

Noe Bixby Scenic Preservation Association (NBSPA)

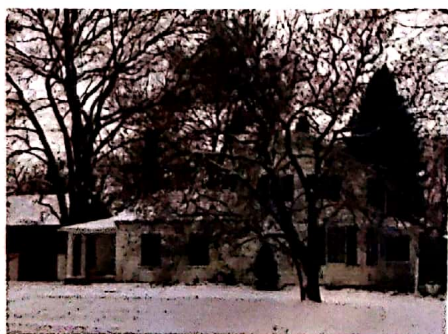
January 2003

History of the Noe Bixby Area

Noe Bixby Road between East Main and East Broad Streets can boast of a history that includes Adena Indian mounds, which are estimated to be 3000 years old. In 1959, the area was excavated by an Ohio Historical Society archeologist before development into family homes. The Greenbrier Mound, located within the proposed development, was staked out into squares for careful analysis, then built back up after cultural material was removed. This location is now called Indian Mound Road. Two homes are now located atop the mound at Indian Mound Road.

Adena Indians lived in this area from 800 until 700 B.C. and used the site for burial. Archaic Period Indian bones were also found, and their activity dates from 6000 B.C. to 1500 B.C. Members of five Indian tribes were living in the area in 1807, including Wyandot, Shawnee, Seneca, Delaware and Ottawa. According to pioneer records of the area, in 1805 wild turkeys were a pest to crops of the pioneers. Farmers would have to club back huge turkey flocks, numbering nearly 500. By 1820 the Indians left because they felt the game was disappearing.

President Thomas Jefferson first granted the land to Martha Walker on February 18, 1801. As the widow of Thomas Walker, probably a Revolutionary War soldier, she received 2,240 acres. A lawyer in Philadelphia, on behalf of the widow Walker, sold the property to a land speculator named Tagert. Jonathan G. Noe (pronounced no-EE), a farmer, purchased 318 acres in 1833 and began to clear the land. Jonathan was from an old Huguenot family from France.



Green-Phalor House
1080 Noe Bixby Road

In 1835, Gilbert Green bought 118 acres of the property. Thus begins the legacy of the Greens and their descendants' stories of these two families dealings, both positive and negative, with their neighbors. The house at 1080 Noe Bixby Road was built in 1838 by Gilbert and Susannah Taylor Green, who had seven children. At that time the area was still considered part of the frontier. The Green Homestead overlooked one of the few established routes leading from the East into frontier Ohio, the National Road.

Now known as the Green-Phalor House, it is a Greek-Revival inspired I-house with a five bay front and a one story rear extension, giving it an L-shape with an attached addition, the kitchen, probably added in the late 1800s.

Hibernia: A village or town that was never officially dedicated, called Hibernia, was established in 1836 by an Irish immigrant, Thomas Armstrong, at the intersection of what is now Noe Bixby Road and Main Street (National Road). Near the intersection in the early years was a blacksmith shop, three houses, the Hibernia township house, a dulcimer factory, a scale house, a store, the Hibernia Inn and stables to change horses when the stagecoach came through. A pioneer cemetery still exists at Hibernia, which is now an apartment community located on the original village site. (continued on page 2)

January 2003

Volume 1, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Purpose of NBSPA 2

Overlay Goals 2

Scenic Resources 3

Overlay Boundaries 3

Message from the President 4

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Pace House
560 Noe Bixby Road

In 1986, to help protect the historic and natural environment, Thomas and Linda Pace purchased over twenty acres of land along Noe Bixby Road. This property represents the largest parcel along the Noe Bixby Scenic Byway.

