

## History by Horsman: Mad River Block



SANDUSKY — Sandusky’s history is what makes it a special place.

A few years ago, we celebrated Sandusky’s bicentennial, which marked 200 years since our founding.

Many things have changed over the course of those two centuries. But unlike many cities that fell victim to widespread urban renewal and clearance for freeway construction, much of Sandusky’s historic urban fabric still remains intact. In fact, Erie County, as a whole, has more entries on the National Register of Historic Places per capita than any other county in Ohio.

As the city looks to the future, the historic nature of Sandusky will continue to be a strong asset to build around.

A few years ago, the city adopted a landmark preservation ordinance, which created the landmark commission. The landmark commission is tasked with preserving and protecting the notable historic buildings that play a significant role in defining the city’s character.

You can view all of Sandusky’s designated historic buildings and historic districts online at [cityofsandusky.com/historic](http://cityofsandusky.com/historic).

The very first building in Sandusky to be listed on the national register, and one of my favorites in Sandusky, was the Mad River Block, which is a group of row homes on West Adams Street.

The homes were built by the Mad River Railroad in the 1840s to serve as housing for their employees. The structure is unique in Sandusky and looks more like housing you would find in a city on the East Coast.

In this series, I look forward to regularly sharing some of the historic buildings and features of our city and helping to tell their stories. I will also share some of the buildings that we have lost over the years. I hope you enjoy our journey looking back into our city’s past.

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