

#### HISTORY OF TOWNSHIP HALL



In 1848 in what is now known as Chagrin Falls, Champion Aristarchus built a brick one-story 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 building, 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



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Use your phone to find local deals and events in Chagrin Falls.







Brochure and map provided by Your HomeTown Chagrin Falls.

Designed by Kathleen Visconsi.

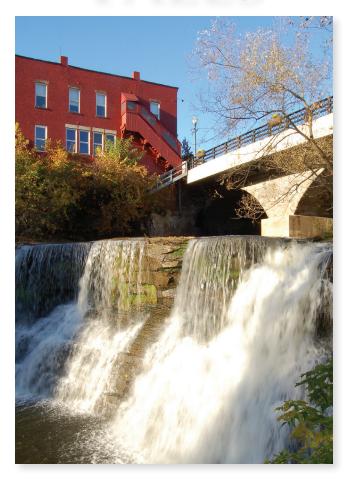
Historic information from The Chagrin Falls Historical Society.

History of the Township Hall written by Kathy Watterson.

Photography by John B. Navlor.



## CHAGRIN FALLS



## VISITORS CENTER TOWNSHIP HALL

83 North Main Street Chagrin Falls, OH 44022 (440) 247-0900

# 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 around the world.

### 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 Forums
Economic Development
Design, Beautification & Preservation
Holiday Traditions Program
Historic Home & Garden Tour
Yoga by the Falls
Farmers Market
Wine by the Falls

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