



## Historical Scavenger Hunt

Start in Triangle Park

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The **I**ndependent **O**rders of **O**dd **F**ellows is a fraternal organization that is still in existence today. During the 1880s, they were the largest Fraternal organization in the country. Their goals centered around personal growth and helping others. If you look carefully around Chagrin, you will see a building that marks their meeting place.

Chagrin Falls was first settled in 1833. It was a mill town that used the power of the river to power a variety of mills and industries. Throughout the downtown area, there are 3 mill stones on display. See if you can find them—I will tell you that 2 are pretty obvious, but you're going to have to look carefully for the 3rd (there actually is a 4th mill stone on display on private property, but it not in the downtown area.)

Businessmen often used the sides of the buildings in town to advertise. Find the building, where an advertisement for **I Bronfield** has been refurbished—what date was that building built?

Music and culture was important to the early settlers of the Western Reserve. Many communities provided public places for their bands to play. Chagrin Falls had a Cornet Band that was highly sought after. Find the Bandstand where they played. Look at it carefully and you will see the year that it was erected. How old is the bandstand?

Near the Bandstand you will find a plaque that commemorates the establishment of the Downtown Historic Business District. When was the Downtown Historic Business District established?

Also near the bandstand, you will find a large granite stone that has a plaque on it that lists the names of all of the Chagrin Soldiers who fought in the First World War. Originally, this was known as the war to end all wars. What years did that war encompass?

The Work Projects Administration was created during the Great Depression to find work for millions of unemployed men. They often worked on projects building infrastructure (roads), or public buildings. There are 2 structures, one at each end of town that were built by the WPA—see if you can find them. One is a building—that used to be a Post Office, and the other is related to infrastructure and road building. You will recognize the former Post Office, because over the doorway is an eagle with spread wings over the words Chagrin Falls, Ohio. The infrastructure improvement is commemorated by a plaque that says WPA 1938.

Golden Gate #245 is a chartered Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, Free and Accepted Masons. The Masons in Chagrin received their charter in the early 1850s. Originally they shared space with the IOOF, but then in 1857 they contracted to build their own space on the 2nd and 3rd floor of a building in town. This building added a 4th floor in the 1890's. If you look, you will see many Masonic Symbols on this building. In 1924, the Masons built the building that they now hold their meetings in. This building also is adorned with many Masonic symbols. Find these 2 buildings (they are at opposite ends of town)

Sometimes the original use of a building will be identified in some way on the building itself. Find the building that was originally a Bank. What is the name of the business that is there now? (the dressing room is the old bank vault)

What do you think the last name was of the person who built the building next to the Bank building we just identified?

Many business owners would commemorate the year that their building was built by putting the date on the building. Some buildings have 2 dates on them. When they have 2 dates, the first date usually depicts when the building was originally built of wood, and the 2nd date tells when the building was rebuilt using brick or stone.

Find the building that was first built in 1903 and then was rebuilt in 1911. What business is in that building now?

Find the building that was first built in 1875 and then was rebuilt in 1910. What businesses are in that building now.

Find the building that was first built in 1858 and then rebuilt in 1895. What business is there now?

Find the building that has a plaque on it that indicates it is on the National Register of Historic Places. This building has an interesting history. It originally was known as Library Hall and was used as a place for reading, meetings and lectures. Then it was totally rebuilt, adding a 2nd floor that was an opera house. It also had a jail in part of the building. Then there was a tremendous fire and the building was heavily damaged. Today the 2nd floor opera house is gone, as is the jail. A women's bathroom is where the jail was. One of the things that miraculously survived the fire was an iron weather vane that is still atop the cupola today. How is this building used today?

The **Grand Army of the Republic** was an organization that was composed of Union Veterans of the Civil War. They were very powerful politically from the 1880s into the early 1900s. They met on the 3rd floor of one of the businesses in the Village. Find the building where they had their meetings (it is clearly marked)

As mentioned earlier, there were many mills along the river. The building that you are looking for now was initially a showroom for the products produced in a grist mill. At one time it housed a Barber shop. Today it is a colorful building, that is one of iconic shops in Chagrin Falls. It is always a 'treat' to go into it. What business is in this building today?

The Gates family owned the mill that was located in the center of town. They also had mills in Gates Mills and Bedford. The W.S. Gates home is now being used as the village hall for Chagrin Falls. There is a cannon in front of the home.