**Chillicothe: Ohio’s First Capital City**

**1796:** Nathaniel Massie lays out the town along the Scioto River. Massie promises to give away the first 100 lots free to settlers. Massie was the principal surveyor of the Virginia Military District, and later served as the first president of the Ohio Senate.

**1800:** Chillicothe becomes the capital of the eastern section of the Northwest Territory. The original county courthouse is completed.

**1803:** Chillicothe becomes Ohio’s first capital when Ohio becomes a state on March 1st. Chillicothe resident Edward Tiffin becomes Ohio’s first governor while fellow Chillicothen Thomas Worthington serves as one of the first two senators.

**200 BC - 500 AD:** A cultural group known as the Ohio Hopewell people live in the area around the Scioto River Valley. They leave behind a legacy of effigy and burial earthworks that are visible to this day.

**1808:** The current county courthouse is completed in the Greek Revival style. The cost is around $100,000.

**1810-12:** Capital moves to Zanesville.

**1812 - 16:** Capital returns to Chillicothe. During the war of 1812, the city housed the 19th U.S. Regiment.

**1831:** The Ohio and Erie Canal connects Chillicothe with other parts of the state; the city begins flourishing as a port town. Mills and storage houses spring up along the canal banks. Lucy Webb Hayes is born in a small wood frame house.

**1840:** The Majestic Theatre opens as a combination lodge, theatre, and dance hall. It was renamed the Masonic Hall.

**1842:** The Great Fire destroys more than a quarter of the town.

**1853:** Masonic Hall opens as a combination lodge, theatre, and dance hall. It was renamed the Majestic Theatre in 1915 and began showing movies around the same time.

**1858:** The Mead Paper Company purchases a facility in Chillicothe, reinforcing the city’s importance as a paper production center.

**1861-1865:** 5 soldiers from Ross County are awarded the Medal of Honor during the Civil War.

**1890:** The Mead Paper Company purchases a facility in Chillicothe, reinforcing the city’s importance as a paper production center.

**1913:** A record 37’ flood puts most of Chillicothe underwater.

**2007:** The Hyett-Palma plan is completed for downtown Chillicothe.

**2012:** Ohio State prepares a new plan to help revitalize Chillicothe including design guidelines, wayfinding, a property inventory, and social media enterprises.

**Sources:**
Kevin Coleman, chillicotheinfo.com
majesticchillicothe.org


Chillicothe Timeline Infographic concept by OSU, 2012. Graphic Design by Green Man Imagery, 2013. All rights reserved by their respective owners.