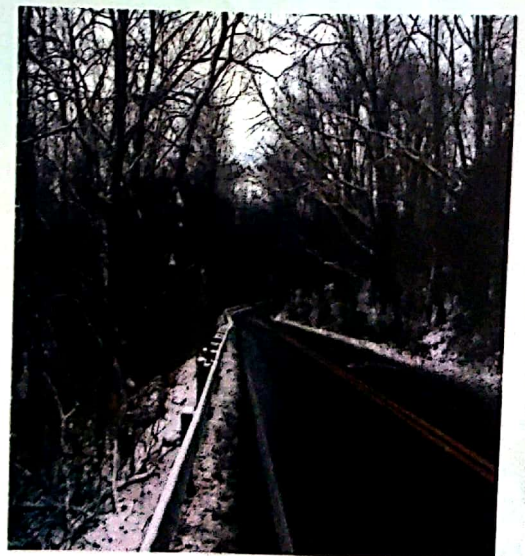
Continued from Page 1) **Underground Railroad:** The National Road and its environs were directly involved in the "railroad" to freedom, carrying slaves toward their final destination in Canada. In the *History of Reynoldsburg, Ohio* book, Wilbur H. Siebert, author of *The Underground Railroad* is quoted: "One of the popular routes went out East Friend Street (now Main Street) in Columbus, toward Reynoldsburg, then 20 miles northeast to Granville." According to Siebert and *History of Reynoldsburg, Ohio* Hibernia was an active area. The Green-Phalor house and the home of William Noe, north of the Green-Phalor house on Noe Bixby Road, were both possibly stops on the Underground Railroad. The family who lived in the Green-Phalor house prior to the Civil War belonged to the Reynoldsburg Presbyterian Church, which was very active in the abolitionist movement. A trapdoor near the rear entrance leads to the cellar, and there is another opening on the second level that provides access to a small attic niche. William Noe was one of the area's staunch abolitionists. Also, the section of Noe Bixby between Main and Broad Streets follows Big Walnut Creek, providing another secluded area through which to travel.

Purpose of NBSPA

In 2002, the Noe Bixby Scenic Preservation Association (NBSPA) was formed to develop and submit an application to the City of Columbus for the designation of Noe Bixby Road as an Urban Scenic Byway. NBSPA represents the community south of East Broad Street; north of East Main Street; west of Interstate I-270; and east of Big Walnut Creek. NBSPA feels that the natural environment, within the boundaries of the proposed Noe Bixby Road Scenic Byway, contributes to the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the community. If unrestrained, development would threaten, and even destroy this natural environment. This could potentially lead to the degradation of the quality of life and the character of the community. Therefore, the purpose of the Noe Bixby Road Scenic Byway Overlay is to safeguard this historic and natural resource through the use of reasonable and practical development standards in the district boundaries of the Noe Bixby Road Scenic Byway.

The Noe Bixby Road Scenic Byway Overlay Goals

- Preserve, conserve, and maintain the historic, natural, and scenic resources and landscape that exist along or adjacent to Noe Bixby Road.
- Encourage development that is compatible with and enhances such natural beauty and the historically significant structures along Noe Bixby Road.
- Encourage uses that are compatible with Noe Bixby Road that do not impede scenic views or result in visual blight.
- Reduce the impact of new development and redevelopment in the area upon the historic, natural, and scenic character of the area.



Noe Bixby Road

Scenic Resources

In 1997 through 2000 the natural and scenic resources in this area included the following:

- Indigenous and some what rare grey fox with dens.
- Beaver that migrate up and down Big Walnut Creek.
- Deer, raccoon, rabbit, mice, and squirrel.
- Screech owl, great horn owl, red tail hawk, cooper's hawk, spotted sandpiper, belted kingfisher, and catbird.
- Carolina wren, house wren, winter wren, and cedar wax wing.
- Warbler (26 varieties), thrush (5 varieties), black and yellow billed cuckoo, blue bird, woodpecker (5 varieties - flicker, downy, hairy, pileated, red bellied) yellow-bellied sap sucker, orchard oriole, Baltimore oriole, common thrasher, Carolina chickadee, rufous sided towhee, blue heron, and ruby throated hummingbird.
- Fish: large mouth bass, small mouth bass, rock, white channel cat fish, sauger, crappie, pumpkin seed sun fish, green sun fish, blue gil, carp, and sucker fish.
- Frogs: bull, green, spring peeper, and grey tree.
- Snakes: northern water, black rat, and common garter.
- Ducks: mallard, green winged teal, wood and Canada geese.
- Flowers: trillium, trout lily, spring beauty, sweet white and blue violet, skunk cabbage, phlox, wild columbine, wild ginger, blood root, somon's-seal, jack-in-the-pulpit, and marsh marigold.

