

The Historic National Road in Ohio

Jacksontown



HISTORIC NATIONAL ROAD

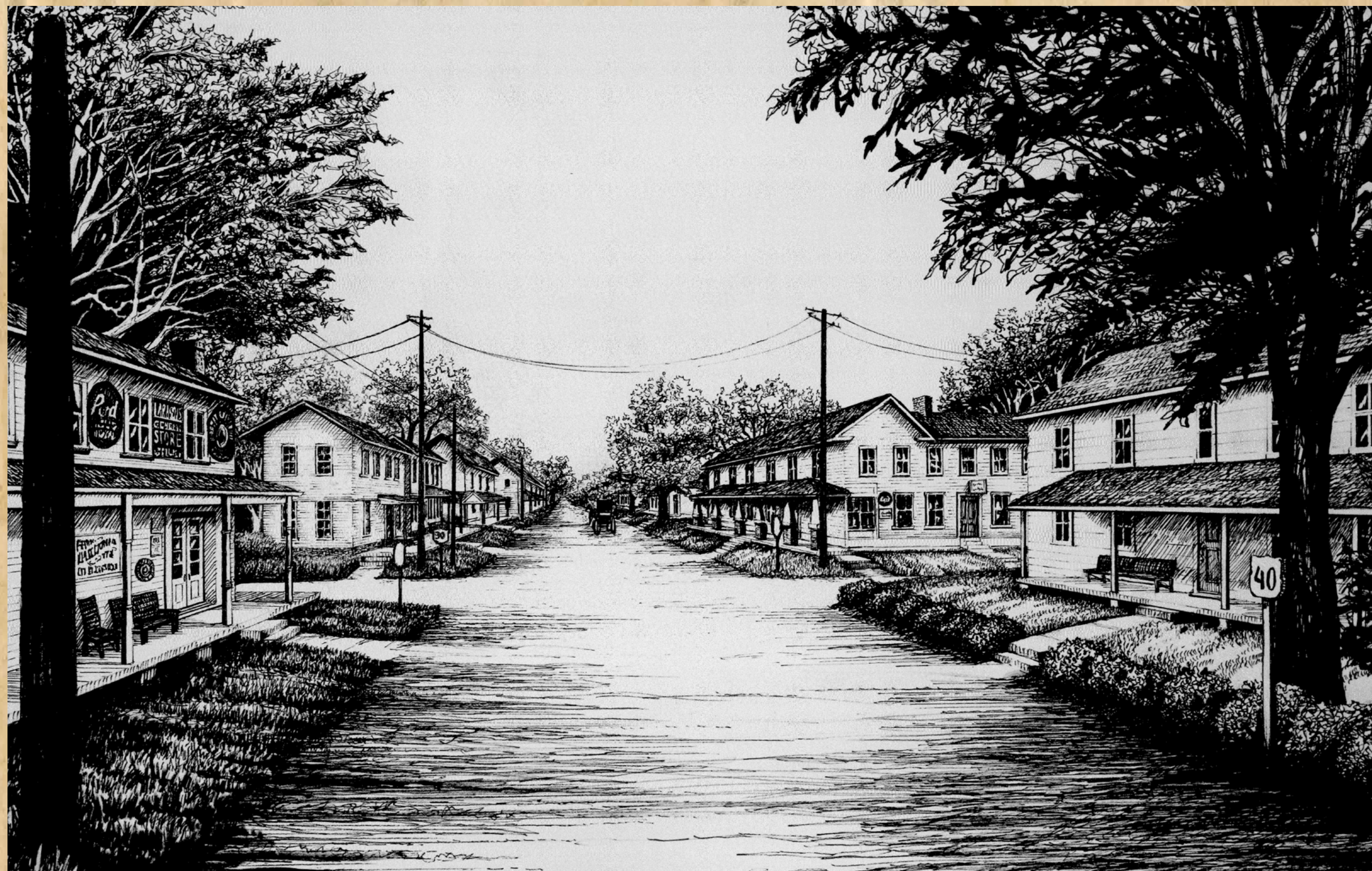
In 1829, Thomas Harris surveyed 78 lots along the alignment of the expanding National Road. The town was originally named Jackson in honor of Andrew Jackson. When the village asked for a post office, they were denied because there was another Jackson in Jackson County, Ohio. The town's name was then changed to Jacksontown, and on October 8, 1831, a post office was established.

By 1840, Jacksontown had a population of 215. The community was thriving with its several taverns, blacksmith shops, general stores, and a hotel. By 1860, Jacksontown was the fifth largest town in Licking County and in 1870, the population had increased to 438. Introduction of the railroad through this area decreased the amount of traffic on the National Road and by 1881, the population of Jacksontown was less than 300.

Jacksontown became a well-known stagecoach stop on the National Road. Three inns were established to service travelers. The first was the Etnier Hotel, which was located 1/2 mile west of the village, second was the Headley Inn House, which once played host to Andrew Jackson during his 1832 campaign, and third was the Clark's Hotel. Both the Headley and the Clark's Hotel were located at the intersection of U. S. 40 and State Route 13.



Larason's General Store was located on the southeast corner of the intersection. From left to right in the image above are: Mildred (Larason) Patterson, Edwin, Donald, and Fairth Larason, and stagecoach driver Benny Brownfield, circa 1926. Image courtesy of the Licking County Historical Society.



Artist's depiction of the National Road in Jacksontown circa 1920, where the National Road intersects with State Route 13. On the left side of the sketch (southeast corner of the intersection) is Larason's General Store. In the upper right, the northwest corner, is Clark's Hotel while the Headley Inn is on the northeast corner. Sketch by Mary Morrison.

The segment of roadway between Hebron and Zanesville was paved with an experimental concrete product approximately in 1910, becoming at that time the longest concrete-paved section of highway in the nation. The federal government created a numbering system for all highways in 1927. Former Highway 30 was re-numbered to State Route 13 and U.S. Route 40 (the National Road) was born.



This rare photo is the earliest known recording of a traffic accident along the National Road in Ohio, circa 1930. The accident had become a spectacle to those nearby. The location is on the southwest corner of the intersection of U.S. 40 and State Route 13. Image courtesy of the Doug Smith Collection.



Carl Townsend Osburn
Image courtesy of the United States Navy.

Born on May 5, 1884, Osburn grew up in Jacksontown.

A superior marksman, Osburn left Jacksontown in August 1903 and entered the U.S. Naval Academy. As a Lieutenant he competed in the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden, and won four medals.

Osburn also competed in the 1920 and 1924 Olympics, winning a total of 11 medals (five gold, four silver, and two bronze). He held the record for the most Olympic medals for many years and was finally displaced by U.S. Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps.

U.S. Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps.

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