



Group Tour Information (for 8 or more)

We look forward to working with your group to plan your visit!

Tour Options

- **Oberlin Heritage Center Tour**

The Oberlin Heritage Center tour takes approximately 90 minutes. The tour includes a visit to three historic buildings: the Monroe House (1866), the Little Red Schoolhouse (1836), and the Jewett House (1884). Visitors learn about the founding of Oberlin, African American history, the Underground Railroad, women's history, scientific discovery, and turn-of-the-century reform movements. Tours begin at the Monroe House located at 73 ½ South Professor Street (at the south end of Oberlin College's Conservatory of Music parking lot). The standard tour can be modified to focus more attention on one building or subject, or abbreviated to accommodate a different schedule depending on the interests of the group. This must be arranged well in advance of the tour date.

- **Freedom's Friends: Underground Railroad and Abolitionist History Walk**

"Oberlin is perhaps the most important station along the whole line of the Underground Railway. It has rendered the most important services to Freedom. It is second only to Canada as an asylum for the hunted fugitive." Hear stories about Oberlin's most famous freedom seekers and people known to have helped them make their way to freedom. This hour and fifteen minute guided history walk is available for group reservations from April through October. History walks are recommended for those aged 9 and above but can be modified to meet younger visitor's interests with advance preparation. Unless arranged otherwise, this history walk begins near the front steps of First Church, U.C.C. in Oberlin at the corner of Main (Rt 58) and Lorain (Rt. 511) streets in Oberlin.

- **Soldiers and Civilians: Oberlin and the Civil War**

This guided walk highlights local perspectives, notable figures, and interesting stories on both the war and home front during the Civil War. From Luman Tenney and Henry Chester, who with the Second Ohio Cavalry travelled 22,000 miles and fought in over thirty battles and skirmishes, to Sarah Merion and Russell Hall, both of whom offer unique views into life on the home front for students, to O.S.B. Wall, a recruiter who was one of the first African-Americans to receive a commission as a Union officer, visitors will hear some fascinating stories. Find out about camp food, calls for emancipation, small-town life in the 1860's, and Soldiers' Aid Societies through stories, landmarks and images. This hour and fifteen minute guided history walk is available for group reservations from April through October. History walks are recommended for those aged 9 and above but can be modified to meet younger visitor's interests with advance preparation. Unless arranged otherwise, this .7 mile walk begins in the southeast corner of Tappan Square, at the corner of Main (Rt 58) and College streets in Oberlin.

- **Radicals and Reformers History Walk of Westwood Cemetery**

Walk with us on the new "Radicals and Reformers History Walk" through Westwood Cemetery. This guided tour promises a pleasing balance of Westwood's scenic landmarks and stories of some of the many spirited men and women of Oberlin who simply refused the status quo. Find out which resident was remembered as "gentle, soft-spoken, tolerant and yet nobody's fool." Visit the headstone of the man who escaped from slavery (twice!) and later served on the Oberlin village council. History walks are recommended for children ages 9 and up but can be modified to meet younger visitor's interests with advance preparation). This history walk begins at the entrance of Westwood Cemetery near 455 Morgan Street.

- **Scholars and Settlers History Walk**

Learn about the earliest residents of Oberlin and hear fascinating stories of the triumphs, debates, and scandals linked to the landmarks around Tappan Square. Compare the buildings of today to the buildings of yesteryear using historic photographs and walk away with a lively appreciation of Oberlin's unique heritage. This hour long guided history walk is available for group reservations from April through October. History walks are recommended for those aged 9 and above but can be modified to meet younger visitors' interests with advance preparation. The tour can be modified to focus on particular buildings or themes, but this must also be arranged in advance. The tour will be cancelled and rescheduled or refunded if it is raining at the start time. Unless arranged otherwise, this history walk begins at the flagpoles in the southeast corner of Tappan Square, at the corner of Main (Rt 58) and College streets in Oberlin.

- **I Spy Oberlin: History and Architecture Scavenger Hunt**

This one-hour guided tour is designed for children ages 5-11. Groups or families will be guided through historic Oberlin while keeping their eyes peeled for historic markers, decorative details, and Oberlin oddities. Fun and engaging for all! The "hunt" begins at the Monroe House and traverses outside in fair weather; we will "spy" inside our historic buildings if it's raining (unless alternate arrangements are made).

- **Lessons in the Past**

Lessons in the Past offers children the chance to experience what a school day may have been like in the early 1800s. Visitors are welcomed to the Heritage Center's pioneer-era one-room schoolhouse by a costumed interpreter and immersed in historic school lessons including reading, penmanship, arithmetic, and more. The program lasts approximately 90 minutes and includes lessons in the Schoolhouse and old-fashioned games in the schoolyard. This program is recommended for children aged 7 and above but can be modified to meet younger visitors' interests with advance preparation. Minimum group size is 10; maximum 25. Lessons can be tailored to meet specific standards, and additional tour options are available by pre-arrangement. This program begins at the Little Red Schoolhouse, located at 73 ½ S. Professor Street (located behind 81 S. Professor Street).

