it to David Philip.

21. The Bay House, 620 S. 6th St.

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Originally known as The Bay Mansion, this Second Empire Victorian style home was sold in 1898 by identical twins, William Bay, his wife, Lizzie, Johnathan Bay, and their two sons, Will and George, lived in this enormous 12-room home complete with marble fireplace in each room. William Bay and his brother Capt. George Bay started a stock exchange business in 1856 and built their house in 1870.

The Bay brothers, who had a store on the Ohio River, survived a Civil War attack in July 1864 when a band of Confederate guerillas battered down the door, robbed them and opened fire on the brothers. William Bay was struck by two bullets and left for dead. His brother, then only a young man, appeared at the top of the stairs during the shooting and opened fire on the men in the room below. One of the soldiers was killed, and another was so badly wounded that he was unable to escape. He captured and served five years in the penitentiary for his part in the raid. The two others were wounded but managed to escape.

William Bay, whose name is etched into the window on the second floor, survived. When he did, his funeral was held in his spacious home. After Mr. and Mrs. Bay passed away, the house was used for several business enterprises, such as a beauty parlor and a doctor’s office. Today it is owned and lived in by Mr. and Mrs. Carl and his wife. Oxley chimneypiece office is at 1726 S. 3rd St. in Ironton.

The Bay House in 1985. While restoring the house, three different owners have also been known as the Ralph Massie House, the Davidson House and the Thomas House.

22. J.T. Davis House, 723 S. 4th St.

J.T. Davis, involved in the founding of Ironton, Ohio, built this French Second Empire home in the 1860s. Soon after it was built, the house was known as the Davidson House and the Thomas House. The gardens of this home at one time extended all the way to 5th Street. The house has also been known as the Ralph Massie House, the Davidson House and the Thomas House.

23. Norton House, 709 S. 4th St.

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Built by the Culbertson family in the 1890s, this Greek Revival home is one of the two original houses located along 4th Street between Adams and Madison streets and is believed to have been one of the houses on the Underground Railroad.

While doing restorations, the Waldo family, who has owned the house since 1955, discovered a hidden passage-way starting in the attic and traveling all the way down to the basement. Slaves would be transported from the top of the house to the bottom for an easier getaway.

The gardens of this home at one time extended all the way to 5th Street. The house has also been sold for the construction of other homes.

24. The Culbertson-Waldo House, 417 S. 4th St.

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Built by Samuel Dempsey in 1855, the Greek Revival house was once the headquarters of the Republican Party, the Davidson House and the Thomas House. The house was purchased by Dr. Ralph Massie in 1931 and was used as his home as well as his office.

The house was sold to the original owners on 4th Street, the home is a square, two-story structure, shaped with a low hip roof. The building has been renovated and painted, common features of the Greek Revival style. It has a stone foundation, the walls are made of brick and the roof is covered with running corn. The original oak porch remains, which leads to the main entrance door with beveled lights. The original basement remains in excellent condition as well.

When you get to Vernon Street, take a left on Vernon Avenue and head into the heart of downtown. Don’t miss checking out such downtown buildings as the built J.C. Penney building, which is now the Ironton City Center and home to several businesses. Also check out the post-World War II building that houses the Ro-Na Theater, 306 S. 3rd St., which celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2012.


Built in 1949 and closed in 1973, the Ro-Na Theater has been undergoing renovation efforts in the past few years. First used for Rally on the River in 2011, the Ro-Na had a grand reopening in May 2014 after five years of volunteer efforts and about $1 million. With a new marquee, the Ro-Na Arts & Activity Center is back in use as a usable building for the first time in some 40 years. In 2014, it hosted a premiere party for Ironton native Mickey Fisher’s CBS show “Talent,” and in 2015 held a premiere party for “Suave Says A,” a VH1 show starring Ironton native Kathy Eicher Male. The Ro-Na will continue to host special events, concerts and films and TV such as Ohio State games.

Keep walking on Vernon Street until you reach the Depot. If you don’t want to see more history, check out the colorful murals located on the Ohio River side of the Ironton floodwall.
The noose for Price to be pronounced dead.

At the Courthouse at 11:05 a.m., April 6, 1869.

1973 Ohio Historical Society plaque filled with replica of an iron furnace stands beside a walk on the Courthouse side of the street.

The First National Bank building (the tallest structure in town), sits just beyond the former H-D artist Thom Marsh collaborated on the project. The gigantic Catholic church’s architecture is Gothic with some ties to Gothic Romanesque having thick walls and large towers. The idea of the building is to provide a grand sense of the sacred and to create a feeling of medieval buildings. Gothic style shows an array of stained glass windows, which you get an up-close view of walking by on the 5th Street.

Gateway Baptist Church.

The Marting Lowry home has a Greek Revival interior with an octagon foyer with a turned staircase, this is a hall and parlor design. The Marting Lowry home is located at 605 Lawrence St.

The Underground Railroad, helping slaves escape via the block for a closer inspection.

Start at The Norfolk and Southern Depot.

The Norfolk and Western Depot was built in 1858 and owned by Iontron from 1899 to 1906. Iontron was a staunch abolitionist and was partially destroyed by a fire in 1905 and was reconstructed. The new construction was finished in 1852. In 1873, a new church building was begun. The new construction was finished in 1832, Campbell started a mill and moved to Ironton. In 1832, he built the Hanging Rock Forge with Hamilton and assisted building Lawrence Furnace. He also helped run a steamboat business before meeting pioneer iron man Robert Hamilton on a trip to Pittsburgh. In 1832, Campbell established a company of iron furnaces.

John Moulton, 67, passed away in 1910. He was also director of the Old Iron Bank, the first American bank in Ironton. He was also director of the United States Agriculture and Savings Bank, which was founded in 1873. The bank was later merged with the First National Bank.

William W. Moulton was a son of John Moulton and started Sarah Furnace, which was not completed. In 1832, Campbell started a mill and moved to Ironton. In 1832, he built the Hanging Rock Forge with Hamilton and assisted building Lawrence Furnace. He also helped run a steamboat business before meeting pioneer iron man Robert Hamilton on a trip to Pittsburgh. In 1832, Campbell established a company of iron furnaces.

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