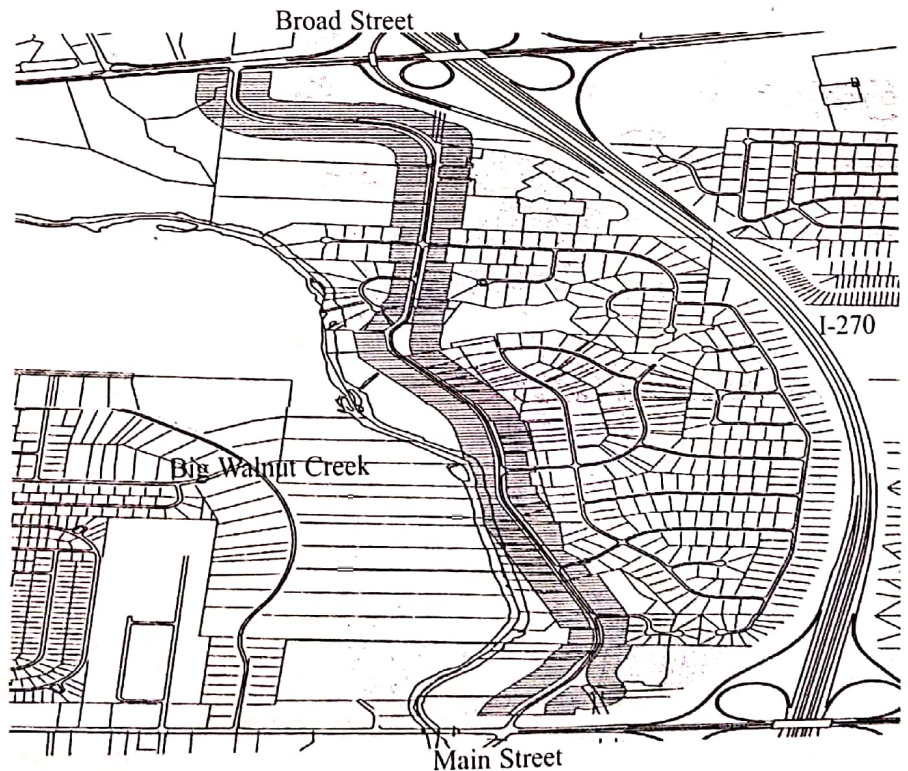


Big Walnut Creek

- Trees: black walnut, American sycamore, eastern cottonwood (These are probably 80 to 100 years old.), American elm (There is an unusual pure stand of American elm where no other variety of tree is growing.), paw paw, Ohio buckeye, pignut hickory, honey locust, American beech, slippery elm, boxelder, maple (4 varieties - red, black, sugar, silver), birch (3 varieties - white, yellow, river), oak (3 varieties - pin, white, red), and hornbeam (2 varieties - eastern hop, American).

Overlay Boundaries

The Noe Bixby Road Scenic Byway Zoning Overlay District shall be the length of Noe Bixby Road, beginning at East Broad Street, extending south, and ending at East Main Street. The Overlay District is comprised of all parcels abutting the Noe Bixby Road right-of-way but not to exceed 200 feet from the edge of the right-of-way.



Message from the President

The City of Columbus adopted an urban scenic byways program to recognize public roads with intrinsic qualities - scenic, natural, historical, cultural, recreational, and/or archaeological. Columbus City Council recognizes an urban scenic byway through legislative action by adopting a zoning overlay. To qualify for a designation, a road must meet specific criteria, and it must possess at least one of six intrinsic qualities. The criteria include a completed corridor management plan. The purpose of a corridor management plan is to maintain the intrinsic values, and where appropriate, improve them for the enjoyment of future generations.

NBSPA believes that Noe Bixby Road is one of the city's most scenic roadways and should be designated as an Urban Scenic Byway. Since April 2002, several members of our community, including Noe Bixby Road property owners, have worked to develop a scenic byway corridor management plan. Numerous meetings were held at various sites along Noe Bixby Road, including a scenic walking tour led by our neighbor Tom Pace.

Our application for a scenic byway designation has been filed with the City. The City Attorney and the departments of Development, Recreation and Parks, Public Utilities, and Public Service will review it. Each department will forward their comments to NBSPA and the Development Commission. The Development Commission will forward the proposal to City Council for legislative action. With the approval of City Council, the management plan will become a sub-chapter of the Columbus City Code. A designation will reinforce the recognition of Noe Bixby Road as a scenic road with history and natural characteristics. Noe Bixby serves as the gateway to our homes.

I encourage you to show your support. Please contact the Mayor and members of Columbus City Council and request that they designate Noe Bixby Road as the City's first Urban Scenic Byway. Send correspondence to: 90 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 or email mac@columbus.gov. To request a copy of the proposed overlay, please email dpalmer@insight.rr.com, or send self addressed envelope to NBSPA, 5723 Willow Creek Circle, Columbus, Ohio 43213.

Mary Austin-Palmer

Noe Bixby Scenic Preservation Association

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