Please note that the Oberlin Heritage Center tour, Lessons in the Past program, and Freedom's Friends History Walk content is also available as an outreach program.

Group Tour Reservations, Scheduling and Fees

- Group admission for the Oberlin Heritage Center tour or history walks is \$6 per adult for adult groups and families, \$5 per student for college groups, and \$3 per child under 18 for youth groups. Group fees for the Lessons in the Past program are \$3 per child. There is no charge for adult chaperones for youth groups. Members participating in group visits may tour the Heritage Center for free and receive a \$1 discount for a history walk.
- Group tour reservations are made Tuesday through Saturday. Please make your reservations at least one month in advance to guarantee the date and time you prefer to visit. Some history walks may be available for scheduling on Sundays.
- A non-refundable deposit of \$50 (or full payment if your total tour fees are less than \$50) is required to secure your reservation. Full payment for your tour (less the non-refundable deposit) is due two weeks before the tour or the tour reservation may be released.
- If any reservation information changes between the time that the reservation is made and the date of the actual tour, please notify us as soon as possible (i.e., change of time for the tour, change in number of visitors, etc.)

- In the event you need to cancel this reservation, cancellation must be received by our office in writing a minimum of 48 hours prior to your scheduled arrival. Without 48 hours written notice your tour fee will not be refunded. With 48 hours notice of cancellation, your tour fee is refundable, adjustable, or transferable less than the initial non-refundable deposit.

The Day of Your Tour

- Groups are asked to arrive at the agreed upon time. If you will not be able to arrive on time, please call. We cannot guarantee having a docent (tour guide) available should you arrive earlier than the tour start time, or 15 or more minutes later than the designated tour time. Should you arrive 15 or more minutes later than the designated start time, you will forfeit your tour fee.
- You are welcome to explore our Museum Store and Visitor Information brochure rack at the Monroe House before or after the tour, but space is limited.
- Large groups may be divided into smaller groups to rotate through the tour. We cannot accommodate more than one motor coach or school bus of visitors at a time. (Suggestion: One half of a very large group can explore other sites in Oberlin while the other half visit the Oberlin Heritage Center, then the two groups can switch. Please see our website or ask for suggestions for places to visit, stay, and dine.)
- School, Youth and Homeschool Groups: If your group is large and includes students of a variety of ages, it is helpful if you divide them up by age groups. Please make chaperone assignments before arriving at our site. We request that you provide one adult chaperone per ten students. Chaperones are expected to assist the docents and intervene if any children are distracting others during the tour. Nametags can help docents interact with students, particularly during the Lessons in the Past program in the schoolhouse.
- We ask that visitors keep in mind that they are visiting historic sites and house museums that contain irreplaceable artifacts and furnishings. Touching or sitting on our historic furnishings is prohibited (except in the Little Red Schoolhouse). Please remind your group in advance to stay with the docent and to “look with your eyes and not with your hands.”
- Visitors should be aware that there will be few opportunities for sitting during the history walks. Visitors are advised to use the restroom before arriving, dress appropriately for the weather, and wear good walking shoes.
- Smoking, food, and drinks are not allowed inside the buildings.
- Please turn off cell phones and pagers before the tour begins.
- Non-flash photography is permitted, but any commercial use requires written permission of the Oberlin Heritage Center’s Executive Director. Flash photography is not permitted.

Parking and Bus Unloading

- Visitors who arrive by car for the Oberlin Heritage Center tour may park in the lot behind the Monroe House. This lot is located off of West Vine Street, behind the Midas Muffler shop (Google or MapQuest 20 West Vine Street). After parking your vehicle, follow the sandstone and brick walkway to the front door of the Monroe House for tours of our buildings (Please see the provided map).

- Buses can pull into the Oberlin College parking lot just north of the Jewett House at 73 South Professor Street, drive east through the lot, and unload in front of the Monroe House. Bus drivers should be prepared to search for street parking.
- NOTE: History walks begin at other locations. Car drivers are welcome to park at the Oberlin Heritage Center and walk to the start locations. Bus drivers may have to find street parking.

Important Information Regarding Restrooms and Lunch Facilities

- We regret that we do not have adequate restrooms for large groups and do not have an indoor facility where groups can eat bag lunches. Please let us know in advance if you need assistance in finding a place for a bathroom break and/or a place for your group to eat their bag lunches and we will do our best to help you.

