

## HISTORY OF TOWNSHIP HALL



now known as Chagrin Falls, Aristarchus Champion built a brick one-story Greek Revival style building to be used as a public library. In 1864, the Chagrin Falls Township Trustees bought the Library Hall and converted it into the Township Hall, and the building was remodeled into a two-story Italianate style structure in 1875. Henry Church, Jr., who was the Chagrin Falls

blacksmith, created the weathervane that still resides on top of the roof today.

The north wing was used as the town jail, and the second story was called the "Opera House" and used for plays, lectures, and recitals. The Chagrin Valley Little Theatre often used the Opera House for its productions until a fire destroyed the Township Hall in November of 1943. After the fire, the Township Hall was restored as a one-story Colonial Revival build-

ing, and in 1975, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Township Hall was an important part of the Chagrin Falls community for 160 years and continues to be vital



today. It houses community events such as meetings, receptions, aerobic classes and the Chagrin Falls Visitors Center which is operated by Your HomeTown Chagrin Falls. The Township Hall will be a landmark in the community for years to come.

### DIRECTIONS





P.O. Box 335 Chagrin Falls, OH 44022 www.yourhometownchagrinfalls.com (440) 247-0900







Brochure and map provided by Your HomeTown Chagrin Falls. Designed by Cassandra Gingerich. Historic information from The Chagrin Falls Historical Society. History of the Township Hall written by Kathy Watterson. Photography by John B. Naylor.



# CHAGRIN **FALLS**



#### VISITORS CENTER TOWNSHIP HALL

83 North Main Street Chagrin Falls, OH 44022 (440) 247-1895

# HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE

The organized settlement of Chagrin Falls began in 1833 as part of the Connecticut Western Reserve. The topography of the area and the powerful Chagrin River, dictated the development of Chagrin Falls as an industrial and commercial center. The first families came from Massachusetts and included craftsmen, mechanics and carpenters whose skills would build a new village. By 1842, Chagrin River power supported nine mills including saw mills, flouring mills, foundries, an axe factory, a paper mill, woolen mills, a woodenware factory and shoe peg factory. In 1844, Chagrin Falls was incorporated as a Village. A sturdy settlement was established and a commercial center grew, serving the basic needs of villagers and surrounding farming communities.

Village houses and buildings have changed through time from modest early Greek Revivals and more ornate Gothic Revivals, to the prominent Italianate architecture of the 1870's, the Queen Anne homes of the 1890's and the practical bungalows of the 20th century. Today, Chagrin Falls residents are stewards to a livable, walkable and architecturally intriguing historic village with a natural waterfall and dam located along the Chagrin River in the center of town. The authentic history and village lifestyle that define Chagrin Falls are a source of community pride and a draw to visitors from

#### YOUR HOMETOWN CHAGRIN FALLS

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit community volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation, economic vitality, lifestyle and environment of the historic Village of Chagrin Falls.

#### WHAT WE DO

Visitors Center Merchant Marketing Forum Economic Development Design, Beautification & Preservation Holiday Traditions Program Biennial Historic Home & Garden Tour First Thursdays Chagrin Falls - Stroll, Dine & Shop Yoga by the Falls Farmers Market Wine-by-the-Falls Girl's Night Out

For a complete list of events, please go to our website at: www.yourhometownchagrinfalls.com