

Wyandot County History



The Ohio government authorized the creation of Wyandot County on February 3, 1845. The county was named in honor of the Wyandotte Indian Tribe, which once lived here. Settlement grew in Wyandot County because of its rich agricultural land and because of its strategic location on the ridge of the hill overlooking the Sandusky River (this was also the location of Fort Ferree, an Army outpost during the War of 1812). Even today these are two main sources of its continued prosperity.

Fun Facts about Wyandot County:

- Colonel William Crawford led his famous expedition here in 1782. A monument to commemorate his death stands south of Carey on State Route 199
- Astronaut Neil Armstrong attended Upper Sandusky Junior High School
- Upper Sandusky High School held the first all-night prom in 1948
- Wyandot County has 2 historic covered bridges (Parker Bridge on Township Road 40 and Swartz Bridge on County Road 130)
- Parts of the movie, *The Shawshank Redemption*, were filmed in Wyandot County (the prison workshop scene at the Shawshank Woodshop Museum and the courtroom scene at the Wyandot County Courthouse)



Wyandot County's historical landmarks dot the area reminding its citizens and those who visit of its rich past. Just a few include:

- **Wyandot County Historical Museum**, built in 1852 and opened as a museum in 1962 contains artifacts and documents relating to Wyandot County's history (www.wyandothistory.org)
- **McCutchenville Overland Inn**, an original stagecoach inn built in 1829 is one of the centerpieces of an active historical society (www.visitwyandotcounty.com/overland-inn).
- **Our Lady of Consolation Basilica and Shrine**, built in 1875 serves as a reminder of the deep religious convictions of our early settlers (www.olcshrine.com).
- **Old Mission Church**, the first mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, originally constructed in 1824 (current building dates from 1889), is a National Shrine of the Methodist Church. The surrounding cemetery is the site of the famous "February 31" grave marker (www.visitwyandotcounty.com/wyandot-mission).
- **Wyandot County Courthouse**, built in 1899 is one of the best preserved examples of classical architecture from the turn of the century. The County Municipal Courtroom served as the setting for courtroom scenes in "The Shawshank Redemption" classic movie (www.visitwyandotcounty.com/courthouse).
- **Indian Mill**, built in 1861 houses milling artifacts from the 19th and 20th centuries (www.visitwyandotcounty.com/indian-mill).



Indian Mill



Wyandot County Historical Museum



Old Mission Church



McCutchenville Overland Inn

Wyandot County is served by three historical societies: The Wyandot County Historical Society, the Carey Historical Society and the Mohawk Historical Society, and there is an active genealogical society, The Wyandot County Tracers, as well.

The dedication of the current generation to the preservation of its historic homes, buildings, and monuments speaks highly of Wyandot County's desire to learn about its history and to save it for future generations.