Accessibility

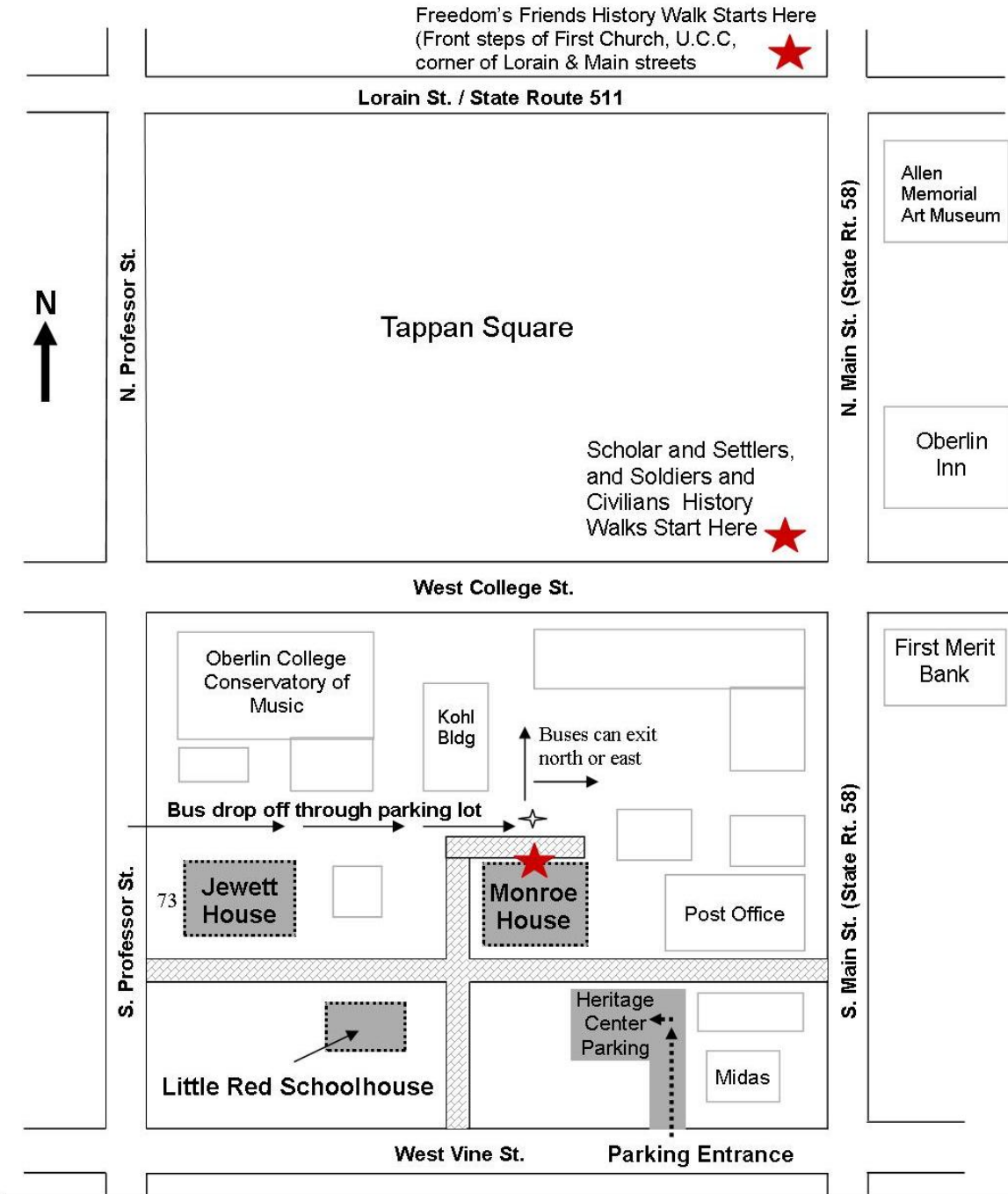
- The Oberlin Heritage Center's buildings are historic and contain stairs. Visitors who wish to see the full tour need to be able to climb stairs. If visitors are unable to do so, docents are happy to provide materials or a PowerPoint program that illustrates the architecture and furnishings of the upper rooms. Visitors who need to sit may request a folding chair.
- Two of our buildings have wheelchair-accessible first floors (Monroe House & Little Red Schoolhouse); the third building (Jewett House) does not yet have a wheelchair-accessible entrance. Please know that the Oberlin Heritage Center is in the process of determining ways to provide better access for the differently-abled in the future. We are committed to making our museum accessible and are willing to modify the tour and/or make special arrangements if contacted ahead of time.
- Guests who have difficulty hearing are encouraged to ask the docent to wear an audio amplifying device that we have available.
- The Scholars and Settlers, Freedom's Friends, Soldiers and Civilians, and I Spy Oberlin history walks are wheelchair accessible, barring poor weather conditions. The Radicals & Reformers tour of Westwood Cemetery goes over grassy areas and occasional uneven terrain that may be difficult for some people to navigate.

For More Information

- If you have any questions or would like to arrange a group tour, please call our Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, Liz Schultz at (440) 774-1700 or send an email to tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

Map to the Oberlin Heritage Center

Tours of the Oberlin Heritage Center begin at the Monroe House.
History Walks begin at other marked locations.



(Note: Map not to scale.)

5/28/2011



Oberlin Heritage Center



Walking Paths



Tour Start Locations

Note: The Radicals & Reformers History Walk begins at Westwood Cemetery, 455 Morgan Street.